

**UNIT V LECTURE NOTES**  
**U.S. HISTORY II (231)**  
**FRANCIS**

Pre-War Europe

**I Germany (post WWI)**

- A) defeated in WWI - Tremendous humiliation for the German military and the German people
- B) rampant inflation and a decimated economy

**II The Weimar Republic**

- A) a weak parliamentary, democratic government
- B) many political parties (25+) and factions
- C) constant coalitions; constantly changing
- D) structure
  - 1. President - 7 year term
  - 2. Chancellor - head of majority party in the Reichstag
  - 3. Reichstag had 650 members (bicameral)

**III Fascism & the Nazi Ideology**

- A) Fascism is total government control of the state. People exist to serve the state.
  - 1. very nationalistic
  - 2. anti-Communist
  - 3. racist in nature
- B) The Nazis based their message on a few, simple points.
  - 1. The Germans were robbed at the Versailles Conference
  - 2. They had never been defeated in WWI
  - 3. The Jews were part of an international conspiracy that resulted in the German defeat in WWI
  - 4. The myth of the Aryan Race
  - 5. Germanic people must unite against the 'inferior' races
- C) Nazis opposed;
  - 1. Jews
  - 2. Catholics
  - 3. Communists
  - 4. Slavic peoples (particularly the Russians)
  - 5. the French
  - 6. all darker skinned races
- D) The Nazi Party
  - 1. originally called the German Worker's Party
  - 2. Nazi is a derivative of National Socialist German Workers Party (1921)
  - 3. They attracted discontented misfits
    - a. war vets, drop-outs, anti-Semites, anti-Communists, LOSERS ALL
    - b. they were all looking for a scapegoat to blame their troubles on
  - 4. The Party was divided into two groups
    - a. The Brownshirts (SA)
      - 1. led by Ernst Roehm
      - 2. they were the party's militia. They provided muscle at rallies and they served as intimidators on the street.
    - b. The Blackshirts (SS) Led by Heinrich Himmler they were Hitler's personal bodyguard, loyal to him first, the party second
      - 1. Later developed into an elite military force
      - 2. served as models of Hitler's 'Aryan Race'
      - 3. fanatical devotion to Hitler and Nazi philosophy

#### IV Background on Adolf Hitler

- A) Born in Austria in 1889 to a 52 yr old civil servant and a 25 yr old woman. His 3<sup>rd</sup> marriage. (2nd cousins.)
  - 1. Hitler's father was an illegitimate child. Took the name Hitler (formerly Schicklgruber the original family name)
  - 2. Father was an alcoholic, frequently beat Hitler
  - 3. Died when Hitler was 13. Hitler found him unconscious in a bar, he later died.
  - 4. Hitler despised him
- B) Mother was very quiet and meek. She died in Dec. of 1908 when Hitler was 19
- C) Education
  - 1. very poor student. Considered his teachers stupid. Poor grades were a way to punish his father.
  - 2. moderate talent in art
  - 3. quit school when he was 16
- D) When he was 18 yrs old he moved to Vienna (Aug. 1907), the cultural center of Europe to study art.  
Twice he is rejected admission to the Vienna Academy for Art
- E) 1908-1913 He is a Viennese street person. He is living off a small inheritance/pension and from selling postcards he has drawn to tourists. He feels physical labor is beneath him. He is hanging out with the 'fringe' element. Socialists, intelligentsia, etc. He learns to hate and resent them.
- F) World War I
  - 1. Hitler is declared 4F for the Austrian military. He joins the Army of Bavaria (German).
  - 2. Works as a 'runner', a messenger. Rises to the rank of Lance Corporal. Wounded twice, shot in leg and gassed. Ends the war in the hospital recovering from the gas.
- G) Hitler after WWI
  - 1. very angry over Germany's defeat and the terms of the Versailles Treaty.
  - 2. No employment prospects
  - 3. He is befriended by an ex-Army buddy who works for the Munich police.
    - a. He is given the job of infiltrating and spying on a small political group in Munich. The German Workers Party
    - b. He joins in the Summer of 1919, becoming member # 7
    - c. The party is weak (\$2.00 dollars in their treasury) They are mainly war vets who are discontented
  - 4. Hitler quickly becomes their leader and discovers he has knack for oratory. (He has abandoned his mission of spying)
  - 5. By 1921, the Party is growing and they change their name to the National Socialist German Workers Party; Nazi for short.
  - 6. Hitler's personal habits
    - a. teetotaler
    - b. vegetarian (favorite meal - scrambled eggs and ketchup)
    - c. non-smoker
    - d. hypochondriac
    - e. 'carpet-chewer'
    - f. women - Eva Braun, Niece(Geli)
    - g. slept little

#### V The Munich Beer Hall Putsch 11/08/1923

- A) Hitler and the Nazis attempt to take control of Munich, the Bavarian capital.
- B) 600 Nazis surround the Beer Hall
- C) Hitler marches in and announces he is taking over and will form a new government.
  - 1. The Nazis capture the Mayor and police chief and try to convince them to support the takeover
  - 2. Hitler is working in concert with General Ludendorff, a German military leader and hero.
  - 3. The police chief escapes and organizes a police effort.
  - 4. The next morning 3000 Nazis march into Munich to take over the city.
    - a. the police open fire and kill 16 Nazis. Three police are killed, dozens are wounded
    - b. Hitler, having forgotten his pledge to die if needed, has escaped into a waiting car.
    - c. he is arrested several days later and again forgets to kill himself as promised

## **VI Hitler's Trial**

- A) Hitler is charged with treason. He goes on a hunger strike in prison for 12 days, but is easily talked out of it by fellow Nazis.
- B) 02/26/1924 The trial begins.
  - 1. Hitler acts as his own lawyer.
  - 2. He has a world-wide audience to address and he exploits it.
  - 3. Many Germans begin to see him in a positive light, a patriot.
- C) Hitler is sentenced to 5 years. Very mild sentence. He has powerful political friends who are looking out for him and fellow conspirator - Ludendorff.
- D) Hitler only serves 9 months and is released.
- E) While in prison he dictates Mein Kampf (My Struggle) to cellmate Rudolf Hess.
  - 1. Book is poorly written
  - 2. it sells 5.2 million copies
  - 3. Hitler earns \$3.5 million from the sales
  - 4. A priest who edited and proofread the book in order to make it intelligible is later killed after Hitler comes to power when the priest begins telling of his role in the writing of the book.
- F) While in prison Hitler comes to two conclusions/mistakes.
  - 1. He moved too soon without adequate public and financial support.
  - 2. He should have worked within the system in order to achieve legitimacy.

## **VII Hitler comes to Power**

- A) When Hitler gets out of prison he reorganizes the party and they run for election to the Reichstag
  - 1. 1923 Nazis have three seats
  - 2. Communists are their chief rival
- B) 1928 Nazis 12 Communists 54
- C) 1930 Nazis 107 Communists 77
- D) April 10, 1932 Hitler runs for President against Hindenburg and loses
- E) July 1932 Nazis 230 Communists 100
  - 1. Nazis are single largest party in Reichstag (plurality)
  - 2. Hitler has the support of the monarchists, the Junkers (military class), and business
    - a. they all think they can control him.
    - b. they all fear the Communists and see him as the lesser of two evils
- F) Jan. 30, 1933 Hindenburg is convinced to appoint Hitler Chancellor of Germany

## **VIII The Burning of the Reichstag 02/27/1933**

- A) The Reichstag building burns mysteriously
  - 1. A young, retarded Dutch man is arrested. Van Der Lubbe
  - 2. Van Der Lubbe is a pyromaniac, and a COMMUNIST
  - 3. Hitler announces that the Communist party was responsible for the fire
- B) Hitler has Communist leadership arrested
  - 1. He announces that they will be executed for their 'crimes' w/o a trial in front of the burned-out Reichstag.
  - 2. Suspicions quickly arise and the Nazis are pressured into having a fair trial.
  - 3. The 4 Communist leaders are found innocent
- C) Van Der Lubbe has maintained all along that he acted alone.
  - 1. He is tried and found guilty.
  - 2. Sentenced to be executed
  - 3. At the last minute as he is about to be executed, he realizes what is going on and he begins yelling; "Let me speak. Not alone. Not alone."

#### D) The real story

1. The Nazis set the fire and brought Van Der Lubbe along for a scapegoat
2. The fire had been set in 23 places in a zig-zag fashion.
3. impossible for one person to set them alone.
4. A secret passageway was discovered leading into the Reichstag from Herman Goerring's office
5. The fire served a purpose
  - a. elections were scheduled for 03/05/1933
  - b. Communists were the Nazi's chief rival for power
  - c. Hitler has declared a national emergency and suspends civil rights, the press, etc.
  - d. he claimed the fires were set by the Communists and the elections would be held before anyone was the wiser
  - e. The political damage is done
6. Results of 03/05/1933 election
  - a. Nazis increase representation to 288
  - b. this, plus a coalition with the Nationalist party give the Nazi's a 52% majority
  - c. first act of the newly elected Reichstag was to throw out the constitution and legislatively give Hitler the power to make all laws. He is a 'legal dictator'

#### IX The Blood Purge (The Night of Long Knives) June 30, 1934

- A) Now that the Nazis were firmly in control internal rivalries were increasing
  1. Roehm and the SA were growing restless
  2. they demanded the rewards promised them
  3. Roehm's homosexuality was becoming a PR problem
- B) Hitler has used the SA to do his dirty work in the past but they are now a liability
- C) under pressure from the Wermacht and his industrialist power base, Hitler decides to eliminate Roehm and the SA leadership
- D) The SS is given the assignment
  1. Roehm and his leadership are killed
  2. over 1,000 of the SA are eliminated
  3. The Wermacht is happy
  4. Hitler's power is unrivaled

#### X The Nazi Hierarchy

- A) Hermann Goering # 2
  1. fat, extravagant, art-collector, morphine addict
  2. Head of the Luftwaffe
  3. escaped execution by committing suicide in cell (poison pill)
- B) Rudolf Hess
  1. trusted aid, idolized Hitler
  2. cellmate in 1924
  3. with Hitler from the start
  4. loses status once war starts
    - a. tries an ill-fated attempt to negotiate a peace with Britain
    - b. crash lands in Scotland May 10, 1941
    - c. died in Spandau prison 1987 mysterious circumstances
- C) Joseph Goebbels
  1. propaganda minister "people will believe the big lie..."
  2. He and his wife kill six children and themselves in Hitler's bunker
- D) Heinrich Himmler
  1. Head of SS and Gestapo
  2. orders the 'final solution' to begin
  3. is caught trying to escape through Allied lines disguised as a peasant. Commits suicide in prison
- E) Julius Striecher
  1. editor of Nazi party newspaper
  2. sexual pervert (child molester)
  3. sadist (carried the whip)
  4. Jew hater
  5. killed at end of war trying to escape capture

- F) Adolf Eichmann
  1. in charge of the extermination camps
  2. designed the ovens and gas chambers
  3. escaped to Argentina at the end of the war.
  4. captured in 1960, returned to Israel, hanged
- G) Dr. Joseph Mengele (The Angel of Death)
  1. genetic experiments, especially twins, never captured, presumed dead in South America

## **The Road to War**

### **I 1933**

- A) Hitler is firmly in control of Germany. The first concentration camp opens - Dachau
- B) Hitler renounces the Treaty of Versailles and begins to re-arm Germany
- C) Hitler pulls Germany out of the League of Nations

### **II 1934**

- A) Hitler attempts to annex Austria
  1. Goal of re-unifying all Germans
  2. Orders Austrian Nazi Party to assassinate Chancellor of Austria (a dissident Nazi)
    - a. Hitler announces he is coming to the aid of his fellow Germans/Nazis
    - b. a pretext
  3. Mussolini tells Hitler to stay home or else
    - a. angry at Hitler for breaking his promise and he fears a common German/Italian border at this point
    - b. mobilizes Army
  4. Hitler is not ready to take on Italy and backs down.

### **III The Re-occupation of the Rhineland 3/1936**

- A) Hitler wants the Rhineland back and the French out
- B) He sends his troops in with two sets of orders
  1. no resistance - go all the way to the French border
  2. resistance - turn around, do not fight, we'll claim it was all a mistake
- C) France withdraws without a shot being fired
- D) Justified backing down with - "It belonged to Germany anyway"
- E) Germany was still much weaker than France and England at this point.

### **IV Spanish-Civil War 1936-39**

- A) Franco leads a military coup - 07/18/1936
- B) Germans and Italians support Franco's fascist forces
  1. Condor Legion
  2. tune-up for their military machines
- C) Soviet Union supports the government forces
- D) Brutal fighting ends in 1939 with a fascist victory

### **V The Rome-Berlin Axis**

- A) Italy and Germany seal their new friendship with a formal military alliance
- B) 10/27/1936

### **VI The Annexation of Austria - The Anschluss of 1938**

- A) Hitler marches in with Mussolini's blessing
- B) 03/12/1938

## **VII The Munich Pact**

- A) Hitler demands the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia, they refuse and mobilize
- B) Chamberlain (G.B.) and Daladier (Fr.) meet with Hitler and Mussolini to try and prevent war
- C) They meet in Munich and agree to give Hitler the Sudetenland
- D) Hitler promises to take no more land
- E) Czechoslovakia is not consulted, APPEASEMENT

## **VIII Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) 11/09/1938**

- A) SA and SS break windows, set fire to Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues, local authorities do nothing
- B) The beginning of open Jewish persecution. The round-up of Jews begins.
- C) Laws passed that did the following;      Jews could not teach school
  - "                      "                      own businesses
  - "                      "                      own property
  - "                      "                      conduct business with non-Jewish people
- Jews must wear a yellow Star of David

## **IX Hitler takes the rest of Czechoslovakia**

- A) 03/14/1939
- B) His promise lasted 6 months
- C) world does nothing

## **X The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact**

- A) 08/22/1939
- B) Germany and the USSR agree not to fight
- C) Secret portion allows Poland to be divided between the two. USSR could retake Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Finland
- D) WHY?
  - 1. Germany-No longer has to worry about a two-front war
  - 2. USSR-Stalin fears that the West (G.B. & Fr.) are going to abandon him to Hitler
    - a. Stalin knew Hitler would eventually attack, this buys him time
    - b. Stalin hopes that the conflict between Germany and the West will weaken all and the USSR will emerge supreme.

## **XI Germany invades Poland**

- A) 09/01/1939
- B) Hitler wants the Danzig Corridor back and demands it.
- C) He stages a mock attack on a German border radio station by SS dressed in Polish army uniforms
- D) Claims to have been attacked and unleashes the blitzkrieg
- E) Poland falls within three weeks
- F) simultaneously attacked by USSR

## **World War II in Europe**

### **I The Allies fight back**

- A) England and France finally declare war - 09/03/1939
- B) U.S. remains neutral but begins to prepare and also sends supplies to Allies

### **II Sitzkrieg**

- A) sitting war/phony war 10/1939 - 04/1940
- B) both sides preparing for the upcoming conflict
- C) Why didn't Hitler take the offensive?
  - 1. thought the Allied alliance would not hold
  - 2. first of many strategic mistakes by Hitler

### **III Germany attacks Denmark and Norway**

- A) 04/09/1940
- B) Claims England had laid mine closing off the North Sea
- C) Denmark surrenders immediately
- D) Norway fights back
  - 1. hilly terrain and climate help Norwegians
  - 2. they are assisted by a small force of British troops
  - 3. with the aid of Vidkun Quisling, the Germans prevail

### **IV Germany attacks Belgium, Holland, and France**

- A) 05/10/1940
- B) They bypass the Maginot Line and blitz through the low countries
- C) the evacuation at Dunkirk 05/27 - 06/04 340,000 evacuated
  - 1. Hitler makes crucial error in delaying two weeks
  - 2. Churchill, who is now in power saves the men, but loses the equipment
- D) 06/10/1940 Mussolini declares he is coming to the aid of his ally and declares war on France
- E) 06/22/1940 France surrenders

### **V The Battle of Britain**

- A) July, August and September 1940
- B) Hitler orders the Luftwaffe to clear the way for Operation Sealion - the invasion of Britain
- C) The outnumbered RAF successfully fends off the Luftwaffe attacks
  - 1. British fighting over their home turf
    - a. planes have greater operational time than Germans (1 hour vs. ten minutes)
    - b. downed British pilots live to fight again, German pilots die or are captured
- D) In September the blitz (continuous nighttime bombing of London and other British cities) begins.
  - 1. It will continue for over a year
  - 2. 40,000 civilians die
- E) October 12 - Hitler cancels Operation Sealion
  - 1. Luftwaffe has failed to bring Britain "to her knees" (Goering)
  - 2. Didn't hate the British like he did Soviets and French
  - 3. Luftwaffe loses prestige
    - a. Hitler relegates the Luftwaffe to an auxiliary role rather than an offensive role
    - b. crucial mistake that Hitler continues throughout the war
  - 4. Hitler now wants USSR

### **VI The attack on the Soviet Union - Operation Barbarossa**

- A) 06/22/1941
- B) The Germans attack is delayed by the late spring thaw in Eastern Europe (Poland) several weeks
  - 1. This delay almost assures a German defeat
  - 2. they will be caught by the early winter
- C) Soviets fall back
  - 1. They burn bridges and destroy roads and RR to slow the German advance in strategic spots
  - 2. The Germans outrace their supply lines
  - 3. When they slow, the Soviets launch nuisance raids
- D) The Germans advance to Moscow and Leningrad when winter hits
  - 1. Hitler went for a broad based attack rather than a spearhead to Moscow - crucial mistake
  - 2. Germans unprepared for Russian winter
    - a. summer uniforms
    - b. mechanical problems
  - 3. Hitler refuses to allow a retreat
- E) The Siege of Leningrad 9/41-spring 1944 Over one million will die
- F) Spring 1942 The Germans advance again
  - 1. The Soviets have re-supplied and are waiting
  - 2. FDR has extended Lend-Lease to Soviets
  - 3. U.S. now in the war

- G) Battle of Stalingrad - November 1942
  - 1. 600,000 German troops attack
  - 2. 01/31/43 The Germans surrender, only 25,000 left, only 2000 return to Germany at wars end
- H) The Soviets begin the push towards Berlin
- I) Hitler's mistakes
  - 1. refusal to use dissident Soviet troops
  - 2. non-standard German munitions
  - 3. refusal to adequately supply Eastern Front
- J) Germany's best were wasted in USSR

## **VII Operation Torch and the Battle for North Africa**

- A) Germany is driving for the Middle East from the west
  - 1. want mid-east oilfields
  - 2. want Suez Canal
- B) Germany and Italy had already divided Africa on a map
- C) The British are driven back to El Alamein
- D) May 1942 - Rommel vs. Montgomery tank battle
- E) the British hold and defeat the Afrika Korps in October 1942 (Battle of El Alamein)
- F) The British now begin to push the Germans back towards Tunisia
- G) November 8, 1942 Operation Torch commences
  - 1. The Allies land in three spots along the North African coast
  - 2. Casablanca, Algiers, and Oran
  - 3. They have the Germans in a vise
- H) By May of 1943 the Germans are forced back to Tunisia and surrender North Africa
- I) This will now be used as the jumping off point for the invasion of Italy; the 'soft underbelly' of Europe

## **VIII Operation Husky - The Invasion of Italy**

- A) July 10, 1943 The attack on Sicily
  - 1. one month of fighting
  - 2. this becomes the next staging area for the assault on Italy
- B) July 25, 1943 Mussolini is forced to resign by the Italian king. He is imprisoned at Gran Sasso.
  - 1. Hitler rescues him on September 16
  - 2. establishes him as the head of a puppet Italian Social Republic in the north
- C) The new Italian government begins negotiations with the Allies and they surrender 09/03/1943
  - 1. Hitler implements plans to occupy the Italian peninsula
- D) The Allies invade the southern tip of Italy on September 8
- E) The Allies move up the boot of Italy. Most Italian soldiers are cooperating or have been imprisoned by the Nazis.
- F) January 22, 1944 Anzio
- G) June 4, 1944 The Allies enter Rome

## **IX Operation Overlord D-Day 06/06/1944**

- A) The invasion of Fortress Europe takes a month to establish a beachhead and clear the cliffs
- B) 60% casualties the first day

## **X Wolf's Lair Assassination Attempt**

- A) July 20, 1944
- B) Col. Stauffenberg and General Rommel

## **XI Battle of the Bulge Dec. 1944-Jan. 1945**

- A) The Germans make a last ditch attempt to stop the Allied advance
- B) They literally run out of fuel

## **XII Mussolini is killed April 28, 1945**

## **XIII Hitler Commits Suicide April 30, 1945**

## **XIV V-E Day 6:01 PM 05/08/1945**



## **America's Role in WWII**

### **I FDR Elected 1932**

- A) FDR comes to power shortly after Hitler
- B) initial concerns are American domestic policy

### **II Pan-Americanism**

- A) The Good-Neighbor Policy
- B) FDR wants to create allies for a potential conflict in Europe and/or Asia
- C) Economic and defense ties with Latin American nations

### **III Neutrality Acts 1935, 36, 37**

- A) Designed to prevent U.S. from being pulled into a war
- B) Prompted by the Nye Commission hearings which uncovered U.S. corporate profiteering in WWI
- C) Did 4 things
  - 1. allowed President to ban sales or transportation of munitions to belligerent nations
  - 2. American companies were prohibited from loaning money to nations at war
  - 3. American ships had to stay out of war zones
  - 4. cash and carry policy on raw materials and non-munition supplies
- D) will later tie FDR's hands and force him to be creative in getting war materials to Britain

### **IV Election of 1940**

- A) war has begun in Europe
  - 1. England in trouble
  - 2. strong isolationist mood in America
- B) Candidates
  - 1. FDR
  - 2. Wendall Wilkie - Senator from Indiana
- C) Platforms
  - 1. Both are initially interventionists
    - a. Wilkie changes as election grows near
    - b. claims if FDR wins U.S. troops will be at war by April 1941
  - 2. Wilkie campaigns on the failures of the New Deal - beating a dead horse
- D) FDR makes a blunder which will come back to haunt him.
  - 1. in a Chicago speech he says; "your boys will not fight in foreign wars..."
  - 2. FDR will now need an attack upon America, a clear-cut incident, in order to commit troops
- E) FDR wins election to a third term

### **V Lend-Lease Act March 1941**

- A) Churchill has called upon America to; "be the arsenal of democracy"
- B) FDR is stuck. Huge debate in Congress until Wilkie throws his support behind the president
- C) Congress gives FDR the power to "lend/loan" supplies to foreign nations if he deems it necessary to secure and promote the safety of the U.S.
- D) very general

### **VI The Atlantic Shooting War**

- A) FDR extends U.S. territorial waters in order to allow the US Navy to patrol and protect
  - 1. first 300 miles off-shore
  - 2. then to Greenland, then Iceland. (4/41) This creates a corridor to ship supplies to England
- B) Fall 1941 FDR announces that a German sub had fired upon the USS Greer. He neglects to add that it has been SOP for US ships to radio the position of German vessels to the British, which the Greer was doing.
- C) FDR arms merchant ships, man them with Navy personnel and authorizes them and the Navy to 'shoot on sight'
- D) all out shooting war ensues

## **VII      America at War-              The Home Front**

- A) after Pearl Harbor America is fully behind the war effort
  - 1. the sentiment is different than WWI
  - 2. it is perceived as a necessary, but dirty, job that must be done
  - 3. considerable anti-Japanese sentiment
  - 4. not as much anti-German
    - a. many German (and Italian) immigrants
    - b. the perception that it is the Nazis, not the Germans responsible
- B) immediate build-up of the military
  - 1. Draft 18-35
  - 2. War Production Board - Harry Hopkins    Coordinates U.S. industry
- C) Japanese-American internment
  - 1. fear of Japanese attacks prompts many to call for the round-up of Japanese-Americans
  - 2. w/o Congressional approval, FDR issues an executive order placing all Japanese-Americans on the West Coast in concentration camps in the interior of the nation
  - 3. German-Americans and Italian-Americans were NOT rounded-up
- D) Sabotage and security      (black-outs and increased role of the FBI)
- E) Rationing
  - 1. metal, gas, beef, rubber, etc.
  - 2. wartime consumer measures
  - 3. Black Market
- F) Women in the warplants
- G) Blacks move North
- H) Women, Blacks, and other non-traditional groups in the military
- I) Raising the money for the war effort
  - 1. bond drives
  - 2. increased taxes
  - 3. loans
- J) Hollywood and the War
  - 1. wartime propaganda
  - 2. actors go to war
- K) Athletes go to war
  - 1. FDR kills plan to stop playing professional sports, especially baseball, during the war.
  - 2. calls them needed morale boosters
  - 3. many athletes fight and die in the war
  - 4. women's professional baseball begins