

Reading 5A

TIMETABLE OF THE RISE OF NAZISM

Read all of Reading 5A, the “Timetable of the Rise of Nazism.” Then, answer the questions on the Study Guide by referring to the “Timetable.”

1.
 - a. November 9, 1918: Weimar Republic declared.
 - b. November 11, 1918: Armistice. Germany defeated in World War I.
2. June 28, 1919: Formal Treaty of Versailles is signed by representatives of the new Weimar government. Germany surrenders unconditionally.
3.
 - a. July 1919: Hitler joins the DAP, *Deutsche Arbeiter Partei* (German Workers Party), a nationalistic, anti-Semitic, anti-democratic group in Munich.
 - b. April 1920: Hitler gains leadership of the party and changes its name in order to draw voters from all sides. The new name is the National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP).
4. April 1920: Twenty-five point program of NSDAP is drafted. Three central ideas are:
 - a. Jews are a genetic threat to all good, pure Germans and to all “Aryans.”
 - b. All members of the Party (and after 1933, all citizens of Germany) must adhere to the *Fuehrer* Principle, the idea of complete obedience to the will of the leader. The point evolved from the twenty-five point program.
 - c. Germans must have more *Lebensraum*, living space, to be taken from the “inferior Slavic peoples in Eastern Europe (Russians, Poles, etc.)” The point evolved from the twenty-five point program.
5.
 - a. January 1923: French troops occupy the Ruhr Valley (German industrial region) because Germany falls behind in reparation payments to France. France demands that the coal mined by German workers from the Ruhr Valley be given to the French government as a substitute for the payments.
 - b. German coal miners in the Ruhr Valley begin “passive resistance” by striking. They are joined by other German workers—barbers, grocers, doctors, police—who refuse to serve the French. The Weimar government approves of this. Coal mines shut down and the government pays wages to the workers and any losses the companies incur. Billions of German marks are spent.
6.
 - a. April-November 1923: French troops anger German workers and citizens in the Ruhr Valley. Some Germans are upset at the lack of armed protest from the Weimar government.
 - b. German workers, with the secret blessing of the government, derail French trains, blow up bridges, attack French soldiers. German ultra-nationalist feelings, combined with extreme anti-French feelings, become widespread.

- c. The results of the French occupation are disastrous: 152 civilians are killed. The enormous financial loss suffered by the Weimar government in the Ruhr Valley makes money meaningless. The German government pays out 3.5 billion marks; inflation reaches unbelievable heights; one administration after another is voted out of office. Because of the economic turmoil, as money loses its value, people's life savings evaporate.
7. 1921-23: Rampant inflation. By October 1923, a trillion marks to the dollar. Bread and butter cost trillions of marks. A bushel basket of money would not even buy a loaf of bread, and a wheelbarrow of money bought a postage stamp.
 8. November 9, 1923: Munich (Beer-hall) Putsch. Hitler attempts to seize the Bavarian government in Munich. He is tried for treason, sentenced to five years and serves fewer than nine months.
 9.
 - a. 1924-1925: Ruhr evacuated by French troops because of the Weimar government's negotiations with France. Currency is stabilized in Germany. German reparations are reduced by the Allies. American and British loans granted to Germany.
 - b. As a result of the events of 1924-1925, Nazis do poorly in elections.
 - c. Weimar government gains strength.
 - d. In order to provide jobs for more people, the Weimar government begins to consider proposals to nationalize big industry and divide the large estates. Thus, powerful industrialists and wealthy aristocratic estate owners begin to support Hitler who is opposed to the Weimar Republic.
 10. October 1929: Depression. Unemployment rises. Foreign loans stop and are recalled.
 11. September 1930: Elections. Nazis go from 800,000 votes in 1929 to 6.5 million votes and from 12 to 107 seats in the *Reichstag* (Parliament), about 25 percent of the total.
 12.
 - a. 1930-1932: Nazi hostility toward the "November Criminals," a Nazi term for the founders and supporters of the Weimar Republic, increases.
 - b. Continuing to claim that Jews were the evil masterminds of the Weimar Republic, the Nazis increase their physical attacks on Jews and Jewish businesses.
 13. October 1931: Nazis, army generals, industrialists, financiers and aristocrats all form the "National Front" against Communism. Because of this, the NSDAP gains more respectability and receives large contributions of money.
 14. March 1932: Presidential elections. Hitler loses to Hindenburg but gets 13.5 million votes. In July, the NSDAP gets 230 seats in the *Reichstag*, 30 percent of the total.

15. January 30, 1933: Hitler is appointed chancellor of Germany by President Hindenburg.
16. March 23, 1933: The *Reichstag* approves the Enabling Act, which empowers Hitler to enact laws without the approval of the *Reichstag*.
17. July 14, 1933: The Nazi Party is proclaimed by law to be the one and only legal political party in Germany.