

Explain why the Nazis were unable to overthrow the Weimar Republic in the period 1920 – 23.

Source five gives us many reasons why the Nazis were unable to overthrow the Weimar Republic. However there are other reasons that have not been included in the source.

Source five clearly shows that lack of organisation was a major factor in the Nazis failure to overthrow the republic.

“ His failed Putsch in November clearly showed the weakness of a movement that lacked order”

The Nazis disorganisation spread from just under the control of Hitler through the whole party and even into the S.A. This evidence is backed up by source four, which claims that the S.A was just made up of a group of thugs who were in it just there to have a fight and get paid for it. This disorganisation led the Nazis to launch the putsch too early just for the S.As want of a fight.

Another reason why the Nazis were seen to be disorganised was the reason that they had no clear leader. By doing this they comprised their chances of mass support, as the German population had no single leader to follow within the Nazi party. Another reason for this view is that the Nazis regularly had more than one person doing the same job. This can be seen as a lack in organisation, but as Hitler believed in the theory of Social Darwinism this double leadership was necessary for the survival of the fittest. By this Hitler believed that he would be able to create an elite political party and therefore continue the Nazis leadership.

This lack of organisation within the Nazi party had a knock-on-affect to the movements of the party. This can be clearly seen as a lack of direction within the party. From early on in their career the Nazi party had no real set ideas. Although they had many views that they wished to get across they had no specific ideas; this can be clearly seen in their 25-point programme. Because the Nazis tried to appeal to everyone they ended up with not attracting anyone, so instead of making the Nazis the most popular political group their middle-of-the-road view and policies with no real direction actually backfired on Hitler.

Because the Nazi party had no real direction, and tried to appeal to all the classes the Nazis ended up with not appealing to anyone. Because of this they had no real support. With no views apart from their idea of anti-Semitism to appeal to a certain class of people the Nazis were never going to be a very influential party. The Nazis had to develop certain political views that would appeal to the masses and would therefore gain them support. Without support the Nazis were only ever going to be a regional party instead of a national one that Hitler had hoped to achieve. Source five tells us of how the Nazis had only grown to a party with around 35,000 members by 1923. Although this sounds large, in a country the size of Germany this amount of voters means that the party remained fairly insignificant.

Because of the Nazis vague views and the resulting lack of support for the party, Hitler was not going to be able to make the Nazis a national party as they would be forever confined to Bavaria. Because of this the Nazis would suffer from regionalism. Because of the lack of support the Nazis suffered they would never be able to appeal to voters outside of Bavaria. Source five shows this.

“Hitler was hardly known outside of his Bavarian heartland”

Regionalism is a serious problem for any political party as it might result in a loss of support. If this was to happen to the Nazis it could spell disaster as they already lack in mass support. Another problem for the Nazis being stuck in Bavaria is the mass Bavarian support for the Catholic Center Party. Because of this the Nazis were not even getting a lot of support in their homeland. The last three reasons the source gave are all linked closely together. Without one happening the other two could not and vice-versa.

