

The worldwide best-selling classic about
the most infamous era of our times

**The Rise and Fall
of the Third Reich**
A History of Nazi Germany

William L. Shirer
with a new Afterword by the author



*Rise and Fall
of the
Third Reich*

William L. Shirer

Book: 1959 • Film: 1968

AP European History

J.F. Walters & G.W. Whitton

Shirer's thesis



William L. Shirer
Source: Wikipedia



Hitler's background

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945)

Source: Wikipedia

**“Chaos can have
gentle beginnings.”**

—“Rise and Fall of the Third Reich”

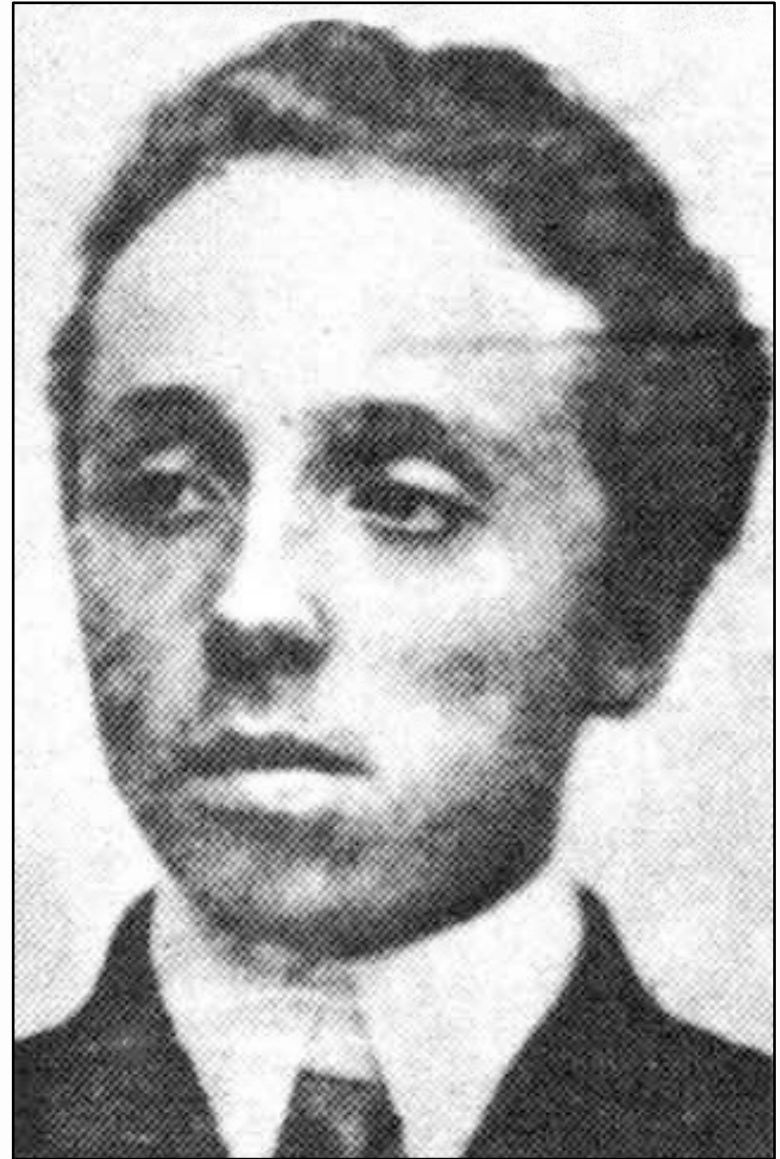


Hitler born 20 April 1889 in the Austro-Hungarian Empire

Adolf Hitler as an infant
Source: Wikipedia

Hitler's close friend August Kubizek

August Kubizek (1907)
Source: Wikipedia





Hitler in Vienna (1905-13)

Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, where
Hitler failed to gain admission

Source: Wikipedia

Antisemitism in Vienna

**Karl Lueger, anti-Semitic mayor of
Vienna (1897-1910)**
Source: Wikipedia



Hitler's move to Munich, Germany (1913)



Munich is in the German state of Bavaria
Source: Wikipedia



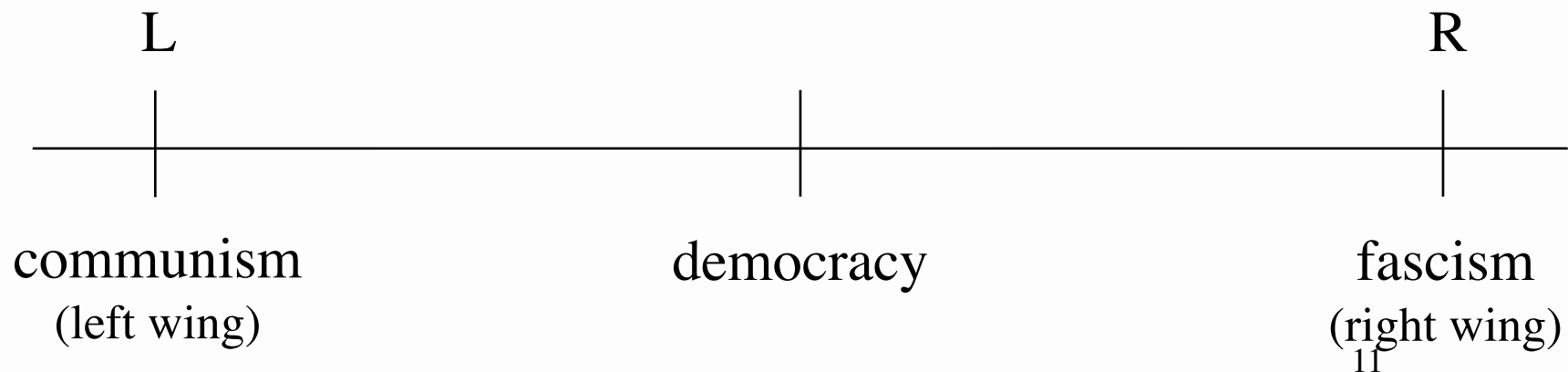
Hitler in World War I Field Runner

A photo of Hitler during taken
during the Great War
Source: Wikipedia

Weimar Germany

(1919-1933)

- **democratic republic**
- **forced to sign Versailles Treaty (1919)**
- **major economic problems**
- **challenged by political opponents on the left (communists) and right (fascists)**



Germany after WWI

- economic problems
- political instability

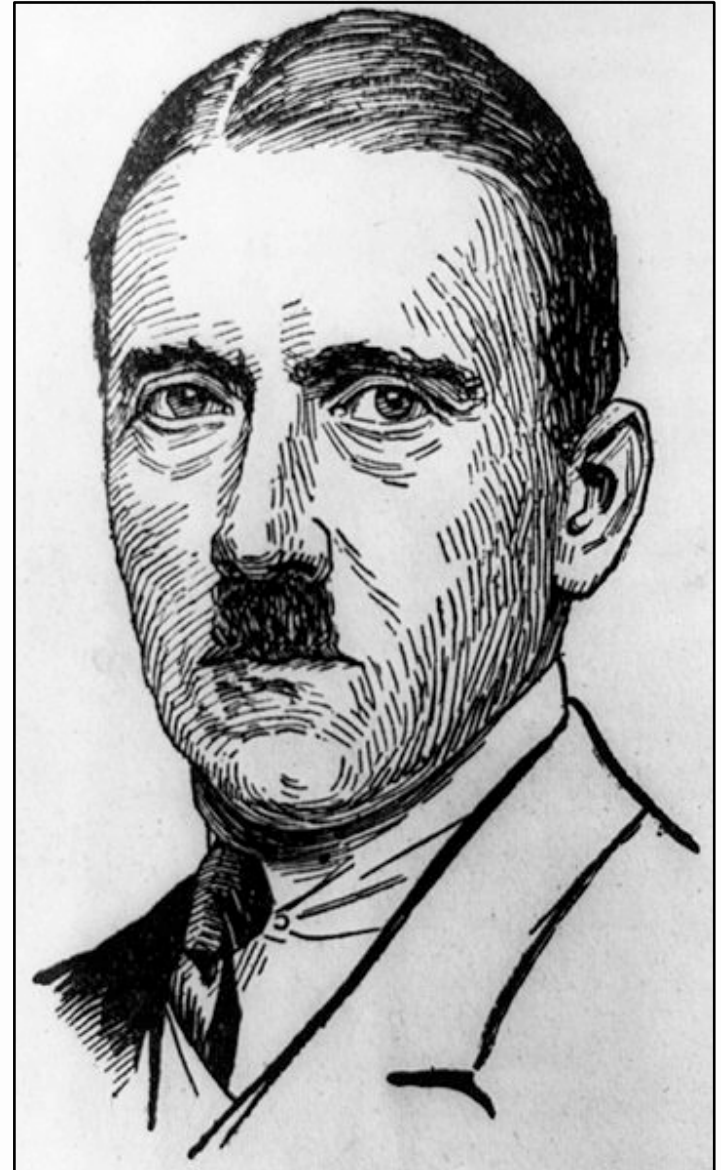


Demonstrations against the Treaty of Versailles in front of the Reichstag, Berlin (1919)

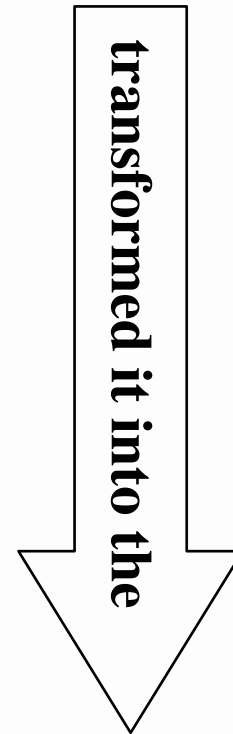
Source: Wikipedia

Hitler after WWI

a 1923 drawing of Adolf Hitler
Source: Wikipedia



Hitler joined the German Workers' Party (1919)



National Socialist Workers' Party (Nazis)

The Nazis were fascists

Ernst Roehm

Head of the
Sturmabteilung:
The Storm Troopers (SA)

Ernst Roehm
Source: Wikipedia



Hermann Goering

would eventually become
head of the Nazi *Luftwaffe*

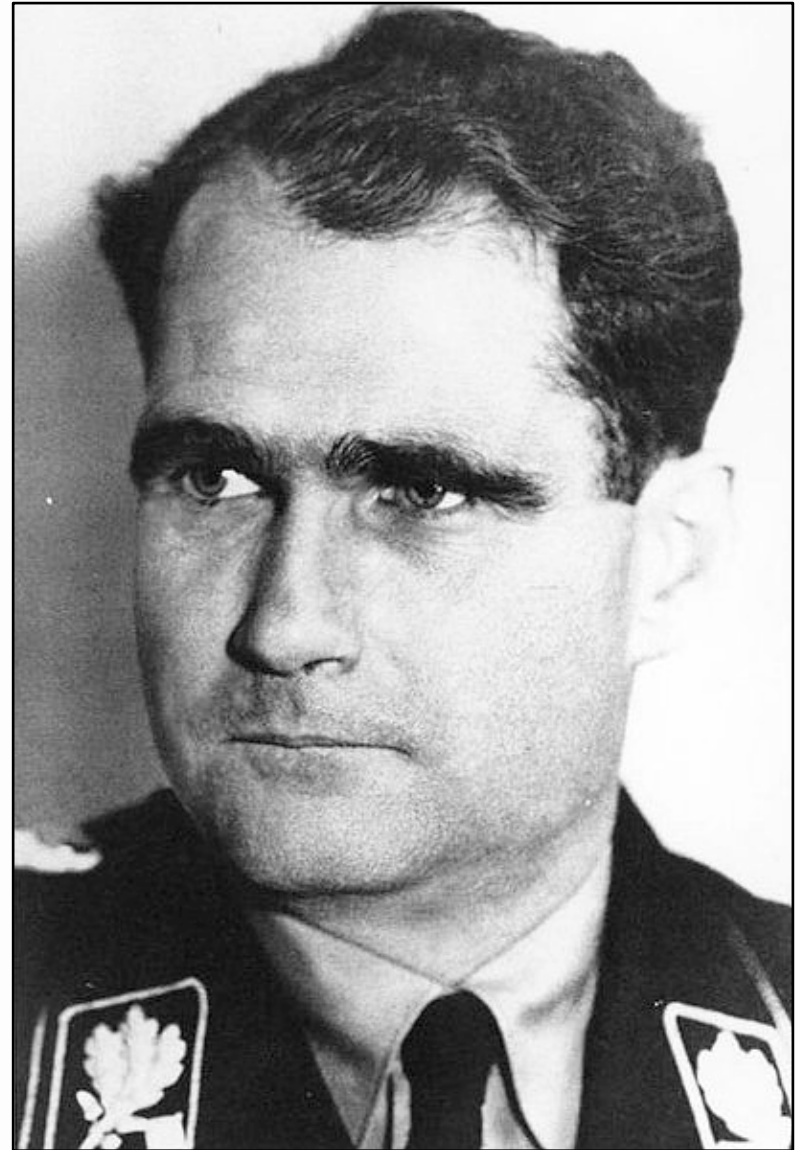
Hermann Goering
Source: Wikipedia

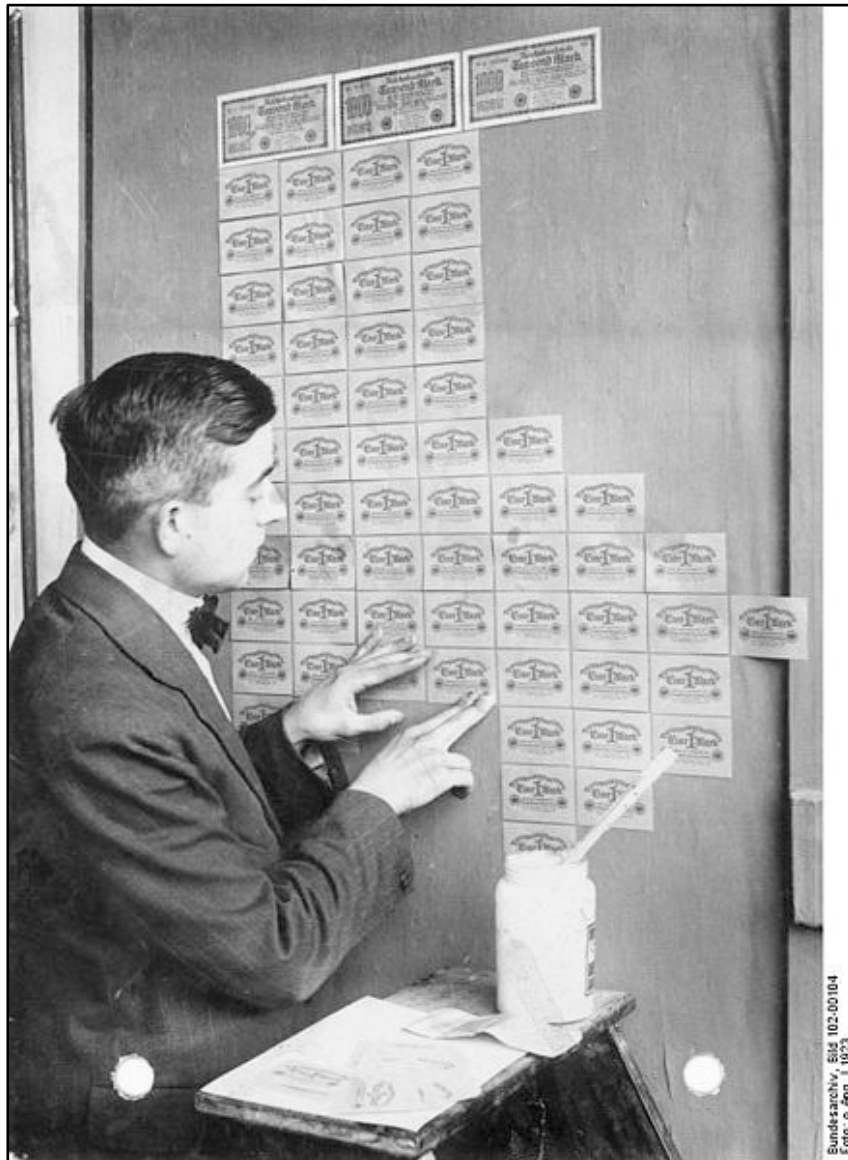


Rudolf Hess

Hitler's secretary

Rudolf Hess
Source: Wikipedia





German Inflation (1923-24)

German bank notes being used as
wallpaper (1923)
Source: Wikipedia



George Grosz

German Cartoonist

“The Hero,” George Grosz (1918)

Source: Wikipedia

Beer Hall Putsch (1923)



Nazis on the Marienplatz, Munich (1923)

Source: Wikipedia

Hitler's Trial (1924)



Defendants in the Beer Hall Putsch Trial.

Hitler is fourth from the right.

Source: Wikipedia



Hitler in Prison (1924)

Wrote Mein Kampf:

- argued that the German Aryan was the master race
- inferior peoples are destined to be German slaves
- argued that people were moved by charismatic speaking
- promoted the use of violence and terror
- declared that France was Germany's mortal enemy and must be destroyed
- claimed that Jews were the root of Germany's ills

The most common cover of Mein Kampf

Source: Wikipedia

Weimar Prosperity (1925-29)



A painting depicting life in Berlin during the “Golden Twenties”
Source: Wikipedia

The “Spirit of Locarno” (1925-29)

- **The Locarno Treaties (1925)**
- **Germany allowed into the League of Nations (1926)**
- **Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928)**
- **economy grew during the last half of the 1920s**



Gustav Stresemann
Source: Wikipedia

The “Spirit of Locarno” (1925-29)

- **Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928)**
 - Briand (French Foreign Minister) & Kellogg (U.S. Secretary of State)
 - condemned war as a solution to international controversies
 - countries who signed renounced war as an instrument of national policy
 - 65 nations signed

Aristide Briand
Source: Wikipedia





Paul von Hindenburg

President of Weimar Republic (1925-34)

Paul von Hindenburg
Source: Wikipedia

Growth of the Nazi Party

Organization & Membership



Hitler and a group of Nazi Party members (c. 1930)
Source: Wikipedia

“Even to get power legally, it is useful to have a gun pointed at the government.”

—Hitler as quoted in
“Rise and Fall of the Third Reich”



Great Depression (1929-39)

*“Never have I felt so
well disposed.”*

—Hitler on the Great Depression

Sign: *“Diligent Young Man Seeks Work”*

Source: Wikipedia



Communist strength



Nazi violence

*“We are proud
to be called
barbarians.”*

—Hitler as quoted in
“Rise and Fall of the Third Reich”

Hitler saluting at a Nazi party rally
Source: Wikipedia

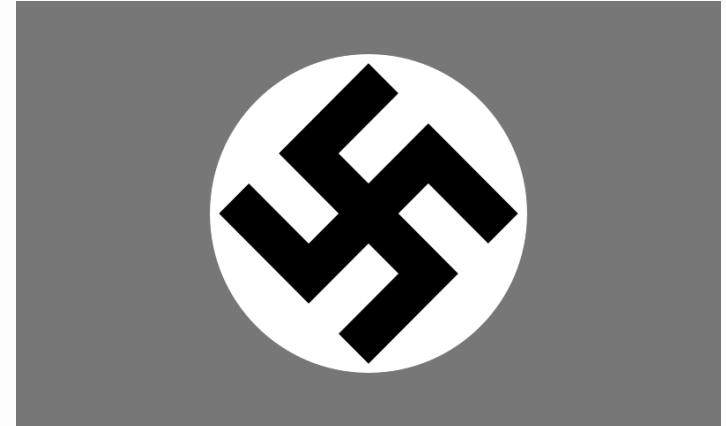


Street warfare

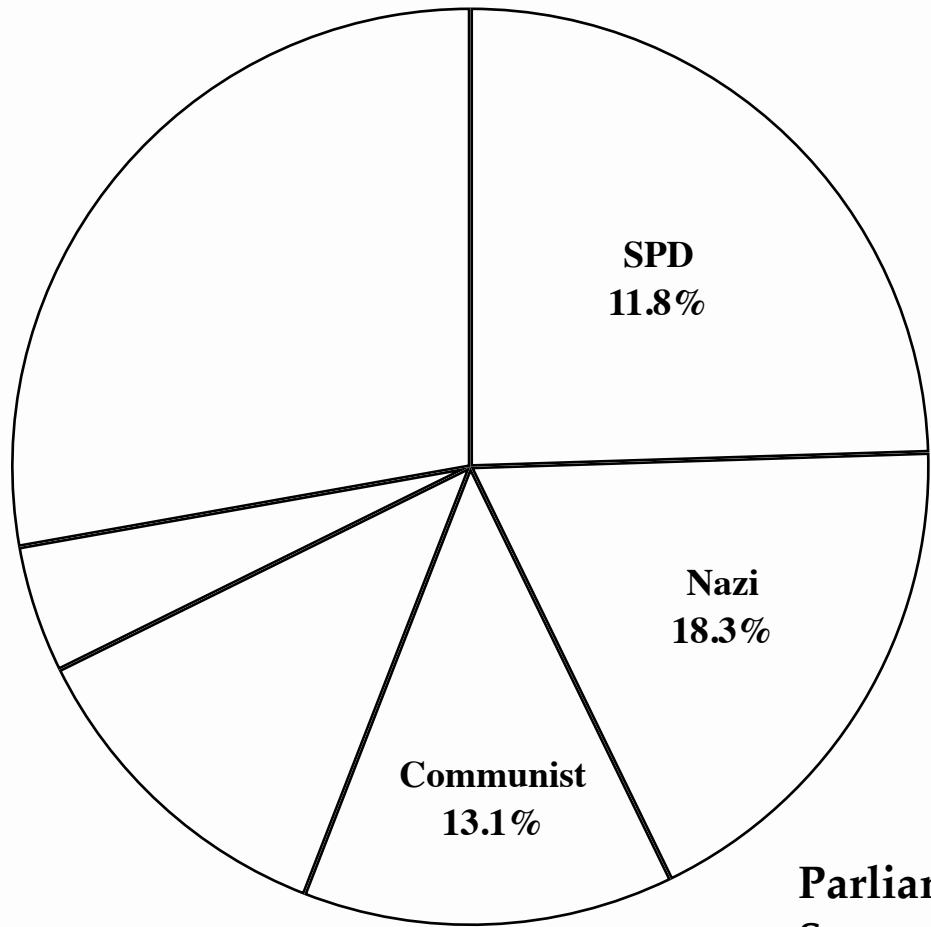


Communists

vs.



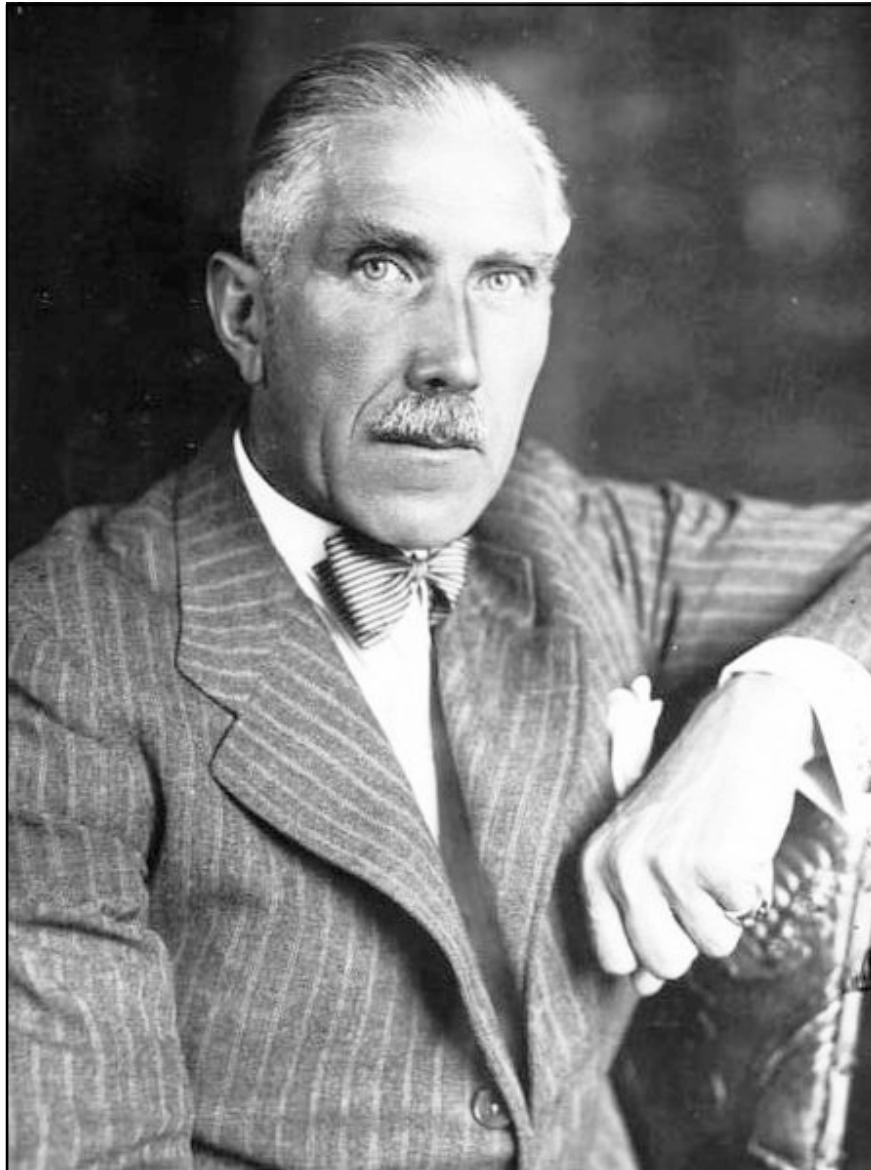
Nazis



Nazis in the Reichstag

(German parliament)

Parliamentary Election Results: 1930 Reichstag
Source: Wikipedia



Weimar coalition governments: political instability

coalition: A coalition government is a cabinet of a parliamentary government in which several political parties cooperate. (Wikipedia)

Franz von Papen, chancellor of Germany (1932)
Source: Wikipedia

1932 Presidential Election: Hindenburg vs. Hitler

A 1932 Hindenburg campaign poster
Source: Wikipedia





Hitler gained support of industrialists

Communist-fearing industrialists like Gustav Krupp (left), owner of Krupp Industries, supported Hitler's plans for German rearmament

Source: Wikipedia



Election of 1932: Hindenburg won Hitler lost

Paul von Hindenburg
Source: Wikipedia

Weimar Cabinet Crisis (1932-33)

**Kurt von Schleicher, chancellor of
Germany (1932-33)**
Source: Wikipedia



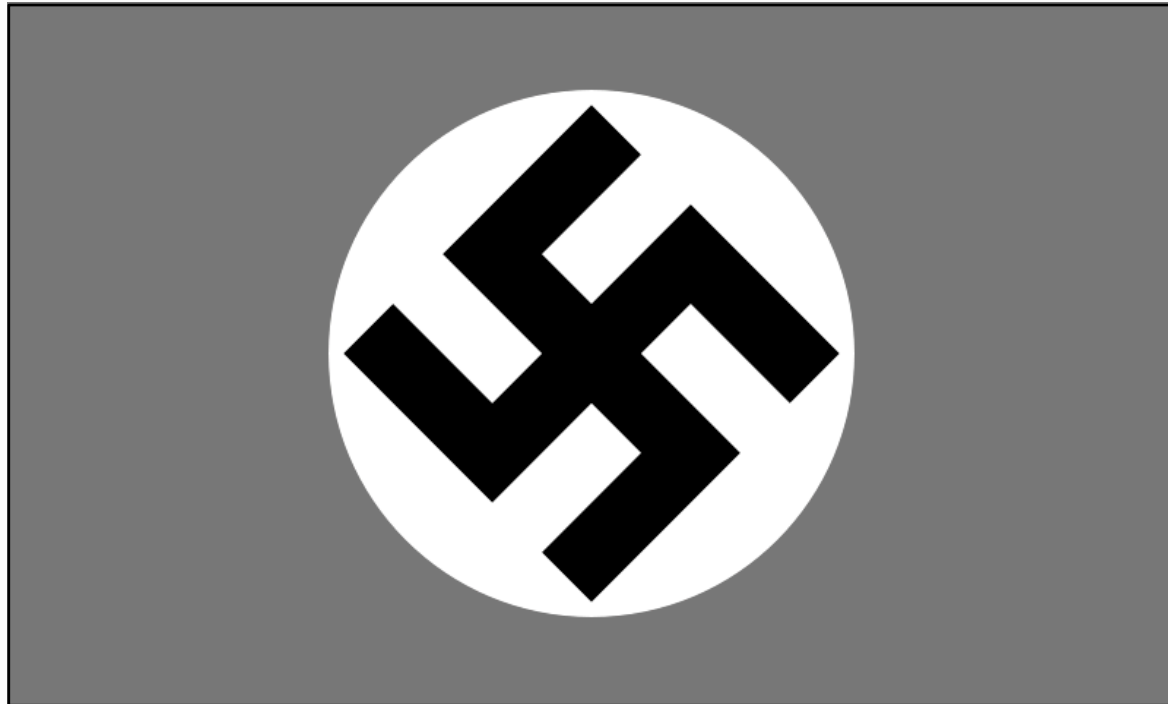


Hitler appointed chancellor (1933)

Adolf Hitler was appointed chancellor of
Germany on 30 January 1933

Source: Wikipedia

Nazi revolution?



What is it? Where will it lead Germany?



Hitler's consolidation of power (1933-34)

Elimination of enemies

- Parliamentary democracy
- Communists
- German military/SA dilemma
- President Hindenburg

Hitler was known as the *Führer* (the leader)

Source: Wikipedia

Nazi propaganda against Communists

Nazi propaganda cartoon (1934)
Source: Calvin.edu



Reichstag Fire (1933)

Reichstag Fire (1933)
Source: Wikipedia



Reichstag granted Hitler emergency powers (1933): parliamentary democracy was dead in Germany



Reichstag before the 1933 fire, c. 1900
Source: Wikipedia

Communists and other political opponents arrested



The Karl-Liebknecht-Haus, Berlin: Headquarters of the
German Communist Party (1926-33)

Source: Wikipedia

**In order for Hitler to
gain the support
of the German military,
he had to destroy the
Storm Troopers (SA),
his personal army**

**Hitler (L) and Roehm (1933)
Source: Wikipedia**



45

The Night of the Long Knives (1934)

**Hitler destroyed the SA:
Roehm and other top leaders
were killed**

Hindenburg Died (1934)



Hindenburg's Funeral
Source: Google Images

The Third Reich (1933-45)



The national insignia for the Third Reich

Source: Wikipedia

German army pledged allegiance to Hitler (1934)



A helmet decal for Nazi Wehrmacht
Source: Wikipedia

Hitler's powerful oratory



Hitler speaking to a crowd
Source: Google Images

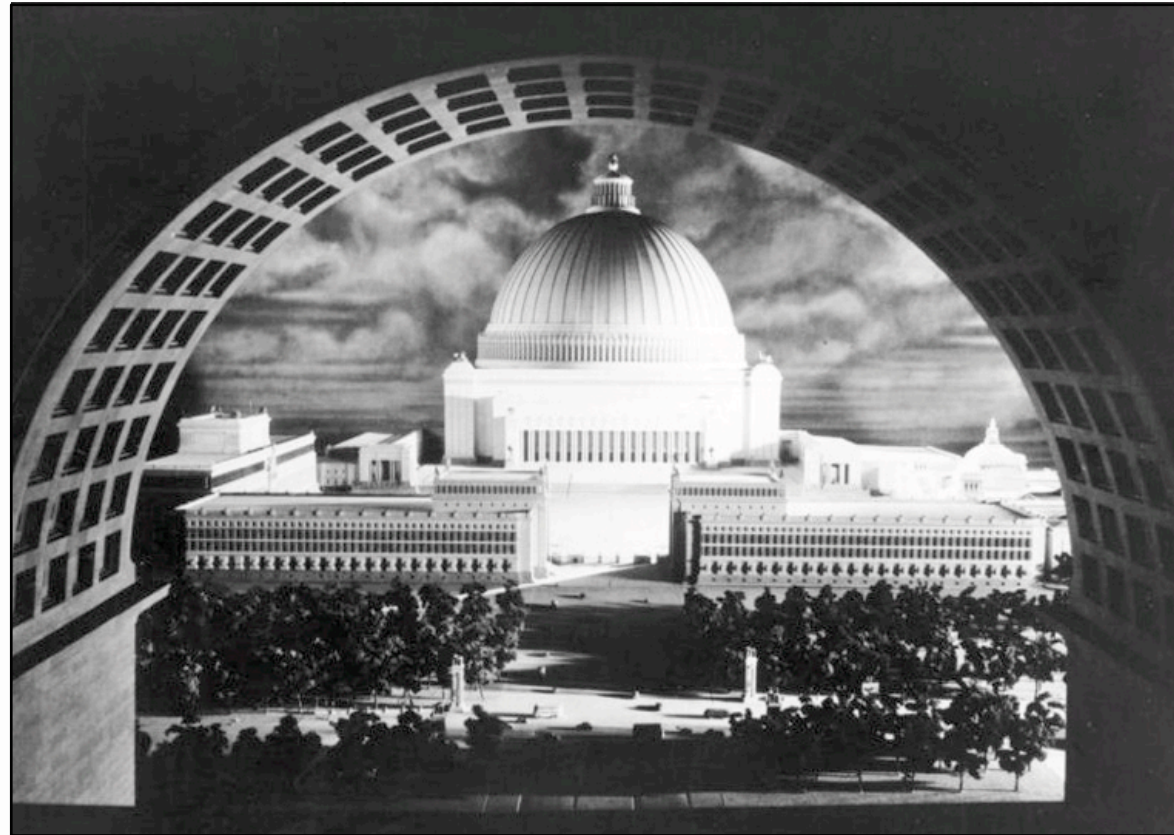


Revival of German economy through corporatism

Hitler at the opening of a section of the
autobahn

Source: german-architecture.info

The Nazi utopia



A model of Albert Speer's proposed "People's Hall"
Source: Wikipedia

The Aryan ideal

“The Guard,” Arno Breker (c. 1935)
Source: Wikipedia





Antisemitism & Nuremberg Laws (1935)

Sign: "Germans, Attention! This shop is owned by Jews. Jews damage the German economy and pay their German employees starvation wages. The main owner is the Jew Nathan Schmidt." (1933)

Source: Wikipedia

Political purification



Political prisoners at Dachau, a camp created for holding Nazi political opponents (1933)

Source: Wikipedia

Book burnings: Nazi destruction of ideas



A Nazi book burning (c. 1933)

Source: Wikipedia

Berchtesgaden: Hitler's Alpine retreat



Berghof: Hitler's summer retreat house above Berchtesgaden in the Bavarian Alps

Source: Wikipedia

The personal Hitler



Hitler, Eva Braun (L) and dogs at Berghof (c. 1940)

Source: Wikipedia



Joseph Goebbels Minister of Propaganda

Joseph Goebbels

Source: Wikipedia

Heinrich Himmler Head of the SS

Heinrich Himmler (1942)
Source: Wikipedia



Promotion of violence



Hitler Youth (1933)

Source: Wikipedia

Hitler & the Nazis: “Triumph of the Will”

Leni Riefenstahl (standing on cart),
director of “Triumph of the Will” (1935)
Source: Wikipedia



Berlin & the Reichschancellory: Center of European activity



Albert Speer's Reichschancellory
Source: Wikipedia

Nazi rearmament



The Heinkel He 111, built in the 1930s in violation of the Treaty of Versailles.

Source: Wikipedia

Cause of WWII: Nazi Aggression

- **Military occupation (remilitarization) of the Rhineland (1936)**
- **Austrian *Anschluss* (1938)**
- **Czechoslovakia (1938)**
- **Poland (1939)**

Remilitarization of the Rhineland (1936)



The Nazi army crossing the Rhine
Source: ImageShack

“Anyone other than myself would have lost his nerve; what saved us was my unshakable obstinacy and my amazing aplomb.”

—Adolf Hitler (1942)

reflecting on the 1936 remilitarization of the Rhineland

Source: “Rise & Fall of the Third Reich”

Austrian *Anschluss* (1938)

Dismantling a border crossing station along the former border between Germany and Austria

Source: Wikipedia



Propaganda against Czechoslovakia (1938)



A map of Czechoslovakia (1928)

Source: Wikipedia

Germans in the Czech Sudetenland



The Sudetenland area of the Czech section of Czechoslovakia

Source: Wikipedia

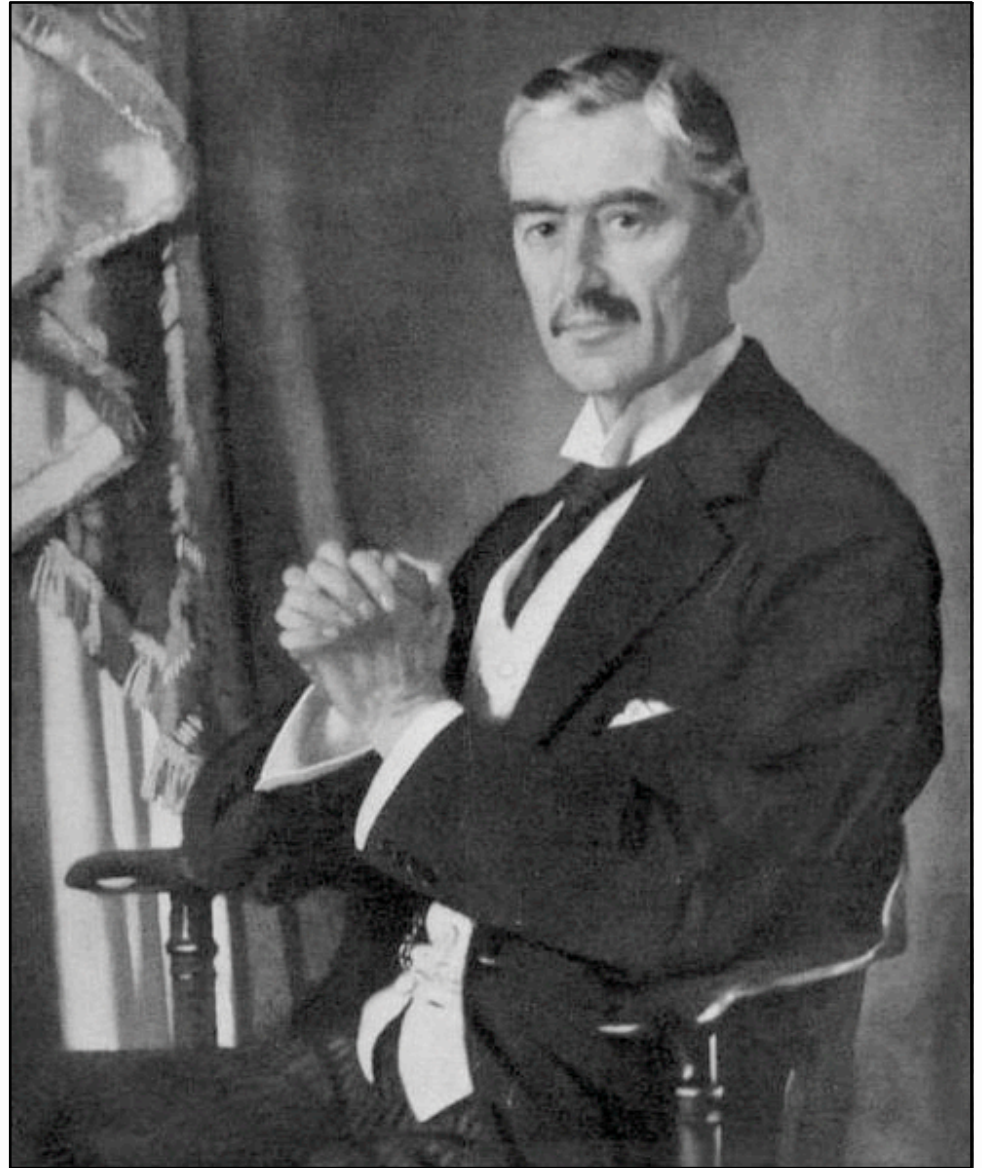
Neville Chamberlain

British Prime Minister
(1937-40)

*“I had the impression
that he could be
relied upon.”*

—Chamberlain reflecting on Hitler
as quoted in “Rise and Fall of the Third Reich”

Neville Chamberlain
Source: Wikipedia



War?

Munich Conference (1938): best example of appeasement

Neville Chamberlain arrives in
Munich (1938)
Source: Wikipedia



***“Our enemies are worms.
I saw them at Munich.”***

—Adolf Hitler (1939)

reflecting on the 1938 Munich Conference

Source: “Rise & Fall of the Third Reich”



Czechoslovakia occupied (1938)

Wenceslas Square, Prague (c. 2005)
Source: Wikipedia

Hitler mocked United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt

President Roosevelt with dog
Fala and Ruthie Bie, a friend's
grandchild (1941)
Source: Wikipedia





Nazi propaganda against Poland

The Polish army in the late 1930s
Source: Wikipedia



Nazi-Soviet Non- Aggression Pact (1939)

An American cartoonist's interpretation of
the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact

Source: johndclare.net



Nazi-Soviet Non- Aggression Pact (1939)

Source: brokenworld.wikispaces.com

Start of World War II (1939-45)

- **Nazi invasion of Poland**
 - ✓ Germany invaded Poland, 1 September 1939
 - ✓ invasion marks the beginning of World War II
 - ✓ Nazis used *blitzkrieg* in their conquest of Poland
- **Britain and France declared war on 3 September 1939**



German stamp from 1943
celebrates *blitzkrieg*

Source: Wikipedia

Occupation of Poland (1939)

Jews in occupied Poland were
required by law to wear yellow
badges of identification.

Source: google images



Phony War Winter 1939-40

a British poster that was commonly displayed during the Phony War phase of World War II
Source: Wikipedia



Nazi conquests (Spring 1940)



Norway
Denmark
Belgium
Netherlands
Luxembourg

German military officers in Oslo, Norway (1940)
Source: Wikipedia

“Miracle at Dunkirk” (1940)

British troops being evacuated
from Dunkirk (1940)
Source: Wikipedia





Fall of France (1940)

Nazi troops march past the Arc de
Triomphe (1940)

Source: Wikipedia

France under the Nazis: Vichy France (1940-44)



France under Nazi occupation

Source: Wikipedia



Philippe Pétain (L), Chief of State of Vichy France, shakes hands with Adolf Hitler in 1940

Source: Wikipedia

Winston Churchill

British Prime Minister (1940-45)

Churchill offering his trademark “V
for Victory” sign in London (1943)

Source: Wikipedia



“We have but one aim and one single irrevocable purpose. We are resolved to destroy Hitler and every vestige of the Nazi regime. From this nothing will turn us. We will never parley; we will never negotiate with Hitler or any of his gang. We shall fight him by land; we shall fight him by sea; we shall fight him in the air, until, with God’s help, we have rid the earth of his shadow and liberated its people from his yoke.”

—Winston Churchill
radio broadcast, 22 June 1941

Battle of Britain (1940): “The Blitz”



An iconic photo of London's famous landmark
St. Paul's cathedral during The Blitz (1940)

Source: Wikipedia





Hitler at the peak of his power (1940-41)

Hitler (center) on his only visit to Paris
shortly after the fall of France (1940)

Source: Wikipedia

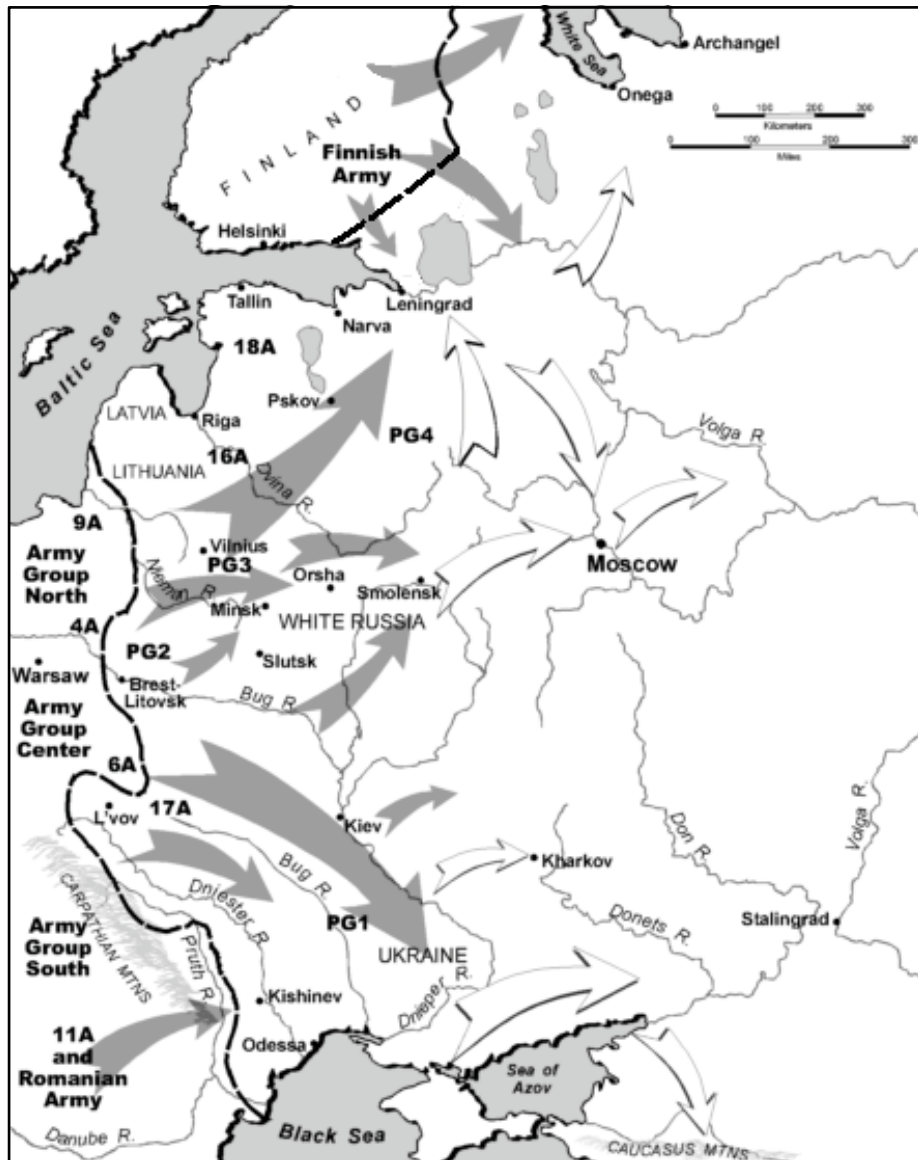
Europe stripped of art and resources

Herman Goering was notoriously famous
for looting priceless art from European
museums for his own personal collection

Source: Wikipedia



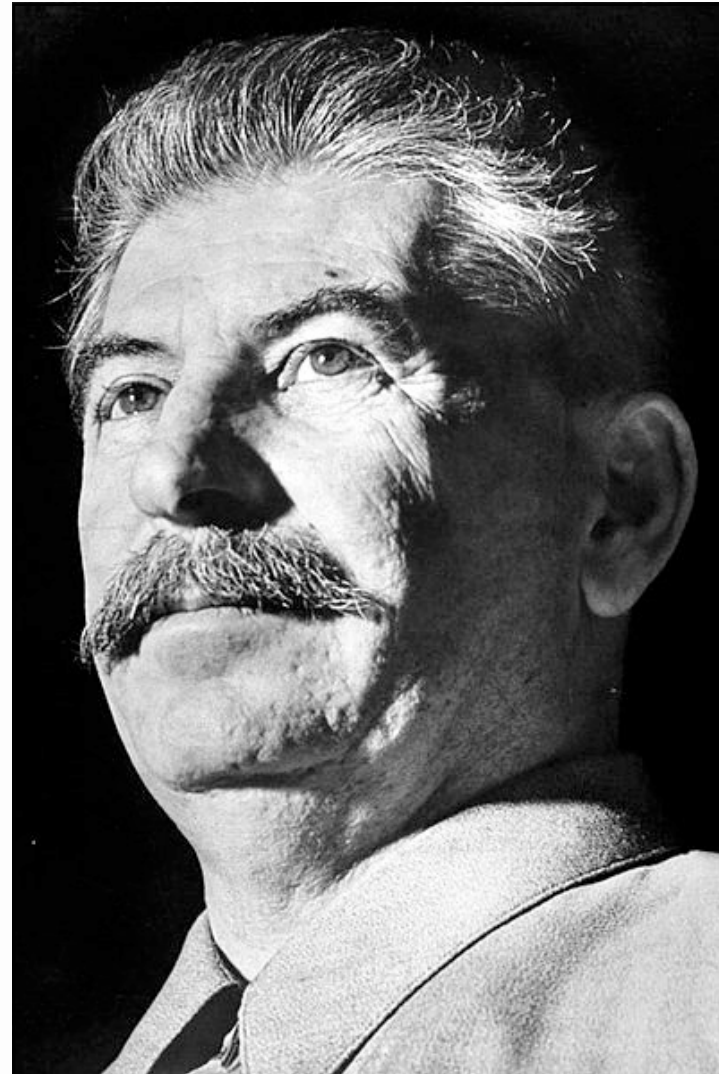
Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union (1941)



A map of German troop movements (1941)
Source: Wikipedia

Soviet tactics: scorched earth & retreat

Soviet leader Josef Stalin
Source: Wikipedia



Russian autumn: rain and mud



Nazi Wehrmacht troops struggle to move along a muddy Russian road during World War II
Source: Wikipedia

Russian winter: snow and cold



Soviet troops advance in the harsh Russian winter during World War II

Source: Wikipedia

Hitler declared war on the United States (1941)



Hitler delivering a speech against the United States (11 December 1941)

Source: Wikipedia

**Hitler's tactical error:
dividing his forces in
order to attack both the
oil-rich Caucasus region
and the symbolically-
important industrial city
of Stalingrad**

**Field Marshall Paul von Kleist led the
German army in the attack on the Caucasus
region of the Soviet Union
Source: Wikipedia**



Battle of Stalingrad (1942-43)



The aftermath of a Nazi bombing raid on Stalingrad
Source: Wikipedia

The Holocaust (1942-45): “The Final Solution”



**ABOVE: Jews being transported to Auschwitz.
RIGHT: Reinhard Heydrich chaired the Wannsee
Conference (1942), which outlined Nazi plans for
transporting Jews and others to death camps.
Source: Wikipedia**

Women, children and the elderly keep German war machine going



British victories in North Africa (1942-43)

British Field Marshall Bernard "Monty" Montgomery led the Allied forces to victory at the Battle of Alamein (1942) in Egypt
Source: Wikipedia



Nazi defeat at Stalingrad (1943)

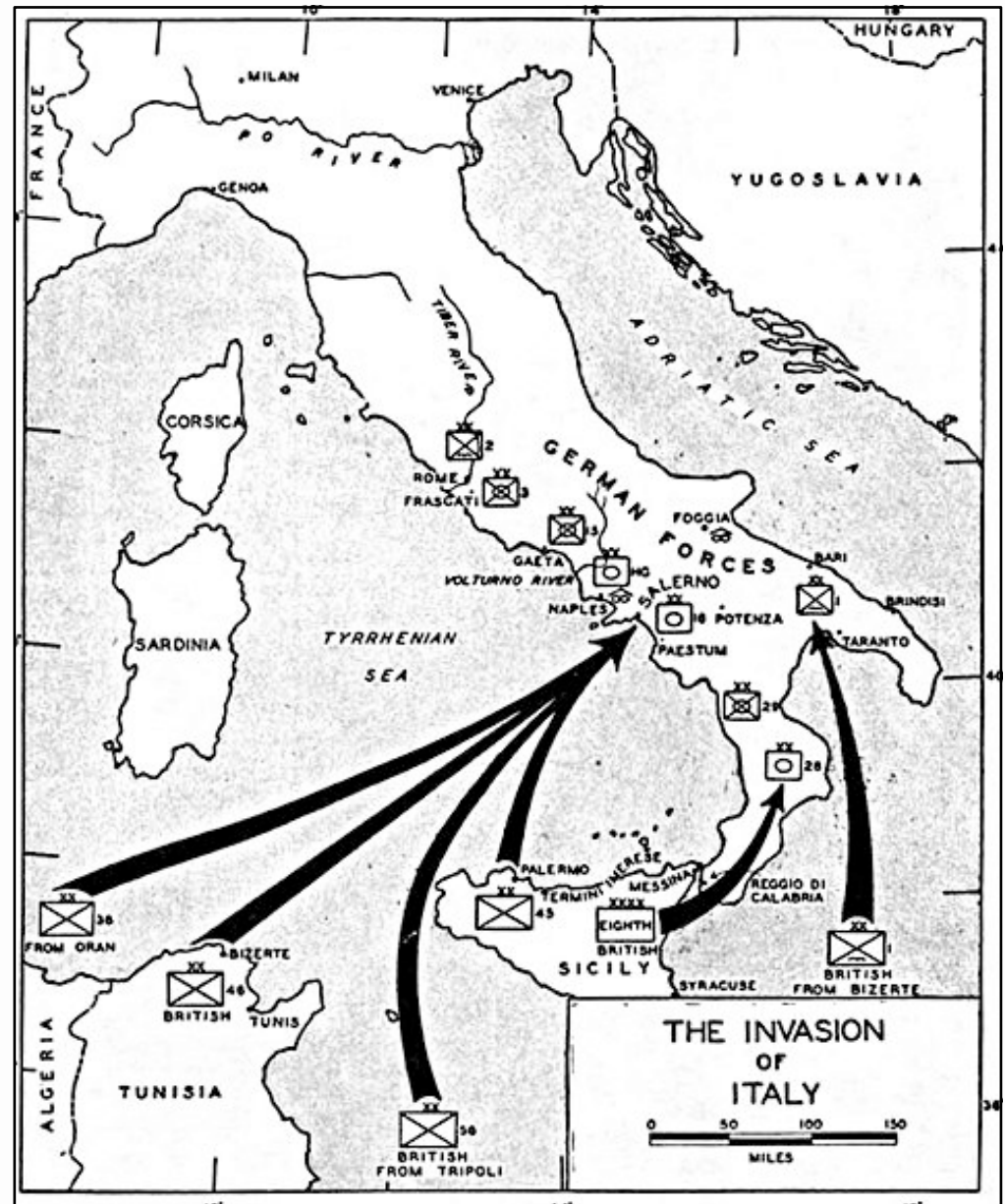
German Field Marshall Friedrich Paulus prepares to
surrender to the Soviet Union at Stalingrad (1943)

Source: Wikipedia

Allied invasion of Italy (1943)

A map of the Allied invasion
of Italy (1943)

Source: Wikipedia



Allied air attacks on German cities



The German city of Dresden after the Allied firebombing of 1945

Source: Wikipedia

German solidarity (unity) on the home front

*“Our walls may break, but
never our hearts.”*

—German poster displayed during World War II

Source: “Rise & Fall of the Third Reich”

D-Day: Allied invasion of Normandy, France (1944)



US troops land at Omaha Beach on the Normandy coast (1944)

Source: Wikipedia

Stauffenberg Plot & Trials (1944)

**Claus von Stauffenberg: cruised his way to
a death sentence for treason**

Source: googleimages



Goebbels' Nazi propaganda

Joseph Goebbels
Source: adrianasasson



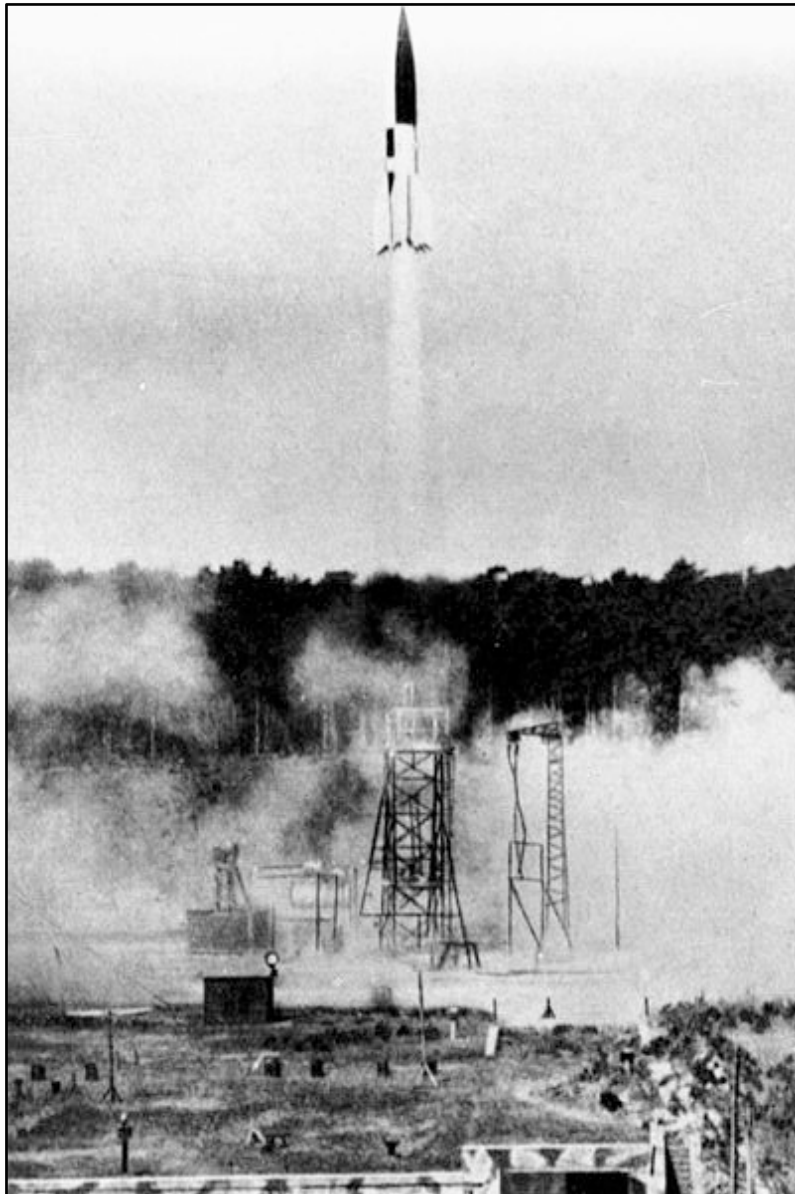
108

AP European History • "Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" • J.F. Walters & G.W. Whitton



Armaments Minister Albert Speer: kept Nazi military supplied

Albert Speer (left) working with Hitler
Source: Wikipedia



Germany's new technology: jet engines & V-rockets

(innovative, but developed too
late in the war)

A Nazi V-2 rocket being launched in 1943
Source: Wikipedia

Nazis in retreat on both fronts (1944-45)



Soviet trucks drive the Nazi army west toward Berlin
Source: Wikipedia

Germans in retreat: Destruction

Soviet Red Army approaches German border

Soviet soldiers use a rocket launcher
Source: Wikipedia



German defense of homeland (1944-45)



Germans had to defend the country on both the eastern and western borders

Source: Wikipedia



Nazi propaganda film

An advertising poster for the 1945 film "Kolberg"
Source: Wikipedia

Hitler returns to Berlin



Hitler (right) returns to bombed-out Berlin

Source: Wikipedia

France & Belgium liberated and Allies cross the Rhine (1944-45)



A British tank on the River Meuse (1944)

Source: Wikipedia

Nazi army reduced to child soldiers



Joseph Goebbels shaking hands with a 16-year-old in the German army (1945)

Source: Wikipedia



Soviet Red Army attacks Berlin 1945

**A photo of a Berlin street taken shortly after the
end of the war**

Source: Wikipedia



Hitler's last days in the Führerbunker (April 1945)

Martin Bormann, Hitler's private secretary, is believed to have burned Hitler and Eva Braun's remains after the couple committed suicide on 30 April 1945

Source: Wikipedia



Liberation of Nazi death camps (1944-45)

Prisoners liberated from Mauthausen (1945)

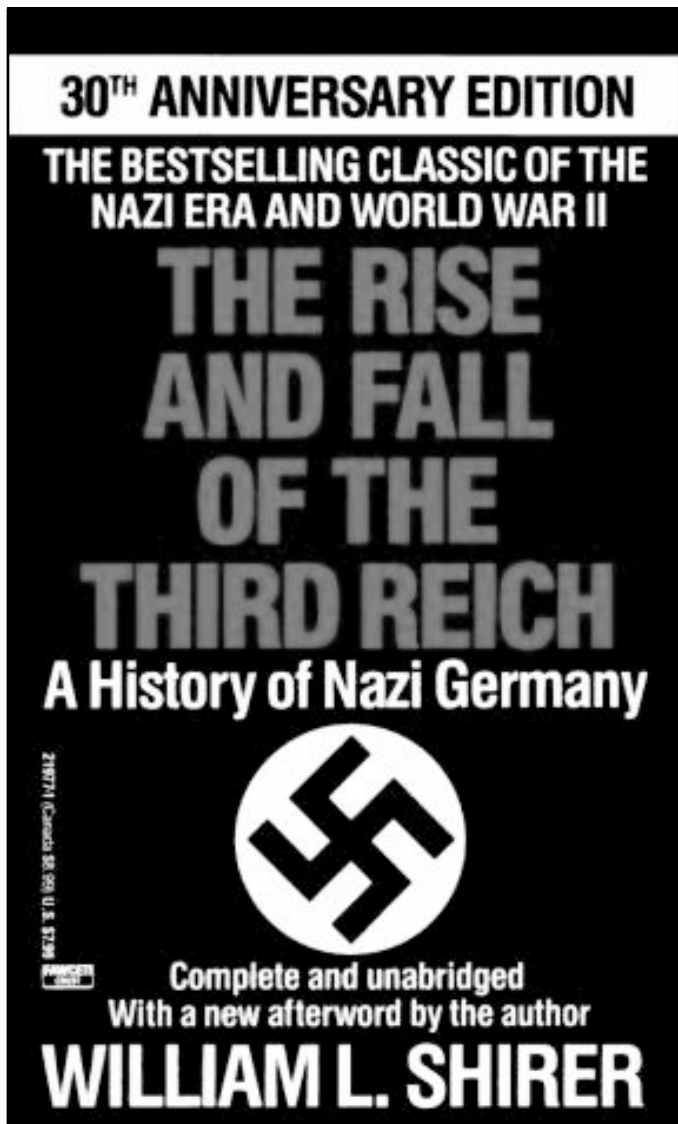
Source: Wikipedia

Nuremberg Trials (1945-46)

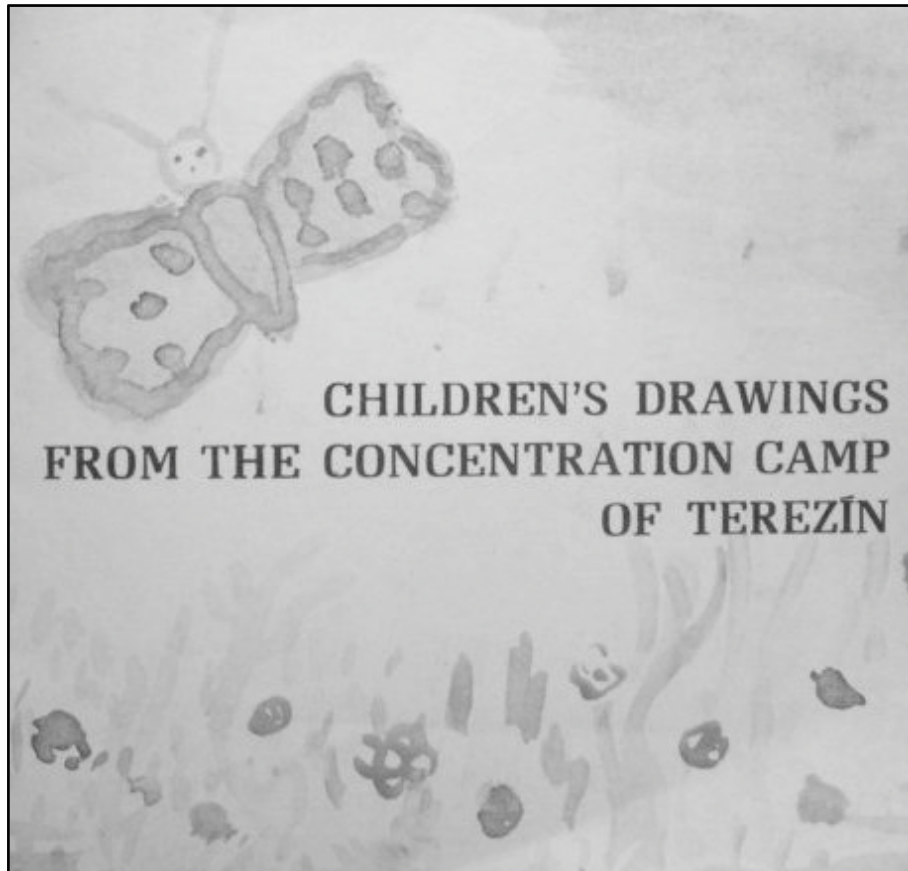
- **trial of leading Nazi “war criminals”**
- **Allied tribunal (Britain, US, France, SU)**
- **Nazi defendants**
 - ✓ **accused of “crimes against humanity”**
 - ✓ **pleaded “not guilty” (argument: they were just following orders)**
 - ✓ **found guilty: individuals can be held responsible for state-sponsored crimes**

“The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant, and so devastating, that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated.”

—Robert H. Jackson, American prosecutor
Nuremberg Trials, Germany (1945)



Return to Shirer's thesis



The children of Teresienstadt (Terezin) concentration camp

Produced by State Jewish Museum, Prague
Source: Amazon.com

Reflections

What did you like and/or dislike about the film “Rise and Fall of the Third Reich” and how it was used as an educational tool in class?

Reflections

What did you learn about this period in history that you had not known before viewing “Rise and Fall of the Third Reich”?