**Nazi Party**

Your name

Institution name

Course name

Instructor’s name

Due date

**Nazi Party**

**How can we explain the transformation of the Nazi party from a marginal political and ideological force that secured less than 03% of the national vote in the federal elections in Germany in 1928, BUT by the summer of 1932 was able to secure 37,4 % of the votes?**

Nazi transformation from a purely political party to a dominant force in Germany due to certain political, social and economic factors. These aspects will ensure the party remained stable for a while.

**Economic Factors**

The most significant economic factor that contributed to Nazi party growth is the Great Depression that started in 1929 (Cortes, 2022). Germany experienced high unemployment rate and rampant poverty as well as the bankruptcy of many banks. A prime cause of the problem was the fact that the Weimar government failed in tackling the economic challenge that was facing Germany citizens (Grégoire, 2022). The Nazi Party, led by Adolf Hitler seized the opportunity and capitalized on the problem and promised economic stability, job creation and nationalism.

**Social Factors**

Propaganda was a powerful tool used by Nazis to capitalize on people’s fears and prejudices. They blamed Weimar Republic’s democratic institutions and pointed at the communists and Jews as the culprits that led Germany astray (Fondren, 2021). This scapegoating together clicked well with many Germans who people who just wanted solutions sought for someone to blame (Fondren, 2021). Some issues and preferences that were invoked by this party of interest included the claims to a powerful and compact Germany and restoration of values as the ethic and appealed of the middle class, the rural populations, and the veterans.

**Political Factors**

The Weimar Republic was characterized by high level of instability and fragmentation. Political changes, coalition failures, and the failure of mainstream parties to align create image of confusion and inefficiency (Ziegler, 2022). Nazi Party siezed this aspect and presented itself as a well-ordered, united, and determined organization, which was ready to offer the nation efficient leadership and national rebirth. Further, the Nazis used the modern tactics such as public address and Hitler’s persuasive speeches to mobilize all people (Ziegler, 2022).

**Strategic Use of Violence and Intimidation**

The Nazi Party also had the SA (Sturmabteilung) to intimidatedsits opponents into submission. This paramilitary wing blocked the activities of the competing parties and at the same time showcased the Nazi’s effectiveness in implementing order and fighting communism which the Germans saw as threatening from the Soviet Union (Casquete, 2021). By 1932 that all these elements played significant roles for Nazi Party to propagate its policies of economic uplift, rejuvenation of the nation and authoritarian leadership to the desperate population starved of any economic stability Their effective utilization of Germany’s socio-economic crisis and political vulnerability was the key to their transition from an extreme ideological party to one of the largest political parties in Germany.

**What political, socio-economic, and ideological reasons do Donn Gluckstein, Axel Fair-Schulz. and Chris Harman suggest (explicity and implicity)?**

**Donny Gluckstein**

Glickstein’s Marxist analyis, focuses on the class struggle and the failures of the left. He suggests that socio-economic instability that arose the Great Depression led to the rise of extremism (Sanyanzi, 2023). Gluckstein sheds more light on the collapse of the working-class unity of Social Democrats (SPD) and Communists (KPD) to form a fascist party (Sanyanzi, 2023). This disunity made it possible for the Nazis to appear as the stable answer to the ephemeral Weimar Republic. Gluckstein also identifies the German bourgeoisie who having witnessed the Bolshevik revolution opted to support the Nazi because they wanted war against communism to be fought by the working class and not themselves (Sanyanzi, 2023).

**Axel Fair-Schulz**

Fair-Schulz aims at the ideological aspect of using the Nazism, along with the socio-political background of the given period. He highlights on propaganda that the Nazis used efficiently, which included nationalism and the regenerative desire for the perceived traditional values (Antolović, 2021). Fair-Schulz highlights the Nazis’ convincing the Germans that they would help them regain their lost pride after the Treaty of Versailles and make them wealthy again due to economic crises that plagued the country. He also describes how the Nazi effectively employed the technique of modern media as well as exploiting the ‘appeal’ of Hitler to mobilize mass support particularly from the middle class and peasants.

**Chris Harman**

Harman suggests that the effects of the great depression led high unemployment contributing to social unrest hence discontent. Here Harman accuses the SPD of parliamentary cretinism and the KPD sectarianism, and both of them failed to offer a proper course to the working class (Miller & Dale, 2023). Such a vacuum was exploited to the core for the Nazis who were portrayed as the only convenient force capable of performing radical actions and therefore becoming the saviors of the nation (Mille & Dale, 2023). Despite, laboring to supposedly work for Zeitgeschichte and voicing the marginalized, Harman also involves the conservative elites and industrialists who viewed Nazis as an instrument for eradicating working-class movements and enforcing capitalist order.

**How does the Nazi regime present itself in the propaganda film Triumph of the Will? How are the themes of War and Peace, the Memory of WWl, Racism, AntI-Leftism, Capitalism & the Great Depression, the people Community or volksgemeinshcaft, as well as the issue of class and Gender navigated and presented in this film?**

“Triumph of the Will,” a film produced and directed by Leni Riefenstahl is one of the most famous films of propaganda that undermine the Nazi party in Germany in a powerful and influencing manner, while passing on different themes that are cleverly and blatantly included in the film as part of the Nazi initiated ideology.

**Presentation of the Nazi Regime**

The information in the film presents Adolf Hitler as a charismatic leader almost god-like. He arrives on the scene descending from the clouds just as a typical god figure (“Triumph of the Will Movie (1935),”, n.d.). The Nazi tournament of the so-called Nuremberg Rally, with the sophisticated choreography of masses and infantry, military music and flags, constantly refers to the concept of power, discipline, and unity (“Triumph of the Will Movie (1935),” n.d.).

**War and Peace**

The film champions for militarism, as it demonstrates power and order of the German armed forces. Marching soldiers and military equipment indicate a nation ready for war, and united in peace under Hitler (“Triumph of the Will Movie (1935),” n.d.). The concept of peace, which is associated with readiness and strength, is based on military might.

**Memory of WWI**

The memories of the first world war are implied in the honouring of the war heroes and focusing on the concept of rebirth of all nations. Through the eyes of the Nazis, the films embrace them as the ones that made Germany powerful again after the war, overcoming humiliation. This appeals to the consciousness of the German people regarding past loss and gets them ready for a revival under the Nazi rule.

**Racism**

It is important to notice that the concept of Aryan racial purity is not directly expressed in the film on the subtext level, but laying down the foundation for it. In this case, the film presents the Germans as people with uniform appearance, being healthy and strong (“Triumph of the Will Movie (1935),” n.d.). Lack of non-Aryan faces and uniform portrayal of the crowd are the results of idea of racial purity that the regime followed.

**Anti-Leftism**

Although communism or socialism is not mentioned in clear terms, the theme of unity and, especially, obedience to Hitler, is dominant throughout the film and in contrast to communism, socialism, and other left-wing politics, which are allegedly constructions of division and disorder (“Triumph of the Will Movie (1935),” n.d.). The organization and cohesion in the manner the rally is coordinated as a counter to the turmoil that the left is associated with.

**Capitalism and the Great Depression**

Economic motifs are not directly highlighted, but the intimation is made that under the Nazi promise of prosperity is within the despair of the Great depression period. The film describes a society as prosperous and organized, which indicates the Nazi regime to be on the solution of the economic crises.

**Volksgemeinschaft (People’s Community)**

One of the key themes of the movie is volksgemeinschaft, which is showcased through overbearing spectacles of peaceful masses integrated into the large national community. The film shows people as members of a large group aiming at fulfilling the missions assigned by Hitler, ignoring class differences and uniting the nation.

**Class and Gender**

The film shows male figures as soldiers and the worker class while the female figures are depicted as supporters and the future bearers of the Aryan race (“Triumph of the Will Movie (1935),” n.d.). This reinforces the traditional gender roles of women and men and the Nazi ideal of a society of individuals of similar stature that are subjugated to the great leadership.

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