

Hitler's Successes and Failures

Political Successes:

- 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
- Successful in legally obtaining power through democratic means; was successful in rising up in the Nazi Party; his party gained votes and gained the chancellorship
- Reichstag Fire was used to ban political parties
- Enabling Act was passed, giving Hitler dictatorial powers
- Night of the Long Knives was a successful purge of the SA (and any potential opposition to Hitler's rule)
- Army swore allegiance to Hitler personally through the Fuhrer Oath
- Remilitarized the country and created alliances without punishment
- Successfully misled and manipulated Britain and France into thinking that his demands would eventually be satisfied (ie - Munich Conference)
- Took over many countries, some without much opposition - Austrian Anschluss and Czechoslovakia
- Made a treaty with the Soviets to prevent a two-front war (Nazi-Soviet Pact)
- Blitzkrieg attacks worked against most countries in Europe, including Poland, Belgium, the Netherlands, and France

Political Failures:

- Beer Hall Putsch failed
- Underestimated his enemies because he thought they would continue to appease him when he invaded Poland. The military wasn't ready for war
- Made an alliance with Italy (Pact of Steel) and then had to support Italy during much of the war because their army was so weak
- Allowed the evacuation of Dunkirk to take place
- Bombing of London (Blitz) raised their people's moral; it was supposed to lower it. He also stopped the Blitz when Britain was nearly exhausted of all air power
- Invaded the USSR and the offensive against Russia created a second front and drew resources from the West
- Declared war on the US after Pearl Harbor, honoring his commitment in the Anti-Comintern Pact
- Hitler believed that the landing in Normandy was a diversionary attack and that it would really happen at Pas-de-Calais
- Germany was defeated and fascism failed by the end of WWII

Economic Successes:

- Pulled the economy out of the depression and unemployment problems through the Four-Year Plan – public works programs and remilitarization, grants, and loans
- Brought strength to the military and jobs to the people by ignoring the Versailles Treaty
- Aryanization – the takeover of Jewish businesses was successful. By 1938 75-80% of Jewish businesses were taken over. This also led to more job opportunities for Aryans

Economic Failures:

- Didn't change to a full wartime economy until 1942
- Had no government group coordinating the economy until 1942
- Wasted a lot of money and resources to exterminate the Jews

Social Successes:

- He was successful in unifying Germany – rallies, speeches, propaganda; gave the people a hope for a better future, nationalism
- Gleichaltung policy was successful in consolidating power by putting all parts of German society – government, press, education, trade unions, etc. – under the Nazi umbrella and instilled them with their aims/ideology
 - Successful in indoctrinating the youth with Nazi values – Hitler Youth
 - Put all labor unions under the Nazi Labor Front
- Carefully took away the rights of Jewish people and made all society subservient to him so that there would be little resistance
- Creating terror
 - SA, SS, Gestapo
 - Aryanization
 - Holocaust/Concentration camps (after chancellorship)
- Book burnings got rid of opposing ideas

Social Failures:

- Goal of obtaining Lebensraum was not achieved
- Goal of exterminating the Jews was not completely fulfilled
- Policies to create a “pure” German society weren't fulfilled
- Goal of increasing births of Aryans was ultimately not met