Did all power stem from Hitler with no individual being allowed to grow too powerful? Were there deliberately overlapping 'empires' with final decision-making dependent on access to Hitler?

Lack of opposition from 1934:
- no unions
- control over the media
- one-party state
- control over courts
- control over Civil Service
- bargains with army, church and big business

Control of a powerful security system:
- police
- Gestapo
- SS

Absolute control over:
- ideology
- education
- the economy
- the army

A far-reaching propaganda machine:
- press
- radio
- all forms of art and culture

Nazi programmes were left unfinished:
- plans for economic recovery not carried through fully
- suggested Germany might be ready for war in 1942-43, in the 1937 Hossbach memorandum
- rearmament narrowly based and no war economy until 1942

Was there a confusion of private 'empires' and was Hitler's power 'negative' – destroying without replacing?

**Discussion points**

1. Why did Hitler rely primarily on the law to help consolidate his power?
2. Why is Hitler's state regarded as right-wing? With reference to Chapters 1 and 2, is there really any difference between right-wing and left-wing states? Are these helpful terms?

**End of unit activities**

1. Draw a flow chart to show the stages by which Hitler consolidated his rule.
2. Write an obituary for Röhm (who died on the Night of the Long Knives). You could decide whether your obituary is for a pro-Nazi German newspaper or a more neutral British one.
3. Imagine you are interviewing Hitler for a TV news programme at the end of 1934. Produce ten questions and (after swapping scripts with another member of your group) fill in the replies that Hitler might have given.
4. Find one piece of visual propaganda and one piece of contemporary written evidence illustrating the 'cult of Hitler'. Explain your findings to your group.
5. Make a chart on which you can record the arguments that Hitler was a strong dictator and those that suggest he was a weak dictator. Try to add historians' names to the arguments and where possible find quotations from their books to support what you write.

**Theory of knowledge**

**History and ethics**

What is a dictatorship? Is dictatorship always wrong? Is it possible to create a benign dictatorship?