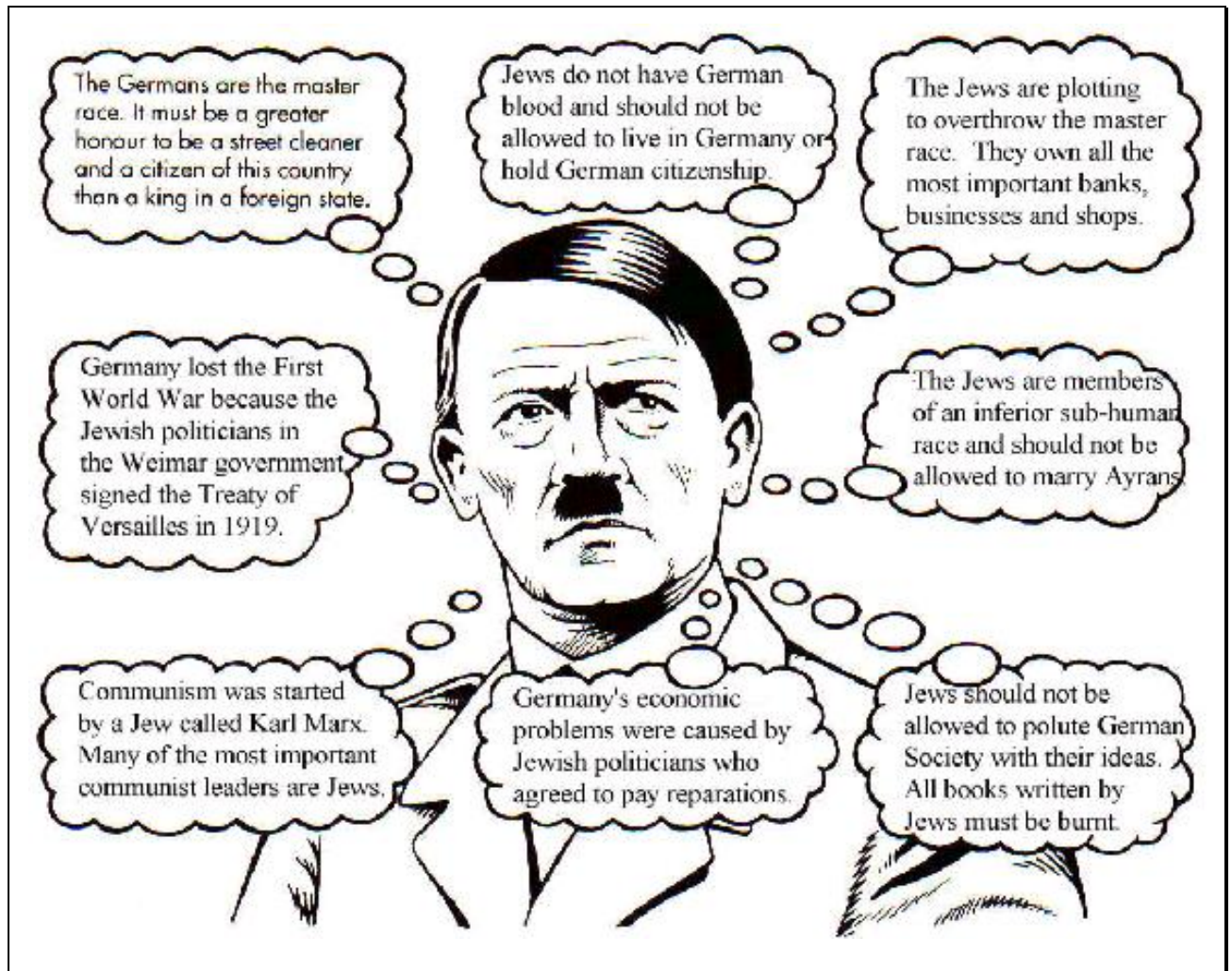


Anti-Semitism in Germany 1933 to 1939

In 1933 the Nazi Party won the most seats in the Reichstag. Their leader, Adolf Hitler won because he promised to make Germany great again and punish those who he blamed for making Germany weak. He was also elected because he promised to create jobs and give welfare to the six million unemployed Germans who were suffering from the effects of the Great Depression. Hitler claimed that all of Germany's political, economic and social problems were caused by the Jews.

Source A: Mr RJ Huggins, 1997



Anti-Semitism in Germany 1933 to 1939

Hitler believed that both the Jews and the Communists were to blame for Germany losing the First World War, the signing of The Treaty of Versailles and the Great Depression which started in 1929. He believed that there was a Jewish plot or conspiracy to take over the world and undermine the Master Race. See Source B.

Hitler claimed that both Capitalism and Communism were examples of this attempt by the Jews to take over Germany. Many people who voted for the Nazi Party in 1933, ignored Hitler's views on the Jews because they were desperate to vote for someone who would solve the massive unemployment in Germany. Businessmen also gave money to the Nazi Party because they were afraid that there was going to be a Communist Revolution. Hitler arranged for an election to be held in March 1933. He hoped that the Nazi Party would win a majority of seats in the Reichstag. A week before voting day, the Reichstag building went up in flames. A Communist, Marianus van der Lubbe, was caught with matches and fire-lighters in his pockets. Hitler said that this was the start of a Communist plot to take over the country and convinced President Hindenburg to give him special emergency powers to arrest the Communists and ban them from taking part in the elections. As a result of banning the Communists, Hitler and the Nazis won just under half the vote. It was a large enough majority for Hitler to convince the Reichstag to agree to an **Enabling Law on 23 March 1933**. This let Hitler make laws without asking the Reichstag. He used this law to make Germany into a One Party State by banning all other political parties and to put his political beliefs into action. On the 1st April 1933 Hitler began his attack on Jewish shops and businesses.

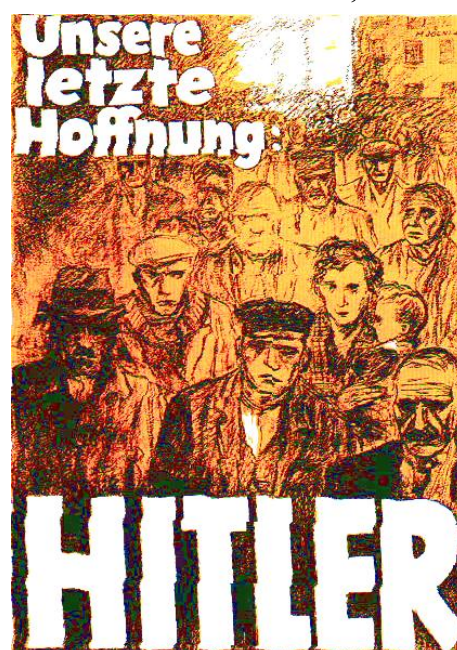
Anti-Semitism in Germany 1933 to 1939

The caption reads: 'Hitler is Our last Chance'

Source B: Nazi Political leaflet, 1933

There is a secret world conspiracy which is trying to make people into slaves ... 300 big bankers and newspaper owners across the world are the real dictators. They belong to the so called 'chosen people'. Shake off your Jewish leaders and those in the pay of Judas! (Jews)... And one final point Don't expect anything from the Bolsheviks (Communists). It does not bring the worker freedom... In Russia the 8 hour day has been stopped. There are no more workers' councils. The government has now become a dictatorship. Most of the Communist government are Jewish. Bolshevism is a Jewish swindle.

Source C: Nazi Poster, 1933



Activities

1. Look at Source A: Why did Hitler and the Nazi Party hate the Jews?

Source D: Unemployment in Germany

Year	Unemployed
1928	650 000
1929	1 320 000
1930	3 000 000
1931	4 350 000
1932	5 102 000
1933	6 100 000

Source E: Size of Nazi Vote

Year	Number of Votes
1928	800 000
1930	6 400 000
1932 July	13 700 000
1932 Nov	11 700 000

Anti-Semitism in Germany 1933 to 1939

2. Which event caused German Unemployment to increase in 1929?
3. Look at Sources C, D and E. Why did the votes for the Nazi Party increase as unemployment increased in Germany?
4. Look at Source B.
 - a) What was the difference between a Communist and a Jew?
 - b) Who controlled the World's biggest banks and newspapers?
 - c) What were the aims of the Communists and Jews according to the Nazi Party?
5. Why did some businessmen give money to the Nazi Party?
6. How did Hitler use the Reichstag fire to increase his chances of winning the elections in March 1933?
7. Why were many Germans who voted for the Nazi Party willing to ignore Hitler's hatred of the Jews?
8. Why did Hitler launch an attack on the Jews living in Germany on 1st April 1933?

Hitler's ideas on the Master Race.
Hitler's ideas on the Jews
Unemployment
Election Promises of the Nazi Party
Reichstag Fire
Enabling Act