

Timeline of Hitler's Rise to Power

1930 - 1933: Rise in support of Hitler in Germany and the Nazi party. The German people look for someone to guide them through their economic Depression. Hitler was an excellent speaker and used propaganda to encourage votes.

1933

January: Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany
February: The Reichstag Fire - Reichstag (parliament) building burned down by Communist, pivotal to establishment of Nazi Germany
March: The Enabling Act - Hitler is able to make decisions without consulting the Reichstag

1934

Hitler is building secret army (Luftwaffe), which violated the Versailles Treaty.
January: Polish-German Non-Aggression Pact
June: The Night of the Long Knives - political murders of the S.A. faction, specifically Ernst Röhm.
August: President Hindenburg dies, Hitler combines chancellor and president roles to become Der Führer.

1935

March: Hitler admits existence of Luftwaffe, introduces conscription to build army
June: British-German Naval Agreement - Britain gives Germany the right to build its navy

1936

February: France signs Franco-Russian Mutual Assistance Pact
March: Germany does not like the Franco-Russian alliance; their military re-occupies the Rhineland (German border between France and Germany), again violating the Versailles treaty.
July: Austria-German Alliance - under Italian pressure, German renounces all claims to Austria
November: Rome-Berlin Axis (Germany and Italy build alliance)

1938

March: Austrian Anschluß (Anschluss) - Germany occupies Austria with no resistance, declares it part of the German Reich

September: The Munich Conference/Agreement - Britain (Chamberlain), France (Daladier), Italy (Mussolini), and Germany (Hitler) attend. Germany is given the Sudetenland (parts of Czechoslovakia) in exchange for continued peace in Europe.

1939

March: Britain promises to defend Poland
Hitler occupies remaining parts of Czechoslovakia

April: Hitler announces plans to invade Poland

August: German-Russian Non-Aggression Pact - Germany and Russia secretly agree to split Poland between themselves

Sept. 1: Hitler invades Poland

Sept. 3: Britain declares war on Germany

Sept. 10: Canada declares war on Germany