

Adolf Hitler was born in Braunau, Austria on April 20, 1889 and spent most of his **childhood** in Linz. He was not a very good student and dreamt of becoming a painter. In 1913 he moved to Munich and **volunteered** for the Germany Army when World War I broke out.



Germany lost the war and the **Treaty** of Versailles **punished** the country very **strictly**. It lost its **overseas colonies** and had to give up its Saar coal region to France. It was only allowed to have a small army and building ships was **forbidden**. The **treaty** also made Germany pay a lot of money to Great Britain and France for the **damage caused** by the war. Hitler was angry at the Allies because he thought they had **treated** his **homeland** in an unfair way.

After the war life became very difficult for the Germans. The **Great Depression forced** many of them out of work and made money almost **worthless**. Many Germans believed that only a strong leader could make their nation **proud** again.

After returning to Munich Hitler became the leader of the National Socialist German Worker's Party, or Nazis. The party's **emblem** was an old **hooked** cross called **swastika**. Hitler was a powerful speaker and **crowds** of followers came to his meetings.

In 1923 Adolf Hitler tried to **overthrow** the German **Government**. He failed and had to go to **prison** for nine months. There he wrote his book "Mein Kampf". In it he looked for **solutions** to Germany's problems. .

Hitler spoke in a style that many people liked. He **blamed Jews**, Communists and other groups for all the problems that the country had and said that only if **pure** Germans, which he called Aryans, controlled the country it would return to **greatness**.

By January 1933 Adolf Hitler and his National Socialist party took over power. He became a dictator, a leader with complete control and **created** the **Third Reich**. The Nazis acted quickly against everyone who was against them. They **outlawed** all other political parties. People who **opposed** the new **government** were often murdered.



Once in control he started **persecuting** the Jews. He also began **strengthening** the German army and **creating** jobs for the **population**. This made him **increasingly popular** among many Germans.

The Nazis tried to get teenagers to follow Adolf Hitler and his party. These teenagers were organized in groups called the "Hitler Youth" where they **chanted** Nazi **slogans** and sang songs **in honour** of the Fuehrer.

By 1944 the war was going badly for Hitler and the **Third Reich**. Some of his **officers** wanted to end the war and save the country from **destruction**. They tried to kill him by **planting** a bomb in his office, but Hitler **escaped** without **injuries**. **Eventually** he **realized** that Germany had lost the war. He **committed suicide** on April 30th 1945 in Berlin. Eva Braun, his **mistress**, died with him.

WORDS

- **blame** = to say that a person is responsible for something bad
- **cause** = lead to
- **chant** = to say a phrase or a word again and again
- **childhood** = the time when you are a child
- **commit suicide** = to kill yourself
- **create** = make
- **crowd** = a large group of people
- **damage** = if something is hurt or ruined
- **destruction** = if something is damaged or ruined completely
- **emblem** = a picture or object that is used to show a country, organization or a party
- **escape** = to get away from
- **eventually** = finally, in the end
- **forbid-forbade-forbidden** = not allow
- **force** = to make someone do something
- **government** = people who rule a country
- **Great Depression** = the time that followed the Wall Street crash in 1929 ; millions of people lost their jobs around the world and many factories and businesses had to close
- **greatness** = here: being important and powerful
- **homeland** = country where someone is born
- **hooked** = curved , bent
- **in honour** = to show respect for someone
- **increasingly** = more and more
- **injury** = harm that you do to someone
- **Jew** = member of a group of people who come from ancient Hebrews; many of them live in Israel
- **mistress** = a woman that a man has a sexual relationship with
- **officer** = someone who is in a high position in the army
- **oppose** = to be against
- **outlaw** = forbid
- **overseas colonies** = countries that are controlled by their mother countries in other continents
- **overthrow** = to remove from power
- **persecute** = to treat someone unfairly
- **plant** = put
- **popular** = liked by a lot of people
- **population** = the people of a country
- **prison** = place where people go to when they have committed a crime
- **proud** = to feel satisfied and important
- **punish** = to make someone suffer because they have done something wrong
- **pure** = not mixed, real
- **realize** = understand
- **slogan** = motto
- **solution** = the answer to a problem
- **strengthen** = to make stronger
- **strict** = here: very much, very badly
- **swastika** = the sign of the Nazi Party
- **Third Reich** = the period of Nazi government , led by Adolf Hitler from 1933 to 1945
- **treat** = care for
- **treaty** = agreement between two people or countries
- **volunteer** = to do something without getting paid for it
- **worthless** = not worth anything