



**HOW DID HITLER CONSOLIDATE HIS POWER BETWEEN 1933 & 1934?**

**1) JANUARY 1933 MADE CHANCELLOR**

Hitler was made CHANCELLOR in January 1933. This was a powerful position BUT it was still threatened by elements:

- 1) The power of President Hindenburg
- 2) The army
- 3) Political opponents
- 4) Democracy- He could be voted out

Hitler aimed to CONSOLIDATE (strengthen) his power. This will take him only 18 months to achieve COMPLETE POWER making Germany a One Party State and making himself DICTATOR

Hitlers first move was to call an election for March 1933. He hoped this would enable him to build on the Nazi support and perhaps gain a majority enabling him to control The Reichstag.. and Germany

Hitler began introducing new laws to control his opponents. Newspapers were prevented from criticising the new Nazi leader and party. The SA were also used to stir up trouble and disrupt opposition meetings

**2) FEBRUARY 1933 REICHSTAG FIRE**

One key event in Hitlers consolidation of power was the REICHSTAG FIRE of FEBRUARY 1933.

WHAT HAPPENED?

This took place only 1 week before the election and played into Hitlers hands.

The Reichstag ( German Parliament) was burned down in what was assessed to be a terrorist act.

A Dutch communist called MARINUS VAN DER LUBBE was quickly apprehended, blamed for the fire and executed . Van DER LUBBE had mental health issues and many think the Nazis set him up to burn the Reichstag down for their own ends.

HOW WAS THIS EVENT IMPORTANT TO THE NAZIS?

Hitler quickly used this event to skilfully do THREE THINGS:

- 1) Create fear
- 2) Gain more powers
- 3) Eliminate his Communist opponents

He used the FEAR of Communism to PERSUADE PRESIDENT HINDENBURG to grant him Emergency powers. Hindenburg, fearing a communist plot, allowed this. Hitler introduced THE LAW FOR THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE AND STATE. This allowed him to SUSPEND CIVIL RIGHTS

He used this to immediately deal with POLITICAL THREATS. He rounded up COMMUNISTS and put them in camps. He used his SA to intimidate opponents

**3) MARCH 1933 ENABLING ACT**

Hitler wanted a law called the enabling law to be passed. This law would allow him the power to make laws WITHOUT the Reichstag. It would effectively make Hitler dictator

To do this however REQUIRED 2/3rds support of the REICHSTAG

Hitlers Nazis only had less than 50%. However, Hitler devised a way to achieve this:

- 1) He used his PROTECTION LAWS to BAN the Communist party
- 2) He used the SA to intimidate opponents and stop the, from attending the vote
- 3) He won over other parties SUPPORT. THE CATHOLIC CENTRE PARTY was won over by empty promises of ending the protection laws in return for their votes

THE ENABLING ACT WSS PASSED BY 441 votes to 94

**4) GLEICHSCHALTUNG Coordination and control**

JULY 1933 All political parties (except the Nazis) were banned. Germany was a ONE PARTY STATE

GESTAPO (secret Police) established

TRADE UNIONS BANNED and replaced by Nazi DAF organisation

REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS NOW NAZI CONTROLLED ( they would be closed by the end of 1933)

**BACKGROUND**  
By 1934 Hitler STILL faced THREE THREATS TO HIS POWER

- 1) The army
- 2) The SA (leadership)
- 3) PRESIDENT HINDENBURG

His main immediate threat was ERNST ROHM the leader of the SA

WHY WOULD HITLER WANT ROHM DEAD?

- a) ROHM is the leader of the SA, a huge organisation with over 1.5 million men (more than the army!) Hitler feared ROHM was going to try to take over
- b) the PUBLIC hate the SA, who they regard as being trouble makers
- c) The ARMY hate the SA as they are a threat and have more men than the official army

WHAT HAPPENED?

Hitler decides to strike. In July 1934 he organises his SS to raid different places where the SA leadership (and other political opponents) are

Many are ARRESTED and thrown in jail  
Up to 200 are killed including ROHM  
Other political opponents are dealt with too including VON KAHR (Munich putsch) and VON SCHLEICHER ( previous Chancellor)

RESULTS OF MUNICH PUTSCH

- 1) The people are grateful and believe Hitler has acted like a leader.
- 2) The ARMY leadership are thankful. They absorb many of the SA into their armed forces and they even create a personal OATH OF ALLEGIANCE every soldier says to thank Hitler for dealing with the SA.
- 3) Hitler has eliminated a key opponent ROHM
- 4) Hitler goes on to wait for Hindenburg to die in AUGUST 1934. This gives him the chance to be FUHRER- an all powerful dictator.

