

MODULE-1 WORLD IN THE FIRST HALF OF 20TH C TOPIC- NAZISM IN GERMANY

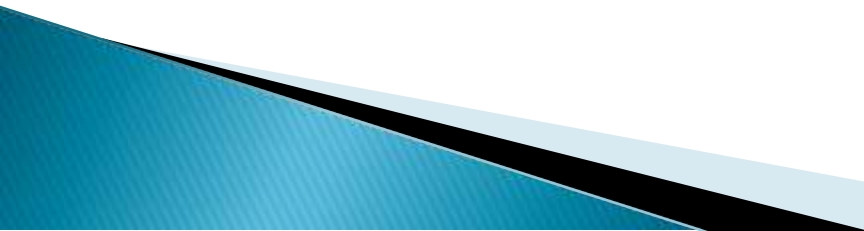
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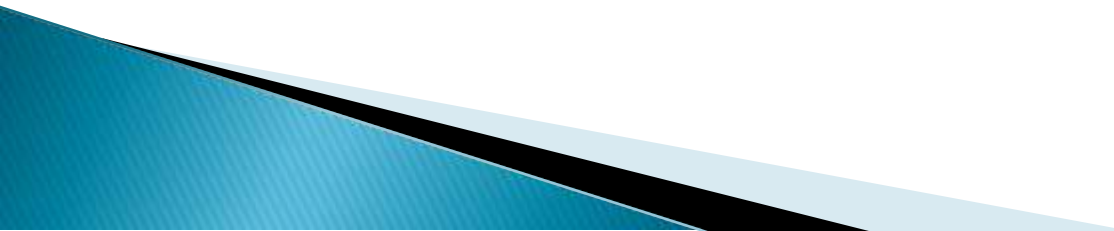
NAZISM IN GERMANY

- ❑ Nazism was the extreme form of fascism
- ❑ It was most inhuman, cruel and fierce ideology, movement and a form of government against civilization in the modern period.
- ❑ It became the most significant causative factor for the outbreak of Second world war.

CAUSES

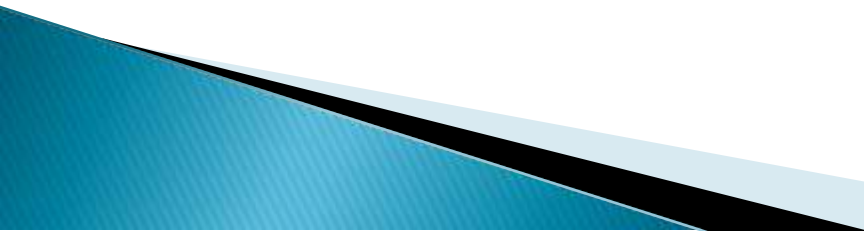
- ❑ various factors contributed to the triumph of Nazism in Germany

- - ▶ Important cause : the defeat of Germany in First world war and humiliating clauses of the Treaty of Versailles – background for the growth of Nazism in Germany.
 - ▶ The Treaty of Versailles crippled her economically, segregated her politically, humbled her militarily and humiliated her nationally.
 - ▶ The war-guilt clause and heavy burden of reparations wounded the pride of German patriots and aroused their anger.
 - ▶ Weimer Republic, new government after the war could not solve the problems of the people.
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- - ▶ In order to pay the huge war indemnity, the government imposed more taxes upon the people.
 - ▶ In meanwhile the French army conquered and occupied the German industrial area of Rhuhr on the pretext of delay in payment of war indemnity. The Republican govt failed to resist the French conquest.– people lost faith in republican government.
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Another important factor which led to the triumph of the Nazis was the Great Depression of 1929.

- ✓ No other country suffered greater hardships as a result of the Great Depression than Germany
- ✓ Since 1919, Germany had been heavily dependent on American loans and capital investment.
- ✓ After 1929 these sources virtually dried up and brought economy of Germany to a state of ruin.
- ✓ During this time, 8 million workers lost their employment.
- ✓ all section of society was badly hit.
- ✓ High level of inflation due to economic distress
- ✓ In an attempt to control inflation, the government issued more paper currency which ultimately worsened the economic condition of the state

- - ▶ Fear of communism : Revolutionary Marxists known as Spartacists started revolution in Germany in 1919 under the leadership of Rosa Luxemburg.
 - ▶ Though the Revolution was suppressed, the Communist party of Germany had good number of followers.
 - ▶ The growth of communism alarmed the Capitalists and big landowners.– they supported Nazi movement as they were impressed by the anti–communist stand of Nazis
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Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) and Nazi Revolution

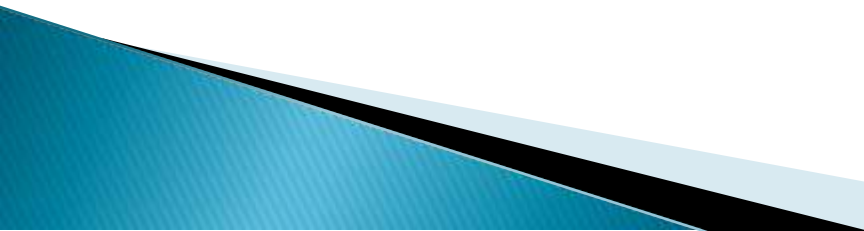
- ▶ Austrian by birth- early life –painful and disastrous.
- ▶ Joined in the German army during the war
- ▶ In 1919 he joined a small group known as *German Workers Party*.
- ▶ Hitler converted this small group into a mass party.
- ▶ In 1920 the German Workers party was renamed as the *National Socialist German Workers Party*, shortened into “Nazi”.
- ▶ He created effective and elaborative party structure
- ▶ Party adopted *Swastika* as its symbol, acquired its own newspaper and set up separate propaganda division.
- ▶ The party also organized two paramilitary organisations:

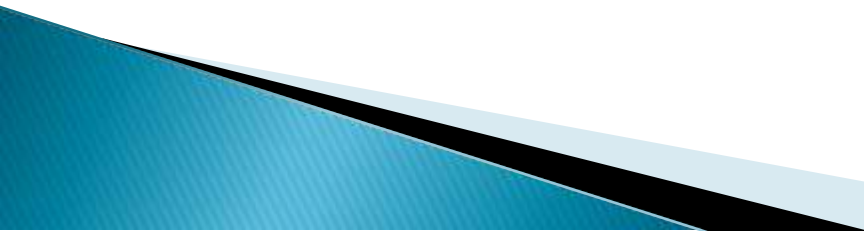
1. SA -
Sturmabteilung
(Storm troopers)

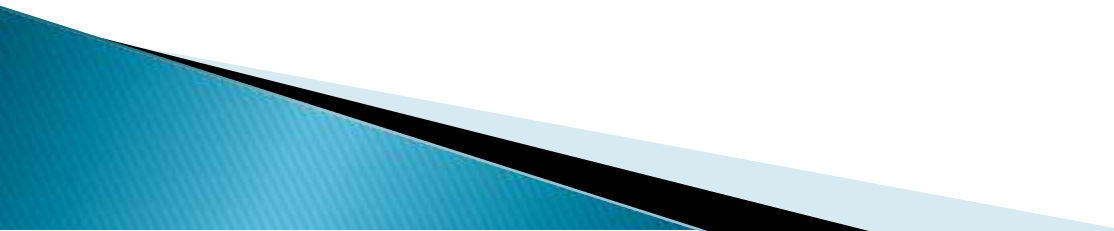
- The private army of the party with brown shirts as uniform
- Formed to annihilate all anti-Nazis especially Jews and Communists

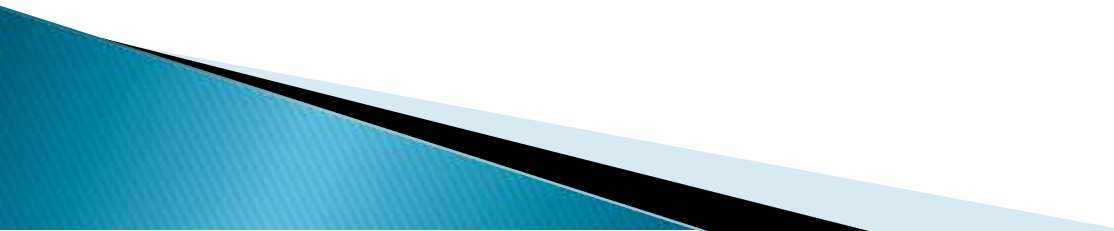
2. SS -
Schutzstaffel
(Elite Guard)

- Personal bodyguard for Hitler

- - ▶ Hitler openly rejected the Treaty of Versailles.
 - ▶ The Nazis propagated aggressive nationalism.
 - ▶ Hitler declared his ultimate objective to form a Greater Germany with all the German in Europe.
 - ▶ He propagated that the Jewish people are the basic obstacle for German progress.
 - ▶ He could develop a common hatred against the Jews in Germany.
 - ▶ The communists were considered as another important enemy of the Nazis.
 - ▶ Hitler was greatly aided by men like Heinrich Himmler, Paul Joseph Goebbels, Herman Goering, Rudolf Hess and Hans Frank.
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- - ▶ In 1923 Hitler made a unsuccessful attempt to seize power by force (known as Beer Hall Putsch)
 - ▶ He was arrested and put in jail for an year.
 - ▶ In jail he wrote his master piece “ *Mein Kampf*” (*My Struggle*), outlining his racial theories, domestic policies and plans for the world conquest.
 - ▶ Mein Kampf, which was published in 1925 became the political bible of the Nazi movement.
 - ▶ The failure of Hitler in his attempt to seize power was a turning point in his political methodology. It persuaded Hitler to adopt the machinery of election as the way to power.
 - ▶ In 1928 they had won only 12 seats in the **Reichstag**.
 - ▶ The economic crisis of 1929 helped them to gain substantial following and popular support.
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- - ▶ In the elections of 1932, the Nazi party emerged as the single largest party.
 - ▶ In January 1933, a group of reactionaries- industrialists, bankers and big land owners and politicians of the right-wing parties persuaded President Hindenburg to nominate Hitler as chancellor.
 - ▶ Once he got power, he began to concentrate all power in his hands and disrupted democracy.
 - ▶ The German Parliament house- the Reichstag was burnt by Nazis and blamed the communists for the burning.
 - ▶ Soon Hitler declared himself as the President and destroyed the existing federal system of the country.
 - ▶ All political parties except Nazi party were banned.
 - ▶ Trade unions were abolished
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- - ▶ Freedom of opinion and Freedom to assemble were denied.
 - ▶ Hitler made the people to hail him as the “Fuehrer”.
 - ▶ His rule came to be known as the Third Reich, the first being the rule established by Otto in CE 962 and the second by Bismarck in 1871.
 - ▶ Any opposition voice was silenced with brute violence.
 - ▶ The youth wing of the Nazi Party the Hitler Youth and party secret organization, Gestapo were in the fore-front of the massacre of thousands of innocent people.
 - ▶ The thousands of Jews were denied fundamental rights and forcibly sent to the notorious concentration camps and massacred in the most inhuman cruel methods.
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- - ▶ A lie repeated a thousand times would become a truth was the tenet of the Nazi Propaganda.
 - ▶ Their objective of education was to create better Nazi Citizens.
 - ▶ Goebbels was in charge of the Nazi propaganda and he conducted it most successfully.
 - ▶ By 1938 the Christian church also surrendered to Hitler
 - ▶ With this the Third Reich became a complete totalitarian dictatorship.
 - ▶ Hitler never believed in peace talks and began to make encroachments and annexations on the weak neighbouring countries
 - ▶ Two major powers of Europe- England and France adopted an appeasement policy towards Hitler which gave him more confidence to attack any country to fulfill his dream of Greater Germany.