

**Hitler's path to dictatorship**  
Feb 1933 - Aug 1934

**Year 9 Learn Sheet**  
Final Assessment *The Rise of Hitler and Nazi Germany*

**Nazi Terror**  
Terror State controlled by Himmler (SS leader);  
Used to punish enemies/increase paranoia;  
Included the *Gestapo* (secret police) and concentration camps;  
Germans '**spoke through a flower**' - only said good things.

**Nazi Propaganda**  
Controlled by Goebbels;  
Nazis censored (blocked out) news; sold cheap radios;  
arranged parades and the Heil Hitler salute;  
Germans knew better than to resist.

**Women's lives in Nazi Germany:**  
Women had to live their lives by *Kinder, Kuche, Kirche* (Children, Kitchen, Church);  
**Kinder** - expected to have 4 children for the Fuhrer at minimum;  
Received medals for having a set number of children (called *Mother's Crosses*);  
Women encouraged to exercise and live a plain life.  
**Kuche** - women's work was managing the home;  
Girls were taught budgeting and making do with rations;  
Women were not to share their opinions.

**Children's lives in Nazi Germany:**  
Hitler wanted his 'magnificent youngsters' to be cruel and violent;  
Children spent as much time away from their parents as possible and were brainwashed;  
At school boys were taught physics (rocketry), geography (map reading), maths (weights of bombs) to prepare for war - the Hitler Youth took boys away on summer camps. For working class children this could be their first experience of a holiday;  
Girls were taught **eugenics** (finding the perfect 'mate'), home economics and maths (budgeting);  
**Some children resisted the Nazis.** The Edelweiss Pirates and Swing Youth were gangs of teenagers who liked American culture. They beat up and even murdered Nazi officials.



**Hitler becomes Chancellor on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1933**  
Hitler is aware that President Hindenburg could dismiss him at any point. Hitler needs to act fast.

**March 1933: New elections**  
The Nazis used **radio** to spread their **anti-communist message**. This helped the Nazis achieve their best ever election result, with **44%** of the vote.  
**March 1933: The Enabling Law**  
Hitler wanted a law passing that would give him the power to pass laws without going through the Reichstag. He needed **66%+** of the Reichstag to agree to this. The communists were banned from voting. The **Catholic Centre Party** were persuaded to vote in favour when Hitler promised to protect the Catholic Church. The Enabling Act was passed by **444 votes to 94**.

**27 February 1933: Reichstag Fire**  
The German Parliament building, the **Reichstag** was destroyed by fire. A Dutch communist called **Marinus van der Lubbe** was blamed and the Nazis claim it was part of a wider communist plot..  
Hitler convinced President Hindenburg to grant him **emergency powers (Article 48)** in order to;  
End freedom of the press and free speech.  
The government could arrest people without charge.  
Communists could be arrested, placed in prison and tortured.

**July 1933: All political parties banned**

**June 1934: Night of the Long Knives**  
Hitler became worried at the increasing power of his private army, **the SA**, who now had over 3 million members and wanted to take control of the German army.  
As **the army was the only organisation that had the power to overthrow Hitler** and army leaders refused to be controlled by the SA, Hitler decided to act.  
On the Night of the Long Knives, **SA leaders were arrested and shot dead** on the orders of Hitler, including Ernst Rohm, the head of the SA.  
August 1934: Army oath of loyalty  
On 2<sup>nd</sup> August President Hindenburg died. Within an hour of his death, Hitler announced that he was combining the positions of Chancellor and President into a new title of 'Fuhrer' (leader). The German army swore an oath of loyalty to obey Hitler.