

CHAPTER- 5

NAZISM

The rise of dictators was the most destructive among some important political changes that occurred in Europe amidst the two wars. The rise of Fascism in Italy under the leadership of Mussolini and Nazism in Germany under the leadership of Adolf Hitler are the two examples. Nazism is an aggressive ideology by which the supremacy of the nation is most significant. The sacrifice of individual freedom for the sake of the state and total control over economy by the state were mentioned. Efforts were made to avenge the injustice done against Germany and restore its honour and pride. The following are the causes of Hitler's rise and the rise of Nazi movement.

1. Establishment of democracy

Emperor Kaiser Wilhelm Second was unable to control the devastating situation caused after the defeat of Germany in the First World War (1914-18). So, in this odd situation he resigned and escaped to Holland on 10th November, 1918. In this situation, the Socialist Democratic Party assumed the power and established democracy in place of monarchy and nominated its leader Fredrick Abott, Chancellor of Germany. This new government signed the war closing treaty on 11th November, 1918. Afterwards the constituent assembly was formed and its first meeting was held on 5th February, 1919 at Weimar. That is why this constitution is known as Weimar Constitution or Weimar Republic.

Contemporary situation in Germany:

1. Establishment of democracy
2. Humiliating treaty of Versailles
3. Economic crisis
4. Severe conditions for compensation

The constitution is implemented on 10th August, 1919. According to the Weimar Constitution, Federal system of government was formed and emergency power was invested in President. This very Weimar is considered as the source of emergency power of the President in Indian constitution. But the new Weimar democracy failed in controlling the post war situation in Germany and the people got more furious.

2. Humiliating treaty of Versailles

After the First World War, the imperial Germany was forced to sign the humiliating treaty of Versailles on 28th June, 1919. In fact, it was a harsh and imposed treaty.

By this treaty Germany was divided into many parts. The area Alsace-Lorraine was returned to France and the 'Saar' coal mines situated at German region was handed over to France for 15 years. Now the area came into the control of the League of Nations. It was decided to demilitarise the Rhine river valley region. Germany was also paralysed to demilitarise it which was not right for a dignified nation like Germany. So Hitler tried to gain privilege through the dissatisfaction aroused by the peace treaty at Versailles.

3. Economic Crisis

This time Germany was trapped in adverse economic crises. It had to face financial damage in the war. After the war, a great many factories were closed and the unemployment was in its extreme extent. In this adverse economic crisis, a greater amount was imposed on Germany to pay for compensation. This time even the agricultural condition was not very well. Its industrial cities snatched by the Allied countries and all the German trades were paralysed. The whole of Germany was thus trapped in mismanagement and dissatisfaction which formed the background of Hitler's rise.

4. Severe conditions for compensation

Germany was compelled to pay compensation amounting to 6 billion and 10 crore pound. But it was impossible for Germany to pay such a great amount. The Allied countries always continued making pressure on Germany to pay the amount which was not a practical measure.

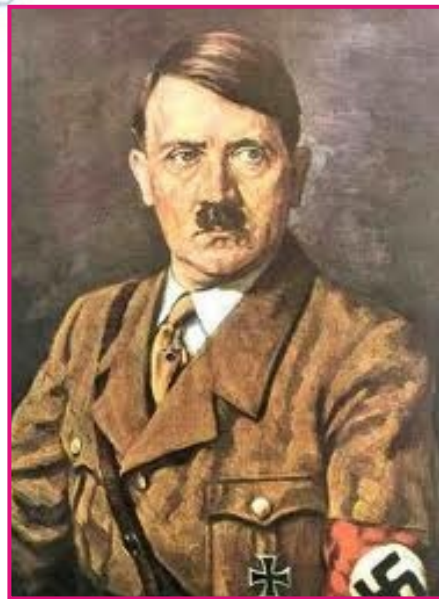
5. Increasing crisis of communism

There was an impact of Russian revolution, 1917 on Germany. Communist organisations were also formed over here. The communists tried to uproot the Weimar Republic and establish the supremacy of the down-trodden class. So the industrialists, capitalists and landlords were afraid of them. Hitler raised voice against communism and gained sympathy of the rich persons of the society.

So it can be said that the situation in Germany was very miserable after the First World War. There were disappointment with the leadership and they found luminous leader like Hitler who had a magical voice and charismatic personality. He promised for affluence and glorification of the nation. The German being allured by his words, handed over their future in his hands. The background of Hitler rise was thus formed.

Hitler and his work

Adolf Hitler was born on 20th April, 1889 in Braun au in Austria in an ordinary family. He could not be brought up in a proper way. He wanted to be a painter in his childhood, but his aim could not be fulfilled. So he got a job in Army. In the First World War (1914-18) he fought by the side of Germany and gained 'Iron Cross' for his excellent bravery. But he became disappointed after signing on the Versailles treaty by Germany. After the war, he became the member of 'German Workers' party.' In 1920 this party was renamed 'National Socialist German Workers' Party.' Gradually Hitler became its leader.



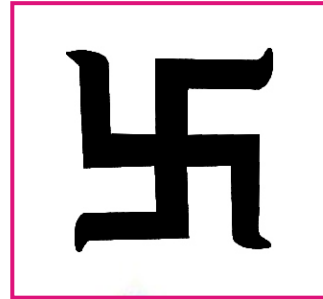
Adolf Hitler

Hitler gathered around him some persons like Rodolf and Goebbels who were experts in spreading hungama and rumours. Their policy was "Spread the rumour in such an extent that it seems to be true." According to the conditions of Versailles treaty France captured Ruhr, a rich industrial area of Germany. So the German raised their voice against France. Hitler was in search of such an opportunity and he rebelled against the Weimar Republic in 1923 with Ludendorff. The rebel failed and Hitler was arrested. In imprisonment, he wrote his famous autobiography 'Mein Kamph', in which he presented the outline of his forthcoming programme. At the end of 1924, he was released. Now he began to reorganize his party. He adopted 'Swastik' the emblem of Aryans' sacredness 'Swastik' as a symbol of his party and organized it on the military pattern. Though the democratic under the leadership of statesman started several programmes to check the increasing impact of the Nazi party. The treaty of Locarno in 1925 secured an honourable position for Germany and it got the membership of the League of Nations. The Nazi party got 32 seats in the Reichstag the German parliament in 1924, but the number reduced to 12 in the election held in 1928. The impact of Hitler and the Nazi party thus began to be minimum. But Hitler did not lose his courage. This time the worldwide economic recession brought the message of revival for Hitler. Germany was badly affected in world economic recession. Now the Weimar began to lose the faith of the Germans. Hitler gained too much from this situation. He started abusing the Weimar Republic, Versailles treaty and the Jews for the misfortune of Germany. The middle class and unemployed youths were his supporters. Now the strength of the Nazi party began to rise by leaps and bounds. It got 107 seats in the election held in 1930 and 230 in 1932 but didn't get chance to form the government. Later, the President Hindenburg nominated him Chancellor on January 30, 1933. As a result he assumed despotic power and announced election. He managed the system in such a way that only the members of the Nazi party could win the seats. The democracy in Germany thus fell down and the Nazi revolution started. Hitler called it the 'Richs III'. After the death of Hindenburg in 1934 the posts of the Chancellor and the president were merged. Now Hitler was

all in all in Germany. He adopted the Nazi philosophy and foreign policy. So a tense situation was created in the world and the Second World War came to be nearer.

Nazi Philosophy

1. Nazism is an ideology which is opposite to democracy and liberalism. So after assuming power, Hitler banned the freedom of press and speech. He washed away the opposition parties. He imposed ban even on educational institutions and means of communications. Efforts were thus made to finish the democratic voice which proved to be dangerous for Germany.



Symbol of the Nazi Party

2. This ideology is a strong opponent to international socialism. Hitler raised voice against socialism and got the support of the German capitalists. He got indirect support of England and France also and his strength multiplied. As a result the whole world stood on the verge of horrible war.

3. Nazi ideology is based on the concept of totalitarianism. According to it, everything is inside the state and nothing is opposite or out of it.

4. This ideology forces upon the radical nationalism. Hitler advocated the radical nationalism to get the power. Since there was a tradition of radical nationalism and militarism in Germany. Hitler tried to take advantage of this tendency. He mentally

Word 'Natsi' is made of taking primary words of 'Natsiyonal' which is a German language word. 'Natsiyonal' is the first word of Hitler's party. Therefore people of this party were called Natsi.

prepared the Germans to revenge their humiliation. Now the whole of Germany was rung with the vigour of war.

5. Nazism forces upon the unchecked power of the emperor. He assumed despotic power in Germany. As soon as he assumed the power, he organized spy police 'Gestapo'. Its terror very soon spread in Germany.

He formed a special cell and smashed his political opponents. Hitler himself set the building of the Reichstag on fire and accused the socialists of it. By this way he finished their political career. Now there was only one party in Germany The Nazi Party, and only one leader Hitler.

6. Nazism glorifies armed forces and violence.

Hitler through Nazism thus took much advantage of the dissatisfaction in Germany. But he tried tirelessly to improve economic situation of Germany and very soon Germany turned into a greatest industrial power in Europe. But Hitler used his strength in negative direction which proved for Germany. However, to be a nationalist is good for a nation, but the efforts were made to relegate the spirit of the Germans through radical nationalism, which was not good for a nation. Hitler established dictatorship in Germany. Its forthcoming consequences were not fruitful and the whole world came on the verge of the Second World War.

Impact of Nazism

1. Anti-freedom feelings were encouraged in other European countries.
2. Anti-peace environment was created in the world and the doctrine of the League of Nations for mass safety was hurt.
3. Anti-Communist movements increased in the world.
4. Appeasement policy came into fashion in Europe.
5. The Second World War (1939-45) broke out.

Hitler's Foreign policy

After the First World War, the humiliating treaty at Versailles was imposed on Germany by the Allied countries. The military and economic strength of Germany was paralysed. The whole of Germany was against the

Weimar Republic and Allied countries. So Hitler tried to take advantage of this situation and very cautiously adopted his foreign policy. The main theories of his foreign policy were -

1. To break up the Versailles treaty
2. To unite the whole German race
3. To spread the German empire
4. To check communism

He took the following steps to implement his ideology:

1. Parting with the League of Nations: Hitler at first in 1933 demanded to implement the conditions of Geneva disarmament treaty on all the nations equally. When Hitler did not succeed in his plan, he called the German representatives off and announced to give up the membership of the League of Nations.

2. To break up the Versailles treaty: In 1935, Hitler announced to break up all the conditions of Versailles treaty. He made army service compulsory in Germany. He very clearly said that now Germany was free from all the conditions of the Versailles treaty.

3. A ten-year pact with Poland: In 1934, Hitler made a ten-year non-aggression pact with Poland, in which it was decided not to encroach the borders of each other.

4. Compromise with Britain: In June, 1935 a compromise was made between Germany and Britain, in which Britain admitted that Germany may increase its military power (army and air forces) provided that it may not increase its navy forces more than 35 percent. It was Hitler's great diplomatic victory.

Foreign Policy of Hitler

- Parting with the League of Nations
- To break up with Versailles treaty
- A ten-year pact with Poland
- Compromise with Britain
- Rome-Berlin axis
- Compromise against Comintern
- Integration of Austria and Czechoslovakia
- Invasion on Poland



Germany at Hitler time

5. Rome-Berlin areas: The invasive policy of Hitler kept Germany aloof from international forum. So, Hitler tried to do friendship with Italy and Rome Berlin axis was thus formed. These two friends helped General Franco, the military ruler of Spain.

6. Compromise against Comintern: In 1936, a compromise against Comintern was made to escape the danger of communism.

7. Integration of Austria and Czechoslovakia: The aim of Hitler's foreign policy was to unite the people who speak German. So he wanted to make Austria a part of his empire. Italy first opposed but finally Austria was diluted in German empire. As a result, Hitler's strength increased a lot.

A lot of Germans lived in Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia. So Hitler asked Czech government for Sudetenland which the government refused to do. At last, at the request of England, France and Italy in Munich Summit (1938), Sudetenland was handed over to Germany. But Hitler wanted to get the whole of Czech Republic. So, in 1939 he gobbled up the entire country. Afterwards, he usurped the harbour of Memel. But the Allied countries played the role of mere spectators and the strength of Hitler remained increasing.

8. Invasion on Poland: The next target of Hitler was to attack on Danzig harbour of Poland. Some land part of Germany was handed over to Poland to go to the Baltic sea which was called Polish corridor. Hitler asked Danzig harbour and Polish corridor and when he attacked Poland over this issue on 1st September, 1939, France and England interfered and the Second World War broke out (1939-45). In this war, the system of Hitler tottered and his initial success was turned into defeat before the strength of the Allied countries. In 1995, when the victorious army reached Berlin, Hitler suicide. Thus the world got rid of a dictator and for the peace in the world the United Nations Organization was established on 24th October, 1945.

Table – 1	
Year	No. of members (Nazi party)
1924	32
1928	12
1930	107
1932	203
The position of the Nazi party in Reichstag (the lower parliament).	

EXERCISE

I. Objective Questions:

1. Where was Hitler born?
a. Germany b. Italy c. Japan d. Austria
2. Which was the symbol of the Nazi party?
a. Red Flag b. Swastik c. Black shirt d. Pigeon
3. Who wrote 'Mein Kampf'?
a. Mussolini b. Hitler c. Hindenburg d. Statesman
4. The main industrial area of Germany was
a. Alsus Lauren b. Rhor
c. Ivanov d. Berlin
5. The currency of Germany was
a. Dollar b. Pound c. Mark d. Rouble

II. Choose the true statements:

1. Hitler was not the supporter of democracy.
2. Nazism is the supporter of Jewism.
3. There was despotic government in Nazism.
4. The seeds of Hitler's rising were inherited in the Versailles.
5. Military forces and violence were glorified in Nazism.

III. Fill in the gaps:

1. Hitler was born in
2. Hitler assumed the rank of Chancellor in Germany in
3. Hitler parted with the League of Nations in
4. The originator of Nazism was
5. Was the lower parliament in Germany.

IV. Write notes in 20 words:

1. Dictator
2. Versailles Treaty
3. Appeasement Policy
4. Weimar Republic
5. Communism
6. Riruve III

V. Match the following:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Gestapo | a. a city in Germany |
| 2. Weimar | b. Worship place of the Jews |
| 3. Cinegawn | c. Spy police |
| 4. Brown shirts | d. Private army |
| 5. Hindenburg | e. The President of Germany |

V. Short answer type questions:

1. "The Versailles treaty prepared the background of Hitler's rising". How?
2. How did the Weimar Republic help in the rising of Nazism?
3. How can you say that the Nazi programmes prepared the background of the Second World War?
4. Did the fear of communism make the German capitalists
5. What is Rome - Berlin - Tokiyo axis?

VII. Long answer type questions:

1. Throw light on Hitler's personality.
2. Hitler's foreign policy was a tool for regaining the lost pride of Germany. How?
3. Nazism was the supporter of despotism and opponent of democracy. Illustrate.

