Let’s play the Dictatorship Decision Game! “How Hitler Became Fuhrer!”

Introduction and Rules:

Hitler wants to become dictator of Germany. As one of his closest advisor, Hitler wants you to help him.

The obstacles which may stand in his way are:

⊙ Any new laws must be passed by the Reichstag
⊙ There are only 3 nazis in the government
⊙ He does not have the support of the army which feels threatened by the SA
⊙ Opposition parties exist
⊙ Hindenburg, the president can sack him at any time
If you accept this mission – you will need to eliminate these obstacles.

You will be given various situations and courses of actions

Think carefully before deciding a course of action, weigh up the consequences carefully.

Failure is not an option!

1. Hitler has only 3 nazi’s in the cabinet, this is not enough to get a majority to pass the laws he wants

What should he do?

A
Persuade Hindenburg to use article 48 to let him pass laws.

B
Call for new elections to try and get more Nazis in parliament.

C
Start to pass new laws feeling confident that the parliament members will feel intimidated by him and will vote for whatever he wants.
2. Before the elections the Reichstag burns down. A communist ‘Van der Lubbe’ is found inside with matches and admits his guilt. What should he do?

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<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hang Van der Lubbe for treason.</td>
<td>Take revenge on the communists. Attack without mercy until the streets run red with blood.</td>
<td>Persuade Hindenburg this is part of a communist revolution. Ask for powers to arrest communists to save the Republic.</td>
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3. Hitler wants to pass an Enabling Law. This would allow him to rule without consulting parliament for 4 years. To pass this law he needs have a 2:1 majority. What should he do?

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<td>Allow all the parties to vote on the law. Use the SA to count the votes.</td>
<td>Use the SA to prevent other politicians entering the Reichstag. Only allow Nazis in to vote on the law.</td>
<td>Use bribery to persuade other parties to vote for the law. Use intimidation to prevent other others from voting against it.</td>
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4. Germany is governed by a network of officials, not all of whom support the Nazis. What should he do?

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<td>A</td>
<td>Replace the existing network with his own network of loyal Nazi officials.</td>
<td>B</td>
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5. Hitler still does not have the support of the army who feel threatened by the SA. The leader of the SA is very popular with the people and wishes to merge the SA with the army.

What should he do?

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<td>A</td>
<td>Rohm is popular and an asset. Make him leader of the army and the SA into one Nazi fighting force.</td>
<td>B</td>
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6. Hindenburg, the president of the Republic dies. What should Hitler do?

A. Start organising elections for the next future president of the Republic

B. Make himself President

C. Appoint Goebbels, his minister of Propaganda as President so that he can control the president

Do your answers reveal that you have what it takes to advise a dictator?