Worksheet:

What were Nazi Party strategies during the lean years, 1924-28?

Mr McNally

The reason for the lean years

Stresemann's policies in the year **1924-29** helped the Weimar Republic recover economically and politically. He helped from a new currency called the **Rentenmark** which ended **hyperinflation**. In addition, he arranged loans from America in the form of the Dawes Plan in 1924. This was invested in industry and created new jobs and kickstarted the economy.

Stresemann also helped the Germany improve its international standing. It started to negotiate treaties with other countries and joined the **League of Nations** in 1926. This helped make Germany a respectable nation.

Paul von Hindenburg, who was a respected war hero became president of the Republic. This was a popular choice with the people.

NSDAP support

Knowing that they could no longer achieve power through **revolution**, the NSDAP started to look for ways to get elected into power.

They had to spread their message to the people to get them onside. One way they did this was through the use of **rallies**. Thousands of people would gather to listen to Hitler's passionate speeches. The SA would also attend showing the NSDAP to be a party of strength. Hitler would also rant about topics such as the weakness of the Weimar Republic and antisemitism.

They also used the media to spread their message. The NSDAP controlled a number of newspapers such as '**Der Sturmer**'. These were published on a daily basis and used to promote the NSDAP as a successful and strong party. The newspapers were **circulated** across Germany.

The Bamberg Conference, 1926

The lean years saw a divide break out in the NSDAP over the direction of the party. The **Gauleiters** in the north of Germany led by **Gregor Strasser**, wanted to appeal to the workers and move in a more **socialist** direction. The politicians in the south wanted to appeal to the middle class and farmers and preferred a nationalist approach.

The Conference was a chance for the NSDAP to settle their differences and unite the party. Hitler spoke for 5 hours arguing how some of the socialist principles such as taking land for rich people was close to **Communism**.

Goebbels, who originally supported Strasser, agreed with Hitler's policies, as did many other NSDAP members. As a result, Hitler gained complete control of the NSDAP. He kept some of the socialist principles from the 25 Point Programme but stuck to a more nationalistic agenda.

Interpretation 1 - Historian A

The main reason why the NSDAP failed to gain support in the lean years was because of their message. As Germany was recovering, the people didn't need someone to blame. The legacy of Versailles and hyperinflation was not as relevant as it was in 1923.

Interpretation 2 - Historian B

The recovery of the Weimar Republic was the biggest contributor to the lack of support for the NSDAP. The improving economy gained the support from the people. As long as people had jobs and money, they ignored the extreme groups. It's no coincidence that when the economy failed again, the Nazi message became popular.

Glossary

Revolution - A violent overthrow of the government.

Circulation - The amount of an item that is spread across the country.

Gauleiter - A member of the NSDAP who is the leader of a local region of Germany.

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

Interpretation Questions

1. What is the message of Interpretation 2?
2. What is the main difference between Interpretations 1 and 2?
3. What evidence is there to support the point that "the economy improved"?
4. What evidence is there to support that "the economy failed **again**"?
5. <u>Challenge question</u>: Which Interpretation do you agree with the most?

I agree with interpretation ... the most.
This is because it says ...
I agree with this the most because ...
Therefore, I agree with interpretation ... more than interpretation ... .