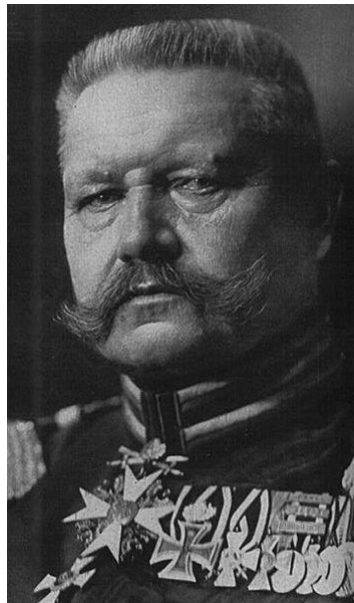


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hcmbQ2Evk2Y>

The Rise of the National Socialist German Worker's Party



Germany's Governmental System

1914-1918 Monarchy (WWI)

- Ruled by a King and ruling family: Kaiser Wilhelm II
- Parliamentary system
- Chancellor

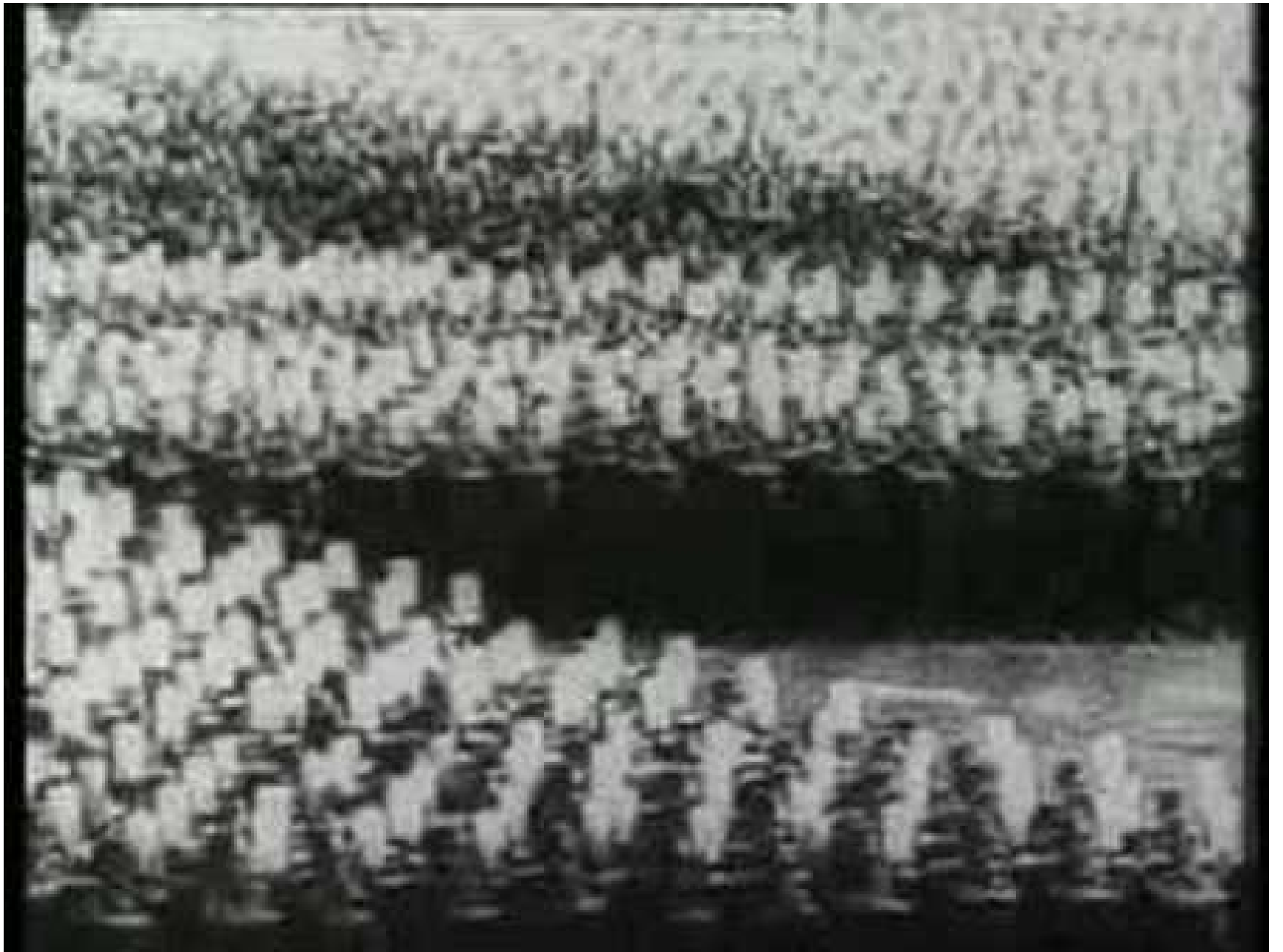


Friedrich Wilhelm Viktor Albrecht von Hohenzollern

1918-1933 Form of Democracy

- From a military dictatorship to a parliamentary republic
- Democratic form of parliament
- Weimar Republic
- Unstable :political unrest, political parties vying for power:
 - Social Democrats
 - Democrats
 - Bavarian People's Party
 - Nationalists
 - National Socialists (Nazis)
 - Communists
 - German People's Party
 - Peasant's Party
 - Middle Class
 - Official Party





- 1924: After his release from prison, Hitler begins to rebuild the National Socialist German Worker's Party (**Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei**) (NSDAP) waiting for the time to gain political power.

- 1925: Paul von Hindenburg elected president. He was a military hero and a conservative politician.

- Hitler becomes the sole leader of the Nazi Party

- Key concept: *Führerprinzip* (Leader principle)

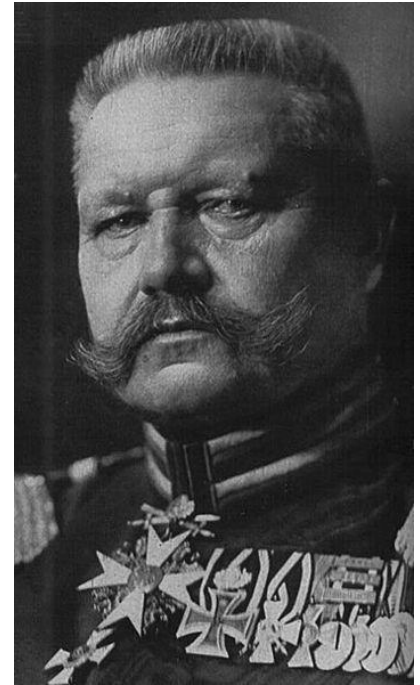
 - Party members swore loyalty unto death to him.

- He developed a highly structured and centralized Party.

- Paramilitary branch: *Sturmabteilung* or SA, Storm-troopers who used terror tactics to intimidate.

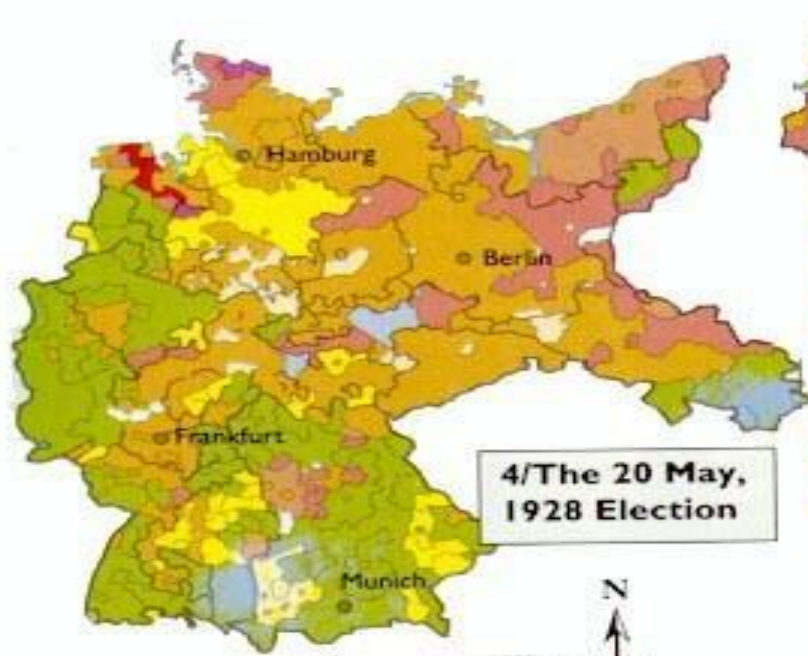
- Political branch: NSDAP which operated legally Organizing, fundraising, hosting rallies, etc.

- 1928: The Nazi Party became a force in the Reichstag, German Parliament.



National Socialist German Worker's Party: 1930s

- Great Depression in the United States 1929
- Germany's economy is devastated
- Acting German Chancellor, Heinrich Brüning, convinced president von Hindenburg to invoke Article 48 of the German constitution:
 - Allowing the president to govern by decree in a state of emergency
- 1930-1932: president von Hindenburg ruled by decree without the aide of the German parliament
- German democracy essentially ended
- Hitler and the Nazi party ran in a series of important political elections:
 - 1932 presidential election: Hitler lost to the aged Hindenburg
 - Later in July of 1932: Nazi party won 37% of votes cast giving them more seats in parliament than any other party



4/The 20 May, 1928 Election



4 - 5/The German elections to the Reichstag

Winning party per constituency:

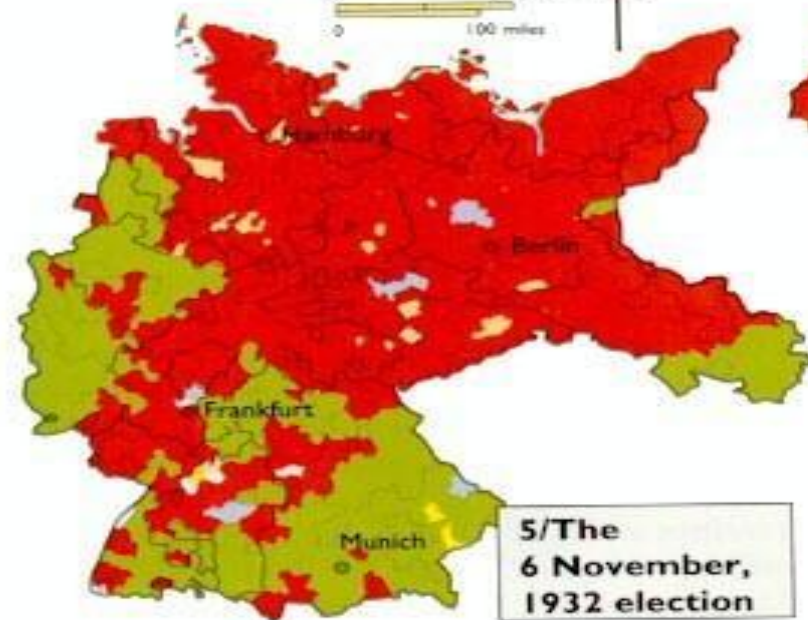
- SPD (Social Democrats)
- Zentrum BVP (Centre; Bavarian People's Party)
- DNVP (Nationalists)
- NSDAP (National Socialists)
- KPD (Communists)
- DVP (German People's Party)
- Bauernpartei; Landbund (Peasants' Party; Provincial Alliance)
- DDP (Democrats) 4.3%
- Mittelstand (Middle-Class) 4.6%
- DVP (German People's Party) 1.9%
- Staatspartei (Official Party) 1%
- Others 0.9%

National results:
20 May 1928 6 Nov 1932

Party	20 May 1928	6 Nov 1932
SPD (Social Democrats)	29.8%	20.4%
Zentrum BVP (Centre; Bavarian People's Party)	15.2%	15%
DNVP (Nationalists)	14.3%	8.3%
NSDAP (National Socialists)	2.6%	33.1%
KPD (Communists)	10.6%	16.9%
DVP (German People's Party)	8.1%	
Bauernpartei; Landbund (Peasants' Party; Provincial Alliance)	5.1%	2.5%
DDP (Democrats)	4.3%	
Mittelstand (Middle-Class)	4.6%	
DVP (German People's Party)		1.9%
Staatspartei (Official Party)		1%
Others	4.2%	0.9%

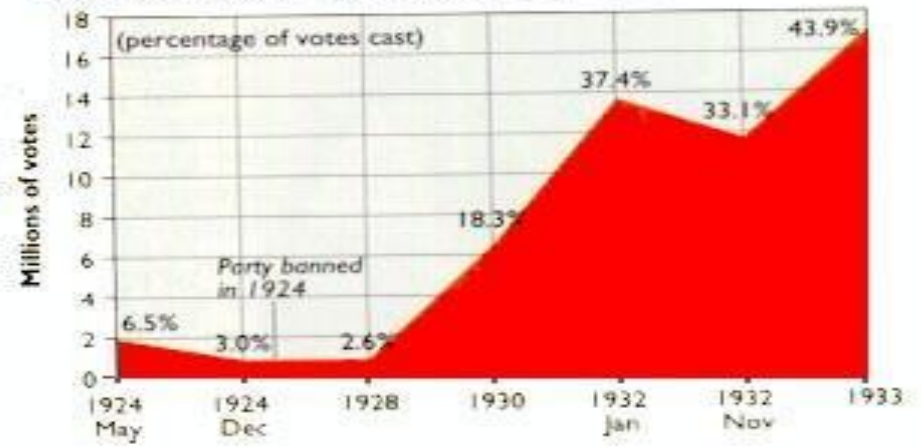


Proportional representation gave other parties (not shown) a share of representation in the Reichstag



5/The 6 November, 1932 election

NAZI VOTES IN THE REICHSTAG ELECTIONS 1924-1933



•November 1932: Nazis lost 2 million votes but maintained 196 seats in parliament, still the strongest party in the Reichstag.

- Communist Party was a close second with 100 seats

- Rival party members loyal to the president miscalculated and convinced president von Hindenburg to name Hitler chancellor

- They believed they would be able to control Hitler in that position

- They believed if Hitler were surrounded with members of the cabinet who were not Nazis, he could not do much harm

- Hitler agreed but only if he was able to name two Nazi Party members to positions in parliament

- President von Hindenburg agreed

- January 30, 1933: Hitler became chancellor of Germany



- Hitler immediately begins to amass power through the destruction of rival political parties
- 1933: Hitler moved against the Communist Party in Germany
- Popular fear of the Communist Party existed both in parliament and in the streets

February 27, 1933: The Reichstag – the German parliament building burned down.

- Hitler took this opportunity to blame the Communists for the fire
- The German press confirmed the accusations even though scant evidence existed
 - History has suggested Hitler and the Nazis were responsible for the fire
 - Dutch arsonist, Marinus van der Lubbe, who was neither a Communist nor a Nazi was responsible
- As Chancellor, Hitler order massive reprisals against the German Communists.





- Hitler used the Reichstag fire to dismantle what was left of Germany's democratic institutions
- Convinces parliament members to enact the "Enabling Law" of March 23, 1933
 - Allowed Hitler, as Chancellor, to put through any measure (to do whatever he wanted) without approval from the other members of parliament
 - Parliament had voted itself out of existence
- By the end of 1933, Hitler had used his new authority to dissolve and outlaw all other political parties leaving only the Nazi Party.
- In so doing, Hitler established himself dictator of Germany.



**ARTICLE 48 OF THE GERMAN
CONSTITUTION:**

*Allowed the president to govern by
decree.*

CHANCELLOR: Heinrich Brüning

- Terrible Post WWI economy
- Unemployment
- High Taxes
- Cuts in gov. spending
- Brüning could not get parliament support
- Convinces President von Hindenburg to invoke Article 48
- Democracy no longer existed in Germany
- Former Chancellor, Franz von Papen convinced Pres. von Hindenburg to appoint Hitler Chancellor
 - von Papen wanted to be vice Chancellor
 - He and parliament thought they could control Hitler this way

THE ENABLING ACT:

*Allowed the Chancellor to govern
without approval from other members
of parliament*

CHANCELLOR: Adolf Hitler

- Hitler wanted to destroy the Communist Party in Germany
- Wanted to gain total power
- The Reichstag fire
 - Burned down
- Hitler blamed the Communists
- History believes the Nazis started the fire.
- Hitler ordered massive reprisals against the Communists in Germany
- First Concentration Camp opened in Dachau
- Convinced parliament to pass the Enabling Act March 23, 1933
 - Allowed Hitler to bypass the president and parliament
 - Parliament voted itself out of power.