

## The Rise of Hitler

The German people were defeated, unemployed, faced with huge inflation problems, and losing faith in their traditional political policies. Hitler and the **National Socialist German Workers' Party** (Nazis) claimed they had solutions, and they gained support by **criticizing the Treaty of Versailles** and the German government. By manipulating the political system and playing on communist threats, Hitler was able to gain control in 1933. At this time he abolished all other political parties. Once in power, Hitler seemed like a success – pride was restored and the economy improved.

Although Germany was becoming one of the world's great nations again, many people paid a huge cost. The Nazis **jailed** all political opponents and attacked churches and labour unions. The Nazi party was also **deeply racist** and persecuted those not from the 'master race' (Jews, Roma, Slavs, homosexuals, physically/mentally handicapped, etc.).

These people were prohibited from teaching or attending school, holding office, and practising their professions. Hitler's **Nuremberg Laws** barred Jews from marrying Germans, flying the flag, becoming citizens, and voting, to name only a few. As time passed, the laws were made more strict. The public was encouraged to be **violent** to try to drive the Jews out. On November 7, 1938, this violence erupted across all of Germany and became known as **Kristallnacht**, or 'Night of the Broken Glass', as homes and store windows were smashed, and synagogues were burned down in the violence. This hate and violence continued to grow and led to one of history's darkest moments.

*As a group of 3-4 students, define and give an example of:*  
***Propaganda:***

***Fascism:***

***Scapegoat:***

## Axis on a Roll - The Allies try to apply the brakes

From 1936 to 1939, Hitler continued the process of *lebensraum* - expanding Germany's 'living space'. This continued and was accepted (*appeasement*) until Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. Britain and France gave Germany three days to leave Poland and, when they did not, war was declared against Germany (September 3, 1939).

Since Italy had become allies with Germany (1936), Britain and France were at war with Italy also. Seven days later (September 10), Canada also joined Britain and France. The two sides became known as the AXIS POWERS and the ALLIES.

### AXIS

Germany  
Italy  
Japan

### ALLIES

Britain	South Africa
France *	India
Canada	Jamaica
Australia	
New Zealand	
Newfoundland	