

Germany

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Weimar Republic

- The Weimar Republic was a democratic government and was in a city made by German leaders, the city of Weimar. A parliamentary system was set up, by the constitution, and led by a chancellor (prime minister). The Weimar Republic had many problems since the beginning. It was also very weak because it was made up of many smaller parties. The Weimar Republic often got blamed for the Versailles treaty. Also they got reprimanded for radical changes Lenin brought Russia, got yelled at for being liberal and weak, and Germany also wanted another leader of Bismarck. So every German blamed the Weimar Republic for the Versailles treaty. Germany also blamed Jews for economic and political problems.

Rise to power

- Hitler's created a program that appealed to veterans, workers, the lower middle classes, small town Germans, and business people alike. He gave big speeches that stated that he would end reparations, create jobs, and defy the Versailles treaty by rearming Germany. As the group grew, Nazis and communists won more seats in the Reichstag (lower house of the legislature). Conservative politicians feared the growth of communist power, so they turned to Hitler for help. With the conservative support, Hitler became Chancellor in 1933 under the Weimar Constitution.

Taking complete control

- Within a year of being Chancellor, he was appointed dictator of Germany. He suspended civil rights, destroyed socialists and communists, and disbanded other political parties. He caused Germany to be a one party state. He purged his own party, brutally executing Nazis he felt were disloyal. Nazis began to notice that Hitler was demanding unquestioning obedience and nothing less. He and his Nazis moved to build a new Germany, while Hitler fulfilled his promises in his speeches.



Taking complete control continued

- Hitler launched huge public work programs giving back the people their jobs. Tens of thousands of people were put back to work building highways and housing or replanting forests. He also created a crash program to return to Germany which was a strong rejection of the hated Versailles treaty. Next he organized a brutal system of totalitarian rule where Nazis controlled all areas of German life. Finally, in his fanatical anti-Semitism, he began to drive Jews from Germany. He passed the Nuremberg laws in 1935 that stripped Jews of German citizenship and there were strong restrictions put on them. Germans were to have nothing to do with the Jews.

Kristallnacht

- Kristallnacht, or Night of the Broken Glass, took place on November 9-10. Hitler started this because a young Jew shot a German diplomat in Paris because his parents had been mistreated in Germany. On this night, Jewish communities in Germany, Austria, and portions of Czechoslovakia were attacked by Nazi lead mobs. This led to Hitler and his henchman starting what they called the "Final solution" or the extermination of all Jews.

