

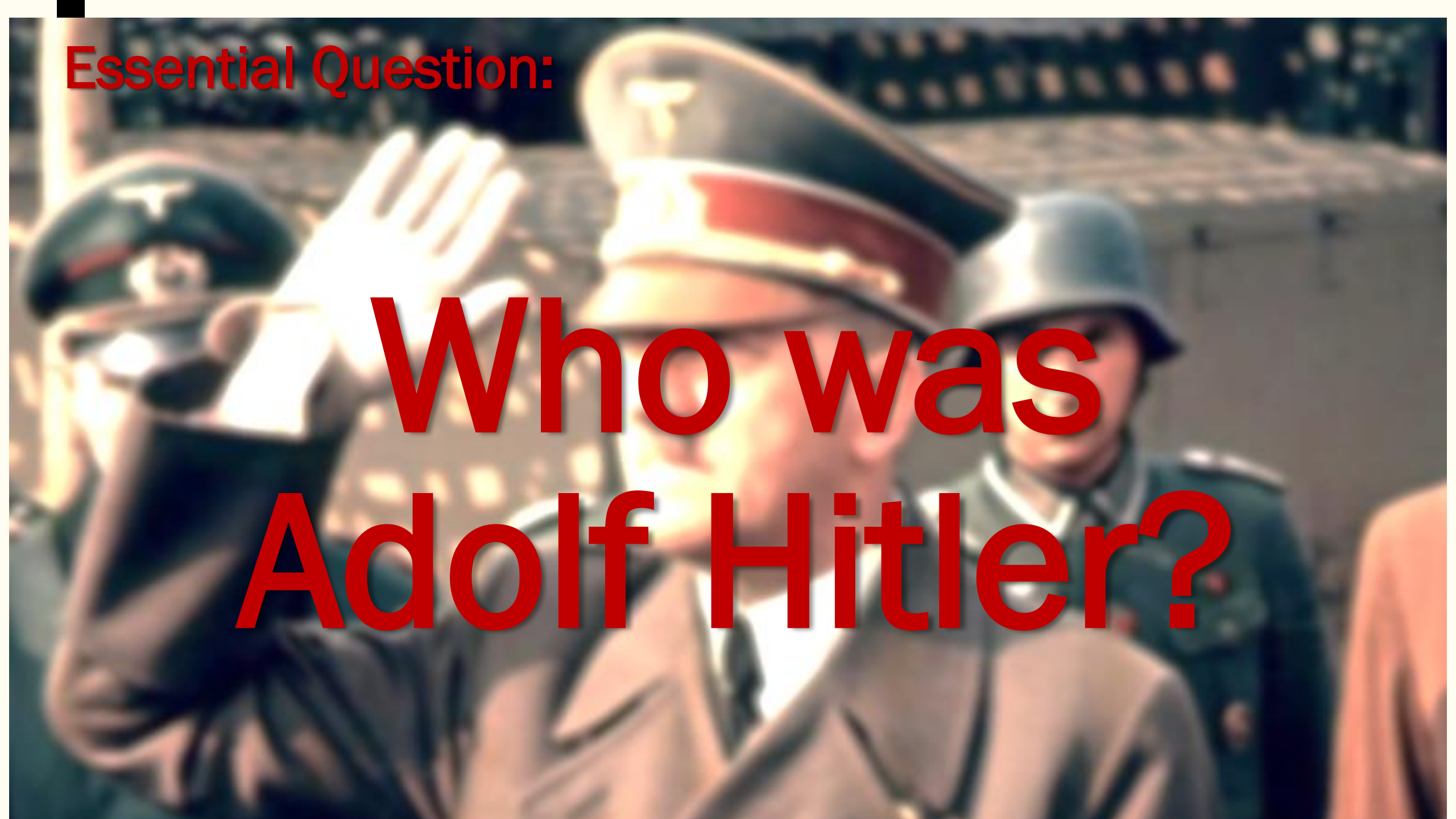


LIFE AND RISE TO POWER OF

ADOLF HITLER

Essential Question:

**Who was
Adolf Hitler?**



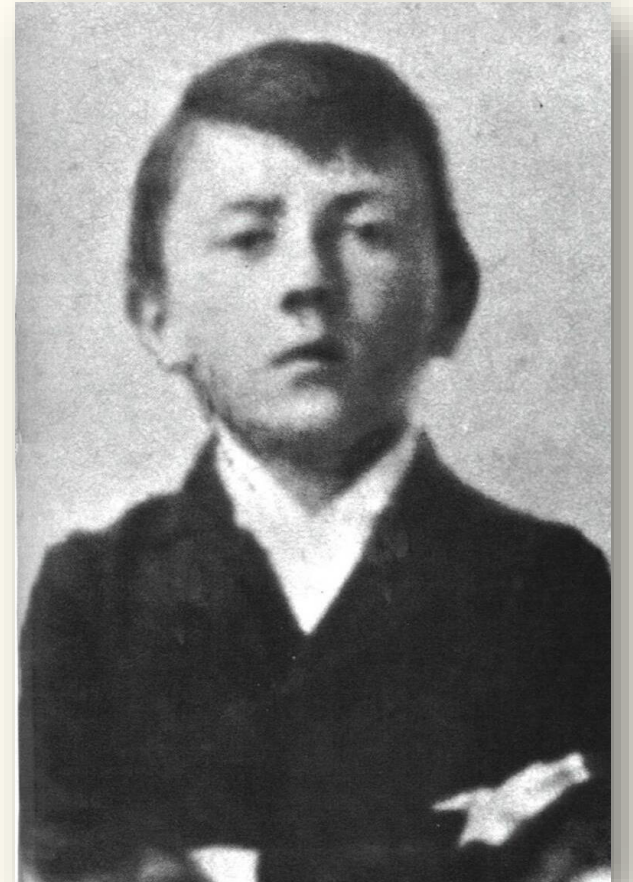
Early Life

- Adolf Hitler was born on **April 20th 1889** in Braunau am Inn, Austria-Hungary.
- In 1892, when Hitler was just three years old his family moved to Germany, but would soon return to Austria in 1894.
- Hitler's father, Alois, farmed and developed a career in the customs bureau.



Early Life

- As a child, Adolf was known for being very moody and grew hostile and resentful towards his father for his decision to move his family.
- As well, Adolf's first intention in life was to become a painter and he wanted to attend classical art school but was forced to pursue other efforts due to the wishes of his father.
 - *After the death of his father in 1903, Hitler soon left school and moved to Vienna in 1905.*



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Early Life

- In Vienna, Hitler lived an impoverished lifestyle.
 - *He made very little money as a general labourer and by selling watercolor works of art on the streets of the city.*
 - *Also, his mother Klara, helped support him with what money she could.*
- He applied to enter the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna in 1907 and again in 1908 but was rejected both times.
 - *When his mother died in late 1907, Hitler was forced to live in hostels and homeless shelters.*





**Describe the early life of
Adolf Hitler**

Anti-Semitism

- Many events in his early life led to his **hatred** towards the **Jewish** people.
- It is believed that the beginnings of Hitler's anti-Semitism began during his time in **Vienna**.
 - *The Austro-Hungarian Empire was made up of many different races and in his book, **Mein Kampf**, Hitler stated that it was in the Austrian city of Vienna that he developed his anger and resentment towards the **Jewish people**.*
 - *Regardless, Hitler's anti-Semite views grew in intensity during his time in **World War I**.*

Time in World War I

- Hitler left Vienna in 1913 and moved to Munich, **Germany**.
 - *It is widely believed that he fled Austria-Hungary to avoid being conscripted into the Austrian army, due to his hatred of the mix of ethnicities that existed in the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the time.*
- While in Munich, Hitler volunteered to serve in the German Army for **World War I**, which had just begun.
 - *Hitler was appointed to the Bavarian Reserve Infantry Regiment and served as a dispatch runner on the Western Front.*



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Time in World War I

- While he was often far from the frontlines of battle, he did participate at several key World War I battles, including: First Battle of Ypres, Battle of the Somme, Battle of Arras and the Battle of Passchendaele (Third Battle of Ypres).



Time in World War I

- He was wounded at the **Battle of the Somme** by an exploding shell and spent the next two months recovering in hospital.
- He was again wounded near the end of the war, when he was temporarily **blinded** by a mustard gas attack.
 - *It was during his time in the hospital after the mustard gas attack that he learned of Germany's surrender to the Allied Powers.*
 - *For his bravery and service in the war Hitler was awarded several **honors**, including: two Iron Crosses, Cross of Military Merit, and the Wound Badge.*

Time in World War I

- After the end of World War I, Hitler remained with the army and worked as an intelligence agent.
 - *He was tasked with monitoring the activities of the German Worker's Party (DAP), but was soon inspired by the party and its nationalistic and anti-Semitic message.*
 - *In 1919, Hitler joined the party, which soon changed its name to the **National Socialist** German Worker's Party (NSDAP) and began using the swastika as its official image.*



A historical photograph of Adolf Hitler in a military uniform, saluting with his right hand. He is wearing a dark uniform with a peaked cap. In the background, other soldiers in similar uniforms are visible, some also saluting. The scene is outdoors, possibly on a parade ground or military installation.

Describe Hitler's involvement in WWI

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Politics

- In the summer of 1921, he assumed control of the National Socialist German Worker's Party and began to work to increase its prominence in German politics.
 - *He did this by delivering his characteristic public speeches concerning his views on the state of Germany.*
- Hitler was masterful at public speaking in that he was charismatic and impassioned when he spoke.



Politics

- He rose to power of the Nazi Party in Germany in the 1930's and eventually rose to become Fuhrer (leader) of the country.



Politics

- Hitler worked to create and develop two important organizations for the Nazi Party.
 - *Hitler Youth*
 - *Sturmabteilung (SA)*

Politics

- Near the end of 1922 and the beginning of 1923, he formed the basics of what would eventually become the Hitler Youth.
 - *This was a paramilitary youth organization that promoted the ideals of fascism and the Nazi Party in general.*



Politics

- The Hitler Youth existed from 1922 to 1945 and was the second oldest paramilitary Nazi group, founded one year after its adult counterpart, the *Sturmabteilung* (the SA).
 - *It was made up of different sections for male youth ages 14–18; younger boys for ages 10–14; and a general girls section.*
 - *The Hitler Youth were viewed as future "Aryan supermen" and were indoctrinated in anti-Semitism.*
 - *The organization put more emphasis on **physical and military** training than on academic study.*

Politics

- The other organization that he developed at generally the same time was the **Sturmabteilung** (SA), which was the original paramilitary organization of the Nazi Party and was also referred to as the “**Brown Shirts**”.
- *The SA was based on an ideology where commitment, effectiveness and political reliability, not class or education, would determine how far they succeeded in the organization.*
- *The SA also stressed total **loyalty** and **obedience** to orders unto death.*

Politics

- Inspired partially by **Benito Mussolini** in Italy, Hitler decided in 1923 that the Nazi Party would need to seize power in Germany through the use of force.
 - *In November of 1923 Hitler and the SA led the Beer Hall Putsch, which was the Nazi Party's attempt to **overrun** the German government and assume control for itself.*
 - *The Beer Hall Putsch was a failure and Hitler was put on **trial** for treason.*



Benito Mussolini

Politics

- In a spectacular trial, Hitler put democracy and the Weimar Republic (German Government) on trial as traitors to the German people, he was convicted and sentenced to five years imprisonment.
- He was treated well in prison, had a room with a view of the river, wore a tie, received visitors to his chambers and was permitted the use of a private secretary.
 - *He was eventually paroled, served only a little over eight months after his sentencing in early 1924.*



Politics

- Hitler used the time in prison to consider his political strategy and write the first volume of his book Mein Kampf (My Struggle), which was an autobiographical account of his movement and its underlying ideology.
 - *Hitler's ideology at the time centered on extreme German nationalism, anti-Semitism, anti-communism and Lebensraum (Living Space).*



Describe Hitler's involvement in Politics



Rise to Power

- In 1925, Hitler promised to only use legal means to promote his politics and within two years, support for the **Nazi Party** had grown.
- *By 1928 Nazi membership was at about **100,000** members, and they continued to gain popularity based on Hitler's promised relief to the **economic** struggles that were plaguing Germany.*
- Hitler blamed many of Germany's economic problems on a variety of groups, such as **communists**, the **Jewish** and the Weimar Republic.



Rise to Power

- Hitler gained support among people from all classes of Germany because he was seen as a good leader who could return German **pride**.
- *Germany was embarrassed by the conditions of the Treaty of Versailles, which was the treaty imposed on Germany at the end of the First World War by the victorious nations.*
- In the treaty, Germany was made to take **blame** for the cause of the war and made to pay large amounts of reparations to cover the damage created from the war.
- Many Germans hated the conditions of the Treaty of Versailles and sought to end its **control** over Germany.

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Rise to Power

- Through Hitler's tireless effort, by 1932, the Nazi Party had 800,000 members and had become the largest party in the Reichstag, which was the German parliament.



Rise to Power

- Hitler became the **Chancellor** of Germany, leader of the democratically elected government on January 30th, 1933.
- Having become Chancellor, Hitler foiled all attempts by his opponents to gain a majority in parliament and was presented with an opportunity in February of 1933 when the Reichstag building was set on fire.
 - *Hitler believed this was his chance to use the people's fear of communism as a means of gaining complete control of Germany.*

Rise to Power

- The fire was blamed on communists to build on people's fears that there was a communist plot underway to start a communist revolution in Germany.
- Due to public and political concerns, the day after the fire Hitler asked for and received from President Hindenburg the Reichstag Fire Decree.
 - *It suspended most civil liberties in Germany and was used by the Nazis to ban publications not considered "friendly" to the Nazi cause.*

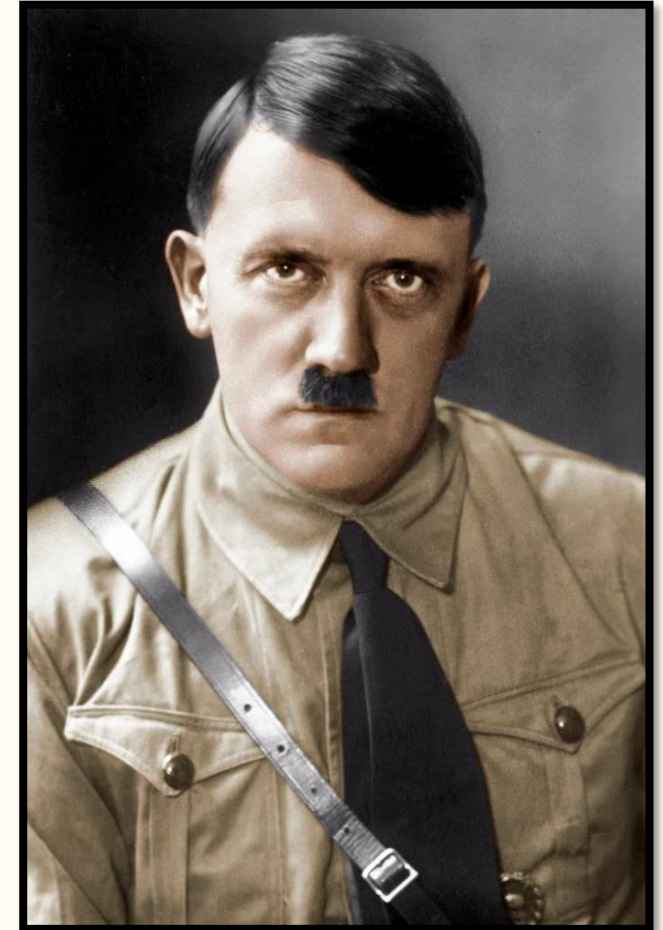


Rise to Power

- Next, on March 23rd, 1933, Germany's Reichstag passed "The Enabling Act" which granted Hitler and the Cabinet the authority to enact laws without the participation of the *Reichstag* for four years.
 - *This allowed Hitler and the Nazi Party to ban all other political parties and Germany ceased to be a democratic country and became a dictatorship under Adolf Hitler.*
 - *German President Paul von Hindenburg signed "The Enabling Act" under public pressure of a communist takeover and based on the popularity of the Nazi Party and Hitler within Germany.*

Rise to Power

- President Paul von Hindenburg died on the 2nd of August in 1934.
- Rather than holding new presidential elections, Hitler's cabinet passed a law proclaiming the presidency dormant and transferred the role and powers of the head of state to Hitler as *Führer und Reichskanzler* (leader and chancellor).



Rise to Power

- As head of state, Hitler now became supreme commander of the armed forces.
 - *Hitler's rise to power of Germany was complete and next began his war with the rest of Europe.*

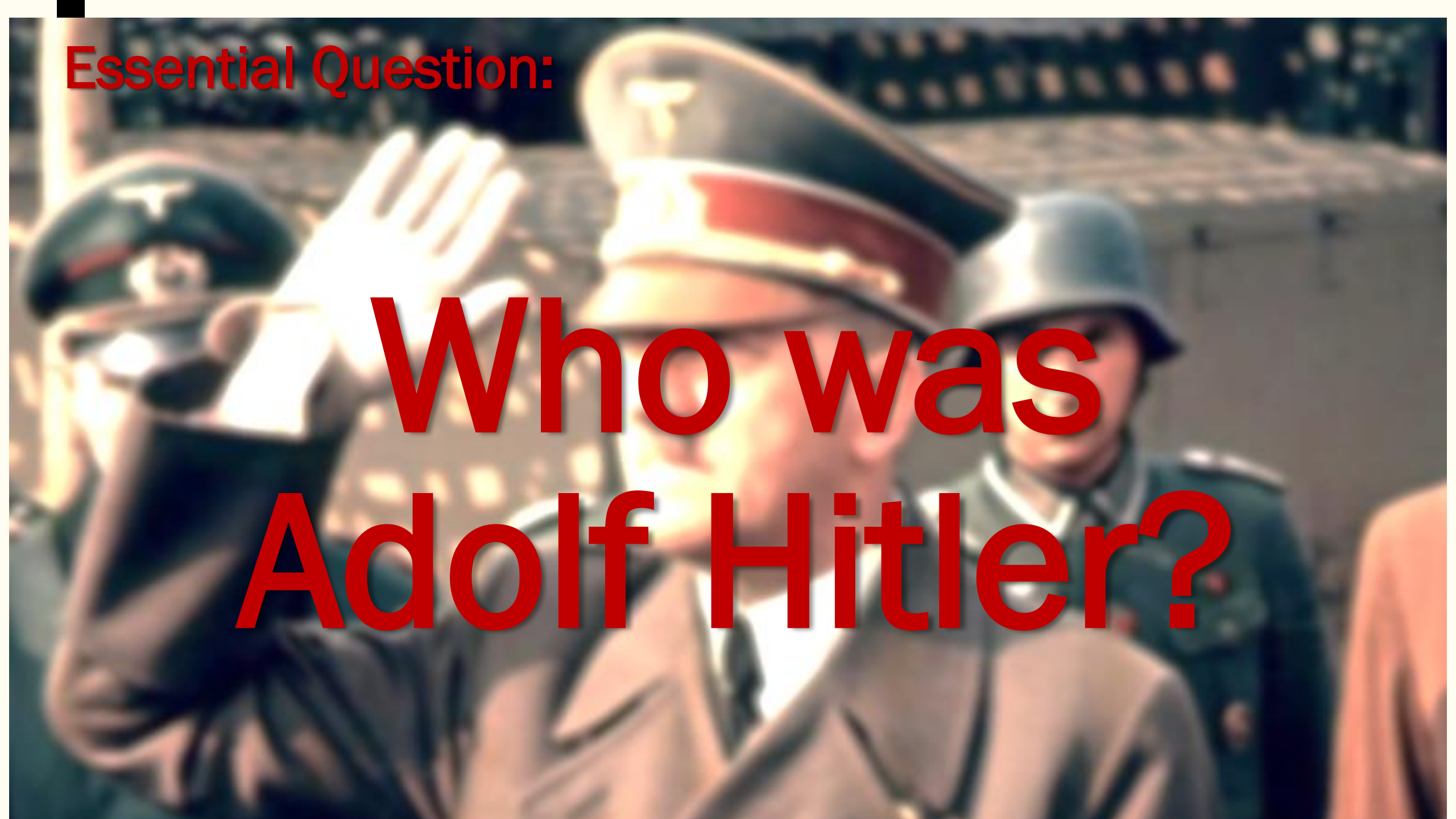


A historical photograph of Adolf Hitler in a military uniform, saluting with his right hand. He is wearing a brown tunic and a peaked cap. In the background, other soldiers in German military uniforms are visible, some also saluting. The scene is outdoors, possibly at a military ceremony or parade.

Explain how Hitler was able to rise to power in Germany

Essential Question:

**Who was
Adolf Hitler?**





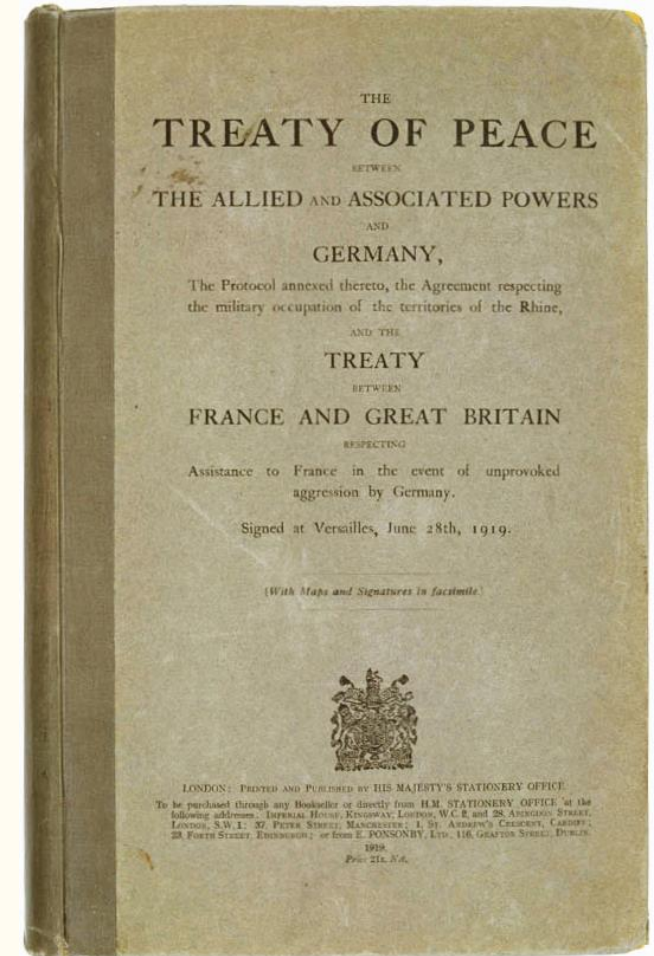
[The World Wars Adolf Hitler 5 min](#)



[How did Hitler rise to Power? 5 min](#)

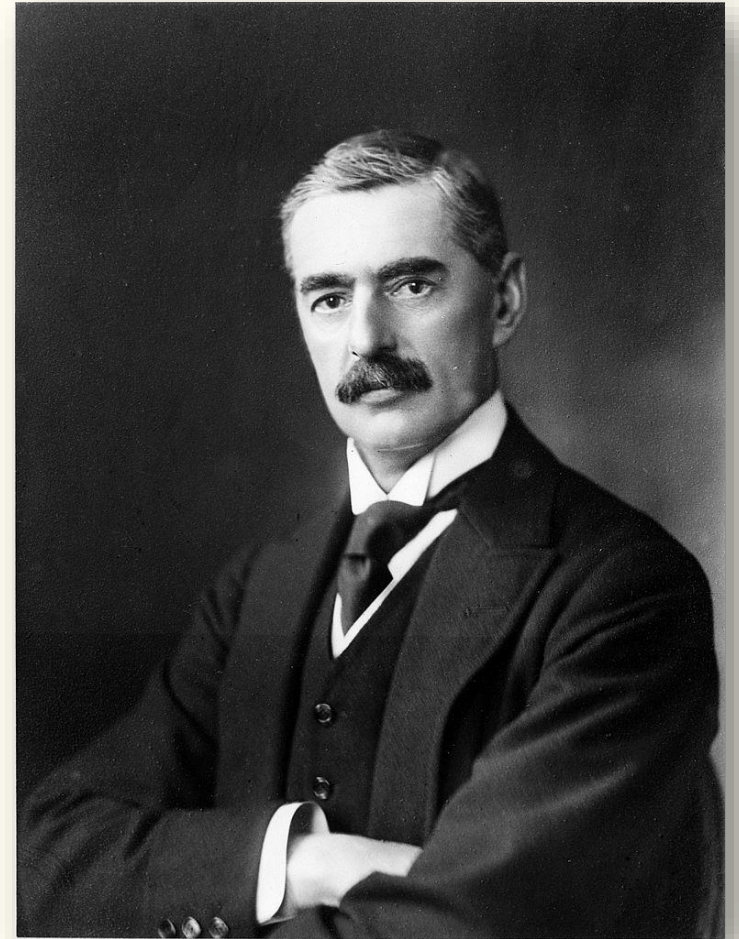
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- His involvement in World War II was huge and he was one of the main causes of the war when he carried out his aggression against other states in Europe.
- In particular, Hitler began to go against the main terms of the **Treaty of Versailles** and rebuild Germany following World War I.



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- The Western European democracies of Britain and France did not want to enter into a military conflict with Germany at this time as both had been reducing their armies and ability to wage war.
- This lack of will to fight pushed both countries towards the policy of appeasement which involved giving into the demands of an aggressive country in the hopes that the aggression could be contained.
 - *The policy is closely linked to Neville Chamberlain who was the British Prime Minister at the time, as he is the one who proposed it as the best means of containing Nazi aggression and avoiding a world war.*



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- One of the first steps Hitler took was to remilitarize the Rhineland.
 - *The Treaty of Versailles required Germany to keep the Rhineland (a region in Germany that bordered with France) free of any kind of military forces.*
 - *However, on March 7th of 1936, Nazi Germany remilitarized the Rhineland under the direction of Adolf Hitler.*
- France was angered by the move but lacked the ability to respond and did not have the support of Britain as Britain did not fully denounce the move.
 - *This lack of a response by both Britain and France to the remilitarization of the Rhineland only confirmed for Hitler that he would not be challenged as he expanded his aggression.*

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- Next, Hitler carried out the **annexation** of **Austria** in 1938.
 - *The Treaty of Versailles forbid Germany from uniting with Austria but Hitler, who was born in Austria, wanted to unite all Germany speaking people under his control.*
 - *The German annexation of Austria was known as the Anschluss which was the Nazi German term for bringing together all German speaking people in the region.*



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- In order to conquer Austria, Hitler threatened invasion of the nation-state and forced the Austrian Chancellor to hand power of the country over to the Austrian Nazi Party.
- After obtaining power the Austrian Nazi's "invited" the German forces into the country and the annexation of Austria was complete.
 - *Britain and France protested the move but did not respond, which furthered Hitler's belief that the Allied nations would not stop his aggression.*



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- The policy of appeasement unfolded again with the German aggression towards Czechoslovakia in 1938.
- Czechoslovakia, as a country, was created after World War I and parts of it included German-speaking people, such as the Sudetenland.
- Again, Hitler pressured Europe with his military aggression in the goal of uniting all German-speaking peoples under the control of the Nazi's.

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- A two-day conference in Munich was held in 1938 in which the leaders of Britain, France, Italy and Germany met to discuss Germany's desire to take over the Sudeten region.
- The deal was an even bigger defeat for the Western powers, as they allowed Hitler with no resistance to take over the Sudeten region.
 - *Western powers had pledged to protect Czechoslovakia, but failed to follow through and left the meeting relying on Hitler's written promise that Germany will not seek any more territory in Europe.*



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- For Hitler, the conference furthered his belief that the Western democracies were weak and that they would not act in the face of Nazi aggression.
- Germany soon took control over the remainder of Czechoslovakia through a series of invasions.



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- Controlling Czechoslovakia was not Hitler's final wish as he also wanted to take Poland.
- Poland was also created at the end of World War I and actually divided parts of Germany from one another.
 - *East Prussia was divided from the rest of Germany when Poland was granted a corridor of land so that it could have access to the sea.*

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- In hopes of further avoiding a conflict with the major powers of Europe Hitler signed a non-aggression pact with Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union.
- The Soviet Union had a mutual defense agreement with France and Hitler hoped that a non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union would help Germany avoid fighting a two-front war should the other powers of Europe move to stop German aggression.



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- Next, German forces invaded Poland on September 1st, 1939 and used blitzkrieg tactics to conquer Poland.
- This action was what finally caused the Allied nations to stand up against Germany and Britain and France both declared war on Germany on the 3rd of September.
 - *Europe was again at war, only two decades after the end of the First World War.*



ADOLF HITLER

- Hitler's involvement in World War II was huge and he was one of the main causes of the war.
- Hitler's first move was to order his troops to invade France through the Ardennes Forest.
 - *German troops soon overran the country and France was defeated.*





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- Next, he attempted to invade Britain soon after as part of the Battle of Britain but failed to gain a foothold on the island-nation.



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- In 1941, Hitler declared war on the United States following Japan's decision to surprise attack the United States at Pearl Harbor.



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- Likely Hitler's greatest downfall was his decision to invade the Soviet Union and the resulting Battle of Stalingrad in 1942.
 - *The battle saw Germany lose an entire German army division and began the Allied push towards Berlin.*

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- In 1944, the Allied invasion of Normandy caused the surrender of the German army in less than a year after the invasion.



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- World War II allowed Hitler the opportunity to follow through on his nationalistic and anti-Semitic beliefs.
- During his time as the leader of Germany he oversaw the extermination of 11 million people in concentration camps, including 6 million Jewish.
 - *Holocaust*



ADOLF HITLER

- Adolf Hitler committed suicide with his wife, Eva Braun, on April 30th of 1945.
- He knew that he awaited a terrible fate in the hands of justice after the war crimes he planned and executed against humanity.

