

# 27<sup>th</sup> February 1933

A week before the election takes place, the Reichstag is burned down. Although the evidence was unclear a young communist man, Marinus van der Lubbe, was arrested and blamed for the fire.

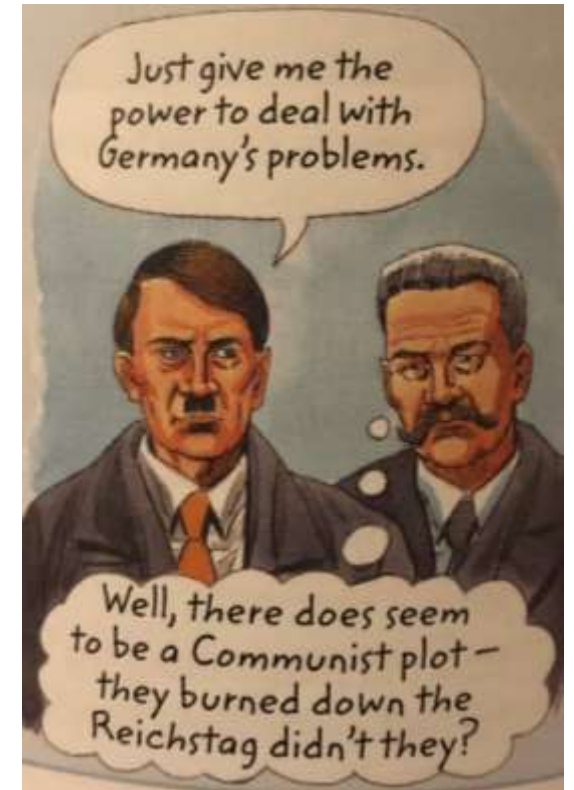
Hitler, said the fire was part of a communist plot to take over the country. He said he knew how to deal with the plot.



# 28<sup>th</sup> February 1933

Hitler asks President Hindenburg to pass a special emergency 'Protection Law', giving Hitler the power to deal with Germany's problems. Because of the Reichstag fire and the apparent communist plot, Hindenburg agrees.

These new powers allow Hitler arrest whomever he wanted, shut down newspapers and ban some Communists from standing in the election.



# 23 March 1933

Hitler had stirred up enough fear of communism through his use of propaganda to persuade other politicians from other political parties to join the Nazis.

Hitler now had a majority in the Reichstag which meant he could pass the **Enabling Law**. This gave him the power to make laws without asking the rest of the Reichstag.



# 7<sup>th</sup> April 1933

Hitler immediately uses his new powers to help maintain control.

Nazis were put in charge of local government, councils AND the police. The **Gestapo** (Secret Police) were formed and the first **Concentration Camp** was set up for prisoners who went against Hitler's politics.



# 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1933

Hitler decided to ban all Trade Unions. A Trade Union is an organisation that workers join and is used so that workers can, as a group, demand better working conditions and pay.

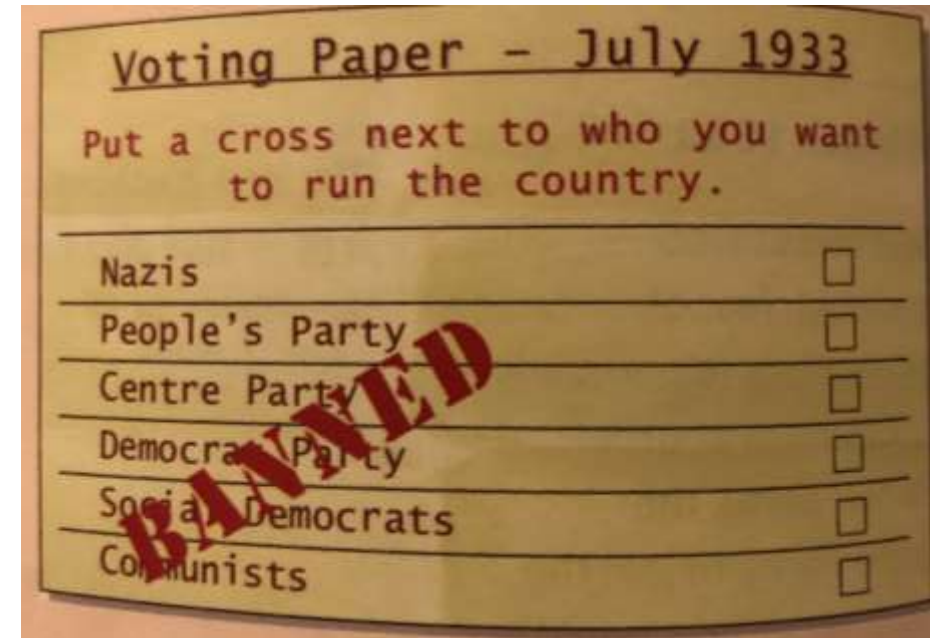
He took away their money and threw their leaders in jail. By removing trade unions, Hitler had taken away the threat of strike and a way for workers to demand change.



# 14<sup>th</sup> July 1933

Hitler banned all political parties in Germany except the Nazis.

The 'Law Against the Formation of New Parties' stated that anyone trying to set up or run another party would go to prison for three years. Germany was no a one-party country.

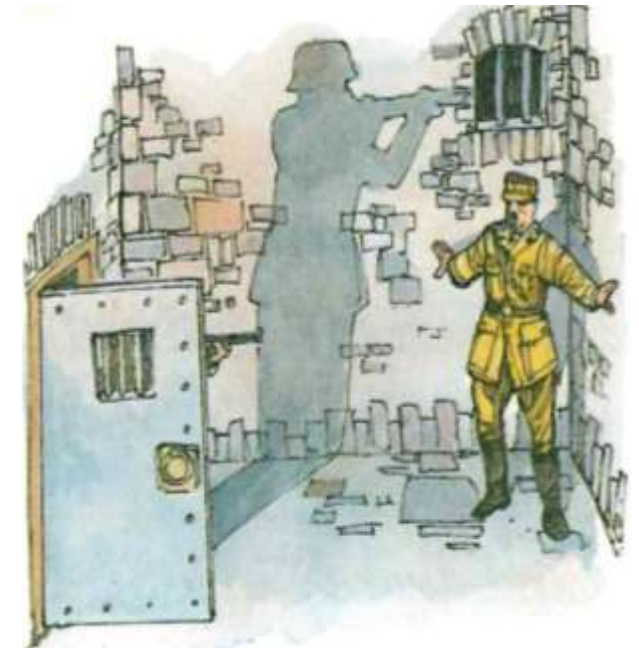




# 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> June 1934

Hitler had relied on his SA stormtroopers since the early days of the Munich Putsch to instil fear, fight communists, protect meetings and generally do his bidding. But by 1934 he was worried they had become too powerful, and the German Army was worried that the SA wanted to join them.

Hitler wanted to weaken the power of the SA and its leader Ernst Rohm while also pleasing his generals. To do this, over one weekend, Hitler ruthlessly dealt with the issue. SA leaders, over 400 of them, were dragged from their beds, captured and shot dead including Rohm himself and other influential enemies of Hitler such as the former chancellor Von Schleicher.



# 20<sup>th</sup> August 1934



Hitler passes a law that made anyone working for the government or the army swear an oath of loyalty to him personally which promised to risk their life for him at any time. Prior to the law, both members of the armed forces and government had sworn loyalty to "the People and the Fatherland" (*Volk und Vaterland*).

It read:

"I swear to God this sacred oath that to the Leader of the German Reich and people, Adolf Hitler, supreme commander of the armed forces, I shall render unconditional obedience and that as a brave soldier I shall at all times be prepared to give my life for this oath."

