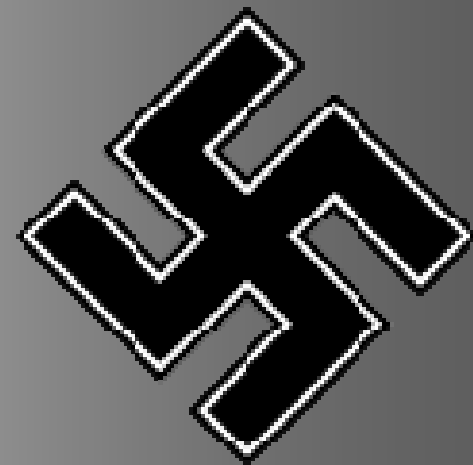


# Rise to Power



# Adolf Hitler

# Objectives:

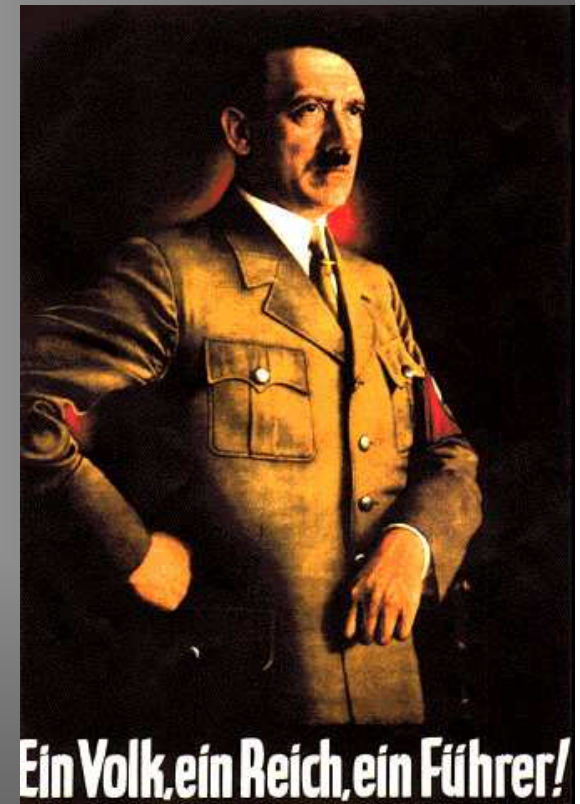
- The objective of this presentation is to give students an understanding of Adolf Hitler's early, pre-adult years.
- Students will also become familiar with how this seemingly unimportant Austrian rose to power in post World War I Germany.

# Overall Purpose:



Hitler, about age 12, from school picture, Linz, 1901.

**The overall purpose of this presentation is to explain how this little boy on the left became the man on the right who was ultimately responsible for the death of about 50 million people all over the world!!**



# Birth

- **Adolf Hitler was born on April 20, 1889 in Braunau, Austria.**
- **Adolf was 1 of 6 children - 3 of who died at early ages**



# Parents



Hitler's father, Alois

**Alois Schickelgruber Hitler was a customs official who was illegitimate by birth. His father, Adolf's grandfather, may have been Jewish. He died when Adolf was 14 and left him a small inheritance.**

**Klara Hitler was very young when she married the older Alois. She showered young Adolf with love and affection. Adolf carried a picture of his mom until the day he died. She died of breast cancer when Adolf was 18 years old.**

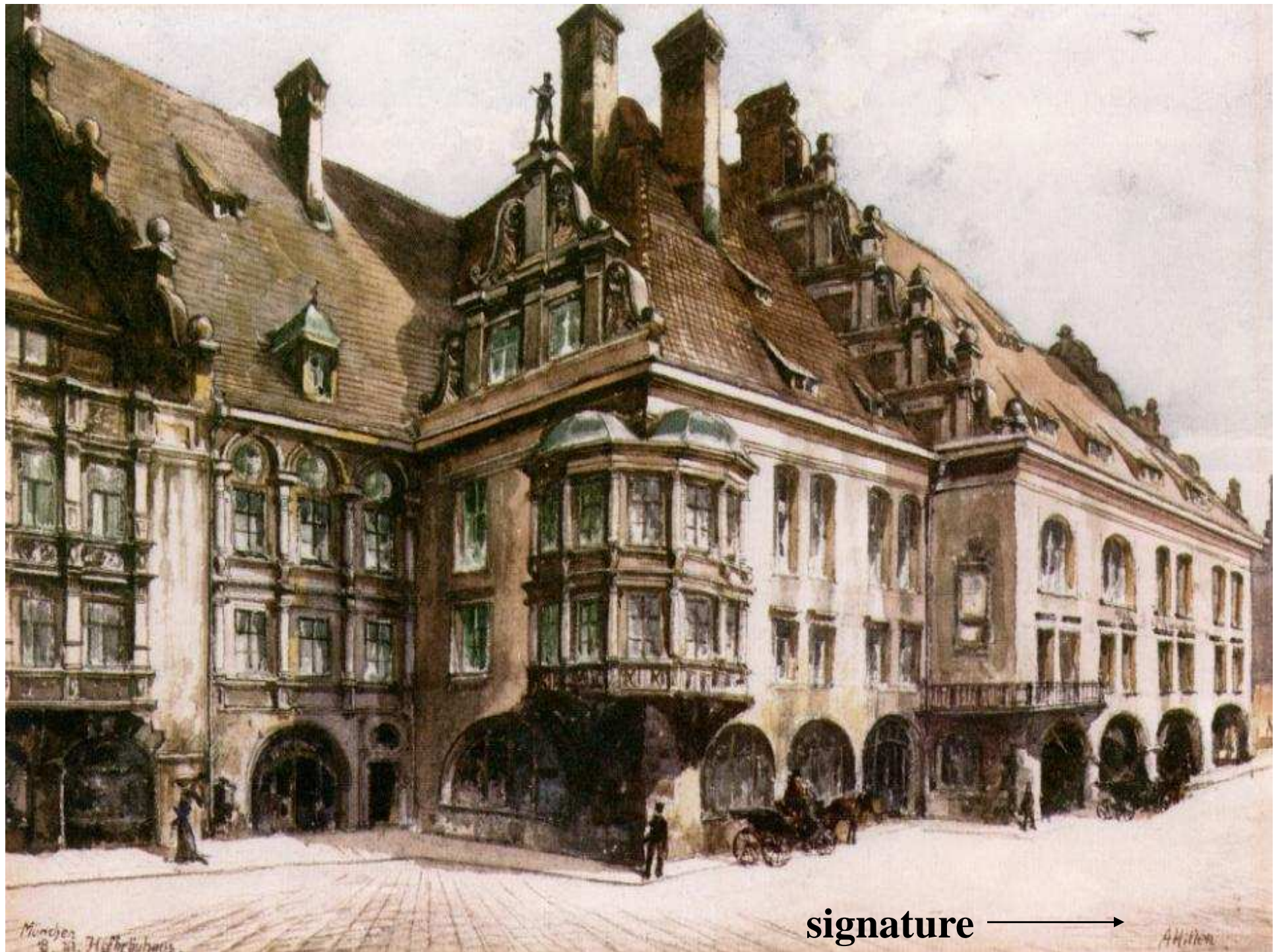


Hitler's mother, Klara

# **Education**

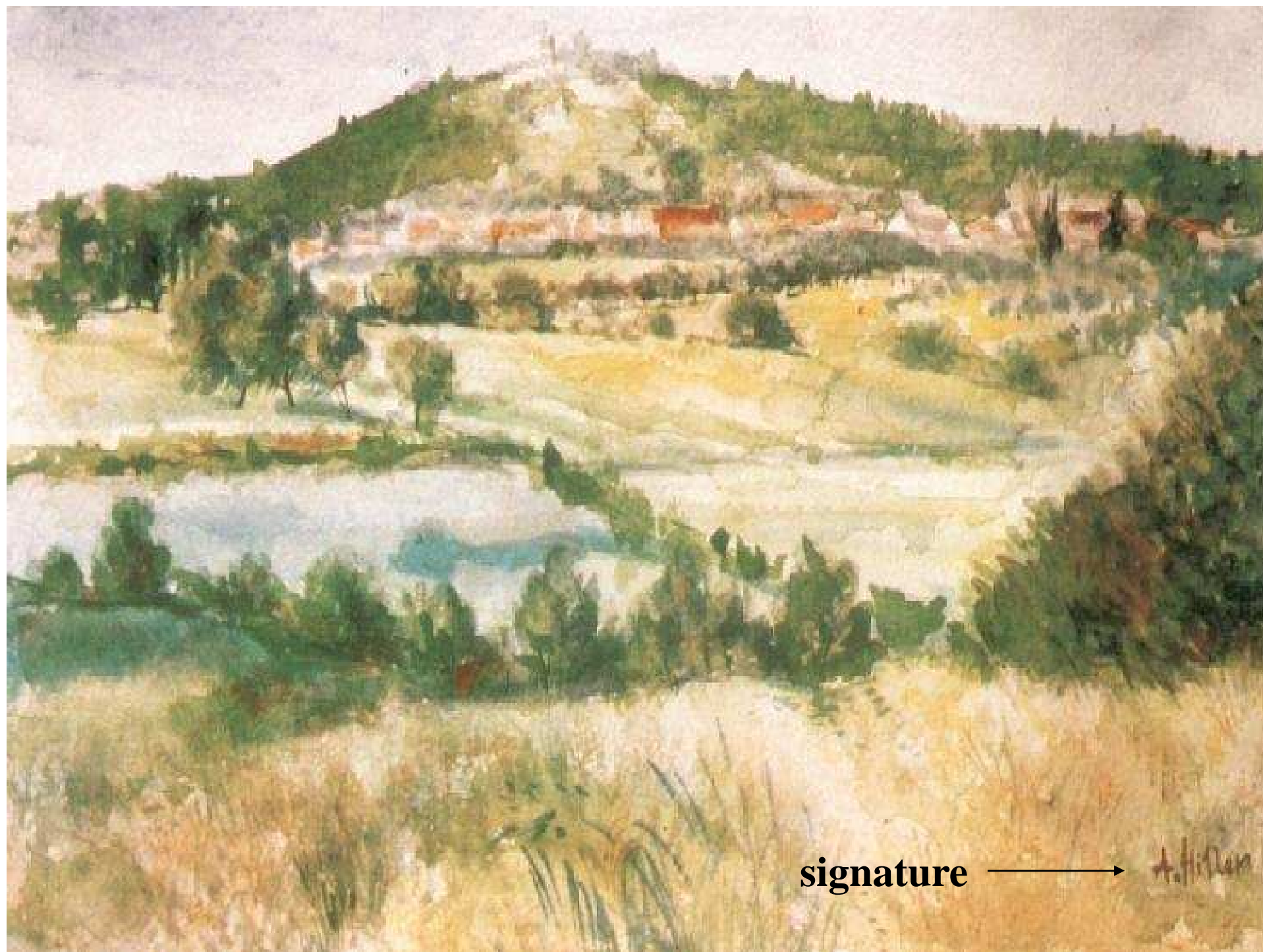
- **Attended a Benedictine monastery school where he took part in the choir.**
- **When it was time to choose a secondary school, Adolf wanted to become an artist.**
- **His father wanted him to become a civil servant, but after his father died, he dropped out of high school and attempted to get into the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts - he failed.**
- **The following slides are examples of Adolf's artwork.**





signature →





signature → J.M.W. Turner



# Years in Vienna

- After his mother died, Adolf (now 18) decided to move to Austria to pursue his dream of becoming a great artist.
- Again he failed to gain entrance into the Academy
- He eventually sold all his possessions and became a homeless drifter who slept on park benches and ate at soup kitchens throughout Vienna (age 19)
- Adolf did manage to sell some paintings and postcards, but remained impoverished

# Vienna -Importance

- Influenced by the anti-Semitic mayor of Vienna, Karl Lueger
- Became interested in the idea of German nationalism.
- Also received first taste of politics



# **Military Service**

**Adolf left Austria at the age of 24 to avoid mandatory military service that was required of all men.**

**But he did sign up for military service at the start of WW I. He joined a Bavarian unit of the German Army.**

**This is a picture of Hitler listening to an enlistment speech.**



# World War I

- Excited to fight for Germany.
- Found a home fighting for the Fatherland.
- Highest rank held was corporal.
- Was a regimental messenger, not an easy job at all.





# Military Record

- Was awarded the Iron Cross twice. (5 medals overall)
- Highest military honor in German Army.
- Single handedly captured 4 French soldiers.
- Blinded by gas attack towards end of war.



# German Loss in WW I

- Hitler was devastated when he heard the news of the German surrender.
- He was appalled at the anti-war sentiment among the German civilians.
- Believed there was an anti-war conspiracy that involved the Jews and Marxists.
- Also, felt that the German military did not lose the war, but that the politicians (mostly Jews) at home were responsible for the defeat.

# Life after WW I

- Hitler was depressed after WW I.
- Still in the army, he became an undercover agent whose job was to root out Marxists
- Also, lectured about the dangers of Communism and Jews



# German Worker's Party

- Hitler was sent to investigate this group in Munich in 1919.
- He went to a meeting and gave a speech.
- He was then asked to become a member, which he did





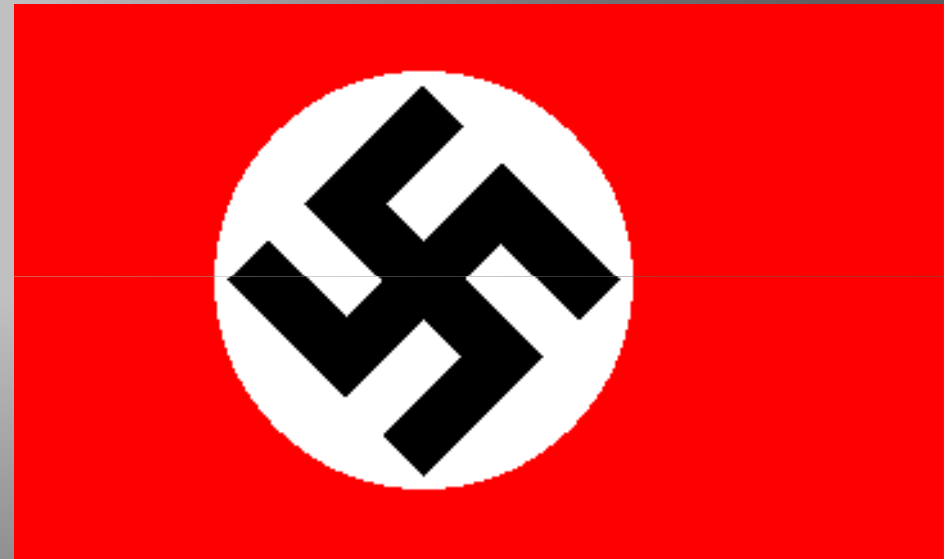
# NAZI Party is Formed

- Hitler began to think big for the German Worker's Party
- Began placing ads for meetings in anti-Semitic newspapers
- Hitler changed the name to National Socialist German Worker's Party or the NAZIS



# Party Platform

- **Hitler drafted a platform of 25 points**
- **Revoke Versailles Treaty**
- **Revoke civil rights of Jews**
- **Confiscate any war profits**



**Besides changing the party name, the red flag with the SWASTIKA was adopted as the party symbol**

# Beer Hall Putsch

- **October 30, 1923**
- **Hitler held a rally in Munich beer hall and declared revolution**
- **Led 2000 men in take over of Bavarian Government**
- **It failed and Hitler was imprisoned**



The arrival in Munich of troops supporting Hitler.

# **Trial and Jail**

- **At his trial (Hitler was charged with treason), he used the opportunity to speak about the NAZI platform and spread his popularity.**
- **The whole nation suddenly knew who Adolf Hitler was and what he stood for**
- **He was sentenced to five years, but actually only served about 9 months**
- **When he left prison, he was ready to go into action again.**

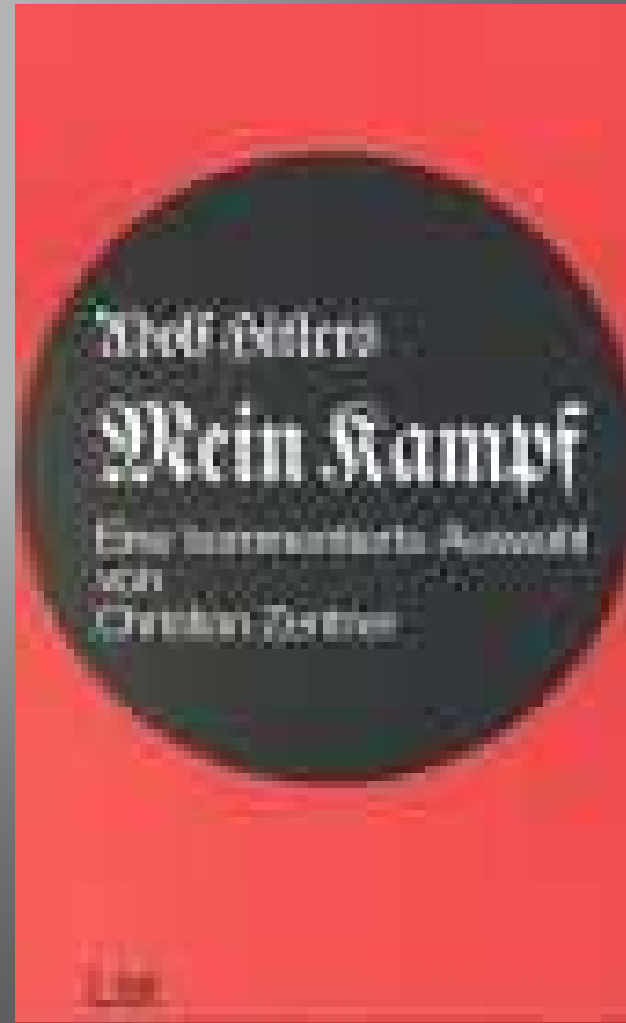


**Hitler shown leaving prison in 1924.**



# Mein Kampf

- Hitler's book "My Struggle" - wrote while in jail
- Sold 5 million copies, made him rich
- Topics included: Jews were evil, Germans were superior race, Fuhrer principal, dislike of Communism and Democracy and need to conquer Russia



# Legal Rise to Power

- Used popularity from failed revolution and book to seize power legally
- Spoke to mass audiences about making Germany a great nation again
- Nazi Party:
  - 1930 = 18% of vote
  - 1932 = 30% of vote
  - Hitler becomes Chancellor in 1933



# **Appeal of Hitler**

- **Germany was in the midst of an economic depression with hyper-inflation**
- **Hitler was a WW I hero who talked about bringing glory back to the “Fatherland”**
- **He promised the rich industrialists that he would end any communist threat in Germany**
- **Constantly blamed Jews for Germany’s problems, not the German people.**
- **Hitler was an excellent public speaker.**

# Strong Arm Tactics

- The “Brownshirts” or SA (Stormtroopers)
- SA was used to put down opposition parties
- Threatened and beat up Jews and ant-Nazi voters
- Wore brownshirts, pants and boots
- Numbered almost 400,000 by 1932





# Dictator

- “Reichstag fire” gives Hitler total power
- In 1933, all parties were outlawed except the Nazi party
- People’s civil rights were suspended
- “Night of the Long Knives”



# Absolute Power

- German economy was improving, people were happy
- Hitler had not political opposition
- 1st concentration camp opened in 1933
- Began rearming German Army for expansion of the Reich



# THE

# END

.....Until the start of World War II