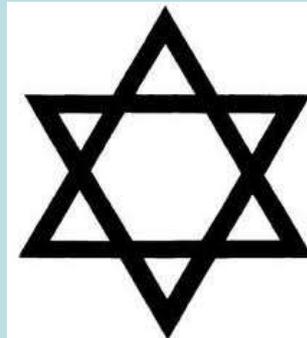


Adolf Hitler and the Rise of Nazi Germany

Holocaust History Power Point # 1



A **Holocaust** is a disaster that results in the large-scale destruction of life.

- The **annihilation** of millions of Jews and other people by Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany during World War II.
- **Genocide** – destruction of a particular race of people or their culture
- The extermination of the Jews was different from other genocides because it was not the result of a power struggle between two opposing groups, a competition for land and resources, a holy crusade, or an attempt to defeat an enemy in order to win a war



Early History

The Persecution of Jews

- Through all of their nearly four thousand year history as a people, Jews had suffered almost constantly from the effects of hatred and bigotry.
- These attitudes towards Jews are called **anti-Semitism**.
 - Biblical Jews were slaves in Egypt and their cities and temples were destroyed
 - During the crusades of the Middle Ages, Christian soldiers massacred thousands of Jews in an attempt to annihilate all non-Christians
 - In centuries that followed, laws in every European country forbade Jews from owning land, so most Jews learned to live in the cities
 - Other laws kept Jews from living in the same areas as non-Jews, forcing many Jews to live in separate, sealed-off sections of the cities, called ghettos.
- By the twentieth century many came to see these age-old anti-Semitic beliefs as wrong and unjust, but there were still those that clung to traditional prejudices and looked upon the Jews as somehow less than human (Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party).



Adolf Hitler



- Born on April 20, 1889, in a small Austrian town
- As a child he was lonely and unhappy and spent much of his time by himself.
- He aspired to be an artist.
- Although he was Austrian, some of his relatives were German and he liked to think of himself as German.
 - He was fascinated with German history, especially the myths of the glorious blond Aryan Teutonic knights and gods
- He was not a good student and blamed his teachers for this
 - At age 16 he dropped out of school
- At age 19 he went to Vienna to attend art school but was rejected
 - He spent the next four years barely making a living, poor and homeless.
 - He spent much time reading German history and philosophy and anti-Jewish literature
- In 1912 he moved to Germany, and found small groups that enjoyed ranting about Germany's "enemies" – the Jews and the Communists

World War I

- Hitler enlisted in an army infantry regiment
- Showing great patriotism, he declared his readiness to die for “his” German people.
 - He served for four years
 - Only able to reach the rank of corporal, a fairly low grade for a soldier. He wanted to become an officer and became very resentful.

Germany lost World War I to the Allies

-Had to sign the Treaty of Versailles in 1919

Three Provisions

- 1) German army reduced to 100,000 and they lost their navy and air force
- 2) Germany was expected to pay heavy fines
- 3) Germany signed War Guilt clause



Poverty and hard times swept over Germany ...

Hard times in post-World War I Germany

- Germany was trying desperately to rebuild and recover from the war
- The Great Depression hit
 - Unemployment and hunger increased
 - Inflation soared
 - Factories closed
 - Savings were wiped out



Inflation in the Weimar Republic made it cheaper for this woman to burn money than firewood.

Year	Month	Marks needed to buy one US dollar
1919	April	12
	December	47
1921	November	263
1922	July	493
	August	1,000
	October	3,000
	December	7,000
1923	January	17,000
	April	24,000
	July	353,000
	August	4,621,000
	September	98,860,000
	October	25,260,000,000
	November	2,193,600,000,000
	December	4,200,000,000,000

- In these desperate times, the German people were ready for a leader who would give them a way out
- Hitler offered the German people the hope, but he intertwined that hope with vicious anti-Semitism

Placing Blame

- Hitler placed the blame for Germany's devastated condition partly on the **Allied nations** who had won the war, but he also blamed other:
 - Germany's army had been betrayed by the trickery of **Communists and Jews**, the “evil partners” of the Allies
 - He believed the **rich merchants and international bankers**, most of them Jews, had sold Germany out to the enemy
 - He concluded that the Jews were responsible for most of the country's problems and vowed to get revenge.



- Hitler remained in the army after the war ended
- He attended political meetings of the many small groups that had organized to gain control of the government.
- His job was to gather information about these groups and relay it to certain army officers who were also planning to seize power.
- One night while spying on six members of the **German Workers' party**, Hitler found himself in support of their views. He immediately joined and became the spokesman.



The Growth of Nazism

- 1921 – the Workers' party changed its name to the Nazi party
 - **Nazi** is the abbreviation for National Socialist German Workers' Party
 - Group of small private army of discontented, unemployed veterans and tough, violent hoodlums
 - Wore brown shirts and carried weapons
 - Armbands sported a **swastika**, a mystic symbol of ancient origin
 - The emblem was in the shape of a cross with each arm bent back in a ninety-degree angle and pointing clockwise. Indicating the four directions of the earth, the swastika implied world conquest and also served as symbol of anti-Semitism.
 - Before this use it was commonly a symbol that mean good luck or fortune.



- At meetings Hitler demonstrated his ability to hold his audience spellbound
- He possessed a natural charisma
- His boisterous speeches were accompanied by wild hand and arm gestures, made people take notice
- It was not long before he became head of the Nazi party.

“Brutality is respected... Brutality and physical strength... The people need wholesome fear. They want to fear something.” ~ Adolf Hitler



Gaining Power

- Hitler's views were so **outrageous** that many did not take him seriously
- People were sure he was **mentally unbalanced**.
- His tactics increased his visibility
- He sent out his armed thugs, called storm troopers, to break up the meetings of Communists and others who opposed him, and convinced great numbers of Germans that he could seize and successfully manipulate power.
- As his followers swelled in number, he became more and **more of a threat** to those who did not agree with him.
- By 1923, the Nazis had ten thousand storm troopers in their ranks. Hitler had become so powerful that he even attempted to **overthrow the German government**. This attempt failed and the Nazi leader spent eight months in jail.

Hitler's Pursuit of Power

- While in jail, Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle)
 - Outlined his life and expressed his personal views
 - Hitler believed one person would step forward and correct the issues that burdened the country



- Hitler promised to put people back to work, to reopen factories, and to rebuild Germany's industries.
- With six million Germans out of work these promises made him widely popular.

- After his release, Hitler was able to tap a deep well of nationalism in the German people
- In highly **emotional speeches**, Hitler stressed the need for complete loyalty to the fatherland, Germany.
 - He told the people that a strong love of country would reestablish Germany as a formidable world power.
 - Hitler called the German people a master **Aryan race**.
 - According to Hitler, Aryan was a white person of non-Jewish descent.
 - A pure Aryan would look like a Nordic or Scandinavian and have a long head, a tall body, blond hair, and blue eyes

In 1932, the Nazis received the highest number of votes in the national election...

- The **German president**, the weak and aged **Paul von Hindenburg**, was forced to appoint Hitler to the position of chancellor.
- Also swept into power were 230 of Hitler's "brown-shirts", his most loyal storm troopers.
- Having won the support of high-ranking military commanders and the major industrial leaders, Hitler's power was secure.

•January 30, 1933 — President Hindenburg reluctantly accepted the arrangement and appointed Hitler as chancellor.

In August 1933 Hitler combined the position of chancellor with Fuhrer (presidency) when von Hindenburg died. He now had the powers of State in his hands.

**“One People, One Government,
One Leader”**

~ Hitler's Slogan



- Hitler banned public demonstrations
- He put his close follower Heinrich Himmler in complete charge of the police as well as the Gestapo, the secret Nazi police force notorious for its terror tactics.

Germany Rearms Itself



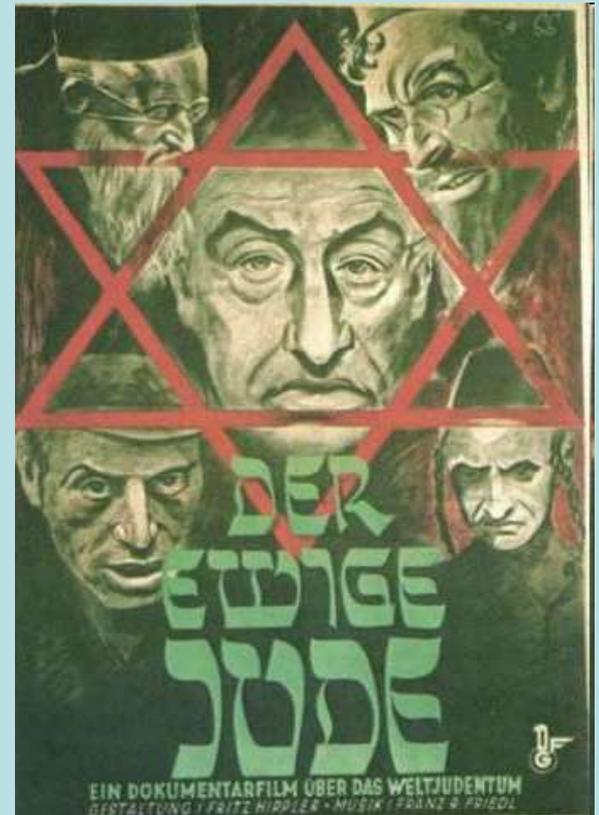
- Hitler convinced the industrial leaders that the best way to overcome the country's economic depression was to manufacture more products, especially weapons.
 - Made factory owners believe it was more honorable to rebuild Germany's devastated economy than to abide by the Treaty of Versailles that was forced upon them by foreign enemies.
- With the defense industries back in business, hundreds of thousands of young Germans entered the military services to be trained in the latest methods of warfare.
 - German women were to serve their country by having Aryan babies, and rewards were given to those who gave birth most frequently.
 - School teachers had to teach Nazi principles.
 - 8 million boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18 were ordered to join the **Hitler Youth movement**.
 - Encouraged to spy on their parents and report on the anti-Nazi views of their teachers
 - Required to wear the swastika arm band and greet each other with the stiff arm salute, accompanied by uttering, "Heil Hitler"

Nazi Propaganda

- Hitler realized the value of using **propaganda** to promote his master race theory as well as to discredit other ideas and doctrines he did not like.
 - Propaganda minister, **Joseph Goebbels**, relied on deception, distortions, and falsehoods to brainwash people into accepting Nazi claims of superiority.
 - The German press, radio and film studios were taken over and all forms of communication were censored so that no one could publicly criticize the Nazis.
 - The German life-style and culture were represented as being superior to any others, especially to that of the Jews.
- Most of the Jews in Germany had entered the mainstream of German culture and flourished as members of the middle and upper-middle class.
 - Successful merchants and manufacturers, doctors, teachers, and scientists
- Goebbels' propaganda used the economic success and superior education of the many Jews to stir up anti-Jewish envy and hatred.
 - Few who opposed this hatred were too afraid to challenge the Nazis
 - Those who did were called Communists (a group that was in great disfavor)
- Many Germans were excited by the uniforms, military parades and massive patriotic rallies and automatically accepted the anti-Jewish propaganda handed out by the Nazis

- Nazi propaganda censored literature
 - Books written by Jewish authors or sympathetic to the Jews were deemed unfit for Nazi readers
 - Snatched and publicly burned
- Lutheran clergy, representing Germany's largest single religious group, lost their freedom of speech.
- Catholic priests and other religious leaders tended to remain silent.

- Hitler planned his strategy well
 - German people fired up for battle against those he deemed the country's enemies – the Jews, the Communists, and the foreigners who had humiliated Germany after WW I – the Fuhrer was ready to begin his bid for world power and to get revenge on the Jews.

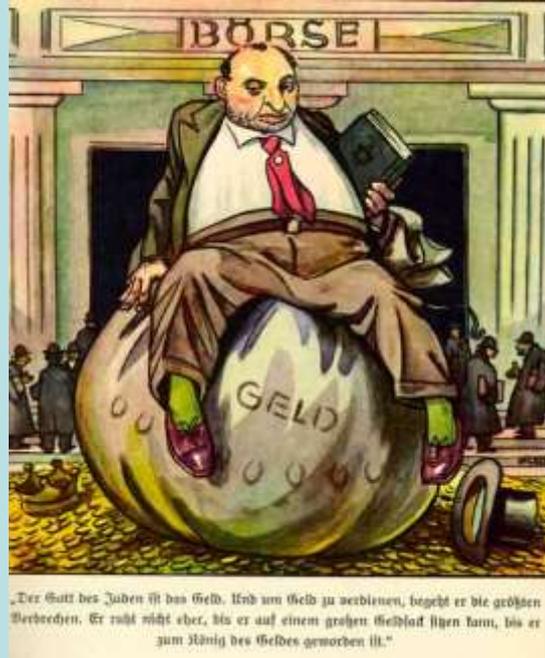


The Nazi film “The Eternal Jew,” served to dehumanize the German Jews. The film “The Eternal Jew” itself compares the Jewish people to rats. By dehumanizing Jews, the Nazi leaders began to prepare for Hitler’s “Final Solution.”

Propaganda Used to Glorify Hitler and Dehumanize the Jews



“The God of the Jews is money. To earn money, he commits the greatest crimes. He will not rest until he can sit on a huge money sack, until he has become the king of money.”



“Just as it is often hard to tell a toadstool from an edible mushroom, so too it is often very hard to recognize the Jew as a swindler and criminal...”



The US Had Propaganda Too!



Der Fuehrer's Face

This was the US trying to spread the truth about the Nazis and their ideas. It was done in one of the purest forms of entertainment: cartoons watched mainly by children.



Let's take a look...

4 Stages of the Holocaust

Holocaust – great destruction of life, especially by fire

Definition (Early 1930s)

- Defining who a Jew was & forced to register
- Had to wear the Yellow Star of David
- Had “Jew” stamped on their passport
- Had to put a sign in the window of the shop saying “Jew”

Expropriation (Mid 1930s)

- Meaning to “take away”
- No longer allowed to have bank accounts
- Can't hold certain jobs
- Couldn't live in certain places

Concentration (Late 1930s – 1939)

- Travel was restricted
- Couldn't own phones, cameras, radios, or pets
- Ghettos opened and Jews were forced to move there
- Slave labor
- Little food, shelter and heat
- No longer allowed to attend school

Annihilation (1940 – 1945)

- The Nazis organized and carried out large-scale killing of Jews and others
- Some were shot or gassed by mobile killing units in part of Russia, Latvia and Lithuania
- In the rest of Europe, victims were transported to killing centers