

Causes of World War II

8th Grade Social Studies

Causes for Concern

- Post WWI Settlement (Treaty of Versailles)**
- Shifting world powers**
- The Great Depression**
- Rise of totalitarian dictators**

1—Post WWI Settlement

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBI6ZzaP2Uk>
- Europe didn't know how to keep the peace (League of Nations failed in USA)
 - Article 10—mandates collective security
- Germany & the War Guilt Clause
 - Had to pay \$80 billion in reparations (paid in full by 2010)
 - Lost land and pride
 - Restricted military (100,000 men; no tanks, aircraft, or submarines)
- Germans bitter towards the world



Post WWI Map

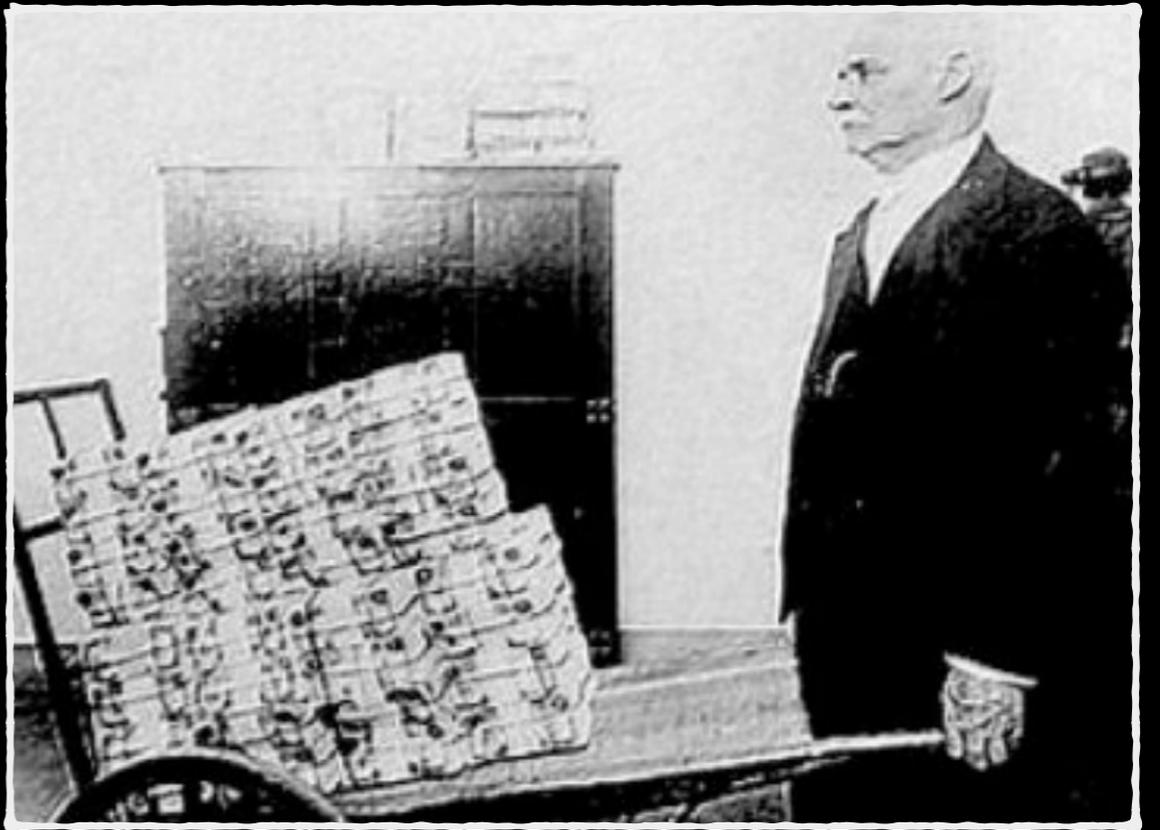
Map of Europe after WWI, showing German losses

2—Shifting World Powers

- Traditional European powers suffer losses after WWI (militaristically, economically, etc...)**
- New countries (U.S., Soviet Union) emerge as superpowers**
- Countries like Germany, Italy, and Japan show dangerous ambition for world dominance**

3—The Great Depression

- Many countries depended on U.S. for money—we aren't lending as much
- G.D. hit U.S., Americans stopped buying products from overseas
- U.S. banks lent money to war-torn nations—banks shut down when they don't get \$\$ back
- Countries take extreme measures to regain prosperity—nationalistic groups (i.e. the Nazis) are able to rise to power



4—Rise of Totalitarian Dictators

- **Some of the worst human beings ever to rise to power came between WWI & WWII**
 - **Adolf Hitler—Germany (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rZ4xwuAWFE>)**
 - **Joseph Stalin—Soviet Union (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_2of8pmHYU)**
 - **Benito Mussolini—Italy (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80etedJuu4k>)**
 - **Hideki Tojo—Japan (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKPUKpPBm00>)**



The “Mad Little Clown”

- Hitler's Early Life**
 - Father Alois (58) & Mother Klara (28)**
- Not a good student; wanted to be an artist**
- Hitler is abused by his father; Alois dies in 1903**
- Hitler moves to Vienna (Austria) to pursue art degree in 1907; rejected after 1st application**



Finally Fitting In...

- Fails physical in Vienna for Austrian army**
- Volunteers for German army**
 - Serves as messenger on Western Front during WWI**
 - Loves military service; hates those who do not**
- He finally feels accepted**
- Involved in gas attack and temporarily blinded**

Hitler & Foundation of Nazi Party

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEk6zGYwyhc>
- Nazis form in 1919 as “German Workers Party” & Hitler gets involved
- Actively participates as a speaker & becomes recognized as the party leader
- Comes up w/ a 25 Point Program
 - Unification of Germany
 - Only German citizens; no Jews
 - Government owns corporations (socialism)
- Creates a private army (SA or Storm Troopers—Brown Shirts)
 - Fought groups who opposed Nazis

German Government Problems

- Nazis try to overthrow German government (11/8/1923)**
- 2000 Nazis march through Munich; police open fire & kill 16 of them**
- Hitler arrested & put on trial; gains fame from this platform**
- Sentenced to 5 years in prison; only serves 6 months**

The Sideshow

- Hitler's trial was a circus**
 - Doesn't deny charges**
 - Admitted to wanting to overthrow government**
 - Portrays himself as a patriot—attractive to Germans who feel betrayed**

Mein Kampf



- “My Struggle”
- Puts forth many of his beliefs & ideas on race
- Argued for more “lebensraum” for Germans

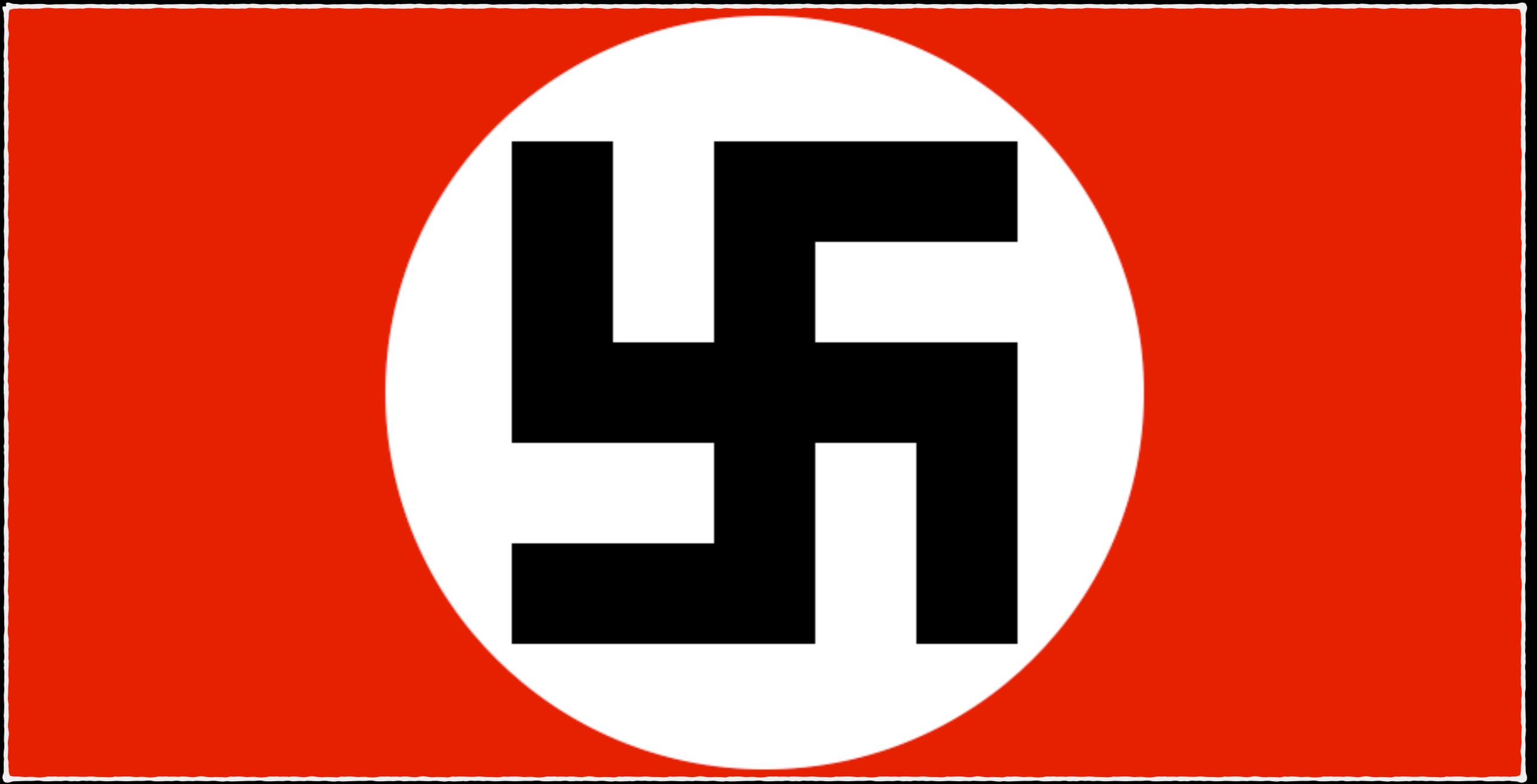
Hitler's Germany



- Depression brings Hitler to power
- His party receives over 13 million votes in 1932 elections
- Appointed chancellor of Germany in Jan. 1933
- Makes himself dictator in 1934 after president dies

Nazi Party

- Founded in the idea of nationalism**
- Blamed Jews & communists for problems Germany faced after WWI**
- Vowed to get revenge for the mistreatment at Versailles**
- Exerted their power through massive propaganda campaign and military might**



Swastika symbol

Infamous German flag with Swastika symbol on it

Hitler's Germany cont...

- Turns racist ideologies into living practice once he proclaims himself dictator
- Takes control of everything—schools, newspapers, radio, etc...
- Sent to concentration camps if opposed Nazi regime
- Bragged that the “Third Reich” would last for a thousand years