

Why did Hitler come to power?

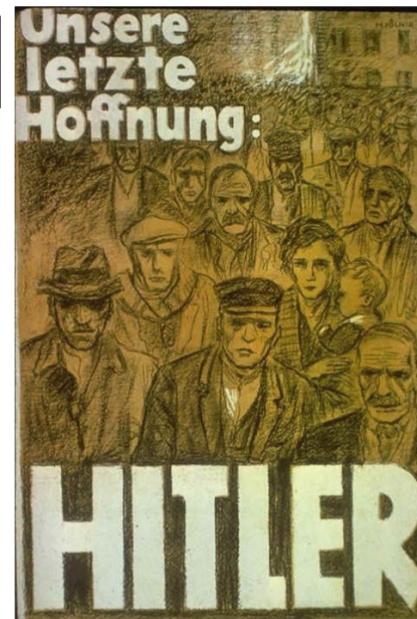
[LIMP PAPER]

Source B: Nazi campaign poster titled 'Our last hope: Hitler'.

Source A: Election Results and Unemployment in Germany May 1928- Nov 1932.

Election Results and Unemployment in Germany May 1928 - Nov 1932

	May 1928	Sept 1930	July 1932	Nov 1932	
	%	%	%	%	
NSDAP	3	18	37	33	
Communists	11	13	14	17	
DNVP + DVP	23	12	7	11	
Social Democrats	30	25	22	20	
Unemployment	2.1	4.8	6.0	5.7	Million

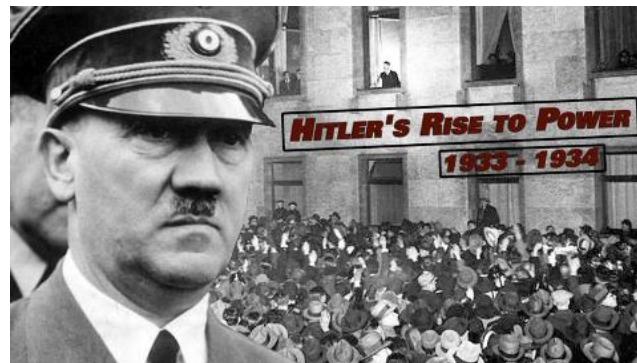


Historians opinions of Hitler's Rise to Power

Richard J Evans- Hitler rose to power because of the use of party propaganda that fit different people in society, helped by divisions caused by the Great Depression.

John Hiden - the Nazi Party depended on the Depression for its growth, as well as the support of white-collar (low middle-class) workers.

John Toland - Hitler gained power because he offered unity to all Germans
Albert Speer (German who became Nazi Minister for weapons) - Hitler rose to power because of his personality and his ability to speak, stopping the spread of communism.



Interpretations handy acronym

R2D2

Read the interpretation

Recognise the author

Define the difference in the interpretation

Decide two details (quotes)



All the following were present from the 1920s:

1. Long-term bitterness

Deep anger about the First World War and the Treaty of Versailles created an underlying bitterness to which Hitler's viciousness and expansionism appealed, so they gave him support.

2. Ineffective Constitution

Weaknesses in the Constitution crippled the government. In fact, there were many people in Germany who wanted a return to dictatorship.

3. Money

The financial support of wealthy businessmen gave Hitler the money to run his propaganda and election campaigns.

4. Propaganda

Nazi propaganda persuaded the German masses to believe that the Jews were to blame and that Hitler was their last hope.

5. Programme

Hitler promised everybody something, so they supported him.

6. Attacks on other parties

The Stormtroopers attacked Jews and people who opposed Hitler. Many opponents kept quiet simply because they were scared of being murdered

7. Personal Qualities

Hitler was a brilliant speaker, and his eyes had a peculiar power over people. He was a good organiser and politician.

After 1929, however, two short-term factors brought Hitler to power:

8. Economic Depression

After the Wall Street Crash of 1929, the US called in its loans to Germany, and the German economy collapsed. The Number of unemployed grew; people starved on the streets. In the crisis, people wanted someone to blame, and looked to extreme solutions - Hitler offered them both, and Nazi success in the elections grew.

Germans turned to Nazism because they were desperate. The number of Nazi seats in the Reichstag rose from 12 in 1928 to 230 in July 1932.

9. Recruited by Hindenburg

In November 1932 elections the Nazis again failed to get a majority of seats in the Reichstag. Their share of the vote fell - from 230 seats to only 196. Hitler contemplated suicide. But then he was rescued by Hindenburg.

Franz von Papen (a friend of Hindenburg) was Chancellor, but he could not get enough support in the Reichstag. Hindenburg and von Papen were having to govern by emergency decree under Article 48 of the Constitution. They offered Hitler the post of vice-Chancellor if he promised to support them.

Hitler refused - he demanded to be made Chancellor. So Von Papen and Hindenburg took a risk. On 30 January 1933 Hindenburg made Hitler Chancellor. He thought he could control Hitler - how wrong he was.

Explain why Hitler's appeal led to his rise to power between 1929 and 1932.

Explain how Hitler appealed to German society using at least 3 examples.

Explain how problems in Germany led to Hitler's rise to power.

Explain the other reasons for Hitler's rise to power between 1929-1932.

Key terms for the rise:

- Appeal
- Persuade
- Workers
- Farmers
- Business
- Middle-class
- SA
- Force
- Youth
- Women

Unemployment - Great Depression

SDP

Communists

Wages

NSDAP

Wall Street Crash

Hindenburg

Elections

Power

Control

Reichstag

Article 48

1. Richard J Evans states Hitler rose to power because of propaganda. Choose 2 pieces of evidence that support this,
2. Read the interpretation of Albert Speer. Choose 2 pieces of evidence that support his interpretation.
3. Create your own interpretation. Why do YOU think Hitler rose to power?
4. Write down any other information you can remember on Hitler's rise to power.

Challenge: Use the model given to create your own acronym to help you answer the question "Suggest one reason why Interpretation 1 and 2 give different views about Hitler's rise to power."

Hint: Provenance, Sources (support your answer) and interpretation.

Answer