



REVISION – DAP/NSDAP



DAP/NSDAP (1919-1933)

MATERIAL: Morris = 285-327 / Wolfson = 194-232 / Rogers/Thomas = 111-128/155-191

FACTS DAP/NSDAP:

- **The German Workers Party (DAP = Deutsche Arbeiter Partei)** founded in January 1919
- **Adolf Hitler** was instructed to infiltrate the DAP and investigate their behavior...
- **1920 – February:** DAP changed their name to NSDAP – swastika party symbol
- **25-point party program** that included both **nationalism:**
Revision of the Versailles Treaty / The Union of all German speakers into a greater German Reich / State Control of Propaganda and Press' / The Führerprinzip / The exclusion of Jews from Citizenship Rights
and **socialism:**
Nationalize Trusts / Abolish Land Rents / Restrict Interests on Loans / Introduce Profit Sharing in the Industry / Confiscate Profits made by the Industry during the War / Create a People's Army
- **December 1920:** NSDAP bought a weekly newspaper – became *Völkischer Beobachter*
- **1921 (July 28th):** Adolf Hitler became the Party chairman
- **SA – Sturmabteilung founded 1921** (storm troopers) - leader Ernst Röhm
- **Jugendbund (or Jungsturm Adolf Hitler)** founded 1922
- Hitler had **strong support from Party key figures:** Alfred Rosenberg / Ernst Röhm / Hermann Göring / Rudolf Hess / Julius Streicher / Max Amann
- **November 8th 1923 – Beer Hall Putsch**
- **Trial and imprisonment:** Landsberg Prison – wrote his famous book *Mein Kampf*
Complete dominance of the leaders / Use of Propaganda / Race Superiority / Popular Folk Community / Enemies – Jews and Marxists... / Lebensraum (Living Space) / German Reich – extension of the Reich to include all German speakers / abolish the Versailles Treaty
- **Transform NSDAP:** NSDAP should transform into a major National Political Party
 - NSDAP should participate in democratic elections – then they should destroy democracy
 - NSDAP divided its organization into different regions (Gaue) all over Germany
 - NSDAP established a leader of each district – the Gauleiter
 - **Joseph Goebbels** – Gauleiter of Berlin 1930 – chief of Party propaganda
 - **Special sections** for students, teachers, farmers, lawyers, women and youth
 - The Party participates in the National elections May 1924
 - **The SS (Schutz Staffel = protection squad)** was set up in **1925**
- **NSDAP was still a divided party...**
- 1928 – the year before the economical collapse:
 - The structure of NSDAP was very effectively organized
 - The membership of the NSDAP had increased more than four times
 - Adolf Hitler's leadership was very authoritative and secure
- **Wall Street Crash 1929**
- Election September 1930
- Presidential election 1932
- Split left
- Election March 1932
- Election November 1932
- **Hindenburg appoints Hitler Chancellor – Why?**
 - Lobbying from personal friends and family
 - NSDAP would be a minority
 - Franz von Papen – vice-Chancellor



REVISION – NSDAP



DAP/NSDAP (1919-1933)

MATERIAL: Old Morris (HL) = 286-302 Newest Morris (SL) = 297-327 Traynor = 171-202/252-305

FACTS DAP/NSDAP:

- **The German Workers Party** (DAP = Deutsche Arbeiter Partei) was founded in January 1919 by Anton Drexler, a Munich locksmith and Karl Herrler, a reporter. They were from the beginning a local party who wanted to get involved in the politics of Bavaria. The Early DAP/NSDAP was mostly an Army Propaganda Unit (led by an extreme nationalist, supported by a paramilitary private army that was ready and willing to overthrow the State): _____
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- **Adolf Hitler** was appointed by the army (July 1919) as a *Verbindungsmann* (police spy) of an *Aufklärungskommando* (Intelligence Commando) of the Reichswehr to influence other soldiers. He was also instructed to infiltrate the DAP and investigate their behavior. Hitler joined the DAP in 1919. In March 1920 he was discharged from the Army. His former superiors continued to encourage his political engagement within the party. Hitler had a great talent as an orator, and his ability to draw new members, combined with his characteristic ruthlessness, soon made him the dominant figure in this small party: _____
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- **1920 – February:** DAP changed their name to NSDAP (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter Partei) – the National Socialist German Workers Party. The swastika became a party symbol and they lay out a **25-point party program** that included both **nationalism:**
 - *Revision of the Versailles Treaty*
 - *The Union of all German speakers into a greater German Reich*
 - *State Control of Propaganda and Press*
 - *The Führerprinzip*
 - *The exclusion of Jews from Citizenship Rights*and **socialism:**
 - *Nationalize Trusts*
 - *Abolish Land Rents*
 - *Restrict Interests on Loans*
 - *Introduce Profit Sharing in the Industry*
 - *Confiscate Profits made by the Industry during the War*
 - *Create a People’s Army based on the SA:* _____
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- **December 1920:** NSDAP purchased a weekly newspaper – the Münchener Beobachter (Munich Observer) and made into the Party newspaper – the Völkischer Beobachter (People’s Observer). Secret army funds and a donation from a private person paid for this. Hitler knew the importance of powerful meetings: In February 1921, Hitler spoke before a crowd of nearly six thousand in Munich. To publicize the meeting, he sent out two truckloads of party supporters to drive around with swastikas, cause a commotion and throw out leaflets, their first use of this tactic: _____
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- **1921 (July 28th):** Adolf Hitler became the Party chairman (after some internal power struggle where the old leader Anton Drexler was outmanouevred by Hitler). When the party had been first established, it consisted of a Leadership Board elected by the members, which in turn elected a Board Chairman. Hitler soon scrapped this arrangement. He acquired the title *Führer* ("leader") and, after a series of sharp internal conflicts, it was accepted that the party would be governed by the *Führerprinzip* ("leader principle"): Hitler was the sole leader of the party and he alone decided its policies and strategy:_____
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- **SA – Sturmabteilung founded 1921** ("Brownshirts"/"storm troopers"): In late 1921 Hitler had created a paramilitary group called the *Ordnertruppen* (a body of ex-soldiers and beer hall brawlers) in order to protect gatherings of the Nazi party from disruptions from Social Democrats and Communists. On November 4, 1921 the Nazi party held a large public meeting in the Munich Hofbräuhaus. After Hitler had spoken for some time the meeting erupted into a melee in which a small company of Ordnertruppen distinguished itself by thrashing the opposition. The Nazis called this event "Saalschlacht" (meeting hall battle). After this the organization came to be called the SA. Under their popular leader **Ernst Röhm**, the SA grew in importance within the Nazi power structure, initially growing in size to thousands of members:_____
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- **Jugendbund (or Jungsturm Adolf Hitler) founded 1922:** The Nazi Party created a youth section for young men between the ages of 14 and 18 years. Its successor, the Hitler Youth (Hitlerjugend), remained under SA command until May 1932:_____
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- Hitler had **strong support from Party key figures:**
 - **Alfred Rosenberg** – the Party Philosopher. Provided a lot of racial theories especially anti-Semitic views
 - **Ernst Röhm** – He formed the "Storm Troopers" – SA (Stormabteilungen)
 - **Hermann Göring** – A highly decorated fighter pilot from WWI. Introduced Hitler to many important figures in the Bavarian high Society
 - **Rudolf Hess** – A loyal friend who served together with Hitler during WWI
 - **Julius Streicher** – ran a rival right-wing party in northern Bavaria. In 1922 he decided to back Hitler. He brought along the newspaper "*Der Stürmer*" (an overtly anti-Semitic newspaper with a range of "seedy articles" devoted to sex and violence)
 - **Max Amann** – Became the publishing manager of the Party:_____
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- **November 8th 1923 – Beer Hall Putsch.** NSDAP under the leadership of Adolf Hitler tried to initiate a "*March on Berlin*" by capturing the highest officials of Bavaria on a local Beer Hall in Munich. Even though the putsch had open support by one of the old German Commanders from WWI – **General Ludendorff**, it failed. When around 3000 Nazis marched the day after to the centre of Munich shots were exchanged. 19 men were killed (16 Party Members and 3 Police Men). Hitler fled but was arrested a few days later. In prison he would change the political strategy of the party:_____
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- **Trial and imprisonment:** Hitler turned the trial against him into a propaganda number against the Weimar Republic. He was sentenced to 5 years in Prison. He served only 13 months at the Landsberg Prison (released in December 1924). In the prison wrote his famous book "*Mein Kampf*" (My Struggle) and he decided to transform NSDAP into an accepted National Party:_____
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- **Mein Kampf (released July 15th 1925):** This book outlines Hitler's view of Germany under his leadership, his ideology and his key foreign policies
 - Complete dominance of the leaders
 - Use of Propaganda
 - Race Superiority ("Aryans" – "Bearers of Culture" – "Inferior People")
 - Popular Folk Community (Volksgemeinschaft)
 - Enemies – Jews and Marxists...
 - Lebensraum (Living Space) – in eastern Europe
 - German Reich – extension of the Reich to include all German speakers
 - Abolish the Versailles Treaty: _____
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- **Transform NSDAP:** NSDAP should transform into a major National Political Party
 - NSDAP should contest democratic elections and then destroy democracy with a Legal Revolution after gaining power
 - NSDAP divided its organization into different regions (Gau) all over Germany – especially in the cities
 - NSDAP established a leader of each district – the Gauleiter who then had the responsibility to create the districts (Kreis) and the branch groups (Ort)
 - **Joseph Goebbels**, a former sympathizer of Gregor Strasser's more leftist ideas, became the Gauleiter of Berlin. From 1926 he became a most loyal supporter of Hitler. He created the newspaper "Der Angriff" (The Attack) and developed the propaganda within the party. In 1930 he was appointed chief of Party propaganda
 - **Special sections** for students, teachers, farmers, lawyers, women and youth were established or reorganized. The main organizer behind this efficient organization was Gregor Strasser. The effect shows clearly on the increase of membership: 1925 = 27,000 / 1926 = 49,000 / 1927 = 72,000 / 1928 = 108,000 / 1929 = 178,000 / 1930 = 300,000 / 1932 = 800,000
 - **The Party participates in the National elections May 1924** (while Hitler was still in prison) for the very first time. They received 32 seats (6.5%). In the December election 1924 the NSDAP had lost more than half of the previous voters. Now they received 14 seats (3.0%) and in the election May 1928 even less people voted for the NSDAP – 12 seats (2.6%). The general explanation for the decline of support in the elections was the relative economical and political stability of the Weimar Republic 1924-1928/1929. **NOTE:** at the same time the membership in NSDAP grew...
 - **The SS** (Schutz Staffel = protection squad) was **set up in 1925** as an elite body of black-shirted personal guard to the Fuhrer. They sworn an absolute obedience to the Fuhrer. It was a very small group from the beginning but they came to be the most influential group within the party after the "**Night of the Long Knives**" 1934: _____
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- **NSDAP** was still a **divided party**. It had a clear right-wing and a left-wing. Hitler relied more and more on the right-wing. The leaders of the left-wing were the brothers Gregor and Otto Strasser. Ernst Röhm and other influential SA leaders supported the left-wing. At a special party meeting 1926 (in Bamberg) it was decided that the party was going to be run according to the **Führerprinzip** (absolute obedience to the leader) which was a victory for Hitler but it was also established that the old Party Programme (the **25-point programme**) from 1920 remained unchanged. This was a victory for the left-wing: _____
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- 1928 – the year before the economical collapse:
 - The structure of NSDAP was very effectively organized
 - The membership of the NSDAP had increased more than four times since the election in December 1924

- Adolf Hitler's leadership was very authoritative and secure (except for the challenge of the left-wing under the influence of the Strasser brothers):_____
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- **Wall Street Crash 1929:** The NSDAP was ready to face the new challenges. They had the amount of members necessary to absorb the rapidly increasing amount of sympathizers and therefore we could see a steep increase in both membership and voters. In the election 1930 (September) NSDAP received 107 seats (18.3% - 6 million votes). The rising numbers of unemployed and continuous problems made NSDAP more than double their amount of voters (and seats) in the election May 1932. In the first election 1932 (July) NSDAP received 230 seats (37.3% – more than 1/3 of the German voters). This is the peak of Nazi success during the Weimar Republic. The NSDAP was now by far the biggest party in Germany. Hitler met with President Hindenburg and he demanded to be made Chancellor – Hindenburg refused:_____
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- **Presidential election 1932:** Hitler changed his citizenship (he was an Austrian citizen) so he could participate in the election to become Germany's President March 1932. Hindenburg won the election but Hitler came in second with over 37% of the votes (over 13 million people). This showed the new huge support for the Nazi movement:_____
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- **Split left:** SPD was the second biggest party with 133 seats and KPD the third biggest with 89 seats, but since they could not cooperate they did not pose a threat against the nearly total dominance of the Nazis:_____
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- **Election November 1932:** The election in November was a NSDAP setback. The Party received 196 seats (33.1% = -2 million votes). Part of the reason was big financial deficits which made it impossible to campaign like they had done in July. The financial problems together with the loss of 2 million voters caused a serious internal crisis. The radical left-wing started to put pressure on Hitler to seize power by force. Gregor Strasser accepted to be Vice-Chancellor under Kurt von Schleicher (this was an attempt to attract the majority of NSDAP away from Hitler and the right-wing). When von Schleicher failed Gregor Strasser left NSDAP:_____
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- **Hindenburg appoints Hitler Chancellor:** It was surprising that President Hindenburg changed his mind about Hitler and appointed him Chancellor even though NSDAP had lost voters and the split within the party was serious. So why did he do it?:
 - **Lobbing from personal friends and family:** The Cologne banker Kurt von Schröder, the old Chancellor Franz von Papen and Hindenburg's son Oskar von Hindenburg convinced him, against his own judgment.
 - **NSDAP would be a minority:** NSDAP would just receive three out of the eleven Cabinet seats (Ministers). The other seats were occupied by other conservative delegates.
 - **Franz von Papen – vice-Chancellor:** Von Papen had convinced Hindenburg that he could control Hitler. In early February he said to a conservative friend *"I have Hindenburg's confidence. Within two months we will have pushed Hitler so far into a corner that he'll squeak."*
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