Rise of NSDAP

- National Socialists possessed several advantages to help consolidate seizure of power
  - Ruthless ambitions
  - Control of government of state of Prussia, especially Interior Ministry
  - Police absorbed SA under Ernst Röhm
  - Hatred and fear of SPD by middle class parties and equation of support for SPD with support for KPD
  - Right to call new elections
  - Power to rule by presidential decrees under Article 48

Ernst Röhm, Leader of SA

SA Uniform

February 1, 1933
- Reichstag dissolved and elections scheduled for March 5
- Göring instructed police to “make diligent use of weapons” against communist and socialist election campaigns and street demonstrations

Konzentrationslager (KZ) Oranienburg 1933

ID Card, KZ Oranienburg 1933

Night of February 27, Mysterious fire burned Reichstag building, destroying plenary chamber
- Police attempted to arrest a mentally unstable Dutch ex-communist named Marinus van der Lubbe
- February 28, Hindenburg signed:
  - “Decree for the Protection of People and State”
  - Effectively abolished basic political rights of Weimar Constitution
  - KPD banned
Rise of NSDAP

NSDAP Campaign Poster: “Crush Communism, Smash Socialism!”

Marinus van der Lubbe

SA Arrest Communists March 6, 1933

Emergency Law against Communism 1933

Proclamation of State of Emergency

Communist Party newspapers banned March 1, 1933
Rise of NSDAP

• Violence of electoral campaign increased
• On March 5, NSDAP still only received 43.9% of vote

Electoral Violence 1933: KPD Poster

Gleichschaltung

• Co-ordination
  • Gleichschaltung
    • Reducing to subservience every single possible alternative power source or base other than Hitler’s will and the National Socialist Party

Emergency Decree of February 28, 1933

• “Day of Potsdam” March 21, 1933
  • Solemn ceremony to open new Reichstag
  • Garrison Church in Potsdam
  • Presence of Hindenburg
  • Brilliant staging
Gleichschaltung

- Emergency Decree of February 28, 1933
- "Day of Potsdam" March 21, 1933
- "Enabling Law" of March 23, 1933

- Ermächtigungsgesetz
- Gesetz zur Behebung der Not von Volk und Reich

- An amendment of Weimar Constitution, requiring 2/3 majority of Reichstag

- Gives Chancellor and government right to enact laws without consent of Reichstag for period of 4 years

- Bourgeois parties confronted with decision whether to abdicate powers

- Abdicated

- Only SPD courageously voted no
Gleichschaltung

- Targets of Co-ordination
  - Constituent federal states
    - Law of March 31, 1933
  - Reich Governor (Deputy, Pro-Consul), Reichsstaathalter, Prussia, April 7

January 30, 1934, "Law Concerning the Reconstruction of the Reich," shifted virtually all state powers to central government

February 14, 1934, dissolved Reichsrat, the upper house of parliament representing the federal states

January 30, 1935, "Law on Reich Governors," Reichsstattthaltergesetz

Gleichschaltung

- Targets of Co-ordination
  - Civil service
    - "Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service," April 7, 1933
  - Trade unions
    - Dissolved May 2, absorbed into German Labor Front
  - Political parties
    - Party organizations throughout civil society
  - Presidency

Hindenburg very old and very ill
Died August 2, 1934
Hitler assumed Presidency on basis of Law of August 1
Title not of Reichspräsident but of Führer und Reichskanzler
Army swore oath of unconditional obedience to "Führer of the German Reich and People"
Gleichschaltung

- Army was another matter
- Its great rival was the SA
- Hitler concerned about indiscipline in SA, radicalism in economic policy, disorder caused by its antisemitic outbursts
  - "Blood Purge," "Night of the Long Knives," June 30, 1934
    - Ernst Röhm and other leaders of SA murdered
    - SA dissolved in favor of SS
    - Later reestablished but under new party discipline
      - Reinforced externally, supplemented by internally disciplined SA
      - "General Kurt von Schleicher, former Chief of Staff and Army Minister, was one of his murder victims."

Gleichschaltung

- Army later opposed Hitler’s plans to remilitarize Rhineland in 1936
  - Showed greater independence than Hitler wished
- November 5, 1937, Hitler unveiled his plans to General Staff for expansive foreign policy to gain Lebensraum and raw materials
  - General Blomberg, Minister of War, and General Fritzsch, Chief of General Staff, argued strongly against such plans
  - Minutes kept by Hitler’s military adjutant, Colonel Hossbach
  - "Hossbach Memorandum"

Gleichschaltung

- Led to purge of General Staff in January 1938
  - Blomberg removed because of low social status of wife
  - Fritzsch removed because of trumped-up charges of homosexuality by Göring
  - Hitler made himself commander-in-chief and assumed not only formal command as the personal Chief of Staff
  - Led by General Keitel and General Walther von Brauchitsch
  - Hitler’s control of army was complete

Gleichschaltung

“Blood Purge” of SA, June 30, 1934

Economic Recovery

- Success in economic recovery made all of this grab for political power easier for most Germans to accept
Economic Recovery

- Massive series of public works
  - FirstAutobahn law of June 27, 1933
  - Redeveloped public buildings
  - Enacted and funded public works projects Nazis had opposed since 1930
  - Unemployment fell from 6 million to 5 million from January to June of 1933
  - Had fallen to less than 1 million by fall 1936
Economic Recovery

- Kraft durch Freude and other popular initiatives
Economic Recovery

• Consistently favored big business over labor
  – Heavy industry at first except from co-ordination
  – After 1936, primacy of political over economic concerns made clear
  – “Four Year Plan” under Göring, 1936-40, goal non-economic self-sufficiency
  – Party favored employers on wages, but protected workers’ rights to
    holidays, welfare benefits, and recreation

Antisemitic Initiatives

• Initial measures 1933
  – Boycott of Jewish businesses
  – Exclusion from civil service, professions, other occupations
  – Exception for front veterans and children of those killed in war

Antisemitic Initiatives

• Initial measures 1933
  – Nuremberg Laws September 1935
    – Reich Citizenship Law
      - Deprived Jews of rights of citizens; reduced to subjects
      - Complex, incoherent, definition of who is a Jew
    – Law for Protection of German Blood and German Honor
      - Prohibited marriages between Jews and Aryans
      - Prohibited extra-marital sexual intercourse between Jews and Aryans
      - Jews forbidden to employ German women younger than 45 as servants
      - Now must prove racial purity

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Antisemitic Initiatives

- Initial measures: 1933
- Nuremberg Laws: September 1935
  - In Paris, young Polish-Jewish exile Herschel Grynszpan shot and killed secretary of German embassy, Ernst vom Rath on November 7
  - Goebbels called for “revenge” at party meeting on November 9
  - SA led massive pogrom, burning synagogues and Jewish businesses, robbing, beating, arresting Jews; obviously pre-planned
  - 20,000 Jewish men placed in concentration camps
- November 12, government seized insurance proceeds and imposed RM 1 billion indemnity on Jewish community for causing the disorder

Synagogue burning, Essen, Nov. 9-10, 1938

Frankfurt
Antisemitic Initiatives

- After Kristallnacht, Jews subjected to new restrictions:
  - Banned from schools and universities
  - Could not attend concerts, movies, theaters
  - Could not appear in certain districts or at certain hours in public
Antisemitic Initiatives

- Hitler’s speech of January 30, 1939
  - "If the international finance Jewry inside and outside of Europe should succeed in bringing the modern states into a world war, the result will not be the bolshevization of the earth and thus the victory of Jewry but the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe."

Nature of the National Socialist System

- "Totalitarianism"
- "Polyocracy" (Polykratie)
  - Centrality of the "Will of the Führer"

National Socialist Foreign Policy

- Doctrinal rigidity combined with tactical elasticity
- Three-fold goals:
  - Gleichschaltung
  - Regaining foreign policy freedom of action by withdrawing from treaties entered into by Stresemann and Brüning
  - Test other Great Powers’ will to resist in order to calculate speed at which he could move forward

- Early stages of foreign policy, 1933-35: Caution
  - May 1933, resumed Berlin Treaty of 1926 with Soviet Union
  - June 1933, signed "Four Power Pact" with Britain, France, and Italy, signaling diplomatic equality
  - July 1933, signed Concordat with Vatican
  - October 14, 1933, withdrawal from League of Nations
  - January 1935, signed 10-year nonaggression pact with Poland

National Socialist Foreign Policy

- National survival meant war for new land
- Land meant land in Europe
- Not limited to regaining pre-1914 German borders
- Expansion to be in the east

National Socialist Foreign Policy

- German exit disarmament conference, League of Nations
National Socialist Foreign Policy

Signing Concordat 1933, Future Pope Pius XII

National Socialist Foreign Policy

Concordat 1933, poster urging Catholics to support Hitler

National Socialist Foreign Policy

Anti-Concordat poster 1933

National Socialist Foreign Policy

Beginning 1935, more daring foreign policy

- Saar plebiscite held January 13, 1935, under terms of Versailles Treaty
  - Voted to join Germany

National Socialist Foreign Policy

“Deutsch die Saar – immerdar!”

National Socialist Foreign Policy

• National Socialists proceeded radically in internal affairs, conservatively in external affairs
National Socialist Foreign Policy

- Beginning 1935, more daring foreign policy
  - Saar plebiscite held January 13, 1935, under terms of Versailles Treaty
  - March 8, announced "new" military air force
  - March 15, renounced military limitation clauses of Versailles Treaty
  - March 16, reinstated conscription

Other Great Powers responded
- British White Book justified increased military expenditure
- France extended military service from 1 to 2 years
- Britain, France, Italy met at Stresa to condemn German action and reaffirm Locarno
- Council of League of Nations criticized German actions
June 1935 Britain broke “Stresa Front” by negotiating bilateral Naval Pact with Germany

Accepted German violation of naval clauses of Versailles Treaty

March 7, 1936, German army reoccupied Rhineland
- Denounced Locarno Treaties
- Offered France and Belgium 25-year nonaggression pact and air pact
  - To be guaranteed by Britain and Italy
- Plebiscite endorsed move by 99 percent
National Socialist Foreign Policy

- German intervention in Spanish Civil War, 1936-39

Climax in 1938
- March 1938, German army entered Austria
- Declaration of the Anschluss, annexation
- Artur Seyss-Inquart
- Germany now surrounded western Czecho-slovakia
National Socialist Foreign Policy

- Sudetenland
  - 3.2 million Germans
  - More Germans than Slovaks
- Tomas Masaryk
- Eduard Beneš
- Konrad Henlein
National Socialist Foreign Policy

- Munich Conference, September 29-30, 1938
  - Neville Chamberlain
  - Appeasement
  - Historiographical controversy
  - "Lessons" of Munich
Hitler’s View of Next War

- Hitler learned “lessons” from First World War
  - “Stab-in-the-back”
  - So avoid imposing sacrifices
  - Do so by exploiting conquered territory
  - Tool to do so: Blitzkrieg

Hitler’s View of Next War

- Blitzkrieg coped with German disadvantages
  - Lack of trained reserves
  - Lack of raw material base
  - Inability to win long war of attrition

Hitler’s View of Next War

- Germany must act before it loses its rearmament head start
  - Must have war before 1943-44-45

Hitler’s View of Next War

- Crisis of 1938-39
  - Polyp in Hitler’s throat
    - “Other Rances” May 1938
  - Hitler’s 50th birthday
  - Economic crisis, labor shortages

Hitler’s View of Next War

- Hitler’s 50th birthday, April 20, 1939