

## To what extent was the rise to power of Hitler due to personal appeal and ability?

Platform appealed to and unified the people:

- Repudiation of Versailles; remilitarization
- Blame of misfortunes on Jews and Bolsheviks
- Democracy was bad and offered change
- Lebensraum
- Social Darwinism
- Right to self-determination

Ability to persuade:

- Oratory
- Creating propaganda
- Creating terror
  - SA, SS, Gestapo
  - Aryanization
  - Holocaust/Concentration camps (after chancellorship)
- Deification/cult of personality
- To make promises to all groups
  - Restore economic and political order
  - Suppress violence and strikes by the left
  - Restore pride
  - Repudiate Versailles
  - Loans and grants to small businesses and big industry
  - A revived spiritualism for theologians
  - Employment for lower class through remilitarization
  - Stand up against communism would help middle and upper classes
- Being vague on some stances - appealed to audience
  - Appealed to socialists through the title National Socialist German Workers Party (Nazis)

Ability to manipulate:

- Reichstag Fire - made it seem like the Communist party was trying to take over the government and used this to crack down on the left and eventually ban political parties
- Enabling Act - made promises to the Center Party and threatened Reichstag members to get them to pass this law giving Hitler dictatorial powers
- Gleichaltung - transformed all of German society by appointing Nazis to important posts and infiltrating all of society with the Nazi ideology
- Munich Pact - made it seem like his demands could be met when he was given the Sudetenland, but then he took Czechoslovakia; also made it seem like Czechoslovakia was killing Germans living in their country
- Book burnings - got rid of books opposite to Nazi ideology
- Army (Fuhrer Oath) - persuaded the army to take an oath of loyalty to Hitler because he would increase the size and technology of the military

- Aryanization/Holocaust - got rid of Jews to give Germans jobs; also slowly increased restrictions to get people to accept what he was doing
- Would use euphemisms to make his actions seem mild and like they were within the law
- Nazi-Soviet Pact - signed with Stalin to prevent a two-front war, then surprised Stalin by attacking him
- Night of the Long Knives - eliminated opponents by getting rid of the SA
- Concordat - in return for recognizing the Nazi regime, Hitler got credibility, but later didn't allow religion to exist and sent priests to concentration camps
- Used industrialists money to gain power by promising to stand up to the Communists

### Creating terror

- SA, SS, Gestapo
- Aryanization
- Holocaust/Concentration camps (after chancellorship)
- Propaganda
- Telling society
- Gleichaltung - had to be a part of the Nazis to keep your status
- Night of the Long Knives
- Kristallnacht
- Banning of political parties
- Strict censorship
- Nazi paramilitary groups made you vote Nazi one Hitler became chancellor