



How Hitler Came to Power in Germany

KS4 HISTORY

Ages 11-14 ⌚ 4 min read

A Country in Trouble

After **World War One** ended in **1918**, **Germany** was in a terrible situation. The country had lost the war and had to pay huge amounts of money to the winners. Many German people were angry, poor, and unhappy. Jobs were hard to find, and families struggled to buy food. This made people desperate for someone to fix their problems.

Hitler's Rise

Adolf Hitler was the leader of a small political party called the **Nazi Party**. He was an excellent speaker who gave powerful speeches about making Germany strong again. He promised jobs, food, and national pride. People who were suffering listened to him and believed his promises.

Think of it like a teacher promising to make school amazing again after lots of problems. Unhappy students might believe them and follow them, even if the promises aren't really possible.

Hitler blamed **Jewish people** and other groups for Germany's problems, which was completely unfair and wrong. But many desperate Germans wanted someone to blame, so they listened to him.

The Path to Power

In **1929**, the world's economy crashed in an event called the **Great Depression**. Germany was hit especially hard. More people lost their jobs, and even more people turned to Hitler for hope. In elections, more and more Germans voted for the Nazi Party.

By **1933**, the Nazi Party had become the biggest party in Germany's parliament. The country's leader, President **Hindenburg**, asked Hitler to become Chancellor (the second-most powerful position). Hitler promised to work fairly with other politicians.

Seizing Control

Once Hitler had power, he didn't follow the rules. He used violence and fear to eliminate his opponents. Within months, he became **dictator** – a single leader with total control. He shut down newspapers that criticized him, banned other political parties, and created a secret police force. People were too frightened to speak against him.

Think of it like someone winning a game of chess, then deciding to change the rules so nobody else can ever win again.

Hitler's rise to power teaches us how dangerous it is when people are desperate and angry. It shows why speaking up against unfair treatment and protecting people's freedoms matters.