

ART OF DISSSENT



Adolf Hitler greets President Paul von Hindenburg March 21, 1933 in the Garrison Church at Potsdam

Fact Sheet 1933 – the year Adolf Hitler and the National Socialists Took Power

The Nazis passed 235 laws and decrees in 1933 and 1934. This Fact Sheet deals only with some laws and decrees passed in 1933.

- 30.1 Hitler appointed Reich Chancellor. Wilhelm Frick, Minister of the Interior, began passing laws and decrees to strengthen the power of the government and to secure the New Regime
- 2.2 Nazis forbade Communist demonstrations in Prussia. Police took over the KPD (Communist) headquarters in Berlin
- 5.2 Laws to limit the freedom of the press and freedom of assembly
- 23.2 All KPD presses and publication houses ordered seized and sealed



Feb. 27, 1933 burning of German Parliament building

- 27.2 Arson at the parliament used as a pretext to terrorize communists and political enemies of the Nazis. In Berlin and in the Ruhr over 15,000 opponents of the Nazis arrested and incarcerated

- 28.2 Civil rights in Germany abolished. The preamble to the decree stated that civil rights were suspended as a defence against “communist acts of violence against the state”. Under the same umbrella two laws were designed to suppress all criticism and opposition to the Government and the Nazi party
- 3.3 Ernst Thaelmann, leader of the KPD arrested



Concentration camp at Dachau

- 20.3 Himmler opened the first “regular” concentration camp at Dachau near Munich to replace the renegade facilities used to imprison opponents of the Nazis

- 24.3 *Enabling Act* allowed Hitler to act without consent of Parliament. This law ended parliamentary government in Germany
- 31.3 To consolidate all governmental power in the Reich Cabinet, the Nazis passed the *Temporary Law for the Coordination of the States with the Reich*. This law was made permanent 7.4
- 1.4 Nazis called for a boycott of businesses owned by Jews
- 7.4 *Professional Civil Service Restoration Act* enabled the Nazis to purge Jews and those deemed “politically unreliable” from government bureaucracies. Paragraphs 3 and 4 provided for the elimination of civil servants on the basis of religious or political beliefs
- 9.4 Hitler annulled the KPD party in parliament making the 288 Nazi seats the majority

20-25-4 The Nazis passed a Law to deal with school attendance that restricted Jewish attendance

24-25.4 Property of the KPD and SPD was seized by the state

2.5 Nazis seized trade union headquarters and imprisoned trade union leaders. Trade Unions and their property absorbed into the National Socialist *Deutsche Arbeitsfront*

14.5 Hitler abolished the founding of new political parties

21.6 Bloody Week—91 KPD, SPD and unaffiliated workers murdered by the SA



1946 Former Nazi Minister Wilhelm Frick in Nuremberg

22.6 Nazi Minister Frick legislated the SPD out of existence and enacted a law to seize all communist property as well as “property inimical to nation and state”

1.7 *Law for the Prevention of Hereditary Diseased Offspring* established Genetic Health Courts which decided on compulsory sterilizations. Included grounds: schizophrenia, manic depression, hereditary epilepsy, hereditary blindness or deafness, any severe deformity and severe alcoholism. The law was amended to include forced sterilization of ‘the Rhineland bastards’—children of mixed German and African heritage who were born during the time African troops were part of the Rhineland occupying armies after WWI

7.7 The Nazis voided the mandates of all Social Democrats elected to state and local governments

14.7 All parties other than the Nazi party outlawed

15.11 Goebbels created seven divisions of the *Reichskulturkammer* which allowed the Nazis control over all forms of creativity in Germany

1.12 *Law to Secure the Unity of Party and State* placed all government machinery at the disposal of the Nazi party. All government agencies were forced to lend legal and administrative support to the Nazis Party

Prompts

- Would it be possible to go from a democracy to a tyranny in Canada in 12 months following this model? If not, who or what would stop the potential tyrants?
- What were the most significant elements of human nature that the Nazis played upon to gain and maintain control?
- If you lived during this twelve month period where all your civil rights disappeared, how would you feel? How would you react?
- Whose responsibility is it to protect Canada’s democratic rights?

Extensions

- Barron, Stephanie *Degenerate Art* Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art. 1991 (available in the Toronto Public Library system)
- www.library.arizona.edu/exhibits/burnedbooks/curriculum.htm
- www.ushmm.org/wlc/article.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10005141
- www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/nurmlaw2.html

For studies in:

History, Man in Society, Civics and English literature studies.

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