



The Lean Years of the Nazi Party

1924-28

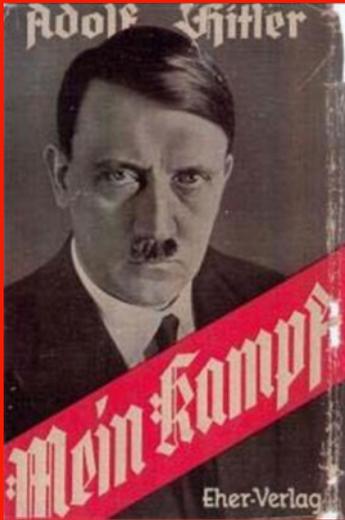
National Socialism



1924: Nazi ideology

- **The German (Aryan) race was destined to rule the world**
- **There was a Jewish conspiracy to stop that including:**
 - **weakening the Aryan race by intermarriage**
 - **by taking over German industry**
 - **influencing moderate political groups**
- **Nationalism**, **reviving the power of Germany by reversing the Treaty of Versailles,**
 - **Lebensraum (living space for the Aryans) by taking land from Russia and Eastern Europe**
- **Socialism**, **using industry and land to benefit German workers, not the rich landowners and industrialists**
- **Totalitarianism**, **getting rid of democracy, putting the power into the hands of the state with one leader**
- **Traditional German values** – **Strong family, clear female and male roles, strong work ethic, Christian morality and old style music, art and theatre**

Mein Kampf



Sooner will a camel pass through a needle's eye than a great man be 'discovered' by an election.
-Adolf Hitler (Mein Kampf)

For when a people is not willing or able to fight for its existence-- Providence in its eternal justice has decreed that people's end.
-Adolf Hitler (Mein Kampf)

Only in the steady and constant application of force lies the very first prerequisite for success.
-Adolf Hitler (Mein Kampf)

The personification of the devil as the symbol of all evil assumes the living shape of the Jew.
-Adolf Hitler (Mein Kampf)

1924 – Hitler is released from prison...



- Released 20th December 1924 after just 9 months of his 5 year sentence
- Ban on the NSDAP was lifted on 16th February 1925
- NSDAP was relaunched 27th February 1925
- The lenient treatment of Hitler and the Nazis was common for right wing attacks on Weimar
- 'Ballot not Bullet' was now key in future decisions
- Hitler realised that he would need complete control in order to move forward

Things had to change if the Nazis were to really recover from 1923...

Central HQ remained in Munich

Party created departments within it:

- finance
- foreign affairs
- Industry
- Agriculture
- Education

New secretary and treasurer ensured the party was now more organised and financed

SA had grown to 400,000 by 1930, but Hitler didn't trust them, they were violent thugs and difficult to control. Image was changed emphasising discipline and order

Party reorganisation:

Germany was divided into 35 regions called a **Gaue**, each Gaue had a leader (**Gauleiters**) – meaning the Nazis were now much more efficient and national than before 1924

- **Gregor Strasser** famous in the North
- **Joseph Goebbels** in the Rhineland

Nazi organisations:
Hitler Youth created for 14-18 year olds, Nazi student's league, Women's league, Teacher's League

Appealing to rural voters was now crucial as farmers were suffering economic hardship

Hitler created the **SS** (protection squad) in 1925. They became more trusted personal bodyguards. Led by **Heinrich Himmler**, 3000 members by 1930, feared and known as the blackshirts

Money was raised from wealthy industrialists who shared some of Hitler's nationalist views. They also got loans from big businessmen like Hugo Boss, Henry Ford Thyssen, Krupp and Bosch

Propaganda: Posters, newspapers, rallies, anti-semitism

Over all, the Nazi Party had reorganised themselves as a 'proper' respected party with national reach



The Bamberg Conference 1926

It was clear by 1926 that the Gauleiters were creating a split in the Nazi Party.

Some emphasising the **Socialist** part of National Socialism, attacking business and landowners (Goebbels & Strasser)

Some emphasising the **Nationalist** agenda, a strong Germany and action against the Jews (Hitler)

The Bamberg Conference 1926

The conference was called to address this issue

- Hitler spoke for 5 hours attacking the Socialist wing of the party, suggesting they were communists and therefore enemies of the Nazis
- Hitler tried to bring Goebbels over to his more nationalist viewpoint and was successful with Strasser calling Goebbels a 'scheming dwarf'

Impact:

- Hitler's control of the party was now clear
- Goebbels made Gauleiter of Berlin
- Strasser declared loyalty to Hitler but was murdered in 1934
- The Socialist principles of the Nazis were weakened



So, this had all been going largely in the background from 1924-29 **WHY?**

'Golden Age'

By 1929, the Nazi Party were well organised, 100,000 members, Hitler had tight control and they were a legit, national party with appeal to many classes. Propaganda was used effectively, SA and SS were formed and finances improved from wealthy businessmen

We still call these years the 'Lean Years' though

Stick your copy of this diagram in your book and then summarise the reasons for the relative weakness of the Nazis, **concluding the biggest reason the Nazis had achieved so little by 1929**

Other reasons to add...

- 5) People still remembered the Munich Putsch disaster & aggression
- 6) Little support from police or army
- 7) Workers voted for left wing parties or SPD
- 8) Too violent / Extreme (SA/SS)

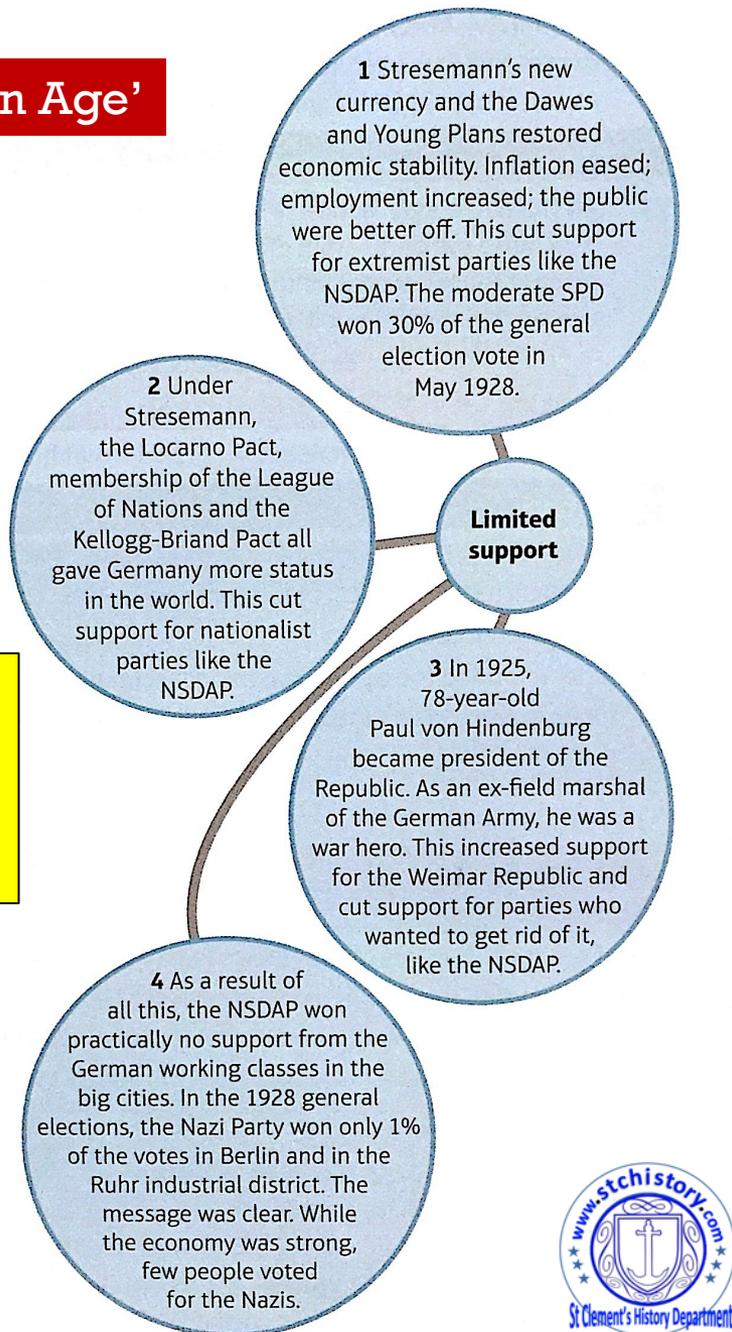


Figure 2.3 Reasons for limited Nazi support, 1923–29.

In the elections during these 'Lean Years' (1924-29) moderate parties did very well and all extreme parties lost ground...

Election of May 1928:

- Nazis won only 12 seats (from 32 in 1924)
- Only the 7th biggest party
- Polled just 810,000 votes, 2.6% of the vote

Create an election poster for the Nazi Party for the 1928 elections

You should consider showing how the Nazi Party has changed since the Munich Putsch and consider how you can reflect an appeal to as many types of people / classes as possible, the rich, poor, farmers etc...

