



# **The Rise of the Nazi Party and the Holocaust**

**Exploring Germany's 1930s  
Political Shift and Its Impacts**



# Lesson Objectives

In this lesson, you will journey through the tumultuous times of 1930s Germany, examining the rise of the Nazi Party and the devastating events of the Holocaust. We will dive into the economic and political factors that helped the Nazis gain power, explore their harmful ideologies and the cruel discrimination they propagated, and learn about the Holocaust, emphasizing the role of both active participants and bystanders. This exploration will help you understand how past events reflect on present societal values and the crucial importance of standing up against injustice.

## Objectives:

- Learn about the rise of the Nazi Party in 1930s Germany.
- Explore Nazi beliefs and their impact on society.
- Learn about the Holocaust and the consequences of indifference.

# Reflecting on Historical Lessons

This lesson encourages you to recognize and challenge unjust ideologies in your community, fostering a culture of inclusivity and intervention against discrimination.

Consider a time when you saw someone being treated unfairly. Think about what small actions you could take to make a difference, like supporting the person or reporting the behavior.



Students, write your response!

# Words to Know

- **Nazi Party:** A far-right political group in Germany led by Adolf Hitler that ruled from 1933 to 1945. They were known for their nationalist and racist ideologies.
- **Weimar Republic:** The democratic government founded in Germany following World War I and lasting until the rise of the **Nazi Party**.
- **Reparations:** Payments that a country has to make after losing a war, usually to compensate for damage caused.
- **Aryan Race:** A term used by the **Nazi Party** to describe people of Northern European racial background, considered 'pure'.
- **Anti-Semitism:** Prejudice against or hatred of Jewish people.
- **Propaganda:** Information, especially biased or misleading, used to promote a political cause or point of view.
- **Holocaust:** The mass genocide of six million Jews and millions of other minority groups carried out by the Nazi regime during World War II.
- **Concentration Camps:** Places where Jews and other groups were imprisoned and murdered during the **Holocaust**.
- **Complicity:** The act of helping to commit a crime or doing nothing to stop it.

# The Rise of the Nazi Party in 1930s Germany

The **Nazi Party**, led by Adolf Hitler, gained popularity in Germany following World War I. They promised to rebuild Germany's economy, restore national pride, and provide jobs for millions of unemployed citizens. People were drawn to their promises of change amidst economic hardship and political instability.

Understanding the rise of the **Nazi Party** helps you recognize how economic and political instability can lead to drastic political changes.



# Economic Hardship in Germany

After World War I, Germany faced severe economic difficulties. The Treaty of Versailles had imposed heavy reparations, leading to hyperinflation and unemployment. This economic instability created fertile ground for the **Nazi Party** to promise economic recovery and national rejuvenation.

When you are faced with hard times, like losing a job or money issues, you look for someone or something to make it better. Imagine Germany back then, going through those same struggles but even worse.



# Political Instability

Germany's **Weimar Republic** was seen by many as weak and ineffective. Political violence and disputes were common, leaving many Germans disillusioned with the current government.

Think about when you see a school council that's always fighting and not making changes. You'd want someone strong to lead and fix it. That's how many Germans felt during this time.



## Let's Try It: The Rise of the Nazi Party in 1930s Germany

What factor contributed to the rise of the **Nazi Party** in Germany?

- A. Strong democratic government
- B. Lack of military forces
- C. Economic hardship
- D. Successful foreign policies



Students choose an option

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## Let's Try It Together: The Rise of the Nazi Party in 1930s Germany

Explain why people in Germany were looking for change during the 1930s.



Students, write your response!

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# Nazi Ideology and Racist Beliefs

The **Nazi Party** held a racist ideology that claimed the superiority of the Aryan race, which they identified as 'pure' Germans. They vilified groups who did not fit this ideal, especially Jews, blaming them for Germany's problems. Their beliefs led to widespread discrimination and persecution.

Recognizing harmful ideologies is essential for promoting inclusivity and understanding in today's society.



# Racist Ideologies

Nazis believed that Aryans were the superior race and all others were inferior. This led to creating laws and social norms that discriminated against non-Aryans.

Imagine a classroom where only students with blue eyes and blonde hair are given snacks, and others are not allowed to join activities. That's the kind of discrimination the Nazis promoted.



# Vilification of the Jewish People

Jews were wrongly blamed for Germany's economic woes and societal problems. This vilification was based on centuries of anti-Semitism and was fueled by false propaganda.

Consider when someone spreads a false rumor about a classmate that causes others to blame them unjustly. This was how Jews were treated in Nazi Germany.



## Let's Try It: Nazi Ideology and Racist Beliefs

Describe what 'Aryan' meant to the Nazis and how it affected their policies.



Students, write your response!

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## Let's Try It Together: Nazi Ideology and Racist Beliefs

What was one group vilified by Nazi ideology?

- A. Aryans
- B. Jewish People
- C. Germans
- D. All Europeans



Students choose an option

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# The Holocaust and the Role of Complicity

The **Holocaust** was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews and millions of other minorities by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. While it was orchestrated by Nazi leaders, many ordinary citizens enabled it through their indifference or active participation.

This lesson emphasizes the importance of empathy, awareness, and action when faced with injustice.



# Persecution and Destruction

Jews and other minorities were rounded up and sent to concentration camps where many were killed. This mass persecution was systematic and organized by the state.

Imagine if students at school were picked up based on a list and then taken away, simply because of who they are. This illustrates the horrors faced by **Holocaust** victims.





# Role of Indifference

Many people within Germany and across Europe did not speak out against the atrocities, either out of ignorance, fear, or agreement with Nazi ideologies.

Think of a situation in school when someone is being bullied and others choose to look away or walk past. Their silence allows the bullying to continue.



## Let's Try It: The Holocaust and the Role of Complicity

What was the role of ordinary citizens in the **Holocaust's** execution?



Students, write your response!

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## Let's Try It Together: The Holocaust and the Role of Complicity

What does 'complicity' mean in the context of the **Holocaust**?

- A. Being a victim
- B. Leading the efforts
- C. Actively resisting
- D. Doing nothing to stop wrongdoing



Students choose an option

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# Think About the Lesson

What is one thing you learned or one question you have about today's lesson? Write or draw your response.



Students, draw anywhere on this slide!

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## Exit Ticket: The Rise of the Nazi Party in 1930s Germany

What was one reason the **Weimar Republic** was ineffective?

- A. Frequent political disputes
- B. Abundance of jobs
- C. Strong military presence
- D. Peaceful international relations



Students choose an option

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## Exit Ticket: Nazi Ideology and Racist Beliefs

Explain the impact of Nazi propaganda on society.



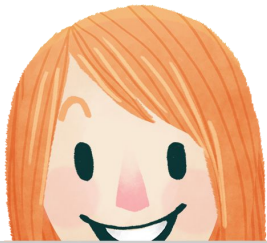
Students, write your response!

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## Exit Ticket: The Holocaust and the Role of Complicity

What was one reason the **Holocaust** was able to occur on such a large scale?

- A. Widespread indifference
- B. Successful armed resistance
- C. Support from other governments
- D. Limited ideological alignment



Students choose an option