The Rise of Nazism

DOCUMENT BASED QUESTION

This question is based on the accompanying documents (1–11). The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of the documents have been edited for the purposes of the question. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.

Historical Context:

In the 1930s, the NAZI (National Socialist German Worker’s) Party won great support among the people of Germany and rose to power. Eventually the Nazi party became the only German political party and ruled absolutely.

Task:

Using information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to:

- Describe the political and socioeconomic conditions within Germany during the late 1920s and early 1930s
- Explain how the NAZI party exploited those political and socioeconomic conditions in order to gain the support of the German people and political power

Guidelines: In your essay, be sure to:

- Address all aspects of the Task by accurately analyzing and using at least 6 documents
- Create a specific thesis statement that accurately address the Task
- Incorporate relevant outside information to expand on document information
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization including a conclusion that summarizes your thesis
PART A (Documents)

Document 1: The Treaty of Versailles (1919)

Article 160
...the Army of the States constituting Germany must not exceed one hundred thousand men...

Article 231
...Germany accepts the responsibility ... for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied... Governments have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

1. How did Articles 160 and 231 of the Treaty of Versailles punish Germany?

   Article 160 - Had to reduce army to 100,000 men in Germany
   Article 231 - Accept full blame for all damage to the Allies

Document 2 (Nazi propaganda poster)

2. What is this Nazi propaganda poster claiming about the effect of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany?

   All countries have strong militaries, while Germany has a small military. The Treaty of Versailles makes Germany look weak, seem unfair.

Document 3: Speech by Adolf Hitler to the Reichstag

"Germany is being strangled by Peace Treaties... The Nazis do not consider the Treaty as a law, but as something forced upon us. We do not want future generations, who are completely innocent, to be encumbered by this. When we fight this with all the means at our disposal, then we are on the way to a revolution."

3. How does Hitler view the Treaty of Versailles? How will this speech affect Hitler's popularity?

   D. Increase Hitler's popularity
   D. Hitler thinks the Treaty of Versailles is unfair to "future generations" of Germans and it was forced on them. Hitler will gain popularity because he is standing up for the Germans
Document 4: Speech by Adolf Hitler (January 30, 1933)

"Heaven can bear witness that the guilt of our people is abolished, the sacrilege atoned for, the shame removed.

The national government will pursue the following plan with iron determination and tireless persistence: Within 4 years the German farmer must be freed from his misery. Within 4 years unemployment must be finally overcome."

4. What did Adolf Hitler promise the people of Germany?

- Create jobs, unemployment will end, farmers will prosper, and Germany will be free of guilt from World War.

Document 5A:

German Unemployment

| September 1928 | 650,000 | Unemployed |
| September 1930 | 3,000,000 | Unemployed |
| September 1932 | 5,102,000 | Unemployed |
| January 1933  | 6,100,000 | Unemployed |

Document 5B:

Party representation in the Reichstag (German parliament)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Parties</th>
<th>Jan 1919</th>
<th>Jun 1920</th>
<th>May 1924</th>
<th>Dec 1924</th>
<th>May 1928</th>
<th>Sep 1930</th>
<th>Jul 1932</th>
<th>Nov 1932</th>
<th>Mar 1933</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPD Social Democrats</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communists KPD/USPD</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre Party (Catholics)</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DDP (Democrats)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right-wing parties (BVP/ DVP/DNVP)</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSDAP (Nazis)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Deputies</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>647</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Compare German unemployment in 1928 with unemployment in 1933.

Approximately 5,450,000 lost their jobs

6. How does Nazi support in 1924 - 1928 compare to other political parties?

A lot less popular. It is much lower than the other parties. The Nazis barely had any support compared to other political parties.

7. What happened to Nazi support as unemployment went up? Why might this be?

Nazi support increased, promising jobs and a new government.
Document 6: Adolf Hitler, campaign speech (1932)
Joseph Goebbels (propaganda chief) newspaper article (1928)

"Our opponents accuse us National Socialists, and me in particular, of being intolerant and quarrelsome. They say we don’t want to work with other parties. They say, ‘the National Socialists are not German at all, because they refuse to work with other political parties.’ So is it typically German to have thirty parties? I have to admit one thing — these men are quite right. We are intolerant! I have given myself one goal - to sweep these thirty political parties out of Germany!" - Adolf Hitler

"We are an antiparliamentary party... We have bared our teeth to the enemy, from the podium of mass rallies to the gigantic marching demonstrations of our brown regiments. We will also bare our teeth within the sluggish Parliament. We come not as friends, nor as neutrals. We come as enemies! Like a wolf breaks into a herd of sheep, that is how we will come." - Joseph Goebbels

8. How did the Nazis want to change the German government?

- aggressive, expansionist group - destroy parliament and other parties
- dictatorship - we hate this parliament we are being elected to destroy democracy
- The nazis have been importent of the other 30 political parties in Germany. Hitler says they are counter to our yesteryear. Their goal is for there to be 1 party

Document 7: Court testimony of Nazi Rudolf Diels at the Nuremberg Trials 1946

"When Hitler became Chancellor of the Reich on January 30th 1933 ... the new Nazi Government... [sought] to annihilate their adversaries by all possible means... The methods applied were as follows: Human beings, deprived of their freedom were subjected to severe bodily mistreatment or killed. These illegal detentions took place in camps, often old military barracks, storm-trooper quarters or fortresses. Later on these places became known as concentration camps. During this time, numerous politicians, writers, doctors, lawyers, and other personalities of leading circles were arrested illegally, tortured, and killed. Among the killed were... numerous [political] parties.

These murders were camouflaged by the expression: 'shot while trying to escape' or 'resisting arrest' or similar things. Approximately 500-700 people perished during this first wave of terror from March until October 1933."

9. What did the Nazis do after Hitler was appointed Chancellor?

- Nazis sought to remove all adversaries by means of bodily mistreatment, illegal detentions, storm-trooper quarters, concentration camps.
- Numerous politicians, writers, doctors, lawyers, and other leading circles were arrested illegally, tortured, killed.

Document 8: Nazi propaganda poster

This 1930s Nazi poster reads:

"This genetically ill person will cost our people's community 60,000 marks over his lifetime. Citizens, that is your money."

The nazis viewed the genetically ill as a financial drain on the economy. The nazis passed a law that prevented genetically ill people from having children. This was passed to prevent future generations.

11. How does this Nazi poster view people that are "genetically ill"?

- Perceived as a waste of money - Ignored or killed
- Blamed, handicapped, people for economic problems - scapegoat (blamed for something they didn't do)
Document 9  Excerpts from Mein Kampf: Nation and Race by Adolf Hitler (1925)

Everything we admire on this earth today – science and art, technology and inventions – is only the creative product of a few peoples and originally perhaps of one race... If they perish, the beauty of this earth will sink into the grave with them... All the human culture, all the results of art, science, and technology that we see before us today, are almost exclusively the product of the Aryan (Germans)

... The mixing of blood and the resulting lowering of racial cohesion is the sole reason why cultures perish. People do not perish by defeat in war, but by losing the power of resistance inherent in pure blood... A state which in the age of racial poisoning dedicates itself to the cultivation of its best racial elements will one day become master of the world...

... If the Jews were alone in this world, they would stifle in filth... would try to get ahead of one another in hate-filled struggle and exterminate one another... If we [look at] all the causes of the German collapse... the ultimate and most decisive remains the failure to recognize the racial problem and especially the Jewish menace.

12. What does Hitler say about the German people?

**Germans are the best - Superpeople - All human culture, art, science, and technology are the exclusive product of the Aryan (Germans)**


**Should not mix + blend race & ethnic color – i.e. because they intermix. Keep races pure.**

14. Who is Hitler blaming for the downfall of the German people?

**Jews - Scarecrow (Great Interfering People) - Easy Target**

Document 10  Trust No Fox on his Green Meadow and No Jew on his Oath by Elwira Bauer

But the Germans — they stand foursquare. Look, children, and the two compare, The German and the Jew. Take a good look at the two In the picture drawn for you. A joke — you think it is only that? Easy to guess which is which, I say: The German stands up, the Jew gives way. The German is a proud young man, Able to work and able to fight. Because he is a fine big chap, For danger does not care a rap, The Jew has always hated him! Here is the Jew, as all can see, Biggest ruffian in our country; He thinks himself the greatest beau And yet is the ugliest you know!

15. How does this children’s book contrast Germans and Jews?

- **Germans**: Stand Foursquare | Stand up | Proud Long ago, lucky fight | Fine big chap, does not care about danger | Russian - Thinks he is quiet and ugly
- **Jews**: Gives way

16. Why might some Germans have been attracted to this type of propaganda in the 1930s?

Lust about conditions of Germany. Wanted a scapegoat. Promotes nationalism, pride for the Aryan race.
**Document 11** Hitler Youth Poster c. 1930

"Youth serves the leader" (top)

"All 10 year olds into the Hitler Youth" (bottom)

17. What is the purpose of this poster?

- Indoctrination: Instill the ideas of nationalism war within children

- This will help the Nazi party in the future
- Textbooks/schools
- Hitler youth

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