90



Did all power stem from Hitler with no individual being allowed to grow too powerful?

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

Karl Bracher and Hugh Trevor, Pop STRONG DICTATOR

What kind of ruler



WEAK DICTATOR

Monninsen, lan Kershaw, Jeremy

set ministers against one

• allowed ministers/Gauleiters and mayors to give

A far-reaching propaganda machine:

- press
- radio
- all forms of art and culture

Hitler's personality:

- lazy
- erratic
- easily bored and uninterested in detail (especially economics)

Opted out of government:

another with overlapping duties

different decisions and compete for influence

• permanent confusion over planning, especially in war years

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

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?



Theory of knowledge

History and ethics

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

End of unit activities

- 1 Draw a flow chart to show the stages by which Hitler consolidated his rule.
- 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.
- 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.