

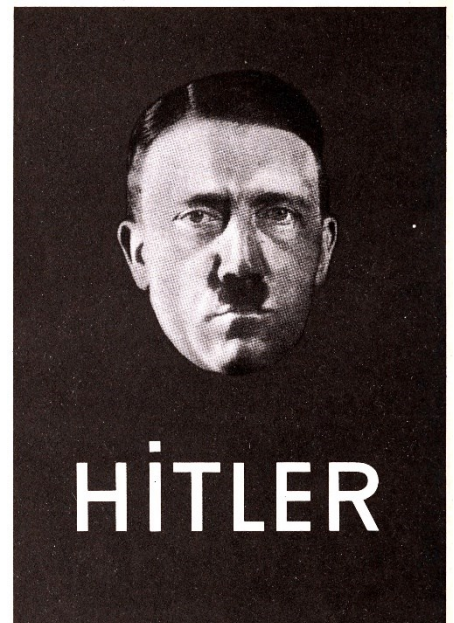
Hitler's Rise to Power and the Youth of Germany

- In 1930, 70% of Nazi Party (National Socialist German Workers' Party, German: *Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei* or *NSDAP*) members were under the age of 40. What does this mean?
- To youth, the future looked bleak – Hitler promised them a future full of idealism and hope.

Aryan – Believed to be a community¹ who were thought to have settled in prehistoric times in ancient Iran and the northern Indian subcontinent. The Nazi Party believed that the Aryans were a superior *race* of people that were forced from India and settled in the lands now known as Germany. The Nazi Party believed that German people were descended from this community and enacted racist policies to preserve what they saw as their claim to being an *Aryan* Race.

Propaganda - a message (using all kinds of different media) aimed at influencing the opinions or behavior of people.

- The Nazi Party made effective use of propaganda, including new media and technology available to them in the 1920s & 1930s, to spread their message across Germany:
 - Thousands of audio recordings of Hitler's speeches were put into circulation.
 - Hitler was the first political leader to use an aeroplane as transportation – this allowed him to cover huge distances in a short period of time.



Poster of Hitler used during the 1932 election campaign. What information is given?

¹ This belief is now disputed – *Encyclopedia Britannica* states “ . . . a growing number of scholars have rejected both the Aryan invasion hypothesis and the use of the term Aryan as a racial designation, suggesting that the Sanskrit term *arya* (“noble” or “distinguished”), the linguistic root of the word, was actually a social rather than an ethnic epithet.” *Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia*. "Aryan." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, August 22, 2022. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Aryan>.

- Huge rallies were organized to encourage huge crowds to gather in support of the Nazi Party.
 - Hitler knew he had to manipulate them in order to take control of the country. He had written in his book *Mein Kampf* that “ . . . all effective propaganda must . . . harp . . . until the last member of the public understands what you want them to understand.”



“German ‘Nazi’ Swastika Flag,” Digital Public Library of America,
<https://dp.la/item/a35643d88465504cf3090c1211d69f5c>.

- Appropriated by Hitler as part of the “brand” for the Nazi Party, the swastika quickly becomes the preeminent Nazi symbol (and remains linked to this period of history in the minds of many nations to this day). The swastika was formally adopted by the Nazi Party in 1920.
 - The swastika is an ancient symbol used by civilizations across the globe (past and present).
 - Before its use by the Nazi Party, many Europeans associated the swastika with good luck, long life, and general auspiciousness.
- From 1924-1933, the Nazi Party’s popularity in Germany increased as the economic, social, and political situation in the country got worse.

NSDAP federal election results (1924–1933)^[85]

Election	Votes			Seats		Notes
	No.	%	+/-	No.	+/-	
May 1924 (as National Socialist Freedom Movement)	1,918,300	6.5 (No. 6)		32 / 472		Hitler in prison
December 1924 (as National Socialist Freedom Movement)	907,300	3.0 (No. 8)	▼ 3.5	14 / 493	▼ 18	Hitler released from prison
May 1928	810,100	2.6 (No. 9)	▼ 0.4	12 / 491	▼ 2	
September 1930	6,409,600	18.3 (No. 2)	▲ 15.7	107 / 577	▲ 95	After the financial crisis
July 1932	13,745,000	37.3 (No. 1)	▲ 19.0	230 / 608	▲ 123	After Hitler was candidate for presidency
November 1932	11,737,000	33.1 (No. 1)	▼ 4.2	196 / 584	▼ 34	
March 1933	17,277,180	43.9 (No. 1)	▲ 10.8	288 / 647	▲ 92	During Hitler's term as Chancellor of Germany

Eberhard Kolb, *The Weimar Republic*, (New York: Routledge, 2005). Posted in Wikipedia.

- Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany (equivalent to prime minister) on January 30th, 1933.
 - August 2nd, 1934, saw Hitler merge the offices of party leader, head of state and chief of government into one, taking the title of *Führer und Reichskanzler*. He now had total power over the German State and Government.



Hitler was appointed as Chancellor by German President Paul von Hindenburg in 1933. When President Hindenburg died in 1934, Hitler merged the presidency into his office and declared himself *Führer und Reichskanzler*.

1919-1933

"I swear loyalty to the Reich's constitution and pledge, that I as a courageous soldier always want to protect the German Reich and its legal institutions, (and) be obedient to the Reich President and to my superiors."



Soldiers in the German Armed Forces swearing an oath to Hitler in 1934

Changing the Oaths - what does this do?

I swear to God this holy oath that I shall render unconditional obedience to the Leader of the German Reich and people, Adolf Hitler, supreme commander of the armed forces, and that as a brave soldier I shall at all times be prepared to give my life for this oath.

— Wehrmacht Oath of Loyalty to Adolf Hitler

1934-1945

- In May 1933, the newly formed Nazi Government organized a huge book burning ceremony to rid Germany of Jewish, socialist, and other writers that they felt were against Germany.
 - *All Quiet on the Western Front* (the Netflix movie is based on this book) was banned. Why?
- In June 1933, Hitler introduced a bill to encourage Germans to marry and have children with other Germans. Loans were given to young married couples (these loans did not have to be repaid once the couple had 4 children).
- Joining the Hitler Youth (*Hitler Jugend*) and League of German Girls (*Bund Deutscher Mädel*) became mandatory for boys and girls over the age of 10. Children were schooled in Nazi Ideology and taught to report on adults who they were suspicious of - including their parents.

- To restart the German economy, the Nazi Government used *Pump Priming*, which is stimulating the economy by ordering huge construction projects (examples: building tanks, ships, and the *Autobahn*). These projects were paid for using deficit spending (spending more money than what the government was taking in through taxes).
 - The Nazi Government privatized many state industries (sold off industries owned by the government to private businesspeople), taxed imports, and tried to achieve national economic self-sufficiency.
 - The main economic goal of the Nazi Government was rebuilding the German military.
 - Unemployment in Germany was reduced from 6,000,000 in 1932 to 1,600,000 in 1936.