

THE RISE OF EUROPEAN FASCISM



WHAT IS FASCISM?

- ✘ A militant political movement that promoted unity through extreme nationalism and one-party rule
 - + Gained power through a charismatic leader, who represented the collective will of the nation, when people were most vulnerable
 - + Postwar Europe...I'd say it was pretty vulnerable!



ITALY BEGINS TO FALTER

- ✘ Many Italians grew tired of their democratic gov't
 - + Unhappy with treaty of Versailles
 - + Inflation caused by war debt
 - + Unemployment caused by demobilization
 - + Peasants and workers unhappy with gov't that promised change for support in WWI
 - + Growth of socialist party that promised revolutionary change
 - + Rise of industrial and agricultural strikes created an environment of class warfare



RISE OF MUSSOLINI AND THE BLACKSHIRTS

- ✘ Benito Mussolini, an ex-Socialist party member, founded the Fascist Party in 1919
 - + Failed to gain popular support in elections of 1919-1921
- ✘ Spread rumors of a Communist revolution
 - + Gained support of middle class, aristocracy, and industrial leaders
 - + Liberal party sanctioned his use of the Blackshirts to harass and crush the socialist threat



MUSSOLINI GAINS POWER IN ITALY

“Everything in the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state.”

- ✘ 1922 – 30,000 Fascists demanded that the King give power to Mussolini through the march on Rome
 - + Of course, the King did!
- ✘ Il Duce set up his fascist government
 - + Outlawed all opposing parties
 - + Secret police
 - + Censorship, propaganda, and indoctrination
- ✘ Goal: Bring back the Roman Empire
 - + Militaristic expansion and economic recovery



WAS MUSSOLINI A TOTALITARIAN RULER?

- ✗ Only 23 political opponents were killed
 - + Compare to G and USSR
- ✗ Did not completely control the economy
 - + Outlawed unions but no regulation of business
- ✗ Shared power with the conservative classes
 - + 1929 – Lateran Accords
- ✗ Answer: To an extent, but not as much as Stalin and Hitler!
 - + It was more theatrical than effective!



US PROPAGANDA - ANTI-FASCISM



THE RISE OF THE NAZIS

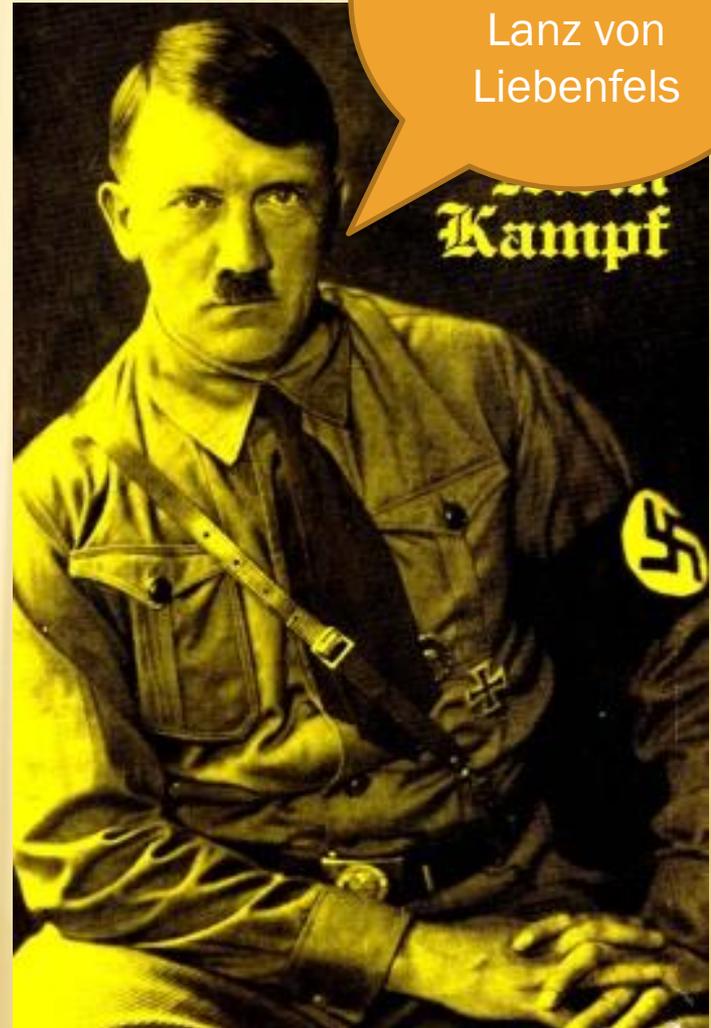
- ✘ Adolf Hitler joined the Nazi (*National Socialist German Workers*) Party in Munich in 1919
 - + Believed that Germany had to exact revenge
- ✘ Hitler's oratory ability quickly earned him the title der Fuhrer
- ✘ Influenced by Mussolini's march and current events in the Ruhr Valley, the Nazis try to take Munich in the Beerhall Putsch
 - + They failed, and Hitler served 9 months in jail



HITLER'S MANIFESTO

- ✘ While in jail, Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf*
 - + Aryan superiority and purity
 - + Anti-Semitism and Anti-Communism
 - + Vowed to regain Germany's imperial glory
 - + Promise to gain more lebensraum due to overcrowding
- ✘ After jail, Hitler began to revive the Nazi party – mostly through an appeal to German youth – until history would provide him with a listening audience

Danke Karl
Lueger und
Lanz von
Liebenfels

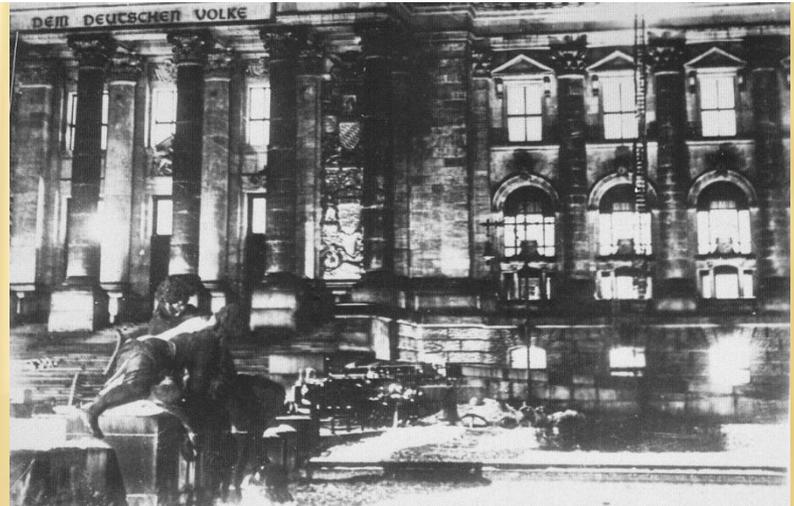


THE NAZIS GAIN PARLIAMENTARY POWER

- ✗ Once the Depression hit America, Germany's economy collapsed
 - + Nazi membership increased tremendously
 - ✗ Big Business and Military
 - + Became the largest political party in Reichstag in 1932
- ✗ Conservatives thought they could use Hitler for their own purposes
 - + He was named Chancellor in 1933
- ✗ Days before parliamentary elections, Reichstag burned down
 - + Hitler blamed the communists
 - + The Nazis won a majority in the Reichstag and the Communist party was outlawed

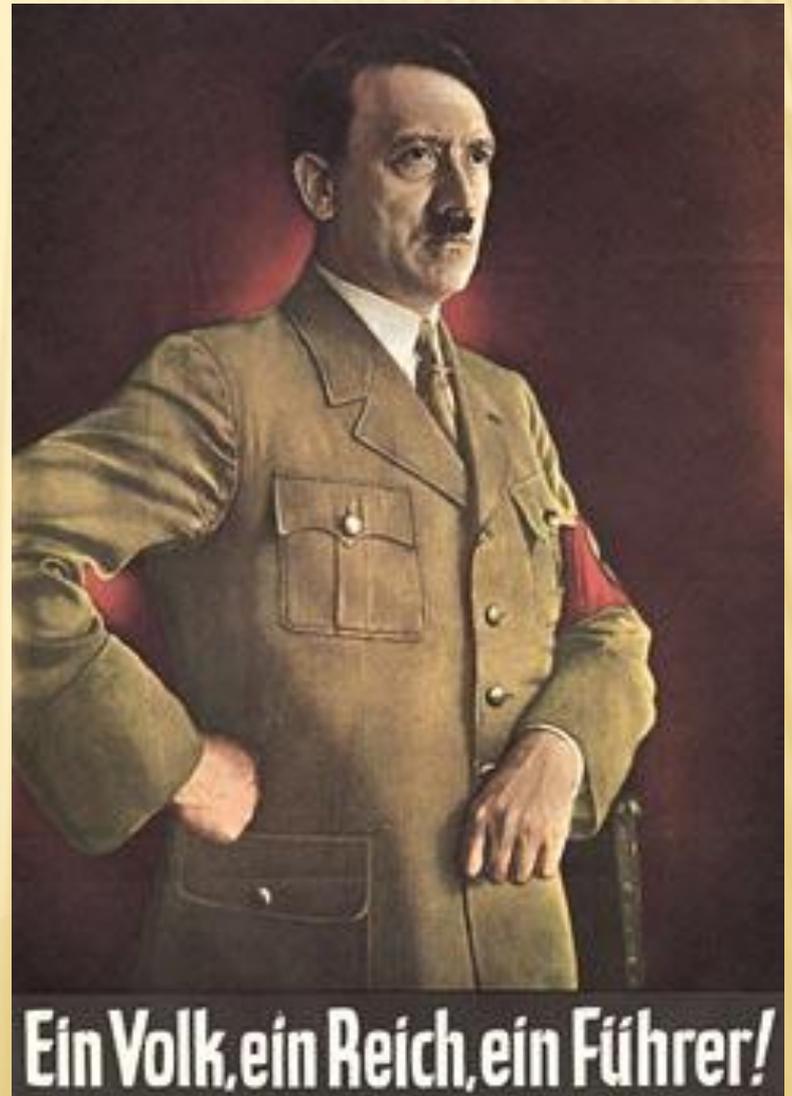


Besides the depression, what factor within the Weimar Republic is most responsible for the rise of the Nazi Party?



HITLER'S SEIZURE OF POWER

- ✘ Nazis pass the Enabling Act
 - + Gives Hitler Dictator powers for 4 years
 - + Parliament voted to essentially make itself and the constitution irrelevant!
- ✘ Consolidation of Power
 - + Used the newly established SS to eliminate leaders of the SA and gain loyalty of the German military
- ✘ 1934 – President Hindenburg dies and Hitler is accepted by the military as Fuhrer of the Third Reich!



TOTALITARIAN RULE IN THE THIRD REICH

- ✘ Creation of the SS
 - + Elite Nazi members who were loyal only to Hitler
 - + Heinrich Himmler: SS was a crusading order for the advancement of the Aryan race through terror and ideology
- ✘ Use of the Gestapo, the Nazi Secret Police that crushed anti-Nazi political parties
- ✘ Complete control of the economy (though not complete socialism) ended Germany's depression by 1936
 - + Nazi Labor Front was a gov't controlled labor union
 - + Four-year Plans of massive rearmament
- ✘ Use of propaganda, censorship, and indoctrination to shape public opinion



OATH OF THE HITLER YOUTH

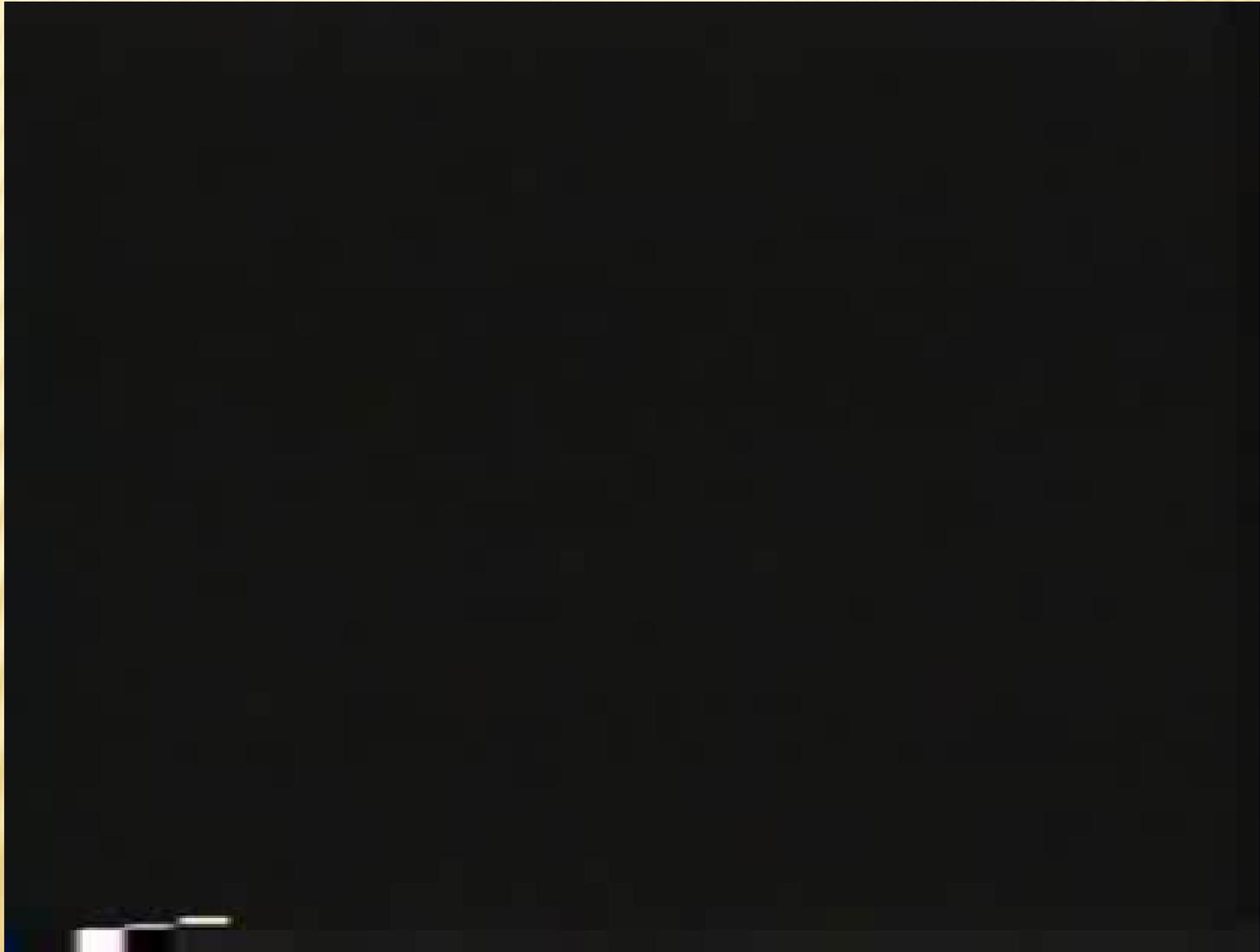
- ✘ “In the presence of this blood banner, which represents our Fuhrer, I swear to devote all my energies and my strength to the savior of our country, Adolf Hitler. I am willing and ready to give up my life for him, so help me God.”



SUBJECTION OF WOMEN TO THE HOME

- ✘ “Get hold of pots and pans and broom and you’ll sooner find a groom!”
- ✘ In both Italy and Germany, women were expected to be wives, mothers, homemakers, and child bearers
- ✘ Restrictive legislation was passed to prevent females from working in certain industries

1936 NAZI OLYMPICS



RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION BEGINS

- ✘ Jews made up less than 1% of German population
- ✘ Nazis used them as scapegoats for all of Germany's problems
 - + Based upon anti-semitism of *Mein Kampf*
- ✘ 1935 – Nuremberg Laws
 - + Identified Jews and stripped their citizenship
 - + 25% of German Jews emigrate
- ✘ 1938 – Kristallnacht
 - + Cause: Assassination of a German diplomat by a Jew
 - + What: Nazi pogrom
 - + Result: First Jews sent to concentration camps

