

History, Weimar and Nazi Germany

Lesson 15

**Worksheet:**

**What were the consequences of the Munich Putsch?**

Mr McNally



# The Munich Putsch, 1923

The **Munich Putsch** was an attempt from **Adolf Hitler** and the **NSDAP** to **overthrow** the **Bavarian** government and then remove the Weimar Republic. Due to the crisis of 1923, the NSDAP had seen a surge in support for their party. In addition, many of the Bavarian leaders, such as **von Kahr**, had **nationalistic** tendencies. Hitler believed that they would join his cause.

Hitler and the **SA** marched to beer hall where the Bavarian politicians were meeting and demanded, at gunpoint, that they joined his cause. Initially von Kahr agreed but later went back on his word after **Ludendorff** allowed him to leave.

Von Kahr raised the army which quickly put an end to the attempted Putsch.



# Consequences of the Munich Putsch

After the Putsch was stopped the leaders, including Ludendorff and Hitler, were arrested and put on trial. There was huge national interest in the court case and Hitler used this platform to share the Nazi **ideology**. The judges, who were already sympathetic to the right-wing, freed Ludendorff and gave Hitler an extremely lenient sentence. Hitler was to serve 9 months in **Landsberg Prison** for his crime. The maximum punishment could have been death!

In addition, the NSDAP was initially banned although it restarted in 1925. In the short-term it had a very negative impact on the NSDAP.



# Consequences of the Munich Putsch

Whilst in prison, Hitler decided to adapt his party's approach to gaining power. He realised that gaining power through a revolution was not going to work. As a result, he rearranged the NSDAP so they could appeal to the electorate and gain power through democratic means.



# Mein Kampf

Whilst in prison Hitler decided to write a book called **Mein Kampf** (My Struggle). In this book he outlined his political ideology. It recorded his racist and **antisemitic** views in which he believed in a superior **aryan** race. He also claimed there was a Communist/Jewish conspiracy aimed at destroying Germany.

Other themes in the book were based on the hatred of the **Treaty of Versailles** and the need for **Lebensraum**. Hitler also stressed the need for traditional German values to be followed, which had specific roles for women and men. Women were expected to look after the family whilst men went to work.

Despite wanting the NSDAP to be **democratically** elected, Hitler also wanted to get rid of democracy as he believed it was weak.



## Party reorganisation

The ban on the NSDAP was lifted in 1925 and Hitler soon resumed control of the Party. He was concerned about the activities of the SA so set about creating a new branch of private bodyguards who were loyal to him and not Ernst Rohm. These were called the **SS** or Blackshirts.

In order to make the NSDAP more electable, Hitler knew he needed to move away from violence and revolution. He wanted the NSDAP to be represented across Germany so used a Gau system which divided Germany into 35 regions. A trusted member of the Nazi Party would then run local Party. These were called **Gauleiters**. They were directly accountable to Hitler.



# Glossary

**Overthrow**- To remove/get rid of a person in power.

**Bavarian** - A region in the south of Germany. It contains the city of Munich.

**SA** - Known as the 'Brownshirts'. They were the Nazi paramilitary group.

**Ideology**- The beliefs of a political party.

**Antisemitic** - Discrimination against Jewish people.

**Aryan** - The pure German master race who Hitler believed was superior to all other races.

**Gauleiters** - A Nazi official who was in charge of a local region.



# Comprehension Questions

1. How was the Weimar Republic democratic?
2. What powers did the President have?
3. Why did the Kaiser abdicate?
4. How did Ebert gain support for the Weimar Republic?
5. Challenge question: How did the system of Proportional Representation hinder the Weimar Republic?

**Once you have completed your answers, resume the lesson to find out how you got on and hear some more.**

