

# Depression to Dictatorship

## The Rise of Hitler

# Agenda

- Introduction to World War II – Why?, Importance of Studying, Lasting Legacy.
- Hand out – Lead Up to War and Underlying Causes of World War II.
- Chart to complete after today's class – for homework tonight.
- Rise of Hitler – key terms, common questions, his childhood and youth, his rise to power and contributing factors.

# Key Terms/Phrases

**Versailles Treaty** – ended World War One and suppressed German power.

**Reparations** - Payments made by a defeated country to the victors to make amends for losses suffered.

**Lebensraum** (Living Space) - A German term indicating the Germans' imperialistic designs on Europe. It also refers to the additional territory deemed necessary to the nation for its economic well-being.

**Anti-semitism** – prejudice against Jews alone and in general.

**Mein Kampf** – 2 part book written by Adolf Hitler in prison

**Nazism** - The abbreviation for National Socialist German Worker's Party. The fascist dictatorship under Adolf Hitler in Germany from 1933-1945.

**Weimar Republic** - The German democratic government from 1919-1933 formed after Germany's defeat in World War I. Its capital was located in Berlin.

**Third Reich** - The Third Empire. It refers to Hitler's name for his German Empire as a successor to the 1st Empire of the Roman Emperors (First Reich) and the Empire of Bismarck in 19th century Germany (Second Reich).

**Fuhrer** – Leader in German

**Aryan** – master race of people of North European decent.

If Hitler were alive and able to visit our classroom today,  
what questions would you ask him?



# Why Him, Why Then, Why There?

- **National Socialist German Worker's Party** – Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933. The Nazi ruled from 1933 – 1945 under his dictatorship. Competition
- **Oratory** – Hitler spoke to scores of mass audiences. He believed in a new empire which would rule the world for 1,000 years (Third Reich).
- **Anti-Semitism** – throughout Western World, Hitler used Jews as a scapegoat for problems in Germany
- **The Depression** – Hitler used the Depression to rise. The people of Germany were desperate for stability and prosperity. His promised a solution to their problems.
- **Versailles Treaty** – Hitler broke the Treaty and promised he would rebuild Germany. He began to re-build the army, Luftwaffe (airforce) and navy.
- **Propaganda** – Hitler used propaganda to spread his beliefs and “encourage” others to follow him.

# Contributing Factors

- **Alliances/Totalitarianism** – Rise of Fascist Dictators – Germany (Hitler), Italy (Mussolini) and Japan (Hirohito) formed the **Axis Powers**
- **Fall of League of Nations** – failed to prevent Italian invasion of Ethiopia and Japan invasion of Manchuria. Could not stop from Hitler annexing Austria, invasion of Poland
- **Appeasement** - European leaders' desire to please Hitler to prevent another war
  - allowed Hitler to break the Versailles Treaty
  - Allowed Hitler to annex countries which helped him achieve more “Lebensraum” for Germany
  - Munich Conference – Britain and France agreed to give Hitler the Sudetenland (part of Czechoslovakia). Thought this would satisfy Hitler need for more land.

# Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 1939 – The Spark Hitler Invades Poland



# Common Questions

- Was he Jewish – most likely not – grandmother worked for a Jewish family and had his father while working there.
- Why Jews – scapegoat, wealthy, anti-semitic
- Poland – gained some German territory after Versailles treaty, ethnic Germans
- Sudetenland – ethnic German area in Czech
- Propaganda - “He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future”.