

Part Three:

Nazi Control and Dictatorship 1933–39

NAIL IT!



Hitler's rise to power is a good focus for questions on causation and on interpretations. Make sure you are clear about the order of events and the roles of individuals here.

The creation of a dictatorship

1933–1934

As soon as Hitler became Chancellor, he began working to remove any restrictions on his power. By the end of 1934, he was in complete control as the dictator of Germany: der **Führer**.

Four key events helped to cement his position and power.

1 The Reichstag Fire, 27 February 1933

In the evening of 27 February, a huge fire destroyed the Reichstag building.

Dutch communist Marinus van der Lubbe was convicted and executed.

A communist conspiracy was blamed and 4000 communists arrested.

Hitler persuaded Hindenburg to declare a state of emergency and new elections.

The Decree for the Protection of the People and the State gave Hitler power to imprison opponents and ban opposition newspapers.

The Nazis won 288 seats in a violent and bloody election campaign. The communists were banned from taking up their 81 seats, giving Hitler the majority needed to amend the constitution.

