Hitler and the Rise of Nazi Germany

The Weimar Republic’s Rise and Fall
- The Weimar Republic, which was set up after World War I, was a democratic government, with a constitution & led by a chancellor, or prime minister
- The Weimar Republic was a weak coalition government
- Many Germans blamed it for the hated Treaty of Versailles
- Many Germans began to blamed the Jews for economic and political problems

To pay reparation payments Germany printed more & more marks (German money), causing high inflation
- The U.S. loaned money to Germany to help curb the high inflation, but when the Great Depression hit Germans turned to Adolf Hitler to solve the economic crisis & restore Germany to former greatness

The Nazi Party’s Rise to Power
- Hitler was born in Austria in 1889
- He moved to Vienna where he developed a prejudice against Jewish people
- He fought in the German army during World War I
- In 1919 he joined a group of right-wing extremists

He hated the Weimar government & blamed it for the treaty of Versailles
- By the early 1920s Hitler became the leader of the Nazi party

Hitler’s Manifesto
- 1923 Hitler was arrested & imprisoned for treason
- While in prison Hitler wrote Mein Kampf, which set forth his goals & ideology
- Extreme nationalism, racism & anti-Semitism
- Germans were a “master race” of Aryans
- Hitler believed Jews were the enemy

He blamed Germany’s defeat in World War I & Germany’s post war economic problems on a conspiracy of Marxists, Jews, corrupt politicians & business leaders
- Hitler wanted to make Germany great again by uniting all Germans into one nation
- He wanted to expand because Germany needed Lebensraum, or living space, for its people
- He wanted to expand into Poland & the Soviet Union for Lebensraum & natural resources

Hitler Came to Power
- Hitler & the Nazi party gained support from veterans, workers, the lower middle class & business leaders during the Great Depression
- Hitler promised to end reparation payments, create jobs & defy the Treaty of Versailles by rearming Germany
• Because of the fear of communism, Hitler gained support from conservatives & became chancellor in 1933
• Within a year Hitler was the dictator of Germany

9 **The Third Reich Controlled Germany**

• Hitler set up the Third Reich
• To combat the Great Depression, Hitler launched large public works programs
• He began to rearm Germany
• Developed a totalitarian state, in which all areas of German life were controlled by the Nazi Party
• Hitler used his secret police, the Gestapo to eliminate any opposition

10

• The Nazis persecuted against the Jews by passing the Nuremberg Laws, which deprived Jews of German citizenship & placed severe restrictions on them
• November 9, 1938, Nazis attacked Jews, known as Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass
• The Nazis indoctrinated young people with Nazi ideology in the “Hitler Youth” program
• The Nazis wanted to purify the German culture

11 **Three Totalitarian States**

• Italy- Mussolini came to power in 1922, was a Fascist believing in extreme nationalism & used terror to suppress dissent
• Soviet Union- Stalin came to power in 1924, was a communist & sent millions to Gulag labor camps
• Germany- Hitler came to power in 1933 due to the depression, was a Fascist believing in extreme nationalism & racial hatred aimed at the Jews & terrorized & restricted German Jews