

## Adolf Hitler

How much do you really know about this infamous historical man?

## Born 4/14/1849

- Born in Austria-Hungary
- Moved to Germany when he was 3
- 4<sup>th</sup> of 6 children

## A nationalist

- Developed nationalist ideas at a young age
- Very loyal to Germany
- Disrespected the declining monarchy in Austria-Hungary

## WWI

- Volunteered for German army
- Served as a dispatch runner on Western Front
- Spent ½ his time behind enemy lines

## WWI

- Present at about 5 battles
- Received Iron Cross 2<sup>nd</sup> class in 1914
- Wounded in thigh in 1916
- Received Iron Cross 1<sup>st</sup> class in 1918

## WWI

- Pursued his artwork at headquarters in his down time



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## WWI

- Described WWI as “the greatest of all his experiences”
- Commended for his bravery
- Reinforced his nationalistic feelings

## Germany’s Surrender

- He was shocked and disappointed in 1918 when Germany surrendered to Allied forces

## Treaty of Versaille

- The reparations Germany had to pay put the country into an economic depression
- Extremist political parties rose up
  - democratic elections

## A man with no country

- Hitler renounced his Austrian citizenship in 1925 and did not become a German citizen until 1932

## 1932

- Hitler ran for political office but lost
- Yet this solidified him as a political force
- Appointed as Chancellor of Germany
  - This gave him power over the police force

### The Enabling Act, 1933

- Nazi party rises to hold 44% of the seats in Parliament (a majority)
- Proposed "The Enabling Act"
  - Allowed for Hitler's cabinet to have full legislative powers for four years
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### A legal dictatorship

- This made Hitler's government a legal dictatorship
- Now the Nazi party controlled all branches of gov't
- Intimidated other political parties until they disbanded

### A legal dictatorship

- Forced other leaders to resign
- Office of president abolished
- Chancellor became head of state
  - Incl. head of the armed forces

### Loyalty switch

- Traditional oath of loyalty to Germany was switched to say "loyalty to Hitler"

### Blackmail

- Early 1938 Hitler used blackmail to strengthen his hold on the military
- Forced all remaining officers to resign
- Took personal control of all commanding positions

### The Final Solution

- "we shall regain our health only by eliminating the Jews"
- Holocaust – 5.5 million Jews and about 1 million Romani people were killed

Video – 45 min.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fWXrSQdTio>