National Socialism and Hitler's Nazi Party

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German dictator Adolf Hitler (center) went to Munich on November 9, 1938, with 3,000 "old fighters" from all parts of Germany to commemorate the unsuccessful Nazi uprising of 1923. Ap Photo

Adolf Hitler was the head of the Nazis. Nazism is also called National Socialism. It was popular in Germany after World War I. Nazis wanted to get rid of people who were not German. It led to the start of World War II.

Roots of National Socialism

Germany was once called Prussia. Prussians modeled their lives after the army and tried to gain lots of land. At one point, Prussia was so big it took up much of Europe. Some Prussians thought their people, also called Germanic people, were better than other people.

Hitler was influenced by this history. Hitler hated other European people and the Jews, who lived in Germany and in other countries. Hitler was living in Vienna, the capital of Austria. He tried to be a painter but could not make any money. People of all kinds lived in his city. None of them wanted to buy his pictures.
Germany lost in World War I. It made Germans feel sad and frustrated. Fewer people had jobs. Hitler told Germans they could get back at the people responsible for their problems.

**Hitler manipulated people**

Hitler understood how people think. He knew what makes them angry and afraid. He made sure everyone could understand him. He did not care about telling the truth. He just wanted people to do what he said.

Hitler said the Jews were bad people. He and the Nazis said the Jews were harmful to other Germans.

The Nazis did not want peace. It said some people were better than others. Hitler and the Nazis believed the strong should rule the weak.

**Nazi Party began in 1919**

The Nazi Party began in 1919. It was led by Hitler from 1920. It took control of the German government in 1933. The party remained in power until 1945. That is when Germany lost at the end of World War II.
From 1934 to 1939, the Nazis controlled all parts of life in Germany. At first, people welcomed them. Jobless people were given jobs. People were making money again. Germans were very proud of their country. This made National Socialism popular.

The Nazis also had secret police. They sent Jews and others to concentration camps. In these camps, the Nazi police treated people cruelly. Millions of Jews and other people were killed in the Holocaust.

**Hitler wanted Germany to rule the world**

Germany invaded Poland in 1939. This began World War II. Hitler wanted to have enough land for Germany to rule the world.

Nazism came to an end when Germany lost the war in 1945. World War II lasted nearly six years. Parts of National Socialism stuck around in Germany after Hitler died. Some Nazi-related groups were formed in the late 1940s. In the 1990s, groups of neo-Nazis attacked Jews and people from other countries.