

The Beer Hall **Putsch**

Describe the main events in Hitler's political career from 1918 to 1922.

When the war began in 1914, Hitler immediately joined up. Being in the army gave Hitler a feeling of belonging and prestige. He was loyal and brave and obeyed all orders without question. However, this period in which Hitler was content was cut short as the result of a gas attack. He was released from Palewalk hospital in November 1918, and went to Munich. It was a gathering point for out of action soldiers and extremists.

Hitler carried on working for the army at the end of the war in 1919. He attended indoctrination courses, and it was here that he discovered his talent for persuading people with his emotional speaking. Hitler was assigned to investigate many of the political parties, which, following the end of the war, had been set up.

In August 1919 Hitler made his first speech on the 'Jewish Question' to soldiers. In September he went to a meeting of the DAP (German Workers Party, a small right wing party set up in January 1919). Here he spoke, and as a result received a membership card inviting him to join. He spent more time on the party than most of the other members, and very soon became the propaganda chief of the party. He also produced his first in depth political statement with his views on anti-Semitism.

On the 19th October 1919, Hitler gave a speech at the party's first public meeting. He was able to pull the DAP into the public arena. In February 1920, the party produced the 25-points, created predominantly by Hitler. It outlined all the main political views and aims of the party. It also changed it's name to NSDAP (National Socialist German Workers Party), Nazi for short.

Hitler left the Reichswehr in March 1920 in order to spend more time on the party. However, he was able to keep a link with the army through his friendship of Ernst Rohm. He often spoke out against the Jews, and believed that the weak economic and political situation of Germany left it vulnerable to revolutionaries like the Marxists. He was able, unlike others in the party, to appeal to his audiences.

In December, the Munchener Beobachter (a newspaper), was bought by the Nazis and renamed the Volkischer Beobachter. In July 1921, Hitler offered his resignation due to political differences within the party. He gave conditions for his return, which were met, and he returned as a

dictatorial Party Chairman, which was most likely his intention to begin with.

In October 1921, the armed squads which provided protection for party members, became the SA (Storm Detachments). The SA was used to prevent disruption of meetings, and to intimidate political opponents. By late 1922, the total membership of the NSDAP was about 20,000, mainly in Bavaria, which was the only state where the NSDAP had not been banned due to its violent tendencies. In July Hitler was briefly imprisoned for violence.

In October 1922, Julius Streicher decided to merge his volkisch group with the Nazis under Hitler's leadership. By now, Hitler had formed the base of his views, anti-Semitism, anti-Communism and lebensraum (gaining 'living space' by expanding into Eastern Europe).