

Topic: The rise of Adolf Hitler and life in Nazi Germany (1919-1939)

The First World War was considered unfinished business by many Germans and Adolf Hitler swore that, if he got into power, he would overturn the terms of the hated Treaty of Versailles. We begin this fascinating unit by exploring Hitler's early years and the events that propelled him into politics before evaluating the factors that saw him rise to become Chancellor of Germany. Hitler went on to build a dictatorship that ruled over its citizens using fear, persecuted Jews and, ultimately, caused the Second World War. 'Living Under Nazi Rule' is a popular component in GCSE History and we teach this course now as a 'taster' before students make their options choices in the new year.



Timeline:

People:

1889	Adolf Hitler is born in Austria, unhappy childhood, struggles at school ...	Wilhelm Frick	Minister of the Interior in Hitler's government (January 1933)
1913	Hitler rejected from Art School and becomes a 'down and out' in Vienna	Joseph Goebbels	Powerful orator and Minister of Propaganda in Hitler's Government
1914-18	Hitler joins the German Bavarian Regiment at the outbreak of WW1	Hermann Goering	Minister Without Portfolio, created Gestapo, Head of <i>Luftwaffe</i>
Jun 1919	Germany signs the Treaty of Versailles at the Paris Peace Conference	Rudolf Hess	Hitler's secretary, Deputy Fuhrer, flew to Scotland in May 1941
1920/21	Hitler takes-over German Workers Party and calls it the NSDAP (<i>Nazis</i>)	Reinhard Heydrich	Himmler's deputy & architect of the Holocaust – 'blond beast'
1923	French invasion of the Ruhr triggers an economic crisis & hyperinflation	Heinrich Himmler	<i>Reichsfuhrer SS</i> – most powerful man in Germany under Hitler
Nov 1923	Hitler's armed 'Beer Hall Putsch' fails to overthrow Munich Government	President Hindenburg	Popular General and hero of WW1 – became President in 1925
1923/4	Hitler sent to <i>Landsberg Jail</i> for one year where he writes <i>Mein Kampf</i>	Alois & Klara Hitler	Adolf Hitler's father and mother - both died when he was young
29 Oct 1929	Wall Street Crash (USA) triggers the Great Depression / NZ support rises	ADOLF HITLER	Austrian born evil German dictator & <i>Fuhrer</i> of the 'Third Reich'
Jan 1933	Hitler is made the Chancellor of Germany by President Hindenburg	Gertrude Scholtz-Klink	Leader of the 'National Socialist Women's League' in Germany
Spring 1933	Nazi consolidation of power – Reichstag Fire, Enabling Law, bans TUs	Henry Mettelmann	Former member of the Hitler Youth who regretted his actions
Nov 1933	'Strength Through Joy' (KDF) set up to reward workers, e.g. subsidized holidays	Ernst Rohm	Leader of SA, Hitler's rival, murdered on the Night of the Long Knives
Jun 1934	Night of the Long Knives – Hitler murders rivals & SA leader Ernst Rohm	Hans & Sophie Scholl	Leaders of anti-Nazi 'White Rose' student resistance movement
1936	Law on the Hitler Youth is passed / the Berlin Olympics (Jesse Owens)	Marinus Van Der Lubbe	Dutch Communist executed for burning down the <i>Reichstag</i>
1943	Hans and Sophie Scholl are executed for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets	Franz Von Papen	Deputy Chancellor to Hitler and friend of President Hindenburg
July 1944	The Army Bomb Plot – Col. Von Stauffenberg tries to assassinate Hitler	Col. Von Stauffenberg	Tried to blow-up Hitler with a briefcase bomb on 20 th July 1944

Key Terms:

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Communists	People who believe in classless society based on equality	<i>Mein Kampf</i>	Hitler's autobiography 'My Struggle' written while in prison (1924)
Concentration camp	Centre for holding political prisoners, e.g. see Dachau	Munich Putsch	Nazi armed uprising sometimes called the 'Beer Hall Putsch' (1923)
Democracy	System of government based on the peoples' right to vote	NSDAP	National Socialist German Workers Party or the <i>NAZIS</i> for short!
Dictatorship	System of government where one person has total power	Propaganda	Material, e.g. posters and speeches, used to mislead the public
Denunciation	To inform on somebody, or tell on them, to the Gestapo	<i>Reichstag</i>	The German Parliament – like the House of Commons in London
<i>Edelweiss Pirates</i>	Teenage resistance movement (see also Swing Youth)	<i>SA (Sturmabteilung)</i>	Nazi Party thugs, sometimes called Brownshirts, led by Ernst Rohm
<i>Fuhrer</i>	German word for 'supreme leader' used to address Hitler	<i>SS (Schutzstaffel)</i>	Nazi Party 'enforcers' who ran the camps, led by Heinrich Himmler
Gestapo	<i>Geheime Staatspolizei</i> : Nazi Germany secret state police	Strength Through Joy	KDF (<i>Kraft durch Freude</i>) rewards for workers and cheap deals
Great Depression	Worldwide economic depression from 1929 to mid-1930s	Treaty of Versailles	International agreement signed after WW1 hated by all Germans
<i>Heil Hitler!</i>	The <i>Hitlergrusse</i> or Hitler greeting, meaning 'Hail Hitler'	<i>Volkswagen (Beetle)</i>	Literally: 'peoples' car' – developed as a cheap family run-about
Hyperinflation	When prices rise very rapidly and money loses all value	Wall Street Crash	Collapse of New York Stock Exchange triggered a worldwide depression
<i>Kinder Küche Kirche</i>	Literally: 'children, kitchen, church' slogan of NZ women's group	White Rose	Student group led by Hans & Sophie Scholl who printed anti-Nazi leaflets

