

The Rise of Fascism

AP World History

Chapter 21

“The Collapse and Recovery of
Europe”

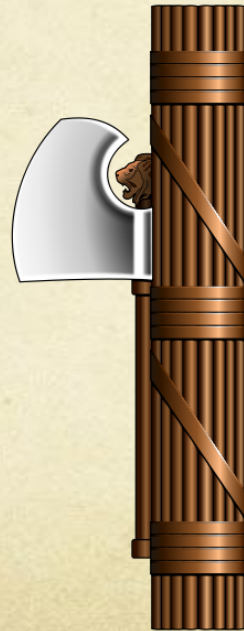
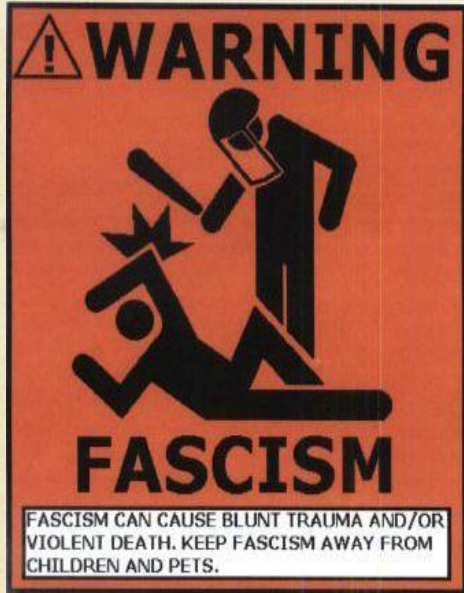
(1914 -1970s)

New Forms of Government

- After WWI: Germany, Italy, and Russia turned to a new form of dictatorship = totalitarianism
- Government has total control over every aspect of the people's lives
- The individual is a servant of the state
- Books, radio, films, and schools used to promote the government's philosophy



New Forms of Government

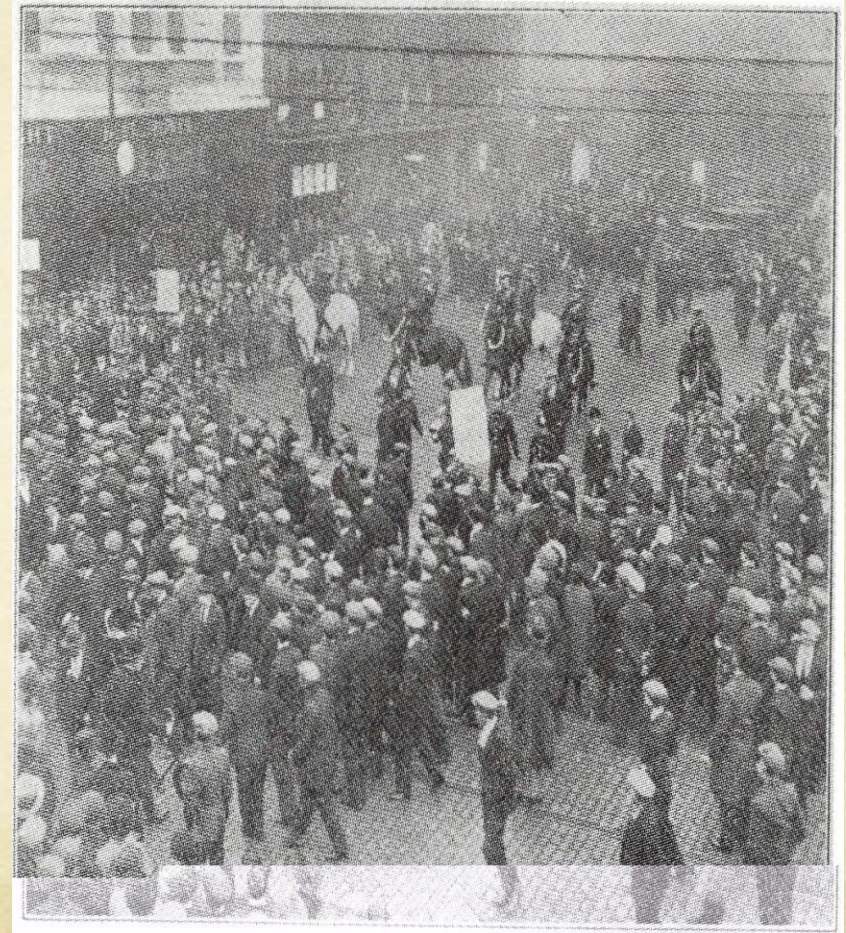


- Fascism grew in Italy and Germany
- Fascism = a political philosophy that advocates the glorification of the state
- Single-party system
- One ruler
- Aggressive nationalism
- The state has absolute authority

Factors Explaining the Fascist Rise to Power in Italy

1. Economic Distress

- Inflation and high prices
- Heavy taxes to pay for war costs
- Widespread unemployment
- Returning war vets couldn't find work
- Fascists promised to improve economic conditions



Factors Explaining the Fascist Rise to Power in Italy



2. Fear of Communism

- Italian workers started taking over factories
- Italian peasants started seizing land
- This is similar to how the Russian Revolution started that brought Communism to Russia
- Fascists promised to stop the Socialists & the Communists
- Factory & land owners now supported the Fascists

Factors Explaining the Fascist Rise to Power in Italy

3. Appeal to Nationalism

- Italy was upset that it didn't get more land in peace treaties after WWI
- Fascists said they'd get more land and restore the Roman Empire
- This appealed to the youth, veterans, and military people



Factors Explaining the Fascist Rise to Power in Italy

4. Weak Government After WWI

- Couldn't solve Italy's problems
- No political party had a majority in the Parliament

5. Lack of Democratic Tradition

- Democracy = not a part of Italy's history
- People more concerned with making ends meet, not defending democracy



Benito Mussolini

- Came from a working-class family
- Ambitious and determined
- Became an extreme nationalist during WWI
- 1919 = created Fascist Party in Italy
- Black Shirts = Mussolini's private military band
 - Used violence and brutality to stop opponents and gain support for the Fascists



Mussolini Seizes Power

- Fascist Party gained more & more support
- Result = Mussolini got stronger & bolder
- 1922 = the Fascists staged a “march on Rome”
- King Victor Emmanuel III refused to declare martial law
 - Unopposed by the army, Black Shirt bands poured into Rome



Mussolini Seizes Power

- The King told Mussolini to form a new government
- Mussolini took over power without a popular vote or Parliament's consent
- Made himself dictator and turned Italy into a fascist nation

Italy Under Mussolini (1922-1943)



- Government
- Totalitarian dictatorship led by *IL DUCE* = means “The Leader”
- One political party = Fascist party
- People denied civil liberties
- Black Shirts and secret police used to stop opposition

Italy Under Mussolini (1922-1943)

- Economy
 - Government determined wages, hours, and working conditions
 - Left most industries under private ownership, but controlled production and prices
 - Set up more armament plants
 - Italian efficiency – he “made the trains run on time”

Italy Under Mussolini (1922-1943)

- Militarism
 - Drafted men to 4 years of service followed by 11 years on reserve
 - Required military training in schools and Fascist youth groups
 - Built more military weapons, tanks, etc.



Italy Under Mussolini (1922-1943)



- Most Italians supported Mussolini
- He brought order back to Italy
- Solved the unemployment problem
- Brought feelings of patriotism & nationalism back to the people
- Promised to bring back the glory of ancient Rome

Weimar Republic in Germany 1919-1933

- After WWI: Germany set up a democratic government called the Weimar Republic
- New constitution created 2 major positions:
 - President = weak; elected by the people
 - Chancellor = powerful; elected by the majority party in the Reichstag (like Germany's Senate)
 - President from 1919-1933 = President Hindenburg



Problems with Weimar Republic

- Weak and unstable
- Couldn't solve Germany's problems after WWI
- Political parties could not cooperate

Fascism in Germany: The Nazis

- After WWI: small group of nationalists formed the National Socialist (Nazi) Party
- Attacked democracy
- Promised to save Germany from Communism
- Advocated extreme nationalism
- Wanted dictatorship



Factors Explaining the Nazi Rise to Power

1. Economic Distress

- Germany had to pay reparations of \$35 billion after WWI to France and Great Britain
- Government printed more money to do this = caused inflation
 - In 1932 = it took 4 trillion marks to equal 1 U.S. dollar
 - Middle class lost savings and retirement accounts
- Unemployment
 - In 1932 = 6 million Germans unemployed
- Nazis promised to save the economy



Factors Explaining the Nazi Rise to Power

2. Fear of Communism

- Germans feared a Communist revolution due to bad economy
- Nazis promised to save Germany from Communism



3. Lack of Democratic Tradition

- German heritage = autocracy, not democracy
 - Otto von Bismarck
 - Kaisers
- Autocracy meant success and democracy meant failure



Flag of old German Empire

Factors Explaining the Nazi Rise to Power

4. Appeal to Nationalism

- Many Germans unable to accept defeat in WWI
- Nazis pledged to tear up Treaty of Versailles and denounce war-guilt clause
- Nazis demanded return of German territories and colonies
- Nazis defended Germany's right to rearm
- Nazis claimed Germany had been "stabbed in the back" by Jews and Communists
- Promised to create a powerful German Empire



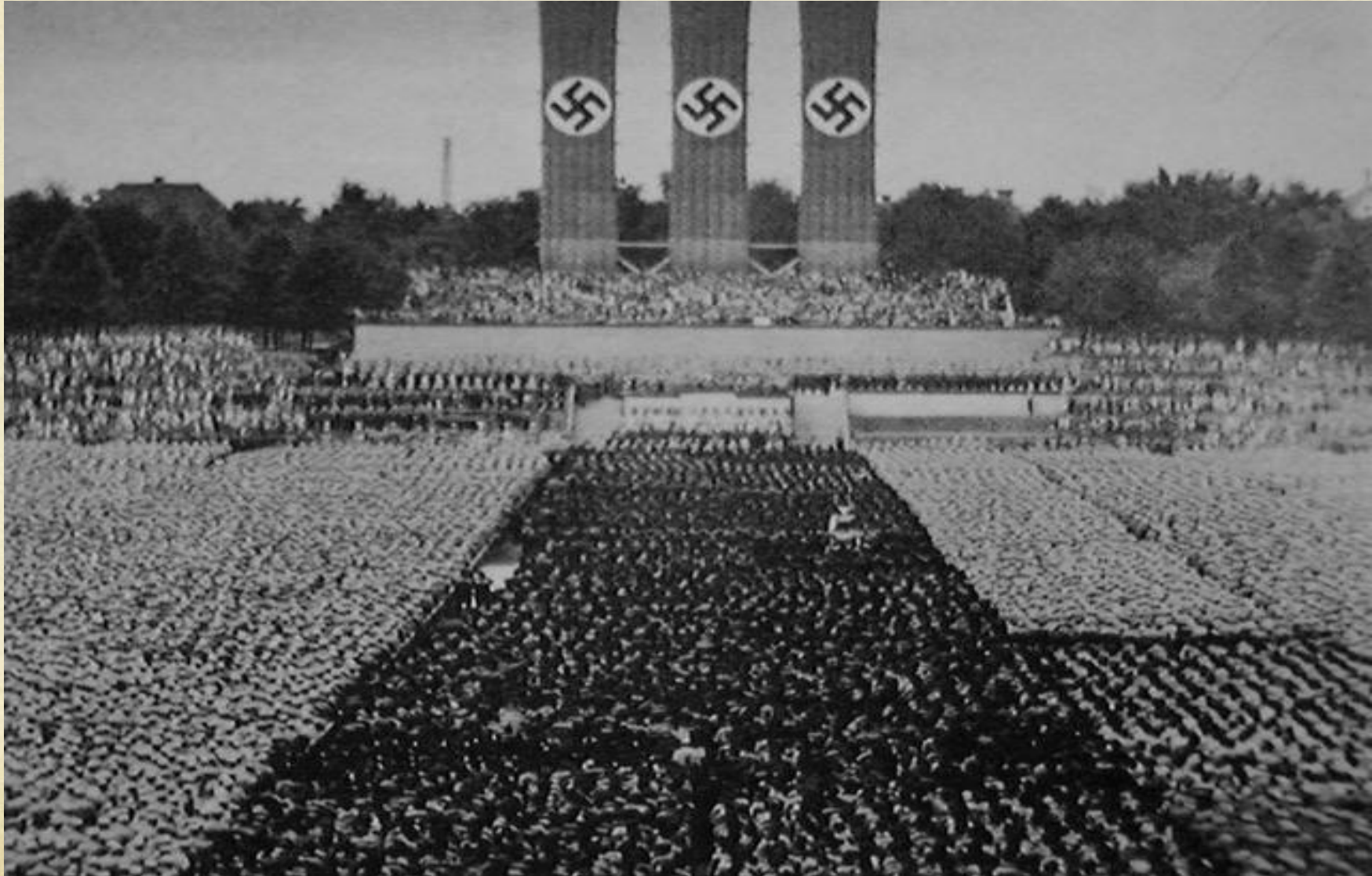


Adolf Hitler

- Leader of Nazi Party
- Austrian
- Failed artist
- Decorated WWI veteran
- Brilliant organizer and speaker
- Used propaganda and mass rallies to gain support and persuade people



Nazi Rally in Nuremberg



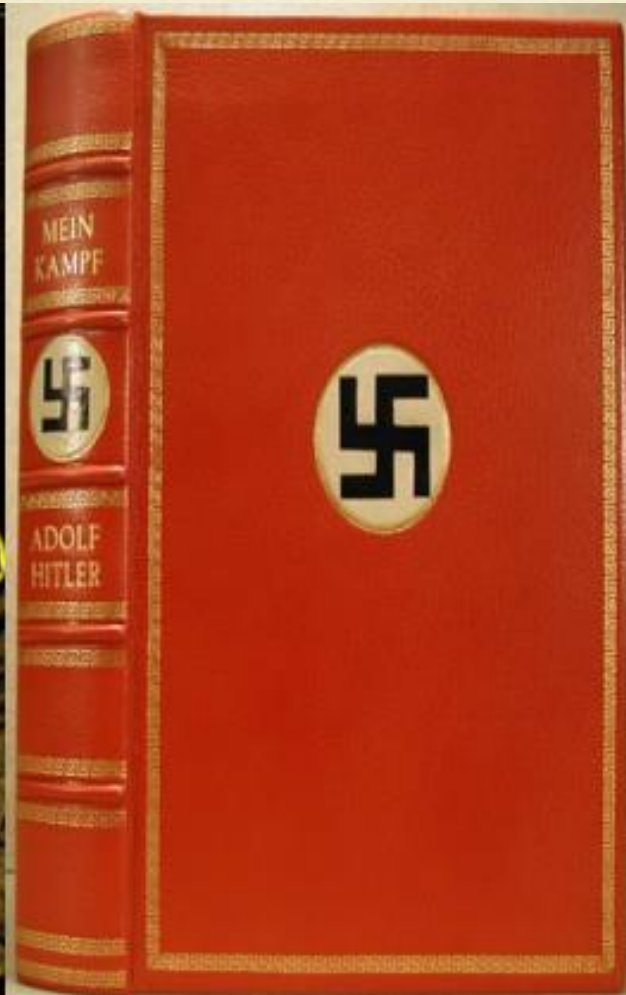
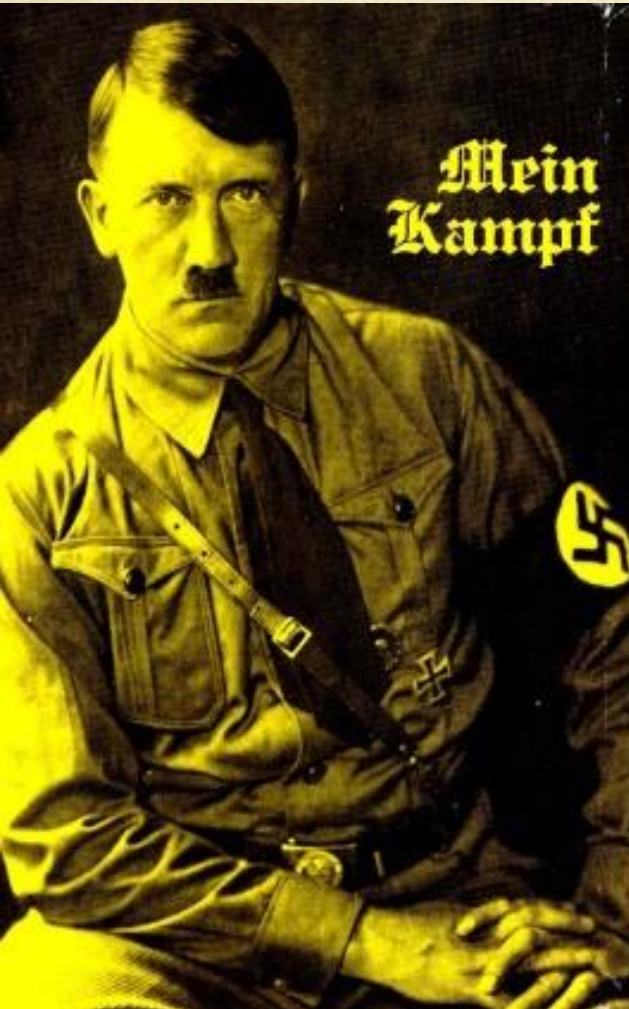
Beer Hall Putsch

- In Munich in 1923
- Nazi attempt at a revolution
- Hitler led a surprise attack and tried to kill top leaders of the Weimar Republic in a beer hall
- Failed
- Hitler went to jail for about a year



Leaders of the Beer Hall Putsch

“Mein Kampf”



- Book written by Hitler while in jail
- “Mein Kampf” = “My Struggle”
- Outlined Hitler’s plans for Germany
 - Blamed the Jews & Communists for Germany’s defeat in WWI
 - Said Germans were a “master race” that should rule the world
 - Said Germans needed “Lebensraum” = living space
 - Explained his plan for the extermination of the Jewish race

Nazis Gain Power

- Nazis gained support as economy kept getting worse in Germany
- 1932 election = Nazis got 37% of the popular vote
 - Made them the largest party in the Reichstag
- 1933 = Hitler appointed Chancellor by President Hindenburg



Nazis Gain Power



- 1933 = Hitler calls for new elections
- Voting = marked by intimidation & violence
- Reichstag building mysteriously burned down
 - Hitler blamed the Communists
 - Nazis got more support because people were so afraid
 - Nazis got even more seats in the Reichstag in 1933 election

Nazis Gain Power

- Hitler pushed for the Enabling Act = made him absolute dictator for 1 year
 - Could pass laws without the Reichstag or the President
- 1934 = President Hindenburg died
 - Hitler blended the positions of President and Chancellor
 - Now just 1 leader = Der Führer



The Third Reich: 1933-1945



○ Government

- Nazi Party controlled everything
- All other political parties outlawed
- Under Heinrich Himmler, the Gestapo (secret police) brutally oppressed anti-Nazis
 - Torture, death, sent to concentration camps
- Brown Shirts = army members loyal to Hitler
- SS = Nazi elite; most trusted guards



The Third Reich: 1933-1945

- Propaganda
 - Propaganda Ministry led by Joseph Goebbels
 - Used movies, radio, press, etc. to flood Germany with the Nazi cause



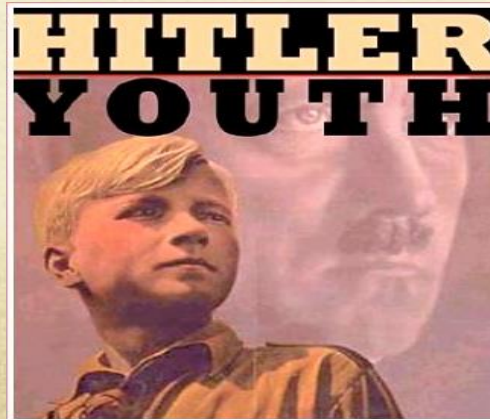
The Third Reich: 1933-1945

○ Education

- Used schools to influence the youth
- Only Nazis could teach
- Nazi textbooks
- Classes focused on Nazi goals
 - Chemistry = kids learned how to make poison gas
 - Social Studies = kids learned evils of democracy
 - Math = kids calculated bomb distances

The Third Reich: 1933-1945

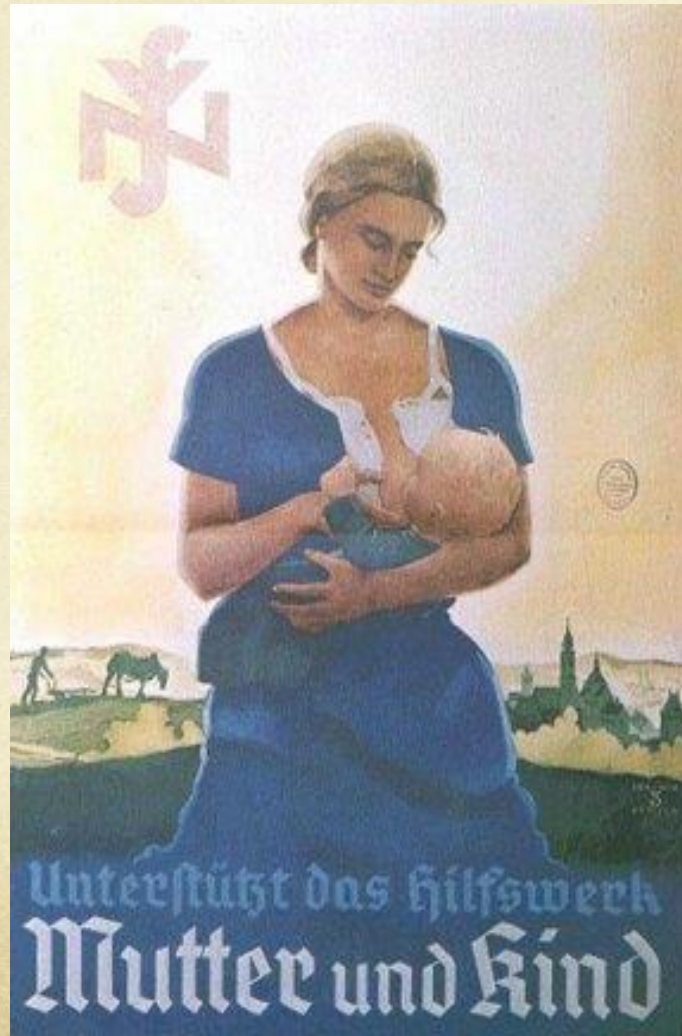
- Hitler Youth
 - Organizations set up for young people between ages of 6 and 18
 - Molded German youth to accept Nazi ideas



The Third Reich: 1933-1945

- Science and Culture
 - Scientists worked on war weapons
 - All books, movies, etc. that were anti-Nazi were burned and banned

The Third Reich: 1933-1945



- Women
- Inferior social status in Germany
- Excluded from politics
- Major purpose = to have children and increase the population of the “master race”

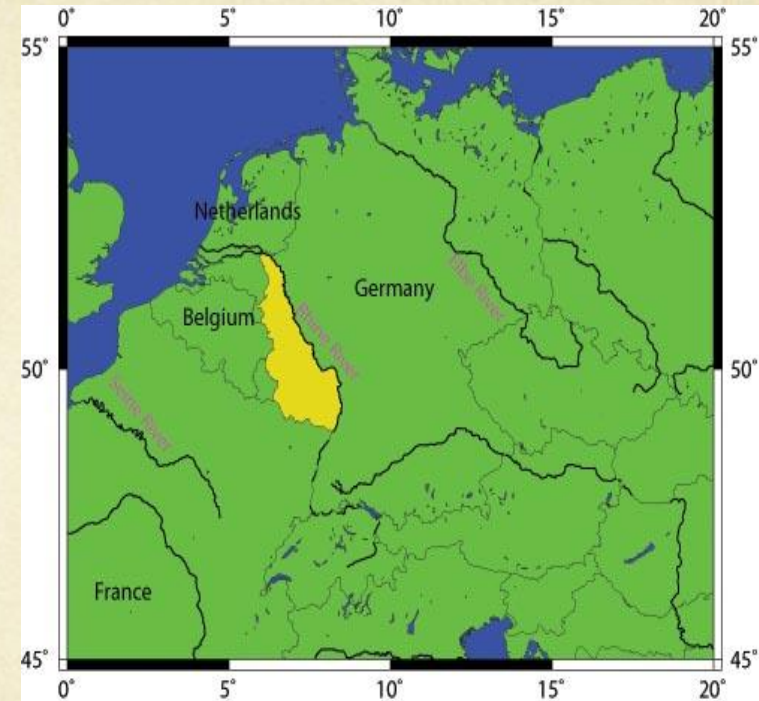
The Third Reich: 1933-1945

- Economy
 - Nazi regime set wages, hours, and working conditions
 - Eliminated unemployment
 - Public works projects - like the Autobahn, bridges, canals, public buildings, etc.
 - Increased production of arms
 - “Make guns, not butter”



The Third Reich: 1933-1945

- Militarism
 - Used draft to create a large army
 - Remilitarized the Rhineland
 - Shifted German industry to war production
 - Gave military training to youth in schools & youth organizations
 - This violated the Treaty of Versailles, but the Allies did nothing



The Third Reich: 1933-1945

- Persecution of the Jews
 - Ousted from jobs, businesses, and homes
 - 1935 = Nuremberg Laws passed
 - Said anyone with at least 1 Jewish grandparent was Jewish & couldn't be a German citizen
 - Placed limits on leaving Germany
 - Jewish people required to wear identification badges = Stars of David



The Third Reich: 1933-1945

- Persecution of the Jews
- November 1938 = Kristallnacht = Night of Broken Glass
- Organized attacks on Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues

