

pride and will to propagate its race over the face of the earth." In 1924, he negotiated a treaty with Yugoslavia that gave Italy the city of Fiume. Three years later, Mussolini imposed a protectorate over Albania. But these victories did not satisfy Mussolini. In the 1930s, he turned his attention to Africa.

As you read in Chapter 27, Italy had acquired colonies in North Africa in the late 1800s. Italians still deeply resented their defeat in 1896 by Ethiopia. (See page 493.) In 1934, a clash on the border between Ethiopia and the Italian colony of Somaliland gave Mussolini an excuse to make territorial demands on Ethiopia. Ethiopia appealed to the League of Nations for protection against Italy. The league delayed action, and the world did nothing as Italy invaded Ethiopia in October 1935.

Eventually, the league called for economic sanctions against Italy. That is, league members agreed not to sell arms or lend money to Italy. But they did not cut off oil supplies to Italy, a move that might have slowed the Italian invasion.

The Ethiopians fought bravely, but their cavalry and ancient rifles were no match for Italian planes, tanks, and artillery. In May 1936, Ethiopia fell to the invaders. The next month, Haile Selassie (HĪ lee suh LAS ee), the exiled emperor of Ethiopia, traveled to the League of Nations headquarters in Geneva. Although he made a moving appeal for help, the league took no steps to rescue Ethiopia. In July, the league voted to end the economic sanctions against Italy. For answers, see p. A 94.

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### SECTION REVIEW

1. Identify: Benito Mussolini, Black Shirts, March on Rome, corporative system, Haile Selassie.
  2. Why were many Italians dissatisfied with the government in 1919?
  3. (a) List three main ideas of fascism. (b) Who supported fascism?
  4. How did Mussolini increase his power after 1922?
  5. (a) Why did Mussolini invade Ethiopia? (b) What was the outcome of this invasion?
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## 4 The Rise of Nazi Germany

At the end of World War I, Germany was shaken by terrible inflation. Although the German economy recovered from inflation in late 1923, the nation faced other problems. As in Italy, a fascist political movement led by a discontented war veteran, Adolf Hitler, gained popular support in the 1920s. In the next decade, Hitler rose to power and established a brutal totalitarian state in Germany.

### The Weimar Republic

Two days before World War I ended, Germany became a republic. The new government held its first national assembly in the town of Weimar. Thus, Germany in the 1920s was often called the Weimar Republic. The new government was led by moderate socialists in its early years.

The Weimar Republic faced enormous problems from the start. It had been discredited in the eyes of many Germans when its representatives signed the hated Versailles Treaty. German generals and other war veterans claimed that Germany had not been defeated but had been "stabbed in the back" by communists, Jews, and liberals in the Weimar government. Although these accusations were untrue, many people looked for someone to blame for the German defeat in World War I.

Political extremists caused unrest in postwar Germany. On the far left were communists, who supported the Marxist idea of world revolution. On the far right were fascists and extreme nationalists, who denounced the Versailles Treaty and opposed the democratic constitution of the Weimar

Republic. Revolts by both communists and fascists rocked the Weimar Republic in its early years.

Economic difficulties were exploited by enemies of the Weimar Republic. The inflation of the early 1920s and, later, the Great Depression swelled the ranks of the discontented. Political and economic chaos in Germany created a climate that favored the rise of Adolf Hitler, the fanatical leader of the Nazi party.

## Adolf Hitler

Hitler was born in Austria in 1889, the son of a customs official. He dropped out of high school in 1905 and two years later moved to Vienna, where he tried unsuccessfully to become an artist. During his stay in Vienna, Hitler listened to Austrian nationalists who stressed the close ties between German-speaking Austria and Germany. He also picked up the violent anti-Semitism, or hatred of Jews, that many Austrian and German nationalists preached.

When World War I broke out, Hitler enlisted in the German army. He emerged from the war an extreme nationalist and echoed the ideas of those Germans who believed their country had been stabbed in the back. Hitler settled in Munich, Germany. His skill as a public speaker made him popular among extreme nationalists. By 1921, Hitler had gained control of the National Socialist German Workers' party, better known as the Nazi party.

## Growth of Nazi Power

Only about 6,000 people belonged to the Nazi party in 1921, but the party grew rapidly. The disastrous inflation of 1922 and 1923 and French occupation of the Ruhr weakened support for the Weimar Republic. In wild, emotional speeches, Hitler attacked the Weimar Republic and denounced the Versailles Treaty. By 1923, Nazi party membership had climbed to 50,000.

Following Mussolini's example, Hitler believed he had enough support to overthrow the Weimar Republic. On November

8, 1923, he led an uprising in Munich. But he failed to ignite a general revolt, and the army quickly crushed the uprising. Hitler was arrested, tried, and found guilty of treason. He was sentenced to five years in prison but was released within a year.

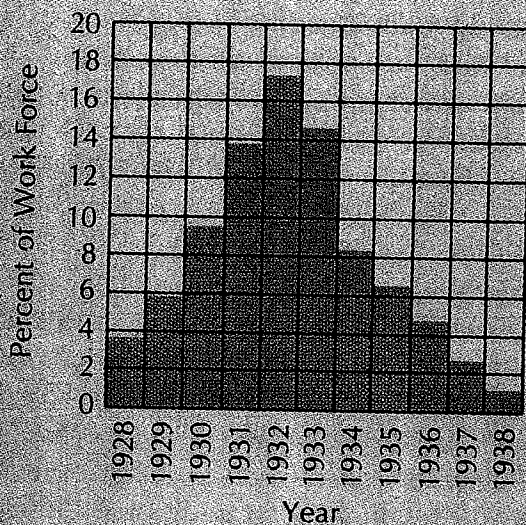
While in prison, Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf*, which means *My Struggle*. In it, he detailed his political ideas for Germany. Many Germans who read *Mein Kampf* and later heard Hitler's speeches came to believe in his ideas. Hitler claimed the German people belonged to a superior "Aryan" race that was destined to control inferior races and rule the world. Hitler considered Jews an inferior race. He blamed Jews for Germany's economic troubles and for conspiring with communists to further the cause of world revolution. In addition to Jews and communists, he attacked the Soviet Union as an obstacle to German expansion.

When Hitler emerged from prison in 1924, he found the Nazi party had lost much of its strength. Hitler worked hard to rebuild the party, promising benefits to peasants, workers, and the middle class. He also won support from some wealthy business leaders. The Great Depression greatly helped the Nazis. As unemployment rose, thousands of desperate people flocked to local Nazi party headquarters in search of a free meal and companionship. (See the graph on page 600.) They also found hope in Hitler's ideas. Between 1928 and 1932, the Nazis won more and more seats in the Reichstag, the German legislature.

By 1932, the Nazis had become the largest single party in the Reichstag. On January 30, 1933, German president Paul von Hindenburg asked Hitler to become chancellor. Because the Nazis did not have a majority of seats in the Reichstag, Hitler had to form a coalition government. However, Hitler moved swiftly to increase his power.

Hitler called for elections in March, hoping to increase Nazi strength in the Reichstag. A week before the elections, a fire, probably set by the Nazis, destroyed the Reichstag building. Hitler accused communists of setting the fire and of planning a revolt. He used the threat of a communist

## Unemployment in Germany, 1928-1938



Source: Angus Maddison, *Economic Growth in the West*.

■ In Germany, as elsewhere around the world, unemployment soared during the Great Depression. By the late 1930s, however, unemployment in Germany had dropped to much lower levels than it had in Britain or the United States. (See the graph on page 578.)

uprising to convince President von Hindenburg to issue emergency orders abolishing freedom of speech and assembly.

The Nazis did not quite win a majority in the March elections, but Nazi delegates managed to force the Reichstag to pass the Enabling Act. This act gave Hitler dictatorial power for four years. After the passage of this act, Hitler needed less than a year to eliminate all opposition parties and establish a fascist state in Germany.

### Establishing the Third Reich

When President von Hindenburg died in August 1934, Hitler combined the offices of president and chancellor. He adopted the title "Führer" (FYOOR uhr), or leader. He also proclaimed the birth of the Third Reich, successor to the Holy Roman Empire and the German Empire, which had lasted from 1871 to 1918. The Third Reich, boasted Hitler, would last a thousand years.

**Totalitarian rule.** Hitler used many of the methods of Stalin and Mussolini to build a totalitarian state in Germany. In June 1934, he rounded up rivals in the Nazi party and hundreds of political opponents and had many of them murdered. He established a secret police, the Gestapo, to hunt down and arrest anyone suspected of opposing Nazi rule. New laws were passed that made the good of the state more important than individual rights. Hitler also sought and won the loyalty of army officers, who responded eagerly to his plans for German expansion.

The Nazis extended their control to every aspect of life, including the press, schools, and religion. Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's minister of propaganda, made radio stations play military music and speeches glorifying the Nazi state.

Students were encouraged to join the Hitler Youth, an organization that taught military discipline, patriotism, and obedience to the Führer. Many young Germans enthusiastically wore the uniform and badge of the Hitler Youth, which promised excitement and advancement. The Hitler Youth helped Nazis round up "un-German" books, which were burned in spectacular public bonfires.

The government forced most private Roman Catholic schools to close because Hitler wanted all German children to attend public schools controlled by the Nazis. In 1935, the Nazis reorganized the Protestant churches in Germany and tried to force ministers to deliver pro-Nazi sermons on Sundays.

**Campaign against the Jews.** As he had promised in *Mein Kampf*, Hitler moved ruthlessly against German Jews. In March 1933, Jews were expelled from all government jobs and from teaching positions in the universities. Soon afterward, Jews were forbidden to practice such professions as law and medicine.\* The Nuremberg Laws of 1935 deprived German Jews of their citizenship and banned marriages between Jews and non-Jews. Furthermore, all Jews had to register with the government and wear a yellow Star

\*Many German Jews, including the well-known physicist Albert Einstein, emigrated to the United States.

of David on their clothing so they could be easily identified.

Nazi policy toward the Jews became harsher in 1938 after a Jewish youth murdered a German diplomat in Paris. On November 10, Nazis organized riots in a number of German cities. Many Jews were killed and hundreds of Jewish shops and synagogues were destroyed. Some 20,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration, or prison, camps. Persecution of Jews would intensify in the years ahead, as you will read in the next chapter.

## Hitler's Programs for Strengthening Germany

Like the Fascists in Italy, the Nazis in Germany preached the need for hard work, sacrifice, and service to the state. Hitler had grand plans for Germany. He promised economic recovery and the acquisition of "living space" beyond the borders of Germany.

**Economic recovery.** Hitler's major economic goals for Germany were to reduce unemployment and make the country strong and self-sufficient. He launched vast building programs, including housing, highways, and sports arenas. He ignored the Versailles Treaty, which prohibited German rearmament, and set about rebuilding the German military. Thousands of workers were employed by munitions factories that received huge orders for arms from the government.

To pay for his public works programs, Hitler increased taxes and imposed strict controls on wages and prices. He banned strikes and outlawed unions. Workers and employers were organized into the National Labor Front. Because wages were low, the National Labor Front offered workers inexpensive vacations and supported Nazi propaganda efforts to glorify labor.

In the 1930s, economic recovery became a reality. Unemployment dropped from 6 million in 1933 to 1 million in 1936. Moreover, the standard of living rose for the average worker.

**Plans for expansion.** German rearmament and the quest for economic self-sufficiency were both part of Hitler's plans for expansion. In *Mein Kampf*, Hitler had in-



*Book burnings were commonplace in Nazi Germany. Here, Nazis collect books to be destroyed. According to one proclamation, any book was to be burned "which acts subversively on our future or strikes at the root of German thought, the German home, and the driving forces of our people." Works of Jewish artists and intellectuals were burned. In addition, books by such American authors as Jack London, Helen Keller, and Upton Sinclair went up in flames.*

sisted that the "Aryan master race" was destined to rule "inferior peoples." He included the Slavs of Eastern Europe among the "inferior peoples." Thus, he claimed, Germany had the right to expand eastward and win the "living space" he felt Germany needed.

To prepare for German expansion, Hitler proclaimed in 1935 that Germany would disregard the Versailles Treaty. He proceeded to increase the German armed forces from the limit of 100,000 imposed in 1919 to more than half a million. He claimed that the growing size of the Soviet army justified this step and made German rearmament necessary.

The League of Nations condemned Hitler's actions but took no steps against Germany. (Hitler had already withdrawn Germany from the league in 1933.) However, France was frightened enough by Hitler's

ambitions to form an anti-German military alliance with the Soviet Union. Britain refused to be drawn into this alliance. In fact, the British signed a naval agreement with Germany in June 1935. This agreement recognized Germany's right to build submarines, even though the Versailles Treaty had specifically prohibited Germany from having a submarine fleet.

By the mid-1930s, Hitler had made German strength and determination clear to the world. As you will read in Chapter 33, the democratic nations of Western Europe and the United States were not united in their responses to Hitler's aggressions.

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## SECTION REVIEW

1. Identify: *Mein Kampf*, Paul von Hindenburg, Führer, Third Reich, Gestapo.
  2. List three problems facing the Weimar Republic in the 1920s.
  3. What ideas did Hitler develop in his early years?
  4. What effect did the Great Depression have on the Nazi party?
  5. What steps did Hitler take to ensure his power in the Third Reich?
  6. What were the results of Hitler's program for German economic recovery?
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## 5 Militarism in Japan

Japan had joined the Allies in World War I. It emerged from the war with a prosperous economy and the former German colonies in the Pacific. In the 1920s, Japanese manufacturing and commercial strength enabled it to move into many markets once dominated by the British. But as an industrial nation, Japan became increasingly dependent on foreign trade. Thus, when the Great Depression struck, its economy reeled from the effects of shrinking trade.

### An Era of Democratic Reform

In the 1920s, industrialization strengthened democratic ideas in Japan. As the Japanese economy expanded, it helped produce a well-educated middle class. These industrialists and businesspeople thought Japan should model its government on democratic institutions in the United States and Europe. The victory of the democratic Allies in World War I also added to the prestige of democracy in Japan.

Political parties gained greater power in the 1920s, and the tradition of unquestioned obedience to the emperor weakened. In the past, the emperor's advisors had named the prime minister. During the 1920s, the political party with the most seats in parliament gained this power. Thus, the prime minister

needed the support of parliament to stay in office. This made the government responsible to parliament and to the voters.

The Japanese introduced other reforms. In 1925, parliament passed a law that gave suffrage to all men over age 25. This law increased the number of voters by about 9 million. Other reforms in the 1920s included the creation of a national health insurance plan and the removal of some restraints on labor unions.

### Impact of the Depression

Because of its dependence on foreign trade, Japan was hit hard by the Great Depression. From 1929 to 1931, the value of Japanese exports fell by 50 percent. World demand for luxuries such as Japanese silk declined. Many Japanese businesses were ruined. Moreover, industrial nations imposed high tariffs on foreign goods in order to protect their own industries. As a result, Japanese manufacturers lost their foreign markets, and unemployment in Japan climbed.

Like governments elsewhere, the government of Japan seemed unable to solve the economic crisis. Critics denounced the government for its weakness. Many people, especially the military, grew impatient with the parliamentary system.