

Unit 6

Hitler and the Nazi State: Power and Control, 1933-39



David Low, *They salute with both hands now* (3rd July, 1934)

THIS PACK RELATES TO THEME 3 OF THE UNIT 6 SYLLABUS:

The Consolidation of power 1933-1939

- Examination of the obstacles to a dictatorship in January 1933.
- The consolidation of power in 1933 including: the aftermath of the Reichstag Fire, the Enabling Act, the abolition of Trades Unions and political parties, the Concordat with the Catholic Church, and Gleichshaltung.
- Examination of the consolidation of power in 1934 including: the tension between SA and Armed Forces 1933-1934, Rohm and the 'Second Revolution', continuing political violence, the Marburg Speech, the Night of the Long Knives, the oath of allegiance, and Fuhrer plebiscite.
- Examination of the consolidation of power from 1935-1939 including: the impact of the Berlin Olympics, economic recovery, radicalisation of policy, the resignation of Hjalmar Schacht in 1937, foreign policy success, the drive to war, and the Blomberg Fritsch Affair 1938

The aim is to read the text and work through the tasks in this pack. There is some overlap with the work that you did in Unit 3 but the objective here is to use the information to try and understand about the nature of the Nazi Dictatorship.

By the end should be able to answer the following questions:

- What were the most important events from January 1933 to August 1934?
- What opposition did Hitler face as he consolidated his position?
- How did he deal with this opposition?
- How was Hitler able to make more Radical or extreme decisions as he consolidated his power.

Resources:

'Weimar and Nazi Germany' - Hite and Hinton

'European Dictatorships 1918-1945' - Stephen Lee

'Germany and the Third Reich' - Geoff Layton

'The Third Reich' - DG Richardson

<http://www.colby.edu/personal/r/rmscheck/Contents.html>



GETTING POWER

The following 6 Tasks are taken from p1-6 in the resource pack

Task 1

Source 10.2 on page 1 is a speech Hitler made on the radio in January 1931. In it he appeals to the German nation for support for his regime.

Read it carefully and answer the following questions.

How does Hitler portray the Weimar Republic? Give some examples of the language he uses.

How does Hitler describe the new Germany? What emotions is he appealing to?

How does Hitler try to win support for his government? Who would this speech appeal to?

Task 2

Look at the diagram on page 1 of the resource pack.

Make a list of the problems that Hitler faced. What opposition did he face when he came to power?

Task 3

Look at Chart 10A, on page 2 of the document pack, and answer the following questions.

Which groups did Hitler appear to conciliate (make peace with)?

Which groups did Hitler try to suppress?

Why did he need to suppress these groups?

Make a brief comment on these statements. Using the information you have at the moment do you agree with them or disagree with them, explain why.

'Once in power, nothing prevented Hitler from imposing his ideas on Germany'

'Where he took more drastic measures, it tended to be policies which the elite welcomed, and which weakened the left.'

'Hitler was prepared to compromise on areas not crucial to him'.

Task 4

Read p3 of the Document pack and, using document 10.3 and 10.4, answer the following questions.

How did Hitler turn himself into a dictator within 18 months of getting to power?

Explain the importance of the Decrees in source 10.3 and the Enabling Act in source 10.4.

THE NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES

This part of the *Gleichschaltung* process shows how far Hitler was prepared to go to keep power. It was a foretaste of the brutality that was typical of Nazi Germany. Read pages 3 and 4 to see how Hitler destroyed opposition groups inside the Nazi Party.

Task 5

Now look at the diagram 10.C on page 5 of the resource pack and answer the following questions.

How does Rohm distinguish between a 'national revolution' and a National Socialist' revolution in source 10.6?

What do sources 10.6 - 10.8 show about Rohms view of the SA?

10.6

10.7

10.8

What does source 10.10 show about Hitler's view of the new state?

How fully do these sources explain why Hitler turned against the SA in the Night of the Long Knives?



WHY WAS HITLER ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER ON THE NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES?

Task 6

This is document based task so please read p6 of the document pack and answer the questions that follow.

What does each source infer about why Hitler was able to get away with the Night of the Long Knives

Source	Inference
10.12	
10.13	
10.14	
10.15	
10.16	
10.17	
10.18	
10.19	
10.20	

Are there any other reasons why Hitler got away with this act? (What about violence in Weimar?)



HOW DID HITLER DEAL WITH THE ARMY?

Task 8 is taken from p7-8 of the resource pack.

One of the most important, and conservative of the elites that Hitler had to deal with was the *German Army*. Obviously Hitler needed the army to put into effect his foreign policy plans but he had to be sure that it would be totally loyal to him. This was not guaranteed so in the documents on page 7 and 8 of the resource pack Stephen Lee explains how Hitler dealt with the Army.

Task 8

Read what Lee has to say and complete the following notes.

Why was Rohm demanding an extension to the powers of the SA by the middle of 1933?

Hitler did not want further revolution and he was worried that the German Army could defeat him. It would have been possible to defeat the army using the SA but he decided to turn on the SA instead. Can you explain this decision?

Why did the German Army (the Reichswehr) co-operate with Hitler?

What deal did the army do with Hitler?

What were the 2 results of the 'bloodbath'?

➤



How did Hitler Nazify the army?

What were the German Generals worried about?

From Feb 4 1938 Hitler personally commanded all the armed forces and until 1942 he was very successful. At first he used the expertise of his generals. (Invasion of Poland) But he was responsible for the attack on France and the invasion of Russia. Once he experienced defeat he was very resentful of the army command. He encouraged penetration of the Wehrmacht (army) by the fanatical Waffen SS. This completed the Nazification of the German military machine.

Explain briefly why the army were not able to prevent Hitler's domination.

GLEICHSCHALTUNG

These tasks are taken from page 9-12 of the resource pack

To get a broad view of how Hitler achieved *Gleichschaltung* (Co-ordination and consolidation) we should look at the views of other historians. To do this read pages 10-14 of the resource pack and complete the following notes.

Task 9

[1] P9-10 Geoff Layton

What do you think Layton means by 'revolution from below' and 'revolution from above'?

What does Layton say that *Gleichschaltung* means in practice?
'honeycombing'

'co-ordination'

What do you understand by the term 'particularism'?

How did the Nazis overcome this?

Why were the Trade Unions so easy to defeat?

How were other political parties dealt with? What was 'self *Gleichschaltung*'

[b] P11-12 DG Wiliamson

Hitler's success in co-ordinating Nazi rule can partly be attributed to terror but what else suggested more positive steps?

Who were the major potential opponents to Hitler and how did they think they could survive Nazism?

Who were the Right wing organisations that had proliferated before 1933 and what happened to them after 1933?

How did Hitler control Cultural life?
Broadcasting

Intellectual workers

Schools

Teachers and lecturers

In Universities

What happened to big business?

How did the Nazis deal with the Church?

This final task is taken from the diagram on page 13 of the resource pack
Task 10

To complete this work on how Hitler consolidated his power in the years 1933-1934 look at the diagram on page 14 of the resource pack. Be ready to discuss in class the following question.

'Why was there so little opposition to Hitler in his first crucial 18 months in power?'

You can make some notes in the following space

Historian A Bullock describes the way Hitler consolidated his power as a 'symbiosis [mixture] of legality and terror A characteristic interplay of 'legal authorisation from the highest level of government with a mixture of threats, blackmail and terrorism at local level.' Using your work from this pack do you agree with this judgement and what evidence is there to support it?