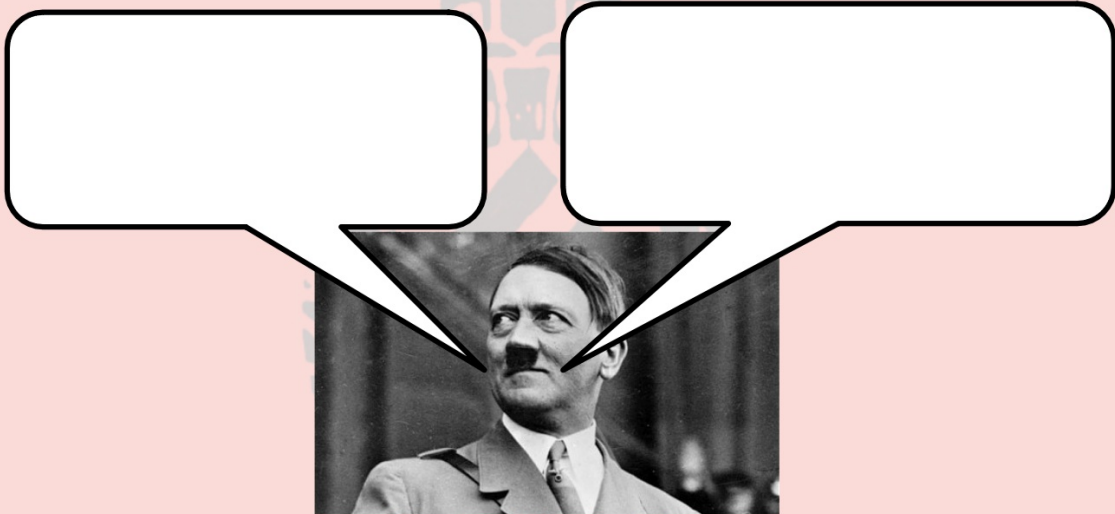


September Unit 1: From Austrian Corporal to  
German Chancellor -  
Hitler 1919 - 1933

Lesson 2: "1919 - 28 - The Years of Struggle".



**Can you name two thinkers who influenced Hitler on (i) Anti-semitism and (ii) German Supremacy?**





Learning Gain:

By the end of this sequence of lessons I will be able to explain the appeal of Hitler to the German People.

*Learning Steps:* 

- To explore the impact of defeat in the Great War on Hitler and Germany.
- Consider the role of the "fear of communism" on Hitler's appeal to the German People.



"I go the way that PROVIDENCE dictates with the assurance of a sleepwalker."

Copy out this quote.

Using your phone or a dictionary ascertain the meaning of "Providence" in this quote. Try and explain what Hitler is saying to the people.



Development







Hitler fought bravely in the First World War, gaining promotion to Corporal and receiving the Iron Cross for bravery. He was recovering from a gas attack when the news of Germany's surrender was announced.

Germany's defeat was a physical and psychological blow to Hitler and his views that Germany was a special nation destined for greatness.



Hitler like many other Germans looked for reasons for why Germany had lost the war.

A myth quickly arose in the months after the humiliating surrender that simply explained how the German Army had been defeated.

"Stabbed in the Back" - the view developed that it was weak Socialist politicians at home, pacifists, Jews and anti-war agitators (who became known as the "November Criminals" that had undermined the German Army and forced the Kaiser to abdicate in a revolution in Berlin in November 1918.

Leading to the shame of the Versailles Peace Treaty and the weak "Un-German" Weimar Republic.





## Impact on Hitler.

It was during the chaotic summer of 1919 that Hitler's world view begins to crystalise.



Hitler "Develops his Mission"

He believes in the Stabbed in the Back myth and holds both the Jews and the Communists responsible for the humiliation of Germany.

Hitler's speeches for the newly formed National Socialist Party strike a chord with a defeated, angry and frustrated people looking for a "Scape Goat".

**Hitler is expressing the views that many Germans already felt - Zeitgeist.**



## Impact on Germany.

Two million soldiers had died - their sacrifice had led only to humiliation.



A Socialist revolution had taken place in Berlin, creating a Republic. Some of its leaders were Jewish.

"FREIKORPS" were formed by ex-soldiers to fight communism, these were heavily anti-semitic. Many Nazis came from the Freikorps.

## **Hitler adopted many of the ideas expressed by the Freikorps.**





List one  
impact defeat  
had on Hitler?



Main



Whilst you watch this video clip on the Weimar Republic please focus on the following questions:

- Identify the 3 Crises faced by the Weimar Republic.
- Why was the Weimar Republic hated?
- Who in particular hated it?
- What weaknesses in the Republic are revealed by the crises of 1923?

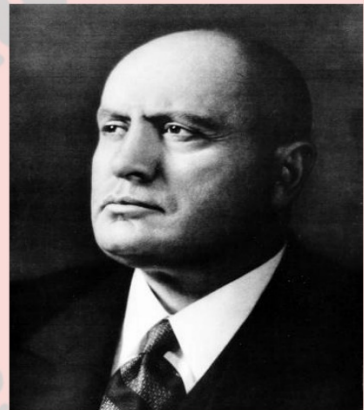


In 1923 Hitler sensing that the time was ripe led an uprising in Munich.

Inspired by another Facist leader - Mussolini - whose "March on Rome" had secured his leadership of Italy in a Facist take over in 1922.

However Hitler's "Beerhall Putsch" was a failure and was swiftly put down by the army.

Hitler was sent to prison. However sympathetic judges to the minimum sentence of 5 years and is out in 9 months.





In prison Hitler's world view is formalised and put into print - as he writes "Mein Kampf" - "My Struggle".

He also realises that he will have to use democracy to destroy democracy.

**BUT**

In the 1928 elections in Germany the Nazis secure 2.6% of the vote.

Reflect on all that you have learned so far. Try and hypothesise what will need to happen for Hitler and the Nazis to become more popular.

