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| **Aim:** | **Date:** |
| **Key Words:**  **1.**  **2.** |  |

**Nazis 1 – Hitler in Power**

**A. Adolf Hitler (April 1889 – April 1945)**

Adolf Hitler was part of a fascist political group that believed Germany needed to get rid of the Treaty of Versailles. This group was called the National Socialist German Workers Party, or Nazi party for short. The political agenda of this group became known as Nazism. After the election, Hitler and the Nazis joined with other political parties to gain the majority and make Hitler the Chancellor. On March 23, 1933, the newly elected members of the German Parliament (the Reichstag) met in the Kroll Opera House in Berlin to consider passing Hitler’s Enabling Act. It was officially called the “Law for Removing the Distress of the People and the Reich.” If passed, it would effectively mean the end of democracy in Germany and establish the legal dictatorship of Adolf Hitler. Just before the vote, Hitler made a speech to the Reichstag, in which he pledged to use restraint and promised to end unemployment and peace with France, Great Britain and the Soviet Union. A 2/3 majority vote was needed since Hitler wanted to change the constitution. When the vote was taken 441 were for it and 84 (the Social Democrats were against.)

*Historical Context: What was life like in Germany before Hitler gained power (during the Weimar Republic)?*

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| **What I Know About The Nazis** | **What I Want To Know About The Nazis** |
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**B. Nationalist Socialist German Worker’s Party (Nazi’s) Platform**

Read through the list and circle two points which may be good for Germany and underline two points which might be bad for Germany.

**The Twenty-Five Points** (as proposed by Hitler)

* Repair all land destroyed by WWI fighting
* Death to all criminals
* Better education
* Better working conditions
* Bigger military
* The government has to make sure the people have everything they need
* The person has to do everything the government says
* Germany will expand its territories and Germany will unite with Austria-Germany
* Throw out the Versailles treaty
* Anti-Semitism – Jews are not considered a part of the German “race”
* Anti-foreigner – only members of the German “race” can be citizens of Germany
* No immigrants allowed in Germany

*From the POV of a German, should you support Hitler and the Nazis?*

**C. Programs of the Nazis**

1. Freeways and "People’s Car"

In 1938, the Nazi government wanted to build cars that any family in Germany could afford. It cost about 990 marks (or 325 U.S. dollars). The car later became known as the Volkswagen Beetle. Hitler also focused on building a system of highways and roads, building the longest autobahn (highway) of its day.

2. Recreational Activities for Germans

The “Strength Through Joy” program of the Nazis was very popular. It gave ordinary Germans the chance to buy cheap theater tickets and inexpensive vacations. Through this program, Germans could go on a one week vacation, including travel and hotel fare for $12.50. ($220 in 2016 money). The official statistics showed that in 1934, 2.3 million people took vacations. By 1938, this figure rose to 10.3 million.

3. Economic

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| **Year** | **Unemployment %** |
| 1932 | 30.1% |
| 1938 | 2.1% |

Hitler built industry and created jobs for Germans which brought Germany out of depression. He maintained a capitalist state while putting the government in charge of big business and he increased the standard of living.

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| *Program* | *Describe the Program.* | *What aspect of the Versailles Treaty caused the need for this program?* |
| Freeways and the “People’s Car” Program |  |  |
| “Strength Through Joy” Program |  |  |
| Economics Programs |  |  |

*From the POV of a German, would you support Hitler and the Nazis now? Explain***.**

*How does fascism in Italy compare to fascism in Germany?*

*According to everything you have learned today – what was the most important change that Hitler made for Germany?*