
HISTORY

9769/73

Paper 51 Special Subject: Germany, 1919–1945

May/June 2010

2 hours

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.



This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



Answer the following question.

Nominated Topic: The creation and impact of the NSDAP (to 1929), the 'breakthrough years' and electoral-political success (1929–January 1933)

- 1 Study all of the following documents and answer all the questions which follow. In evaluating and commenting upon the documents, it is essential to set them alongside, and to make use of, your own contextual knowledge.

A *Hitler, while in Landsberg Prison, sets out a new direction for the Nazi Party.*

'From now on,' he said, 'we must follow a new line of action. It is best to attempt no large reorganisation until I am freed, which may be a matter of months rather than years. When I resume active work it will be necessary to pursue a new policy. Instead of working to achieve power by armed conspiracy, we shall have to hold our noses and enter the Reichstag against the Catholic and Marxist deputies. If outvoting them takes longer than outshooting them, at least the results will be guaranteed by their own Constitution! Sooner or later we shall have a majority and after that we shall have Germany. I am convinced that this is our best line of action now that conditions in the country have changed so radically.'

Hitler, as reported by Kurt Ludecke, 1924.

B *Hitler issues instructions to the new leader of the SA.*

The SA must not meet in secret but should march in the open air and thereby be channelled into activities which conclusively destroy all legends of a 'secret organisation'. The individual SA man does not see his mission in the elimination of some crook or other, whether big or small, but in helping to build a National Socialist racialist state. Thereby the struggle against the present state will be raised above the atmosphere of petty acts of revenge and conspiracy to the greatness of an ideological war of extermination against Marxism. What we need is hundreds of thousands more fanatical fighters. We have to teach Marxism that National Socialism is the future master of the streets, just as it will one day be master of the State.

Hitler, letter to Captain von Pfeffer (SA Order 1), 1 November 1926.

C *Hitler makes a statement to clarify a part (Point 17) of the Nazi Party Programme of 1920.*

In view of the false interpretations on the part of our opponents of Point 17 of the Programme of the NSDAP, it is necessary to make the following statement: Since the NSDAP accepts the principle of private property, it is self-evident that the phrase 'confiscation without compensation' refers simply to the creation of possible legal means for confiscation, when necessary, of land acquired illegally or not managed in the public interest. It is, therefore, aimed primarily against Jewish companies which speculate in land.

Hitler, 13 April 1928.

D *A leading Nazi and critic of Hitler debates with him aspects of the Party's political strategy.*

'All that is very simple for you, Herr Hitler,' Strasser continued, 'but it only serves to emphasise the profound difference in our revolutionary and Socialist ideas. The real reason is that you want to strangle the social revolution for the sake of legality and your new collaboration with the parties of the Right.' At this Hitler grew violent. 'I am a Socialist, and a very different kind of Socialist from your rich friend Reventlow. But your kind of Socialism is nothing but Marxism. The mass of the working classes want nothing but bread and games. They will never understand the meaning of an ideal, and we cannot hope to win them over to one. Those who rule must know they have the right to rule because they belong to a superior race.'

From an interview between Otto Strasser and Hitler in 1930.

E *Two modern historians comment on the growth of the Nazi Party in the later 1920s.*

During Hitler's imprisonment the banned Nazi Party disintegrated into rival factions. In Landsberg Prison, Hitler was working out his plans for the Party after his release. The putsch had proved unsuccessful. A new policy was necessary. Although now ready to participate in elections and to enter Parliament, Hitler did not in any way give up his hostility to it. The putsch attempt made it much easier for him to pursue a constitutional course. By 1928, the Weimar Republic had superficially acquired a degree of political stability and economic prosperity. Yet, although these years 1928–29 are often seen as the high point of economic prosperity before the Wall Street Crash and ensuing slump, this view requires qualification. The economic difficulties of peasants and Mittelstand groups [in 1927–28] imposed increasing strains on the political system. The growing awareness of this led to further disillusionment with the whole political system, a disillusionment which the Nazis were quick to exploit. A change of emphasis by the beginning of 1928 led the Party, while continuing to try to attract workers, to concentrate increasingly on the middle class, now recognised as more responsive.

J. Noakes and G. Pridham, *Nazism, Volume I*, 1983.

- (a) How far do the views expressed in Document C support Strasser's argument in Document D that Hitler wanted to 'strangle the social revolution for the sake of legality'? [10]
- (b) How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that a 'new line of action' (Document A, line 1) was mainly responsible for the emergence of the NSDAP as a major national movement by 1930?

In making your evaluation, you should refer to contextual knowledge as well as to all the documents in this set (A-E). [20]

Answer one of the following questions. *Where appropriate, your essay should make use of any relevant documents you have studied as well as contextual knowledge.*

- 2 'A legal revolution.' Discuss this verdict on the establishment of Hitler's dictatorship in the period from January 1933 to August 1934. [30]
- 3 What benefits did the German people derive from Nazi economic and social policies between 1933 and 1939? [30]
- 4 'A series of reactions to events, not the enactment of a clear plan.' How far does this view explain the conduct of Hitler's foreign policy in the period 1933–41? [30]

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