

Rise of Hitler in Germany Name: _____ Prd: ___ Score: ____ /20

Directions: Highlight the answer in the text on the left before answering the questions on the right.

When World War I (WWI) ended in 1918, millions of German soldiers came home, hung up their uniforms & went looking for work. But for many, there was **no work**. **Factories & businesses had been destroyed** in the war. The **wealth of Germany had been used up**. **A raging inflation**, or rise in prices, **made German money practically worthless**. By 1924, Germans needed a shopping bag full of money just to buy their groceries! Many German citizens saw their life savings become worthless in a matter of weeks!

The Germans felt angry & helpless to do anything about their broken economic situation. And they felt that their government was too weak to improve things. The German Empire had disappeared after the war. In its place was a democratic government. But many Germans blamed this government for the peace terms in the Treaty of Versailles that Germany had been *forced to accept* after WWI.

Germans were not used to living in a democracy. Since the days of Bismarck, Germany had been ruled by an *iron-handed* government. Most Germans were used to obeying their government instead of participating in it. And they were very divided. In election after election, no party won enough votes to provide the strong leadership Germany needed...

In this mood, many Germans turned to extreme answers. Some Germans gave strong support to the Communist party. Others turned to the opposite extreme. They joined a party led by a *fanatical* former army corporal. His name was **Adolf Hitler**, & the party he led was the National Socialist party, or **Nazi** party for short.

The true appeal of the Nazi movement lay in its doctrines of extreme **nationalism**, hate & its emphasis on German greatness. Hitler preached hatred against Socialists & Communists. He also preached hatred against the Jews. He looked upon Poles, Slavs, the French, Italians, Africans, Asians ~ almost everyone but the people of northern Europe ~ as *inferior & not "pure."* To Hitler, the Germans were a "**master race**."

He argued that Germany had not really been beaten in WWI. Germany lost the war, he said, because it had been betrayed...& the *chief* traitors were, in his opinion, the Jews.

How did German soldiers find Germany when they returned from WWI?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| a. jobs were widespread | d. in an inflation |
| b. wealth was readily available | e. a & b only |
| c. destroyed & jobless | f. only c & d |

A raging rise in prices is called _____.

Germany was in disorder due to _____.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| a. their weak government | d. the disappearance of the German Empire |
| b. sanctions from the Treaty of Versailles | e. all the above |
| c. Germany's poor economy | f. only a, b & c |



Another word for fanatical is _____.

(Use a thesaurus, if you need to!)

Hitler reserved his hatred for _____

as inferior & not "pure."

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| a. Communists & Socialists | d. Slavs & Poles |
| b. Asians & Africans | e. all the above |
| c. French, Germans & Italians | f. only a, b, & d |

BONUS: Making inferences: What did Hitler mean by the statement "Germans were the 'master race'?"

However, Hitler set aside his greatest hatred for _____, whom he thought had betrayed Germany.

Many Germans listened to Hitler because their nation was in a bad way. Hitler said his program would restore Germany to greatness! He would make Germany's economy strong!! And he would also make Germany a world power again!!!

In the 1920's, Hitler built up a large following. He also got a big boost when he won the support of many German generals & business people. Privately, most hated Hitler, & he hated them! However, believing that Hitler would save Germany from a Communist takeover, they gave him money & support.

The Great Depression of the 1930's gave Hitler his big chance. His promises to create jobs & restore Germany greatness were appealing. In 1932, Hitler received about 1/3rd of the national election vote. He was now a major power in German politics! The next year, he was appointed chancellor of Germany.

Now, Hitler was able to put his policies into practice. He abolished the republic & proclaimed a new empire. He called it the **Third Reich**. It would last a 1000 years, he promised. He also gave himself the title, **Fuhrer**, meaning "leader."

In some ways, the life of a laborer in Nazi Germany was not easy. One of Hitler's first acts had been to abolish unions. Without union protection, workers were soon laboring as many as 70 hours a week. Still, most workers did not see their lives as that difficult. The average wage was 36 marks a week. This was 10 times more than a worker could receive in payments if he was unemployed. Soon, unemployment dropped dramatically, from 6 million in 1932 to 1.5 million in 1936. German workers were no longer victims of the Great Depression. Once again, they were proud wage earners.

The Nazis also did their best to improve the workers' leisure time. Workers enjoyed sporting events, music recitals, theater performances, & adult-education courses. Hitler provided these benefits because the Nazis were not popular among workers. He knew that he had to win their support. Eventually, he did.

Hitler brought the German economy back to life. Suddenly, factories were running again. Some were building weapons, even though the Treaty of Versailles forbid Germany to have arms. Factory owners were once again becoming rich. *They were only too happy to support Hitler.* This increased Hitler's popularity & his power.



T or F: Believing Hitler could save Germany, Germans loved him & gave him money & support.

By 1932, Hitler was *chosen* _____ of Germany by receiving 1/3rd (that's _____%, you know) of the national election vote.

Putting it all together: Match the description to its term.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| _____ Third Reich | a. National Socialist party |
| _____ Nazi | b. title meaning "leader" |
| _____ Fuhrer | c. German's new empire |

I. Life of a laborer in _____ Germany

- A. *abolishment of* _____
1. some *worked 70 hours a* _____
 2. *average wage 36* _____ *per week*
- B. _____ *dropped!*

II. workers *no longer victims of the*

_____ ;
now proud wage earners!

Leisure time *including* _____ events, _____ recitals, _____ performances & adult - _____ classes were *provided to the German people in order* _____ *to win their* _____.



Hitler's popularity *increased* because

- a. the economy was alive.
- b. factory owners were rich again.
- c. factories were again up & running.
- d. all the above
- e. only b & c

Children, too, played a part in Nazi Germany. Groups known as **Hitler Youth** were organized. All German boys & girls had to join. Hitler Youth children participated in vigorous athletics & worked hard to help harvest Germany's crops. They were trained also to love Germany & devote themselves to Hitler.

Here is one of the pledges they made:

You, Fuhrer, are our commander!
 We stand in your name.
 The Reich is the object of our struggle.
 It is the beginning & the amen.

For many other Germans, however, life was grim. Hitler attacked all religious leaders who disagreed with him. He banned all political parties except the Nazi party. Books the Nazis did not like were burned. Anyone who objected to Hitler's brutal tactics was jailed or murdered.

But Hitler saved his greatest hatred for the Jews. He set about to wipe out (**purge**) all Jewish influence in German life. A Jew in Nazi Germany was suddenly not allowed to become a doctor, lawyer, teacher, or actor. Jews could then not fly the German flag. Eventually they could not marry non-Jews. When Nazi mobs looted & destroyed Jewish temples & shops & beat Jews in the streets, Hitler applauded. Eventually, he forced Jews to wear on their clothing a yellow, six-pointed Star of David with the word *Jew* written on it.

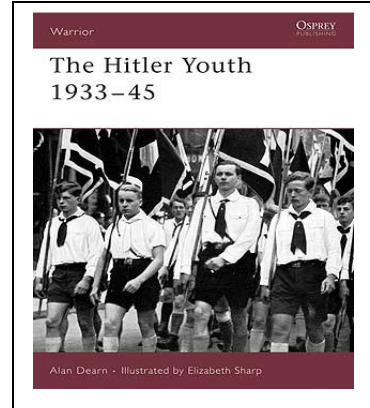
All of this, however, was only the beginning. Before the end of his career, Hitler had directed the most enormous crime in human history ~ *the slaughter of about 6 million European Jews, as well as hundreds of 1000s of other people he considered inferior & undesirable* such as the physically & mentally disabled, Slavs, Poles, Africans, Communists, & homosexuals.

At first, Hitler carried out these horrifying policies only within Germany. But as he became greater in power, he began looking beyond German borders to their countries. Germany had become cramped, he said. It must expand its territory in order to get living space.

The only way Germany could expand was through war. "Conquest is not only a right, but a duty," he told the German people. Today, he bragged, the Nazis rule Germany. Tomorrow, he promised, *Germany would rule the world!* **Germany & its Allies in WWII →**

The **Hitler Youth** was intended for _____.

- a. German girls
- b. vigorous athletics
- c. German boys
- d. harvesting crops
- e. devoting themselves to Hitler
- f. all the above
- g. only b & c



Hitler's brutal tactics included:

- ~ **attacking** _____ leaders *who disagreed with him*
- ~ **banning all** _____ except the _____ party
- ~ **burning** _____
- ~ _____ & _____ *anyone who objected to his methods*

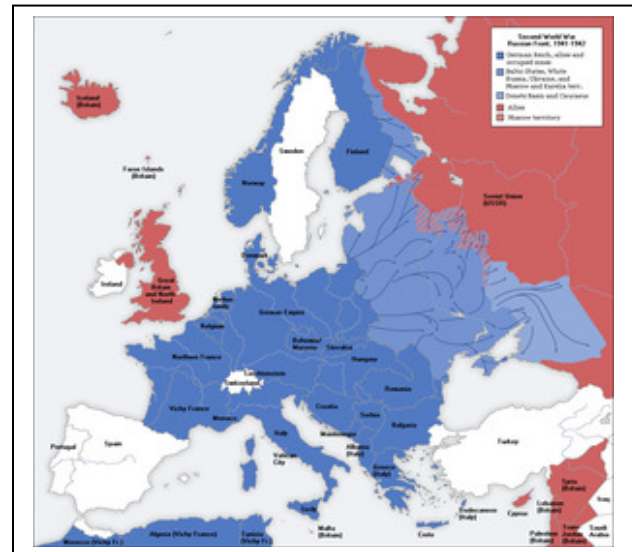
T or F: To **purge** also means to cleanse or get rid of.

Describe the restrictions for Jews in Nazi Germany:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Ultimately, **Jews were forced to wear** _____ **on all their clothing.**

By the end of **Hitler's** reign, he had **slaughtered over** _____ million European _____ **as well as 3 million others he declared unfavorable to his "master race."**



Hitler's plans for conquest had begun as early as 1935 & 1936 when his armies occupied the Saar River basin & the Rhineland ~ *in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles*. These industrial areas greatly increased Germany's economic might. He, then, set to take over lands near Germany which held large numbers of German-speaking people.

In March of 1938, German troops invaded Austria & took it over. Britain, France & the Soviet Union protested, but they took no action.

Hitler's next target was the Sudetenland, an area of Czechoslovakia near the German border. About 3 million German-speaking people lived there.

In the summer of 1938, Hitler announced that he would seize the Sudetenland by force on October 1 ~ *unless* it was given to him peacefully. If Hitler did attack, he ran the risk of conflict with Britain & France. Both of these countries had treaties with Czechoslovakia.

Europe held its breath, for war seemed certain! As his deadline approached, Hitler announced that this would be his "last territorial claim in Europe." The leaders of France & Britain thought that they could work out a compromise to avoid war. They decided to appease, or satisfy, Hitler by offering him the Sudetenland. In return, they *hoped* Hitler would not seek further territory.

As Britain & France stood aside, Hitler marched into the Sudetenland. Six months later, he took the rest of Czechoslovakia. Britain & France were stunned! The Nazi conquest of Europe was under way. In 1939, German troops poured into Poland, & ***World War II began!***



↑ Hitler eyeing the future occupation of Europe...

Putting it all together: Complete the outline below.

I. Hitler's plans for conquest

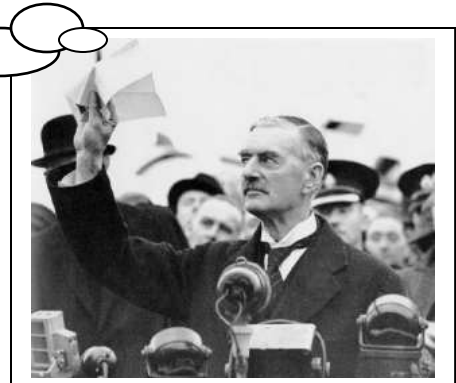
- A. 1935-6: **occupation of the Saar River** _____ & the _____ for industry
- B. 1938: **invasion of** _____,
- C. *upon threat*, Hitler & his troops *march into* _____ (area in Czechoslovakia)

II. Europe braces for war!

- A. eventually the rest of **Czechoslovakia** is seized
- B. _____ & _____ *stand on the sidelines waiting...*
- C. 1939: _____ is invaded!

III. WW II begins!

My good friends, for the 2nd time in our history, a British Prime Minister has returned from Germany bringing peace with honour. I believe it is. peace for our time



Chamberlain holds the paper containing the resolution to commit to peaceful methods signed by both Hitler and himself in 1938...*it was not to be!*