

The Enabling Law.

- ❑ The Reichstag Fire had given Hitler the opportunity to damage the reputation of the Communists and to heighten the reputation of the Nazis.
- ❑ The election of March 1933 and the decision of the Nationalist Party to join with the Nazis had given Hitler control of the Reichstag.
- ❑ **OPPORTUNISM** - Hitler wasted no time. On 23rd March he introduced an **ENABLING ACT** which would allow him to have complete power in Germany. However, this law needed to be approved by the whole Reichstag.
- ❑ **INTIMIDATION** - Great pressure was put on the other parties in the Reichstag by the Nazis. A. By using the Law for the Protection of the People and State, Hitler banned the Communists from taking their seats. B. Members of the Social Democrats were beaten up by the SA, and many were too scared to turn up to the voting.

The result of these tactics was that the Enabling Law was passed.

- ❑ The Enabling Law gave Hitler the power to pass any laws without consulting the Reichstag, and without the approval of President Hindenburg.
- ❑ After March 1933 the Reichstag only really met to hear speeches by Hitler. The authority of all other political parties had been swept away.
- ❑ In the next elections, the Nazis were the only party allowed to stand.

Removing External Opposition.

- ❑ The removal of other political parties became formal in July 1933 when Hitler introduced the **Law Against the Formation of New Parties**.
- ❑ This law stated that the Nazi Party was the only party allowed to exist in Germany.
- ❑ It laid down severe punishment for anyone who tried to set up another party. **Germany was now a one-party state (a dictatorship).**
- ❑ Trade unions were also abolished and their offices destroyed. Workers, or companies no longer had a political voice against the Nazis.
- ❑ Leaders of political parties and trade unions were arrested and moved to labour camps.
- ❑ Hitler made sure that all posts in government were held by Nazi supporters.
- ❑ Nazi officials were put in charge of the local governments which ran the states of Germany.
- ❑ Hitler made sure that all civil servants and judges were Nazi supporters. Anyone who wasn't was removed from office.

Hitler soon had complete control of Germany and its political, administrative and legal systems.

Removing Internal Opposition.

- ❑ Once Hitler had control of Germany he didn't need the SA anymore. He was also worried that they might be a threat to his leadership.
- ❑ The SA leader Ernst Roehm wanted the SA to have total control of the German army. This would make him more powerful than Hitler.
- ❑ Hitler decided that Roehm must be stopped, or the Nazis ran the risk of losing the support of the army.
- ❑ On 30th June 1934 the **Night of the Long Knives** took place. Hitler claimed that the SA was plotting to seize power and ordered the SS to arrest hundreds of SA leaders. They were rounded up and shot.
- ❑ Hitler told the Reichstag that he had done all this to "save the nation" from threat.

Hindenburg's Death.

- ❑ The only person with higher power than Hitler was the President, Hindenburg.
- ❑ On 2nd August 1934, Hindenburg died aged 87.
- ❑ Immediately Hitler declared that he was **President**, as well as being **Chancellor** and **Head of the German army**.
- ❑ These positions meant that Hitler could now give himself the title of **"Führer."**

The Nazi control of Germany was now totally complete. All areas of opposition had been removed by one method or another.