



Hitler Comes to Power

After World War I, German leaders set up a new government. This democratic government was led by a chancellor, or prime minister. The republic had problems from the start. The government could not fix the economic problems of the Great Depression, and Germans wanted change. Adolf Hitler promised to bring greatness back to Germany.

Hitler had fought in the German army in World War I. He thought the new government that was formed after the war was weak. Hitler joined an extremist group that became known as the National Socialist German Workers Party, or Nazi Party. Soon, Hitler became the leader of the Nazi Party. In 1923, he tried to take over the government but was arrested and found guilty of treason.



While serving time in prison, Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf*, or *My Struggle*. This book listed the basic ideas of the Nazi Party, which believed in extreme nationalism and racism. Hitler thought that Germans belonged to a “master race” of Aryans. People who had blond hair and blue eyes were thought to be much better than other people. Hitler was racist against Jews. He said that non-Aryan races, like Jews and Slavs, were not even human. Hitler blamed the Jews for Germany’s political and economic problems. He promised to take back the lands that had been taken away from Germany. Hitler said Germany was crowded and that it needed more *lebensraum*, or living space.

In less than a year, Hitler got out of prison. He kept gathering support for the Nazi Party. In passionate speeches, Hitler promised to create jobs, end the payments Germany was making to the Allies after World War I, and rebuild the military. Many people liked Hitler’s plan for a stronger Germany. Soon, the Nazi Party had a million members. Hitler was elected Chancellor of Germany in 1933.

To achieve his goals as leader of Germany, Hitler set up a totalitarian system of government. Under this system, Nazis controlled every area of German life, including government, religion, and education. All other political parties were outlawed. A police group called the *Schutzstaffel*, or SS, arrested and murdered hundreds of Hitler’s opponents. Detention centers called concentration camps held people who were considered enemies of the state.

Most Germans did not worry about the terror Hitler used to rule. Instead, they were happy that he created jobs for thousands of people. National pride was coming back to Germany. In the 1930s, Germany became Europe’s second fascist state. After winning absolute power at home, Hitler dreamed of expanding Germany’s power in Europe.



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Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. Hitler became the leader of the _____.
- A. Communist Party
 - B. Nazi Party
 - C. German Nationalists
 - D. Fascist Party

2. Hitler wrote a book while he was _____.
- A. running for political office
 - B. touring the country and making speeches
 - C. in prison
 - D. fighting in the German army

3. Hitler was racist against _____.
- A. people with blond hair and blue eyes
 - B. people who were not born in Germany
 - C. Jews
 - D. Aryans

4. Hitler promised to _____.
- A. create jobs
 - B. end payments to the Allies
 - C. rebuild Germany's military
 - D. all of the above

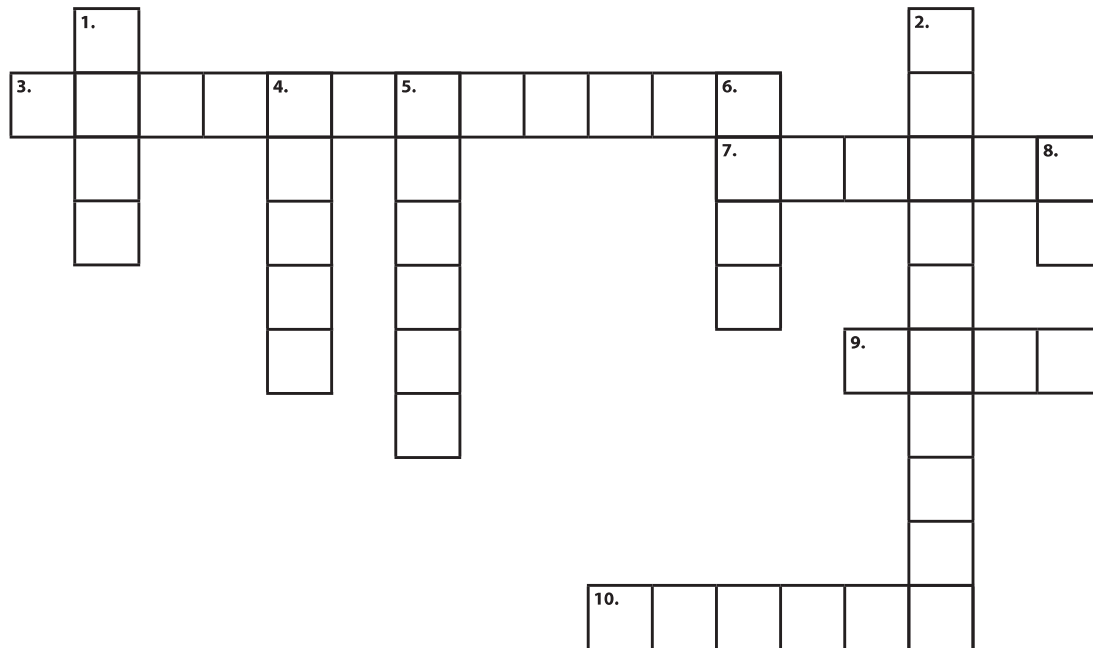
5. Most Germans _____.
- A. were happy that Hitler created new jobs
 - B. wanted to remove Hitler from office
 - C. moved away from Germany
 - D. all of the above



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Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

3. Under Hitler's _____ government, the Nazis controlled every area of German life, including government, religion, and education.
7. Hitler believed that Germans belonged to a "master race" of _____.
9. Hitler thought the German democratic government formed after World War I was _____.
10. _____'s book is called *Mein Kampf*.

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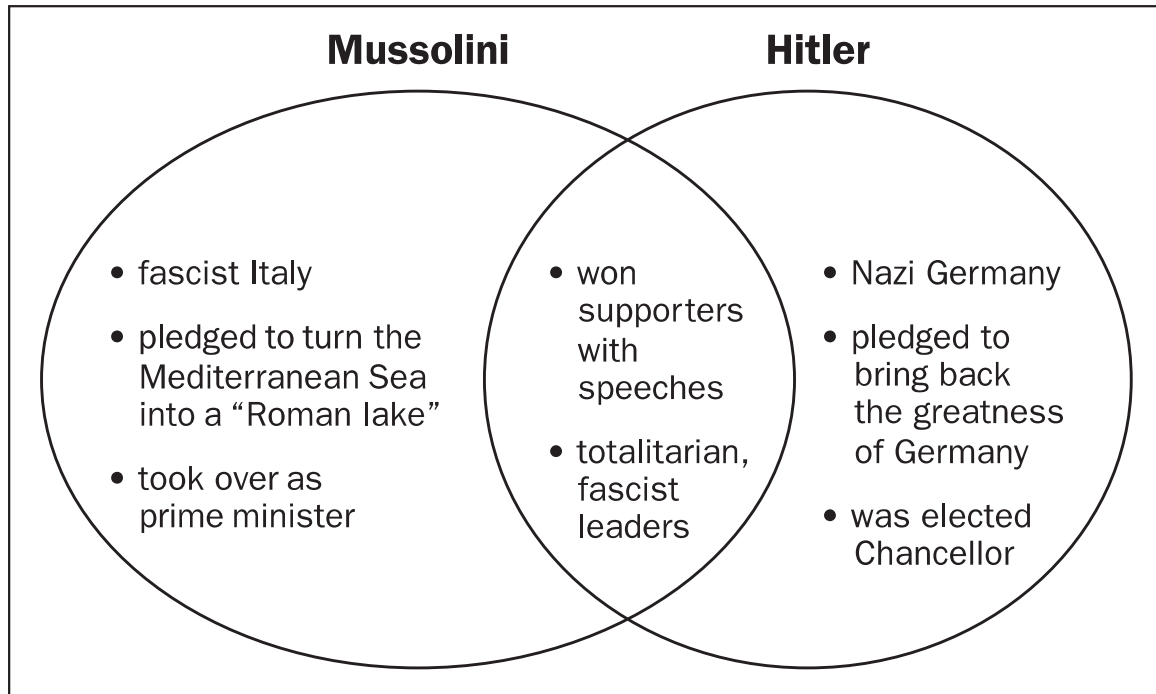
1. Hitler promised to create _____.
2. Hitler was elected _____ of Germany.
4. Hitler promised to take back the _____ that had been taken away from Germany.
5. Most people did not worry about the _____ Hitler used to rule.
6. The _____ Party believed in extreme nationalism and racism.
8. The Nazi police were called the _____.



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Venn Diagram – Dictators in Europe

Use the Venn diagram to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.



1. How did Hitler come to power?

2. Who was the leader of fascist Italy?

3. What did the two leaders have in common?



Quiz: Hitler Comes to Power

True/False

Decide if each statement is true or false, and write “true” or “false” in the blank.

_____ 1. Hitler was the leader of Italy’s Nazi Party.

_____ 2. Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf* while in prison.

_____ 3. The Nazi Party believed in democracy.

_____ 4. Hitler used terror to rule.

_____ 5. The Nazi police were called the SS.

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

6. The Nazis controlled Germany’s _____.

- A. government
- B. religion
- C. education
- D. all of the above

7. Hitler believed the Germans belonged to a “master race” of _____.

- A. Jews
- B. Slavs
- C. Aryans
- D. Nazis

Short Answer

Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. What was one thing that Hitler promised the German people?
