1. **EMERGENCE OF HITLER**
   1. The Germans loathed the *Treaty of Versailles* (1919)
      1. “May the hand wither that signs this treaty.” -Scheidermann
      2. “unrealizable, unbearable.” -Ebert
   2. Antisemitism
      2. Reaction against *The Protocol of the Elders of Zion* in the 1920's. (Fabrication concocted by the Russian Third Department of Tsar Nicholas)
      3. Hitler was fascinated by Lanz von Liebenfels, a monk who had a vision of the blond Aryan race.
      4. Hitler defamed the Jews, blaming the *defeat in the Great War* on them.
   3. Georg von Schrönerer preached a political union of all German territories.
   4. The *Aryan myth* and the *volkish strain* helped unite the Germans.
      1. Preached by German scholar Paul de Lagarde and English writer Houston Stewart Chamberlain.
      2. Recalled glorious Teutonic past, and gripped the emotions of Germans believing they were a Darwinian “master race.”
      3. Those who believed that the Jewish race had no future did not want them to pollute the Aryan race.
   5. After the failure of the *Munich Putsch* of 1923, Hitler was arrested, tried, and convicted to 5 years in prison, of which, he served less than 2.
      1. During his incarceration, he dictated his *Mein Kampf* to his secretaries, Rudolf Hess one of them.
   6. The *Great Depression* in Europe after the US stock market crashed in 1929 hit Germany the hardest.
      1. Before 1929, the Nazis were not that popular.
      2. Over 40% unemployment.
      3. Massive inflation that benefited the government and army only.
   7. In 1926, Josef Goebbels joined Hitler's group and started denouncing Jews through political journalism.
   8. In 1929, Goebbels and Göring were elected to the Reichstag.
      1. At this time, the membership of the Nazis Party was 178,000.
   9. In 1929, Alfred Hugenberg, the owner of a newspaper empire determined to bring down the Weimar Republic.
      1. By 1930, the Nazis became the major factor in German politics. It was impossible for any other party to create a majority because there were too many factions.
      2. In the *September 1930 elections*, the Nazis won 107 seats in the 577 seat assembly, becoming the 2nd strongest party.
   10. Many believed that Hitler would reverse the Versailles Treaty.
      1. Many feared that Hitler's SA would replace the Army.
      2. On January 4, 1933, von Papen and Hitler met with Kurt von Schröder and with bankers and industrialists. They urged president Hindenburg to allow Hitler to form a cabinet.
      3. On January 30, 1933, Hitler was appointed Chancellor.
   11. A combination of the following factors facilitated the rise of Hitler to power:
      1. political and economic crises that accompanied the Weimar government
      2. ruinous depression
      3. acute and general fear of Communism
      4. the cunning exploitation of the economic and political situation and the grievances of the Junkers, industrialists, peasants and workers by Hitler
5. rational and popular frustration over the Treaty of Versailles.
6. Rivalry (example: Shleicher and von Papen) and ineptness (example: Hindenburg) between leading German government officials.
12. Hermann Rauschning called Nazi ideology a “revolution of nihilism.”

2. HITLER CONSOLIDATES POWER
1. The Reichstag fire (February 27, 1933) helped Hitler get Hindenburg's signature on a decree suspending all of the basic rights of citizens. It was never repealed while the Nazis were in power.
2. On March 23, 1933, Hitler passed the Enabling Act, granting Hitler arbitrary powers to rule without responsibility to the president or constitution.
3. On April 7, 1933, Hitler passed the first anti-Jewish law, removing them from civil service.
4. In 1933, 10 concentration camps were setup in Germany.
5. On June 30, 1934, Hitler killed SA leader Roehm and several hundred of his men in the Night of the Long Knives. Everyone seemed to like it, since Hitler did it to protect the state.
7. On September 15, 1935, the Nuremberg Laws passed:
   1. The Law for Protection of German Blood and German Honor
      - Jews could not immigrate, couldn't fly German flag, ineligible for citizenship.
   2. The Reich Citizenship Law
8. The new German commandment was: “Race defilement is worse than murder!”
9. On November 9-10, a mob plundered and murdered synagogues, shops, businesses, and homes of many Jews in the Kristallnacht.

3. HITLER PREPARES FOR WWII
1. In 1935, Hitler renounced the Versailles Treaty and started building an army.
2. The Olympic Games of Summer 1936 masked the German reality.
   1. Antisemitic posters were taken down.
   2. Concentration camps were hidden.
3. In 1936, Hitler sent the army into Rhineland.
4. In 1936, Hitler created the Axis Pact with Mussolini
5. In March 1938, Germany invaded and incorporated Austria (Anschluss)
6. In July 1938, President Roosevelt called 33 governments to meet at Evian-les-Bains, France in order to accept a greater number of Jewish refugees. Only the Dominican Republic came forward to accept more.
7. In September 1938, Hitler at the Munich Conference extracted permission to take the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia.
8. In September 1939, Hitler occupied Czechoslovakia
9. On August 23, 1939, Ribbentrop (Germany) and Molotov (USSR) signed the German-Soviet Non-Agression Pact.