Hitler and the Rise of Nazi Germany
The Weimar Republic

- Govt. set up after WWI
- Led by a prime minister or chancellor
- Gave both women and men the right to vote
- Included a bill of rights
Problems of the Weimar Republic

- Many groups competing for power and influence
- Blamed for the Treaty of Versailles
- Reparations – In 1923 Germany was unable to make reparations payments → **Germany began to print more money.** This led to inflation – many Germans lost their savings, widespread misery and despair
- In the 1930’s Germany was also hit by the **Great Depression**
The Rise of Adolf Hitler

• Born in Austria in 1889
• Moved to Germany and joined an extremist group in 1919. This group would come to be known as the Nazi party.
• He attempted to seize power in 1923 and failed. He was put in jail. While in prison he wrote *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) which outlined the goals and ideology of the Nazi party.
• Goals and Ideology of the Nazis

– Extreme nationalism
– Racism
– Anti-Semitism – Hitler believed Germans belonged to a superior “master race” called Aryans (light skinned Europeans). Greatest enemies were the Jews. Hitler believed Jews were not a different religion but a different race
How Hitler came to be in power

• Great Depression was very hard on the German people (as unemployment rose, Nazi membership grew to ~ 1 million)

• Promised to end reparations, create jobs, and rearm Germany

• Elected chancellor by other members of the government (came to power legally)

• Wanted Germans to unite and expand to gain Lebensraum, or living space→other inferior races must bow to Aryan needs
The Third Reich

• Hitler took the title of *Führer*
• Hitler maintained power through the use of his SS troops and the **Gestapo** (secret police).—a.k.a Storm Troopers or Brown Shirts
• Brought the economy under state control
• Implemented public works programs
• “Hitler Youth” – pledged loyalty to Germany and participated in physical fitness activities
  *Suspended civil rights, destroyed the Communists, and disbanded other political parties* → Germany became a one-party state
Use of Propaganda

139. German Propaganda poster
(Nazi Propaganda Card)
Purging German Culture

- No modern art or music because it was corrupted by Jewish influence
- Textbooks were rewritten to reflect Nazi racial views
- **Burned books**, including *All Quiet on the Western Front* (it was an insult to the German military) and many others.
- Sought to stop Christianity by closing churches and silencing clergy
  *Used the Gestapo (secret police) to enforce his will*
Quote from Martin Niemoller, a German Protestant minister

- “The Nazis came first for the Communists. But I wasn’t a Communist, so I didn’t speak up. Then they came for the Jews, but I wasn’t a Jew so I didn’t speak up. Then they came for the trade unionists. But I wasn’t a trade unionist so I didn’t speak up. Then they came for the Catholics, but I was a Protestant so I didn’t speak up.

Then they came for me. By that time, there was no one left to speak up.”
Hitler begins his campaign against the Jews

• 1935 – **Nuremburg Laws** placed severe restrictions on Jews
  – Prohibited from marrying non-Jews
  – Prohibited from attending or teaching at German schools or universities
  – Prohibited from holding government jobs
  – Prohibited from practicing medicine or law
  – Prohibited from publishing books

- Nazis beat and robbed Jews and gathered mobs to join in.
- Many Jews, including Albert Einstein, fled to other countries
The "Nuremberg Laws" established a pseudo-scientific basis for racial discrimination. Only people with four German grandparents (four white circles in top row left) were of "German blood." Jewish is who descends from three or four Jewish grandparents (black circles in top row right). In the middle stood people of "mixed blood" of the "first or second degree." These bizarre distinctions had deadly consequences. As there were no real racial differences, the Nazis had to use a trick: a Jewish grandparent was simply defined as a person who is or was a member of a Jewish religious community.
Kristallnacht

• Kristallnacht means “Night of the Broken Glass”

• Occurred on the nights of November 9\textsuperscript{th} and 10\textsuperscript{th}, 1938.

• Nazi mobs attacked Jewish communities – smashed windows, robbed businesses, and burned synagogues. Jews were forced from their homes and beaten
Results of Kristallnacht

• Bad publicity for Germany, so it was not repeated
• Concentration camps set up to imprison tens of thousands of Jews
• Hitler began making plans for the “final solution” – extermination of all Jews.