

## Adolf Hitler. Dictator:

*Key words: Putsch, Führerprinzip, Mein Kampf, Lebensraum, Eagle's Nest, Wolf's Lair, Eva Braun, Hitler's personality*

**Adolf Hitler (20 April 1889 – 30 April 1945):**

- Austrian-born **German** politician. Lived in Germany from 1912 onwards.
- Leader of the ..... **Party** from 1921.
- Failed ..... **Putsch** (November 1923). Hitler was imprisoned and wrote his memoir, ..... ("*My Struggle*"), while imprisoned.
- **Chancellor of Germany** from 30 **January 1933** to 30 **April 1945**, and **head of state** as *Führer und Reichskanzler* from 1934 to 1945. Hitler transformed the Weimar Republic into the ..... (*name of the state*), a **single-party dictatorship** based on the **totalitarian and autocratic ideology of Nazism**.
- Invasion of Poland in September 1939 **started the** .....
- Hitler is most remembered for his central leadership role in the 1. Rise of Nazism in Europe, 2. World War II and 3. The Holocaust.



### Early years:

- Born in *Braunau am Inn*, Austria-Hungary.
- From 1905 on, Hitler lived in **Vienna**. He was rejected twice by the *Academy of Fine Arts Vienna* (1907–1908), citing "*unfitness for painting*", and was told his abilities lay instead in the field of architecture.

*Pic below: The Courtyard of the Old Residency in Munich, by Hitler 1914.*



- In **Vienna**: which had a **large Jewish community**, including Orthodox Jews - Hitler became an anti-Semite.
- Hitler was an **orphan from 1907**. He struggled as a **painter in Vienna**, copying scenes from postcards and selling his paintings to merchants and tourists. After being rejected a second time by the *Academy of Fine Arts* in 1908, Hitler ran out of money. In 1909, he lived in a **shelter for the homeless**.
- In May 1913 Hitler moved to **Munich**.

- **WWI:** Hitler served in a Bavarian army. Hitler was fighting in France and Belgium on the ..... **Front** as a ..... He was present at a number of major battles on the Western Front, including **the Battle of the Somme (1916)**. Hitler was a brave soldier; he won the **Iron Cross** twice.

**Entry into politics:**

- **1919:** Hitler joined the ..... and changed its name to the ..... (= NSDAP = the Nazis) in 1920.
- **1921:** Hitler became the **leader of the Nazis**

**Beer Hall Putsch (= Munich Putsch = Hitler-Ludendorff-Putsch) in 1923:**

*See the worksheet "Weimar Republic: Establishment"*

**Mein Kampf:**

(= **My Struggle = Mōj Boj**): Vol. 1 published in 1925, Vol. 2 in 1926:

- Written in prison after the Beer Hall Putsch was crushed.
- It combines elements of **autobiography** with an exposition of Hitler's **political ideology**
- Content: 1-6
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  6. Lebensraum = .....: *see the table below*

**Lebensraum:**

- Expansionist policy of the Nazi Germany with the aim of providing "Living Space" - i.e. land and raw materials - for the German population.
- The Living Space was to be found in the ..... (*where? give location*)
- Policy of the Nazis was to kill, deport, or enslave the ..... populations - *Untermenschen* (**sub-humans**)-, whom they considered inferior, and to repopulate the land with Germanic peoples.
- Land that would provide sufficient *Lebensraum* for Germany was the Soviet Union. The inhabitants of the USSR were not germanizable in his eyes; only the soil was.

**Rise to power:**

- **Presidential elections in 1932:** Hitler lost to ..... (name)
- **Two subsequent elections in June 1932 and November 1932:** After the last election, Paul von Hindenburg - President of Weimar republic - offered Hitler the post of .....

**On 30 January 1933, Hitler became Chancellor of Germany**

**1933-1939:**

**Reichstag Fire in 1933:**

- See the worksheet "The Nazi Party and Its Rise"

**Enabling Act in 1933:**

- This Act granted the Cabinet the authority to enact laws **without the participation of the Reichstag** for the next 4 years

**In July 1933, all opposition parties were banned. Germany thus became a one-party state.**

**The Night of the Long Knives in 1934:**

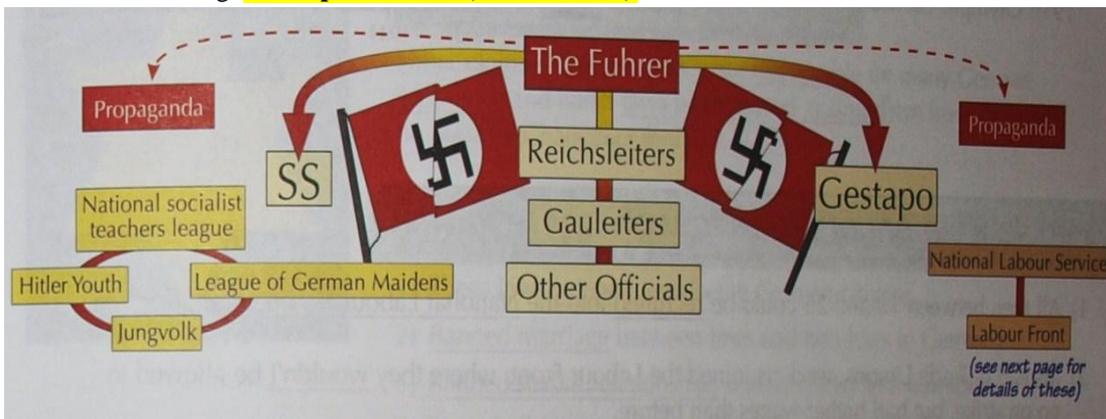
- There was a problem with the opposition within the Nazi Party.
- In June 1934 Hitler ordered the SS to murder **Ernst Röhm** and other ..... (organization). This is known as the *Night of the Long Knives*. In all, about 400 people were murdered including **Röhm**. **The SA was destroyed.**

**Hitler becomes Führer:**

- In August 1934 **Hindenburg, the President of the republic, died.**
- Right after Hindenburg's death, Hitler **combined** the jobs of 1. ...., 2. .... and 3. .... Hitler became the **Leader** of the country: **Führer**

**Führerprinzip:**

- **Hitler was:** *Führer* und *Reichskanzler* – Leader and Chancellor. Hitler was the highest representative of the Third Reich.
- **Führerprinzip:** sees each organization as a hierarchy of leaders, where every leader (*Führer*) has ..... This required obedience and loyalty even over concerns of right and wrong. **The supreme leader, Adolf Hitler,** .....



1. **Führer**
2. **Reichsleiters** – people who were

closest to the Führer – like Goebbels, Göring

3. People who were in charge of the provinces – Gaus – with the **Gauleiters** as their heads.

**Führer ("Leader") = centralization of ALL power in Hitler's hands**

*Nazi slogan: Ein Volk, ein Reich, ..... "One People, One Empire, ....."*

### WWII (1939-1945):

- WWII: **On 1 September 1939**, Germany invaded western Poland. Britain and France declared war on Germany on 3 September 1939.
- **Operation** ..... = Hitler's plan of attack on the USSR. The attack started on 22 June 1941.
- **The Battle of** ..... (1942–43): the biggest battle of the WWII. The Red Army conclusively won.
- Surrender of Germany on the 7 May 1945 in Reims. **Because of Stalin's insistence confirmed in Berlin during the night from 8 to 9 May 1945.**
- 2 September 1945: the end of WWII.

### Attempted assassination on 20 July 1944:

- Bomb attack in Hitler's headquarters, the **Wolfsschanze (Wolf's Lair) at Rastenburg**. Hitler survived.
- Later, he ordered savage reprisals, resulting in the executions of more than 4,900 people.
- The main resistance movement was destroyed, although smaller isolated groups continued to operate.

### 29-30 April 1945: Marriage and Suicide

- **29 April 1945:** As Red Army troops fought their way into the neighbourhood of Hitler's bunker in Berlin, Hitler married ..... during a brief civil ceremony on 29 April 1945. She was 33 and he ...
- **30 April 1945:** Less than 40 hours later they committed suicide together in a sitting room of the bunker, she by biting into a capsule of cyanide, Hitler by shooting himself.

### Selected topics: Eva Braun, Eagle's Nest, Wolf Lair, Hitler's personality

#### Eva Braun:

- Was the longtime companion of Adolf Hitler and for less than 40 hours his wife
- As the Third Reich collapsed towards the end of the war, Braun swore her loyalty to Hitler and went to Berlin to be by his side in the Führerbunker beneath the Reich Chancellery.
- Braun kept up habits which met Hitler's disapproval, such as smoking, wearing makeup and nude sunbathing.
- The German public was wholly unaware of Braun until after her death.

#### Eagle's Nest:

*Pic on the left:* Built as a present for Hitler's 50th birthday in 1939. Location: 30 km south of **Salzburg**.



### Wolf's Lair:

- Is the name for *Wolfsschanze*, Adolf Hitler's first WWII ..... Front **military headquarters**. The complex, which was built for Operation Barbarossa, was located in the Masurian woods, about 8 kilometres from the small East Prussian town of Rastenburg in Eastern Prussia, now in **Poland**.



### Hitler architect:

*"How I wish I had been an architect!"* Adolf Hitler often exclaimed to his Nazi master builder, ..... (name)

*On the pic:* The master plan model of reshaped Berlin

### Religious attitudes:

*Hitler's selected quotes:*

- "The anti-Semitism of the new movement (Christian Social movement) was based on religious ideas instead of racial knowledge." [Adolf Hitler, "Mein Kampf", Vol. 1, Chapter 3].
- "I believe today that I am acting in the sense of the Almighty Creator. By warding off the Jews I am fighting for the Lord's work." [Adolph Hitler, Speech, Reichstag, 1936]
- "**My feelings as a Christian** points me to my Lord and Savior as a fighter." [Adolf Hitler, speech in Munich on April 12, 1922, countering a political opponent, Count Lerchenfeld, who opposed antisemitism on his personal Christian feelings. Published in "My New Order", quoted in Freethought Today April 1990]
- "I am now as before a Catholic and will

always remain so". [Adolph Hitler, to Gen. Gerhard Engel, 1941]

### Health:

- Diseases: irritable bowel syndrome, skin lesions, irregular heartbeat, Parkinson's disease, syphilis, tinnitus, and Asperger syndrome, problems with his teeth.
- After the early 1930s, Hitler generally followed a vegetarian diet, although he ate meat on occasion. A fear of cancer (from which his mother died) is the most widely cited reason here.
- Hitler was a non-smoker and promoted aggressive anti-smoking campaigns throughout Germany.
- Hitler "despised" alcohol.

*Sick or Healthy?*

