

## Adolf Hitler

- Early years
  - Born – 6:30pm April 20 1889 in Branunau am Inn, Austria
    - Alois Schicklgruber & Klara Polzl
    - Was poor student; dreamer
    - Viennese Academy of Fine Arts rejects x2
    - Enjoyed “Bohemian” lifestyle
    - Hitler = loner
  - Introduced to *Volkish* thought
    - Based on *Weltpolitik*
    - Basic tenants:
      - Houston Stewart Chamberlain - *Foundations of 19<sup>th</sup> Cen* (1899)
    - *Alldeutscher Verband*
      - Georg von Schönerer
  - Other influences
    - Karl Lueger
    - Lanz von Liebenfels
      - *Theozoologie & Ostara*
      - *Ordo Novi Templi*
  - 1913, Hitler moves to Munich
    - Draft dodger

- Exposed to Marxism
- June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1914
  - Enlists – 16<sup>th</sup> Bavarian Reserve Infantry Regiment
  - 1<sup>st</sup> combat = 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ypres
- War Years
  - Served as dispatch runner
  - Promoted only once
  - Highly decorated
  - Preserved by divine fate?
  - Lectured peers
  - Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, 1918 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres
  - Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – learns of armistice; suffers psychological blow
  - Impact of War = significant
  - Applies lessons to politics
- Post War
  - Returns to Munich
  - Hired by Karl Meyer
    - Job = undercover agent
  - Sept 1919 - *Deutsche Arbeiter partei* (DAP)
    - Anton Drexler
    - Platform = “Anti-Jewish” Socialism

- Focused rhetoric on masses
- DAP = small
- Hitler ORDERED to go back
- Asked to join DAP
- DAP seeded w/ *Thule-Gesellschaft*
  - Focus = purity of blood
  - Founded by Rudolf von Sebottendorff
  - From Thule = Dietrich Eckart, Alfred Rosenberg, Rudolf Hess
  - Thule controls paper = *Münchener Beobachter*
- Hitler initially works for gov't & DAP
  - Discharged; works for DAP
  - "Twenty-Five Points" co-written w/ Drexler
    - Designed for anyone w/ grievance
    - Demanded:
  - Devotes full energy
  - Called - *der Fuehrer*
  - Renames party **National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter partei**- NSDAP
  - Adopts swastika
  - "Heil!"
  - Paper = *Volkischer Beobachter*
  - Finds paramilitary groups
    - *Ordnertruppen*

- *Sturmabteilung* (SA) - Capt Ernst Roehm
- *Jugendbund*
- 1921-1923 - NSDAP grows
  - Bavarian elites
  - *Völkischer Beobachter* circulation increases
  - Party grows
  - Mergers w/ some radical groups; allies w/ others
- 1923 = NSDAP & Hitler at crossroads
  - NOTE: 1923 = hyper-inflation
  - Ponders national revolt?
  - Jan 27 – 1<sup>st</sup> Party Day of NSDAP
  - May 1 - Attack on the Reds
  - Gen. Erich Ludendorff
- 8 Nov Opportunity comes
  - Large meeting @ *Bürgerbraukeller*
    - 3000 elites
    - Gustav Ritter von Kahr
    - Gen. Otto von Lossow
    - Col. Hans von Seisser
  - Hitler seizes opportunity for *putsch*
    - Takes stage, declares “*the national revolution has begun!*”

- Ludendorff arrives; crowd goes wild
- Hitler seizes moment
- News of Putsch reaches Berlin
  - General Hans von Seeckt
  - Prepares to smash rebellion
  - Leaders denounce Hitler
- Ludendorff's proposal
- 9 Nov - 11am
  - Ludendorff, Hitler, Goering, Striecher, Himmler, etc.
  - Meet police; shot fired; police fire
  - 16 Nazis & 3 police die
  - Hitler flees; Ludendorff stands tall
- Putsch fails, but brilliant achievement
  - Nazis now know nationally
  - Hitler's lesson