

**Agenda:**  
**I. Hitler**  
**Readings**

# **HITLER'S RISE TO POWER**

**I CAN ANALYZE  
HOW THE END  
OF WWI AND  
THE INTERWAR  
YEARS LED TO  
THE RISE OF  
FASCISM IN  
GERMANY**

# TREATY OF VERSAILLES

- Germany unhappy with the terms of the treaty of Versailles
- Germany was forced to:
  - Reduce their military
  - Accept blame for WWI
  - Lose land and colonies
  - Pay reparations for the war



*A cartoon published in July 1919 in the conservative newspaper Kladderadatsch. It was entitled 'Clemenceau the Vampire'. The figure on the bed represents Germany.*

# IMPACTS OF THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES ON GERMANY

- High inflation rates
  - Money essentially became “worthless”
- High levels of unemployment
- Germany’s new government (the Weimar Republic) is unstable
  - No democratic tradition
  - Weak coalition of governments was formed



*In 1923 Germany suffered from cataclysmic inflation. Paper money became worthless and children used packets of it as building blocks. [Bettmann/Hulton]*

# HITLER'S EARLY LIFE

- Born in Austria, 1889
- Moved to Germany in his early 20s
- Fought for Germany in WWI
  - Wounded, earned the medal “Iron Cross”

# TIMELINE OF HITLER'S RISE IN POLITICS

- 1920: Joined the National Socialist German Workers Party (Nazis)
- 1923: Beer Hall Putsch
  - Hitler tries and fails to overthrow the German government.
  - Inspired by Mussolini's March on Rome
  - Realizes he must take power legally
- 1924: Hitler writes *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) while in prison



# STOCK MARKET CRASH

- Black Tuesday
  - October 29, 1929
- Causes a widespread international economic depression

# GERMAN ELECTION OF 1932

- 3 main parties
  - Communist Party
  - National Socialist German Worker's Party
  - Social Democratic Party

# GERMAN ELECTION OF 1932

- Communist Party wants:
  - Lower taxes for workers; raise for rich
  - Spend less on military
  - Increase welfare spending
  - Equal distribution of wealth; no one richer or poorer than another
  - ONE party; no individual rights
  - Communist Party is supreme – total power





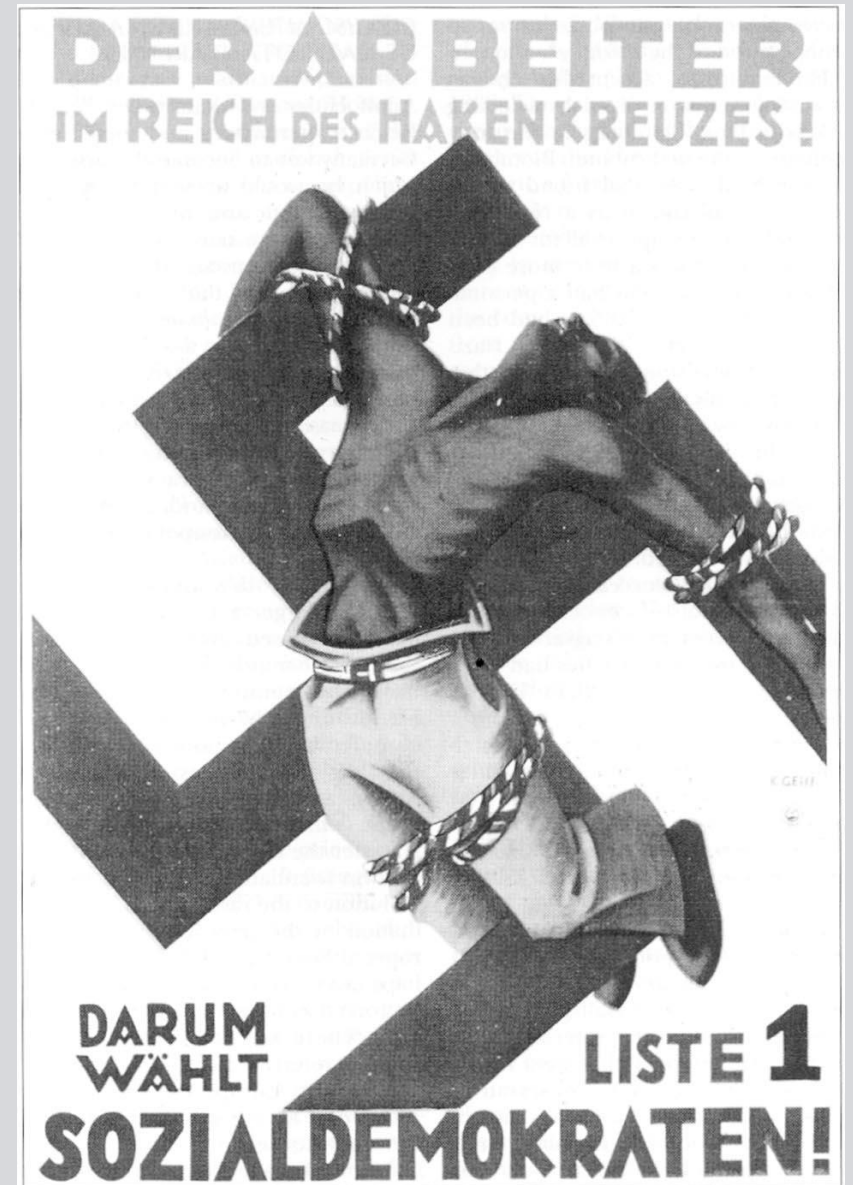
# GERMAN ELECTION OF 1932



- National Socialist German Workers Party wants:
  - Strong leadership; ONE party rule – Nationalism!!
  - Build military back up
  - Get rid of Treaty of Versailles
  - Get rid of non-Germans
  - No trade unions or individual rights
  - Violent and racist

# GERMAN ELECTION OF 1932

- Social Democratic Party wants:
  - Protect workers rights and conditions – allow trade unions
  - Limit military spending
  - Tax imports to protect German products & jobs
  - Democracy
  - Individual rights protected – keep the right to vote



# PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Hindenburg -<br>SPD (Democrat) | 53% |
| Hitler -<br>NSDAP (Fascist)    | 37% |
| Thaelmann -<br>KPD (Communist) | 10% |

# HITLER'S RISE TO POWER

- January 1933: Hindenburg names Hitler chancellor of Germany
- February 27, 1933: Reichstag building burns – Hitler blames the Communists
- March 20, 1933: Dachau - First concentration camp



### Kennzeichen für Schutzhäftlinge in den Konz.-Lagern

IV/5

Form und Farbe der Kennzeichen

|             | Deutsche | Österreichische | Polen | Frankfurter | Österreich | Frankfurter | Frankfurter |
|-------------|----------|-----------------|-------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Deutsche    |          |                 |       |             |            |             |             |
| Österreich  |          |                 |       |             |            |             |             |
| Polen       |          |                 |       |             |            |             |             |
| Frankfurter |          |                 |       |             |            |             |             |

**Besondere Anzeichen**

|            |            |             |             |             |
|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|            |            |             |             |             |
| Österreich | Österreich | Frankfurter | Frankfurter | Frankfurter |



**The SS, the elite guard of the Nazi Party, established the Dachau concentration camp**

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- March 23, 1933: Reichstag passes Enabling Act – Hitler has full dictatorial power
- June 22: Social Democratic Party banned

# ON THE ENABLING ACT

"The government will make use of these powers only insofar as they are essential for carrying out vitally necessary measures...The number of cases in which an internal necessity exists for having recourse to such a law is in itself a limited one."

- Hitler



# HITLER'S RISE TO POWER

- June 30 1934: Night of the Long Knives → Hitler gains support of Army
- August 2, 1934: President Hindenburg dies → Hitler is Führer