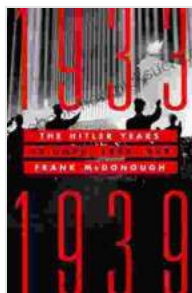


# The Hitler Years Triumph 1933-1939: A Comprehensive Examination of Nazi Germany's Rise to Power

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## The Hitler Years: Triumph, 1933-1939 by Frank McDonough

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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The rise of Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler is a dark chapter in human history, marked by aggression, persecution, and unspeakable atrocities. The period from 1933 to 1939, known as the "Hitler Years Triumph," witnessed the consolidation of Nazi power and the implementation of policies that would culminate in the horrors of World War II. This article delves into this crucial period, exploring the key events, ideologies, and individuals that shaped the Nazi regime's path to triumph.

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## **\*\*The Genesis of Nazi Ideology\*\***

The seeds of Nazi ideology were sown in the aftermath of Germany's defeat in World War I. The Treaty of Versailles, imposed on Germany by the victorious Allied powers, was perceived as a humiliating betrayal and a source of national resentment. In this climate of discontent, extremist groups emerged, espousing ultranationalism, anti-Semitism, and a desire for revenge.

Adolf Hitler, a charismatic and ruthless agitator, emerged as the leader of the Nazi Party (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei). Hitler's oratory, fueled by a potent blend of nationalism, anti-Semitism, and promises of economic recovery, resonated with a significant portion of the German population.

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## **\*\*The Path to Power: Election and Appointment\*\***

In the 1932 federal elections, the Nazi Party became the largest political party in the German parliament, the Reichstag. However, it lacked an absolute majority, which necessitated a coalition government. Following a series of political maneuvers, Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany by President Paul von Hindenburg in January 1933.

Hitler's appointment marked a watershed moment in German history. He immediately began consolidating his power, undermining the authority of President Hindenburg and dismantling democratic institutions.

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## **\*\*The Reichstag Fire: A Catalyst for Dictatorship\*\***

On February 27, 1933, the Reichstag building in Berlin was set ablaze. Although the perpetrators remain unknown, Hitler and the Nazis seized the opportunity to blame communists and declare a state of emergency.

Under the pretext of preserving national security, the Nazis unleashed a wave of repression. The Reichstag Fire Decree suspended basic civil liberties, including freedom of speech and assembly. The decree also allowed police to detain suspects without trial.

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## **\*\*Eliminating Opposition: The Enabling Act and Gleichschaltung\*\***

In March 1933, Hitler's government passed the Enabling Act, which granted the Nazi Party dictatorial powers for four years. The Act effectively suspended the Weimar Constitution and allowed Hitler to pass laws without consulting the Reichstag.

Utilizing the Enabling Act, the Nazis embarked on a systematic process of "Gleichschaltung," or bringing all spheres of German society under Nazi control. Trade unions were dissolved, political parties were banned, and government institutions were purged of dissenting voices.

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## **\*\*The Nuremberg Laws: Institutionalized Anti-Semitism\*\***

In September 1935, the Nuremberg Laws were enacted, marking a significant escalation in the Nazi regime's persecution of Jews. The laws defined who was considered Jewish, prohibited marriage and sexual relations between Jews and non-Jews, and deprived Jews of German citizenship.

The Nuremberg Laws provided the legal framework for the subsequent systematic persecution of Jews, paving the way for the Holocaust.

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**\*\*The Road to War: Expansionism and Aggression\*\***

Hitler's ambition extended beyond the borders of Germany. He sought to expand the German empire and create a "Greater German Reich." In 1933, Germany withdrew from the League of Nations, signaling its rejection of international treaties and the post-World War I order.

In 1936, German troops marched into the demilitarized Rhineland, violating the Treaty of Versailles. The reoccupation of the Rhineland was a bold act of defiance that tested the limits of international tolerance.

In 1938, Germany annexed Austria in a bloodless takeover known as the "Anschluss." This act further inflamed tensions in Europe and challenged the international status quo.

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**\*\*The Munich Agreement: A Pyrrhic Victory\*\***

In September 1938, Hitler demanded the cession of the Sudetenland, a predominantly German-speaking region of Czechoslovakia. The British and French governments, eager to avoid a wider conflict, acquiesced to Hitler's demands at the Munich Agreement.

The Munich Agreement has often been characterized as a "sellout" or a "betrayal," as it allowed Germany to expand its territory without firing a shot. However, it also temporarily averted war and gave the Western powers time to rearm.

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**\*\*The Invasion of Poland: The Outbreak of World War II\*\***

Hitler's expansionist ambitions reached a tipping point in 1939. On September 1, Germany invaded Poland, triggering World War II. The invasion was a clear violation of international law and marked the beginning of one of the most destructive conflicts in human history.

With the outbreak of war, the "Hitler Years Triumph" came to an end. The Nazi regime had achieved its goals of consolidating power, eliminating opposition, and expanding its territory. However, these triumphs were ultimately pyrrhic victories that would lead to the downfall of the regime and the devastation of Germany.

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The Hitler Years Triumph (1933-1939) was a period of unprecedented upheaval and transformation in German history. The Nazi Party's rise to power, driven by a potent combination of ultranationalism, anti-Semitism, and economic promises, led to the establishment of a dictatorial regime that systematically persecuted its opponents and implemented policies that would culminate in the Holocaust.

The period also witnessed Germany's aggressive expansionism, culminating in the invasion of Poland and the outbreak of World War II. The horrors of the war and the ultimate defeat of Nazi Germany serve as a grim reminder of the dangers of unchecked extremism, intolerance, and the pursuit of power at all costs.

By understanding the events and ideologies that shaped the Hitler Years Triumph, we can draw lessons from the past and work to prevent such atrocities from occurring again.

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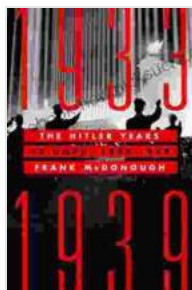
**Further Reading**

**Books** - **The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich** by William L. Shirer - **Hitler's Willing Executioners** by Daniel Goldhagen - **The Holocaust: A History** by Laurence Rees

**Documentaries** - **The World at War** by Thames Television - **The Nazis: A Warning from History** by BBC - **Holocaust** by Ken Burns

**Online Resources** - **The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum**  
<https://www.ushmm.org> - **The German Historical Museum**

<https://www.dhm.de/en/index.html> - \*\*The Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Center\*\* <https://www.yadvashem.org>



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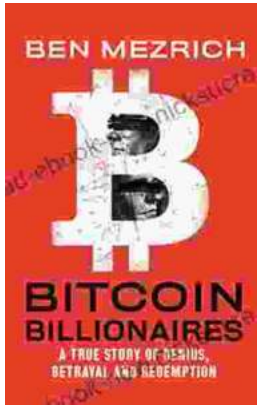
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