

History, Weimar and Nazi Germany
Lesson 20

How did the Nazis remove political opposition?

Miss Shanks



- **Who** are the three men in this cartoon?
- What does this cartoon make you think was the **reason** why Hitler became Chancellor?
- What do you **see** in the cartoon to make you think this?
- Do you have any **knowledge** about the events the cartoon is referring to?

Credit: Punch Magazine - January 1933 - The Temporary Triangle.
Courtesy of: Pearson



THE TEMPORARY TRIANGLE.

VON HINDENBURG AND VON PAPEN (together)—

“FOR HE’S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW,
FOR HE’S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW,
FOR HE’S A JOLLY GOOD FE-EL-Low,
(Aside: “Confound him!”)
AND SO SAY BOTH OF US!”





Source A

Hitler's reaction to the Reichstag Fire

Hitler... started screaming at the top of his voice. "Now we'll show them! ... Every Communist official must be shot. All Communists deputies must be hanged tonight. All friends of the Communists must be locked up. And that goes for the Social Democrats too."

- Based on this source, how does Hitler **feel**?
- **Who** does Hitler **blame** for the Reichstag Fire?
- Why do you **think** he wanted this group punished harshly?

Credit: Courtesy of Pearson



If this is the answer, what could the question be?



Answer	Possible question
1. 30th January 1933	When was Hitler appointed as German Chancellor?
2. 27th February 1933	
3. Marinus van der Lubbe	
4. Communists	
5. By using his emergency powers.	



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Answer	Possible question
1. 30th January 1933.	When was Hitler appointed as German Chancellor?
2. 27th February 1933.	When was the Reichstag Fire?
3. Marinus van der Lubbe.	Who confessed to setting fire to the Reichstag?
4. Communists.	Which political group was targeted with imprisonment as a result of the Reichstag Fire?
5. By using his emergency powers.	How did Hitler ban the Communists from taking their seats in the Reichstag?



What was Hitler's next step?



What?

- The Enabling Act

When?

- 24th March 1933

How?

- Methods used

- SA intimidated any opposition.
- Support from the Nazi, the National Party and the Centre Party.

Consequences

- Signalled the end of Germany being ruled as a **democracy!**

Passed by 444
votes to 94!

The Enabling Act allowed Hitler to create a dictatorship because...



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The Enabling Act allowed **Hitler** to create a **dictatorship** because it legally gave him the power to make laws for **4 years** without the consent of the **Reichstag**.



How did Hitler remove other opposition?

Gleichschaltung - The Nazis took a number of measures to control the lives of the German people. This control was called Gleichschaltung or 'co-ordination'.

Trade unions

- A group of workers who join together to keep, or improve, their conditions at work.
- All trade unions were **banned** on **2nd May 1933**.
- **German Labour Front (DAF)** created on **10th May 1933**.

Political parties

- Communist Party & Social Democratic Party.
- **July 1933** - Law against the Formation of Parties.
- Nazi Party is the **ONLY LEGAL PARTY** in Germany!

Local government

- 18 **Lander** (districts).
- Each had a parliament.
- **Hitler** did **not control** these local parliaments.
- **January 1934** - Abolishes Lander parliaments.
- **Hitler** chooses the governors!



What happened after Hitler became Chancellor?

Turning point

**The
Reichstag
Fire**

Enabling Act

**Trade unions
are banned**

**Other
political
parties are
banned**

**Abolition of
the Lander
(local
government)**

27th

February 1933

24th

March 1933

2nd

May 1933

14th

July 1933

January

1934



Comprehension Questions

1. Who was to blame for the Reichstag Fire on the 27th February 1933?
2. How did Hitler use the Reichstag Fire to increase his political power?
3. What methods did Hitler use to make sure the Enabling Act was passed in March 1933?
4. How did Hitler deal with opposition that remained after the Enabling Act was passed?
5. **Challenge question:** How far do you agree that the Reichstag Fire was the main reason why Hitler was able to create a dictatorship in Germany between 1933-34?

You could use the following sentences to help structure your answer

There is a strong argument that it was the Reichstag Fire which was the main reason why Hitler was able to create a dictatorship in Germany. This is because...

However, there are other reasons to explain why Hitler was able to create a dictatorship in Germany. For example...

Overall, I mostly agree/disagree that...



Comprehension Questions

1. Who was to blame for the Reichstag Fire on the 27th February 1933?
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Comprehension Questions

1. Who was to blame for the Reichstag Fire on the 27th February 1933?

Acceptable answer: **Marinus van der Lubbe** was to blame for the **Reichstag Fire**.

Good answer: **Marinus van der Lubbe**, a **Dutch communist** confessed to starting the fire in the **Reichstag**. **Hitler** used this to blame the **Communist Party** and **restrict their ability to oppose him**.



Comprehension Questions

2. How did Hitler use the Reichstag Fire to increase his political power?

Acceptable answer: **Hitler** used the **Reichstag** Fire to increase his political power by asking **President Hindenburg** to use **Article 48**.

Good answer: **Hitler** used the **Reichstag** Fire to increase his political power by asking **President Hindenburg** to use **Article 48** which would declare Germany in a **state of emergency**. **Hitler** then called an **election** to **increase his seats** in the **Reichstag** after **legally imprisoning opponents** from the **Communist Party**.



Comprehension Questions

3. What methods did Hitler use to make sure the Enabling Act was passed in March 1933?

Acceptable answer: **Hitler** used violent and threatening tactics against his opponents.

Good answer: **Hitler** used members of the **SA** to use violent and threatening tactics against opponents of the Enabling Act. He also had **additional support** within the **Reichstag** from the **National Party** and the **Centre Party**.



Comprehension Questions

4. How did Hitler deal with opposition that remained after the Enabling Act was passed?

Acceptable answer: **Hitler** dealt with opposition that remained after the **Enabling Act** by banning groups such as trade unions and other political parties.

Good answer: After the **Enabling Act** was passed **Hitler** dealt with the remaining opposition in a **variety of ways. He banned trade unions, made the Nazi Party the only legal political party in Germany and abolished the Lander parliaments.**



Comprehension Questions

5. Challenge question: How far do you agree that the Reichstag Fire was the main reason why Hitler was able to create a dictatorship in Germany between 1933-34?

Examples of what you could have mentioned to agree...

- The **Reichstag** Fire gave **Hitler** the opportunity to ask **President Hindenburg** to use **Article 48**.
- **Hitler** was able to **legally imprison** any political opposition such as the **Communist Party**.



Comprehension Questions

5. Challenge question: How far do you agree that the Reichstag Fire was the main reason why Hitler was able to create a dictatorship in Germany between 1933-34?

Examples of what you could have mentioned to disagree...

- **Hitler** being appointed as **Chancellor** - 30th January 1933
- **Enabling Act** - 24th March 1933
- **Gleichschaltung** - Policy to have every aspect of life under the control of the Nazis.
- **Banning trade unions** - 2nd May 1933
- **Banning political parties** - 14th July 1933
- **Abolition of the Lander parliaments** - January 1934

