

EDEXCEL GCSE

HISTORY

PAPER 3: Modern depth study

Option 31: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

SET 3

Insert

Sources/interpretations for use with Section B.

Source B: From *Inside the Third Reich*, the autobiography of Albert Speer, published in 1970. Here Speer is recalling a number of election rallies held on 27 July 1932. At the time of these rallies, he was a junior member of the Nazi Party. Speer later became a senior member of the Nazi government.

Source C: From the diary of Joachim von Ribbentrop, written in 1933. Here Ribbentrop is commenting on discussions in January 1933 about Hitler becoming Chancellor. At the time, Ribbentrop was a wealthy businessman and supporter of the Nazi Party.

Interpretation 1: From *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power* by H A Turner, published in 1996.

Interpretation 2: From by I Kershaw, published in 1991.

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Our cars set out for the first stadium. I waited outside the stadium so I did not hear Hitler's speech, but I could hear thunderous applause from the crowd. Afterwards, we set off for another meeting. Hitler was making a total of three speeches that day.

At the Berlin Stadium the stands were packed with people and more were waiting outside. Hitler was very late but the crowd had still waited for hours. A roar of applause burst out when the crowd heard that Hitler was on his way.

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27 January

In the evening I see von Papen. I eventually convince von Papen that the only thing that makes sense is for Hindenburg to appoint Hitler as Chancellor. Von Papen is now absolutely in favour of Hitler becoming Chancellor. I believe that this is the turning point.

28 January

Von Papen says that he has had a long talk with Hindenburg. Von Papen now thinks it is possible that Hindenburg could agree to make Hitler Chancellor.

29 January

There is a long discussion between von Papen and Hitler. Von Papen says that there are no more obstacles to Hitler becoming Chancellor.

30 January

Hitler is appointed Chancellor.

Interpretation 1: From *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power* by H A Turner, published in 1996.

In January 1933, Hitler did not seize power; it was handed to him by the men who controlled Germany. The Nazi Party had suffered huge losses in the Reichstag elections of November 1932 and it was starting to fall apart by January 1933.

Hindenburg began to mistrust Chancellor von Schleicher. Meanwhile, von Papen managed to overcome the elderly President Hindenburg's doubts about Hitler and persuaded him to appoint Hitler as Chancellor.

Hitler was supported by less than half the German population when he was appointed Chancellor by President Hindenburg.

Interpretation 2: From *Hitler* by I Kershaw, published in 1991.

It was an extraordinary achievement by the Nazis to win the votes of a third of the German people between 1929 and 1932. By 1932, Hitler was in charge of a massive movement of 800,000 Party members and 13 million voters were generally prepared to place their trust in him. Nazi propaganda suggested that victory was inevitable.

Mass support gave Hitler a key to unlocking the door to power. No other party leader had anything like Hitler's support from the German population.



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