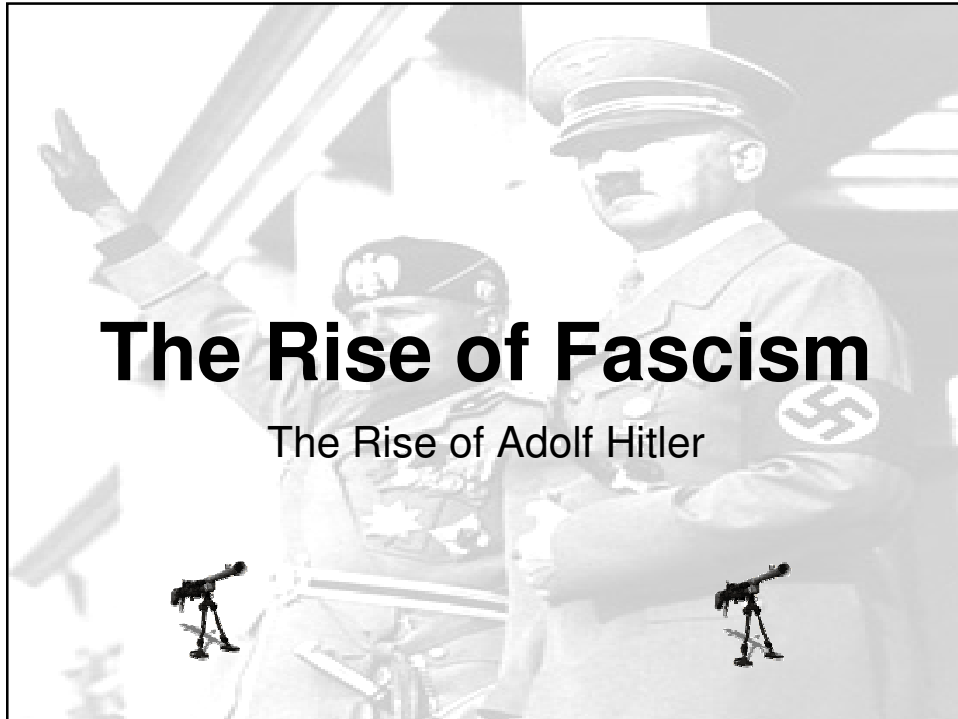


The Rise of Fascism

The Rise of Adolf Hitler



WEIMAR REPUBLIC RULES GERMANY

- Recall the problems of Weimar Germany from last class.



A German woman is seen here in 1923 feeding bundles of money into the furnace. . . why?

Exchange rates, US Dollar to Mark, 1918-1923

Source : Gerald D. Feldman, *The Great Disorder*,
Oxford : UP 1997, p.5

Jan. 1918	5.21	Mar. 1923	21,190.00
Jan. 1919	8.20	Apr. 1923	24,475.00
Jan. 1920	64.80	May 1923	47,670.00
Jan. 1921	64.91	June 1923	109,966.00
Jan. 1922	191.81	July 1923	353,412.00
April 1922	291.00	Aug. 1923	4,620,455.00
July 1922	493.22	Sept. 1923	98,860,000.00
Oct. 1922	3,180.96	Oct. 1923	25,260,000,000.00
Jan. 1923	17,972.00	Nov. 1923	2,193,600,000,000.00
Feb. 1923	27,918.00	Dec. 1923	4,200,000,000,000.00



This Konstanz 50 Milliarden (million) Mark overprinted on 5 Mark illustrates the extend of the inflation in Weimar Germany



NAZIS TAKE OVER GERMANY



Hitler, far left, shown
during WWI

- Adolf Hitler followed a similar path to Mussolini
- At the end of WWI he was a **jobless soldier** drifting around Germany
- In 1919, he joined a struggling group called the **National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazis)**
- (Despite its name the party had no ties to socialism)

HITLER GAINS FOLLOWING

- Hitler's ability as a public speaker and organizer drew many followers
- He quickly became the Nazi Party leader
- Calling himself "Der Fuhrer" (the leader) he promised to return Germany to its old glory





Hitler rose to power in part by criticizing the Versailles Treaty as unfair and humiliating to the proud German nation

HITLER'S BELIEFS



He alone, who owns the youth, gains the Future!
-- Adolf Hitler, speech at the Reichsparteitag, 1935



- Hitler explained his beliefs in his book, **Mein Kampf** (My Struggle) which he wrote in prison after the failed Munich Putsch
- He wanted to unite all German-speaking people under **one grand Empire**
- He wanted racial purity – “inferior” races such as Jews, Slavs and all non-whites were to form a work force for the “**master race**” – blond, blue-eyed “Aryans”

LEBENSRAUM

- Another element of Hitler's grand design was national expansion
- Hitler called it "**Lebensraum**" or living space
- Hitler believed that for Germany to thrive it needed more land at the expense of her neighbors – mostly the East. Why?

- Josef Goebbels runs Hitler's propaganda
- The key aspects of Nazism are:
 1. abolish Treaty of Versailles
 2. expel anyone not 'true' German
 3. anti-Jewish (anti-Semitic)
 4. nationalize large industries - to benefit the state (not communism)
 5. generous old age pensions
 6. strong central government



HITLER APPOINTED CHANCELLOR



Hitler was appointed chancellor by the aging President Hindenburg of the Weimar Republic

- By mid-1932, the Nazis had become the strongest political party in Germany
- In January of 1933, Hitler was appointed Chancellor (Prime Minister)
- Once in office he quickly dismantled Germany's democratic Weimar Republic and replaced it with a totalitarian government

FYI: TOTALITARIAN STATE

- Recall that Stalin also a totalitarian state during the 1920s-1930s
- A totalitarian state suppresses all opposition and has strict control over the citizens who have no civil rights



In totalitarian states citizens are expected to treat the dictator with adoration

THE THIRD REICH

- Once in power, Hitler established the **Third Reich**, or Third German Empire
- The first was during the Middle Ages and the Second came with the Unification of Germany in 1871
- According to Hitler the Third Reich would last 1,000 years

