

The Rise of Adolf Hitler

Background

There is nothing remarkable in the childhood of Adolf Hitler, although he did develop a dislike for Jews in his teenage years.

His story really begins in the First World War. Hitler was a fanatical soldier, and was twice awarded the Iron Cross. He was enraged by the surrender of the Imperial Army.

After the war, Hitler was recruited by the intelligence division of the German Army. His mission was to spy on the German Workers Party, a right wing nationalist group.

By 1920, Hitler was the leader of the renamed National Socialist German Workers Party.

The Nazi Party platform was clear:

- a) Revoking civil rights for Jews
- b) Revoking the Treaty of Versailles
- c) Opposition to Communism
- d) Hyper-Nationalism
- e) Opposition to the democratic system of the Weimar Republic
- f) Imperialism

These policies were written down and published in *Mein Kampf*.

Nothing much happened. Germany was recovering, and things were actually starting to improve across Europe.

Then the stock market crashed, and Hitler had his chance.

The Nazi Party surged in national elections, and eventually Hitler was appointed Chancellor.

There was no revolution . . . Hitler came to power legally.

The right wing elite supported the appointment. They were gambling that Hitler could be controlled, like a good soldier.

Hitler was supposed to be nothing more than a puppet leader. They were wrong!

Hitler acted quickly.

After passing the Enabling Act in 1933, Hitler established a totalitarian regime.

Democracy was finished in Germany!

