Hitler and Nazi Germany

Chapter 9, Section 3
Hitler and Nazi Germany

- **Adolf Hitler**: became head of the Nazi party in 1921 (National Socialist German Workers’ Party).
- Wrote *Mein Kampf* while in jail – this book outlined his ideas for Germany.
Hitler and Nazi Germany

- Mein Kampf: (my struggle):
  - Anti-Semitism (hatred of Jews)
  - German Nationalism
  - Social Darwinism
  - Lebensraum – living space
Hitler promised to create a new Germany. His appeals to national pride, national honor, and traditional militarism struck an emotional chord in his listeners. After attending one of Hitler’s rallies, a schoolteacher in Hamburg said, “When the speech was over, there was roaring enthusiasm and applause. . . . —How many look up to him with touching faith as their helper, their savior, their deliverer from unbearable distress.”
Hitler and Nazi Germany

- **1933**: Hitler gains much support and becomes chancellor of Germany.
- **Enabling Act**: gave the government the power to ignore the constitution – basically allowed Hitler to become a dictator.
Hitler and Nazi Germany

- **The Nazi State:**
  - Hitler wanted to create a Nazi empire – called the Third Reich.
  - This would be made up of **Aryans** – people of German blood. He believed that they were the descendants of the Greeks and Romans – a **master race**.
Main Idea: Mass demonstrations and spectacles were used to make the German people an instrument of Hitler’s power. Rallies were held in Nuremberg.
Hitler and Nazi Germany

- **Nuremberg Laws**: announced in 1935, these were new racial laws that excluded Jews from German citizenship.
Hitler and Nazi Germany

- **Kristallnacht**: “night of shattered glass,” when Jewish businesses and synagogues were burned. 1938.
Totalitarian States:

- **Use of terror:**
  - In Stalin’s USSR, he used the Great Purge. This “removed” all opponents of the new regime. They were killed or sent to forced labor camps called “gulags” in Siberia.
- **Terror Famine:**
  - Nearly 7 million died when Stalin issued a man-made famine for peasants in Ukraine that resisted collectivization.