

THE RISE OF DICTATORS



EUROPE AFTER WWI

- Great War (WWI) left Europe devastated and bankrupt
- Many new countries unstable
- Russia in a civil war
- Poland, Hungary, Austria all struggle with attempted coups
- Many coalition governments
 - no one party wins majority, so must create temporary alliances for majority
- Italy economics shaken -Mussolini comes to power
- Germany on the edge of revolution



THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

- Germany 1919 -
Democratic government after
a year of revolution
- Weimar – city in central
Germany
- No democratic tradition
in Germany
- Country was broke!!
- People blamed
the new government for
humiliation at Versailles, not
the old leaders

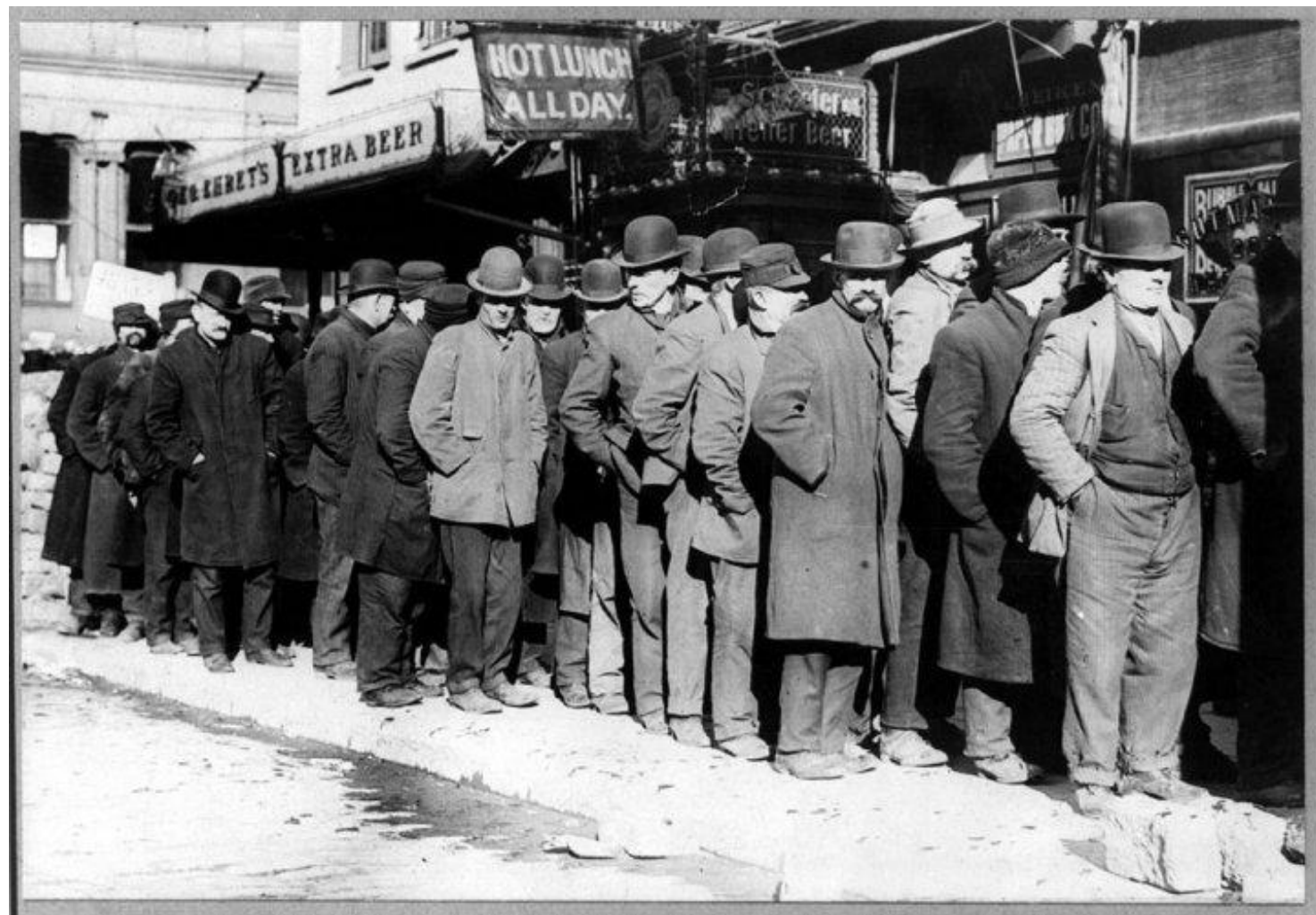


INFLATION IN GERMANY

- Germany had \$33 billion dollars – for first part of reparations to pay
- Simply printed money to do it (not taxes like other countries in the war)
- Paper money needs to have gold or credit behind it – Germany had none
- Inflation takes off as the money becomes worth less and less
- 1918 – loaf of bread cost one Mark
- 1922 – 160 Marks
- 1923 – 200,000,000,000 Marks
- 4.2 trillion marks to 1 US Dollar







WHO WAS ADOLF HITLER?

- What do you remember from before break?
- Born in Austria
- Abused as a child
- Tried to get into art school, failed, blamed the Jewish people
- Fought and was highly decorated in WWI—as a corporal
- Came back to Germany and got into politics around 1921 - infiltrated the Nazi party at the suggestion of Ludendorff





THE NAZI PARTY

- The Nazi Party emerged from the German nationalist, racist and paramilitary culture, which fought against the communist uprisings in post-World War I Germany.
- The party was created to draw workers away from communism and into *völkisch* nationalism.
- It was founded as the German Workers' Party by Anton Drexler in 1919.
- Hitler attended one of its meetings that year, and before long his energy and oratorical skills would enable him to take over the party
- which was renamed National Socialist German Workers' Party in 1920.



CRITICAL READING

- Take the next 10 minutes to critically the primary source, "German Worker's Party: The Twenty Five points"
- **What were the party's goals? What were they trying to create?**



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

In your notebooks, answer the following questions with your table:

- 1. What seems to be the **overall goal** of the document? What is it aimed at **creating**?
- 2. What type of government does this call for? Use evidence.
- 3. Are any of the points contradictory? Which ones? How so?
- 4. Looking at point 23, what is going on? What is it trying to accomplish?



WHY DO PEOPLE FOLLOW THIS PHILOSOPHY?

- It is blatantly racist and excludes large parts of the population...yet it gains the following of thousands.
- Why?



BEER HALL PUTSCH

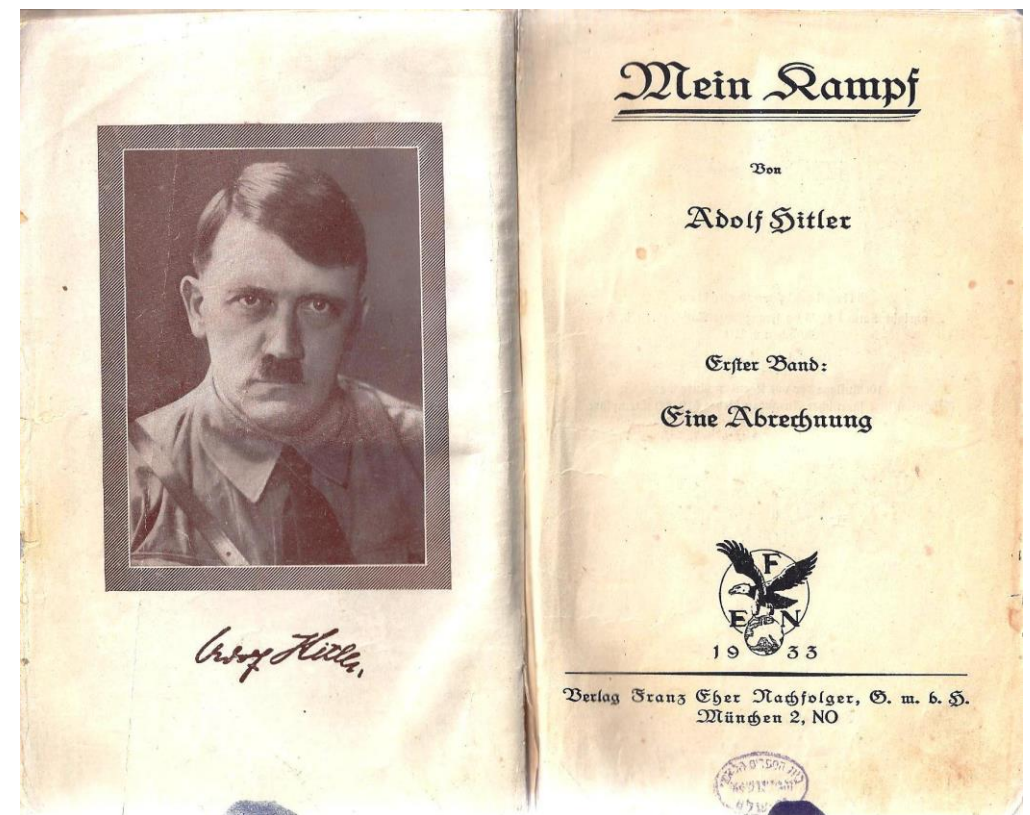
- November 8-9, 1923 Hitler tried to start a coup in Munich
- Rouses the people, via gunfire and speeches—many later top Nazis involved
- First major use of the SA (brownshirts)
- Suppressed that night
- Hitler and other tried for high treason and sentenced to a whopping 5 years in jail
- Serves 9 months
- In prison writes *Mein Kampf*





MEIN KAMPF

"The ignorance of the broad masses about the inner nature of the Jew, the lack of instinct and narrow-mindedness of our upper classes, make the people an easy victim for this Jewish campaign of lies."



WHY THE JEWISH PEOPLE?

- The loss of the most noble race (Germans) in WWI was the ruin of the planet and being “unnatural,” = Jewish
- So Hitler looked around and where he believed this hadn’t happened and settled on one key country: the USA. He became obsessed with America
- To Hitler, the United States had an abundance of natural resources and wide open spaces—the perfect example of *lebensraum* (living space)—which created an ideal land empire; the US grew food better than the rest of the world



HITLER'S VISION- LEBENSRAUM

- Also, the USA had slowly exterminated/attempted to exterminate those who were already there—the indigenous population
- Hitler's early model for the eradication of Jews was based on US's interactions with Native Americans
- So, Germany needed to replicate the US, and the best place to do that was in the “breadbaskets” of Eastern Europe
- Goal- promote and expand the Aryan race



ARYAN RACE

- The **master race** is a concept in Nazi ideology focusing on the Nordic or Aryan races
- predominant among Germans and other northern European peoples
- deemed the highest in racial hierarchy.



NAZI PARTY IN POWER

- ⑩ Germany back to pre-WWI industrial levels by 1929
- Great Depression hits Oct. 29, 1929
- Country begins to fall apart
- Hindenburg runs for 3rd term and wins, but Nazis get most votes in Reichstag w/ 37% after major propaganda campaign by Joseph Goebbels
- Form coalition to appoint Hitler Chancellor
- Done in small ceremony but then marches SA through Brandenburg gate





