

History, Weimar and Nazi Germany

Lesson 14

Worksheet:

What was the Munich Putsch?

Mr McNally



Causes of the Munich Putsch

Hitler and the members of his **NSDAP** strongly opposed the leadership of the Weimar Republic. They hated the acceptance of the **Treaty of Versailles** and they believed in the **Dolchstoss** (stab in the back) Theory.

By **1923**, things had got a lot worse for the Weimar Republic. France had invaded and occupied the Ruhr and their decision to print off more money caused the **hyperinflation** crisis. People were losing faith in the Republic and looking to the extreme parties.

By contrast, the NSDAP had seen a surge in support from nationalists and others who wanted to see the Weimar Republic overthrown. They had over **55,000** members and were stronger than ever before.



Causes of the Munich Putsch

Hitler had been inspired by how Benito Mussolini, an Italian fascist dictator, had taken over Italy, by seizing power. The **March on Rome** started as a huge protest against the Italian regime and it gained that much support, Mussolini was simply granted power. Hitler believed the Nazi's could do the same.

The NSDAP were also furious that the government had **called off the general strike** and with the **backing of the SA** decided to take control of Bavaria - a large and important state in Germany, where Hitler's base was.



Events of the Munich Putsch

On the **8th November 1923**, Hitler alongside other Nazis and the SA decided to march to the beer hall where the **Bavarian state officials** were meeting. It was here where he **fired a shot from his pistol into the ceiling** and announced that the NSDAP were taking over Bavaria. He wanted the support from the leader of Bavaria, von Kahr, who was a nationalist. Fearing for their lives, von Kahr and other officials, including von Lossow (head of the Bavarian army) *reluctantly* agreed to support the NSDAP.

Hitler and the SA quickly set about taking control of Munich. The SA took over the **army headquarters and newspaper offices**. However, not all army **barracks** were controlled by the SA.



Events of the Munich Putsch pt 2

In a turn of events, **General Ludendorff**, who was a famed war hero, who supported Hitler, allowed von Kahr and von Lassow to leave the beer hall which was guarded by the SA. Once they had left, they went back on their previous work and ordered the army to put down the Munich Putsch.

Feeling **betrayed**, Hitler and his supported decided to march through the streets of Munich. They hoped that once the people saw the march, they would join them and gain such support that the Bavarian officials would have to accept the Putsch. However, the army met the Nazis in the street and after a **brief scuffle**, it turned out that the NSDAP were no match for the army. 16 NSDAP supporters were killed and the Putsch was ended. *We will find out more about what happened to Hitler in your next lesson; as you know this was not the end!*



Comprehension/source Questions

1. What were the main causes of the Munich Putsch?
2. What role did General Ludendorff play in the failure of the Munich Putsch?
3. In the source, you can see Hitler setting fire to the town. What does this represent?
4. In the source, you can see von Kahr and von Lossow carrying Hitler on their shoulders. What does this represent?
5. Challenge question: In the source, Kahr shouts out: 'Officer, arrest that arsonist up there.' What does this tell you about their support for the Hitler and the tactics of the NSDAP?

