

History, Weimar and Nazi Germany

Lesson 12

## **Worksheet:**

# **The early development of the Nazi Party: What did Hitler believe in?**

Mr McNally



# Hitler's early life

Hitler was born in **Austria** in 1889 and was shaped by a number of key events in his early life. When his mother died in 1907, it is said that his doctor commented that he had never seen anyone so struck with grief than Hitler. In addition, later that year, Hitler was rejected from Vienna's famous art school.

In 1913, Hitler moved to **Munich** and joined the German army a year later. It was there where he won the **Iron Cross** (2nd class) for his bravery during the war. It was also during the war, where Hitler's **resentment** towards the **Weimar Republic** grew. He firmly believed in the **Dolchstoss** theory.



# Hitler and the DAP

After World War One had ended, Hitler stayed in the German military and worked for the **intelligence** agency. It was here that Hitler was first introduced to the **German Workers Party (DAP)**. Hitler was supposed to attend the DAP meetings and report back to the military with his findings. However, Hitler soon found himself attracted to some of the DAP's **nationalistic** policies.

Hitler delivered passionate speeches blaming the Weimar Republic for the failing of the First World War. He also complained of a Communist-Jewish **conspiracy** aimed at destroying Germany. The DAP meetings provided Hitler with a platform to share his views. In late 1919, Hitler became a member of the DAP.



# The German Workers Party (DAP)

The DAP were a right-wing nationalistic party who believed in purifying the German race. They were **anti-Semitic** and believed that the Jews were conspiring to destroy the German nation. They were also **anti-Democratic** who hated the Weimar Republic.

The DAP helped spread rumours of the Dolchstoss theory and the idea of the **November Criminals**. Arguably the biggest source of hatred for the DAP was the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, which to them, was a constant source of embarrassment to Germany.

The DAP also had **socialist** tendencies and wanted to curb the profits of the huge corporations and provide central government with more money. They also hated the **Communists**.



# Glossary

**Iron Cross** - A German military medal. Usually given for bravery in the war.

**Intelligence unit** - Spying or trying to find out more information about certain people/groups.

**Nationalistic** - Policies that strongly identifies with their own nation and vigorously supports its interests, especially to the exclusion or detriment of the interests of other nations.

**Anti-Semitic** - Hostility or prejudice towards Jewish people.

**Socialism** - a political and economic theory which advocates that the means of production should be owned or **regulated** by the central government.

**Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (DAP)** - German Workers Party was a short-lived political party, the precursor to the NSDAP.



# Comprehension Questions

1. What evidence is there to suggest that Hitler was a brave soldier during World War One?
2. How was Hitler first introduced to the DAP?
3. How were the DAP nationalistic in their ideology?
4. Challenge question: Explain why Hitler hated the Weimar Republic.

*P - One reason why Hitler hated the Weimar Republic was ...*

*E - This is because ...*

*E - This shows that Hitler hated the Weimar Republic because ...*

*L - Therefore, ... was a reason why Hitler hated the Weimar Republic*

