RISE OF NAZISM AND FASCISM 1918–1934

RISE OF NAZISM IN GERMANY

Nov 1918 End of World War I. Germany defeated. **Weimar Republic** established after revolution forces abdication of German emperor.

Jun 1919 Treaty of Versailles: Germany loses territory to Poland and France and is forced to pay heavy reparations to victorious Allies; many blame the Weimar government for Germany's defeat.

Sep 1919 Adolf Hitler, ex-German army corporal and now a spy for the military, joins a radical political group – the German Workers' Party.

Apr 1920 German Workers' Party, with Hitler now a committed member, becomes National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP or **Nazi Party**). Their 25-point program contains all major policies later put into effect in Nazi Germany, including persecution of Jews.

Jul 1921 Hitler becomes leader of the Nazi Party.

Nov 1923 Munich Putsch. Hitler attempts to seize power by force. Coup defeated by government troops; Hitler sentenced to five years in prison (he serves nine months).

1924–1929 Nazi Party wins and holds a small minority of seats in German parliament. Weimar Republic ruled by a succession of weak coalition governments that Nazis refuse to support.

1929–1932 Great Depression in Europe. Unemployment in Germany rises dramatically. Industrialists, fearing a communist revolution, give financial backing to Nazi Party. Many ordinary Germans support Nazi Party because it offers strong leadership.

Sep 1930 Election. Nazi Party becomes second largest party in parliament (from 12 to 107 seats).

Jul 1932 Election. Nazi Party wins 230 seats in parliament as economic crisis worsens.

Jan 1933 Hitler appointed chancellor (head of government) by president of Germany to prevent left-wing coalition forming a government.

Feb 1933 German Reichstag (parliament building) destroyed by fire. Hitler accuses communists of starting the fire and orders arrest of their leaders.

Mar 1933 Hitler voted dictatorial powers by parliament, following election victory in which Nazis win 288 out of 647 seats.

Aug 1934 Hitler assumes combined offices of president, chancellor, and supreme commander of armed forces on death of President Paul von Hindenburg. Nazis dominate Germany.

1915 | 1916 | 1917 | 1918 | 1919 | 1920 | 1921 | 1922 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 | 1926 | 1927 | 1928 | 1929 | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 | 1935

RISE OF FASCISM IN ITALY

Nov 1918 End of World War I. Italy allied to victorious powers, but receives less territory from Austria than promised.

Feb 1919 Benito Mussolini, journalist and ex-Italian serviceman, forms **Fascist Party**, which is opposed to communism and dedicated to promoting Italian expansion. Fascists rapidly gain support among ex-servicemen and middle classes fearful of communist revolution.

May 1921 Election. Fascist Party joins coalition party and wins 35 out of 535 parliament seats.

Aug 1922 General strike, organized by socialists, is denounced by Mussolini as the prelude to a revolution. Strike collapses through poor organization. Fascists perceived as defenders of the nation against communism.

Oct 27, 1922 Fascists march on Rome to seize power from coalition government. **King Victor Emmanuel III** refuses to sign decree of martial law allowing government to use troops.
Oct 30, 1922 Mussolini's Fascist Party forms government on request of Emmanuel III.

Jul 1923 1st electoral reform law passed by Fascist Party assures them, as largest party, two-thirds of seats in parliament.

Jul 1924 Giacomo Matteotti, a socialist member of parliament, is murdered by right-wing radicals (closely connected to the Fascist Party). Socialists walk out of parliament in protest, leaving Fascist Party with near total control.

Nov 1925 Attempted assassination of Mussolini by a former socialist member of parliament, Zamboni, provides pretext for suppression of socialist party. Socialist leaders are arrested.

Oct 1926 All opposition parties are banned.

Sep 1928 2nd electoral reform law passed by Fascist Party – choice of all parliamentary candidates made by Fascist Grand Council, which is headed by Mussolini. Fascists have total control of the Italian state.

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