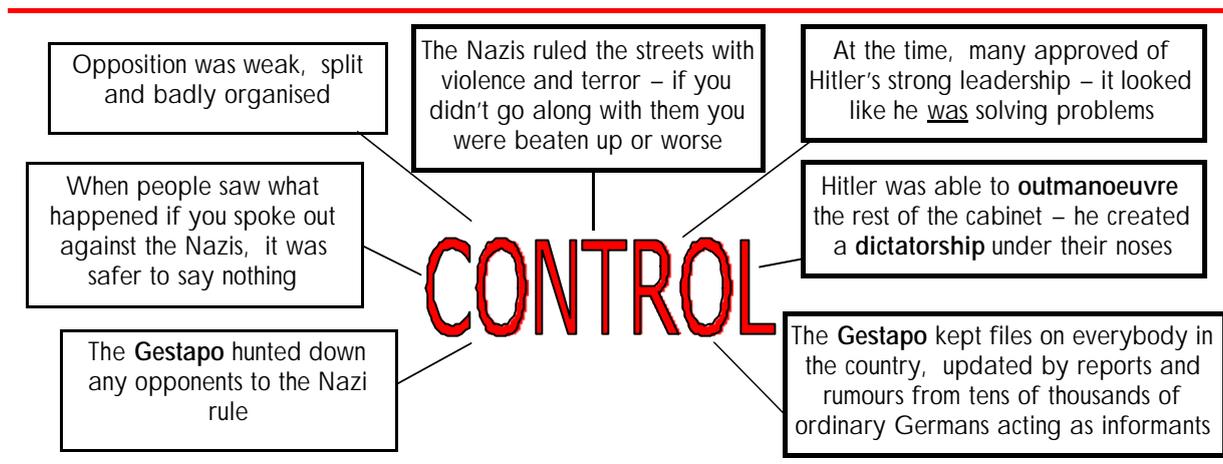


# THE HITLER STATE

The Nazis gained enormous popularity due to the terrible conditions in Germany, effective propaganda, and their promises to solve all Germany's problems. However, they were never supported by a majority of German voters between 1930 and 1933....

Once Adolf Hitler had been appointed Chancellor (1933), he managed to take total control of Germany:



## WHY WAS IT SO DIFFICULT TO RESIST HITLER?

### Individual Accounts

Otto Bauer, a 56 year old business man, said on a train in June 1942 that Germans only had two alternatives: to kill Hitler or be killed by him. He was overheard by a married couple who reported him. He was beheaded on 16 September 1943 for causing discontent and unrest.

Erich Deibel: on 29 August 1940 he drew a Communist symbol on the wall of a lavatory in his factory, adding the words "Hail Freedom!" and "Workers! Help Russia! Strike! Up with the Communist Party!". Accused of sabotage and treason, he was executed on 15 August 1942.



### GLOSSARY

**Outmanoeuvre** – to use skill and cunning to get advantage.  
**Dictatorship** – a state ruled by a leader without any restrictions.  
**Gestapo** – Hitler's secret police.  
**Interrogation** – asking questions under pressure.

Criticism of Hitler and the Nazi state was banned, and those who broke this ban faced **interrogation**, torture, prison and sometimes death. Germans snoop on each other, informing the Gestapo of any suspicious people. If suspected, your family and friends could also expect investigation – not just you.

Using this policy of fear, the Nazis managed to stop freedom of speech and expression. Everyone had to go along with Nazi policy – or face the consequences.

# QUESTIONS



Put the title: THE HITLER STATE

- ① What are the three reasons why the Nazis gained enormous popularity?
- ② When was Hitler appointed Chancellor?
- ③
  - a) Copy out the spider diagram explaining how Hitler took control.
  - b) What or who were the Gestapo?
  - c) How did the Gestapo make sure Hitler faced no opposition?
  - d) How did the Gestapo get their information?
- ④
  - a) What did Otto Bauer do to get beheaded?
  - b) What did Erich Deibel do to get executed?
  - c) Did these two people deserve to be killed? Explain your opinion.

What did people who criticised the Nazis face?
- ⑤ Even if you didn't mind the consequences, why would you still be very
- ⑥ unwilling to speak out against the Hitler? [Who else could suffer?]  
What did the Nazis manage to do using their policy of fear?
- ⑦ Write a paragraph under the title: Why it was so difficult to resist Hitler?
- ⑧

## EXTENSION WORK

Using your previous work, explain how Hitler was able to come to power. Make sure you explain and cover the issues below:

- ✓ Conditions during 1930s
- ✓ What the German people felt
- ✓ How Hitler explained Germany's problems
- ✓ What Hitler promised