A Failed Seizure

Trace the causes and consequences of the Munich Beer Hall Putsch.

TOT.C.4.4.A "Munich Beer Hall Putsch"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two conditions Hitler tried to exploit, circle two details that show why the putsch failed, and number two ways its aftermath changed his opportunities or strategy.

The Munich Beer Hall Putsch

1 In November 1923, Munich was tense. Germany's economy had been battered by hyperinflation, which made savings nearly worthless, and many people distrusted the young Weimar Republic. Adolf Hitler led the Nazi Party, a small extremist movement that rejected democracy and promoted antisemitism. Hitler hoped to seize power in Bavaria and then challenge Germany's national government. On November 8, he and armed supporters entered a crowded Munich beer hall where Bavarian leaders were speaking. Hitler announced a new government and tried to force three key Bavarian officials to support his plan. Their apparent agreement did not last.

2 On November 9, Hitler, Nazi supporters, and the decorated general Erich Ludendorff marched through Munich, expecting supporters to join them. Instead, police blocked their route near the Feldherrnhalle. Gunfire erupted, killing 16 Nazis and four police officers. The march broke apart, and the attempt to overthrow the government failed. The Bavarian officials Hitler had pressured did not give him lasting support, and the army did not rise for him. Hitler was arrested two days later. These details show the gap between his claim to lead a revolution and his actual ability to control the state.

3 Hitler's 1924 trial for treason gave him a public platform to spread Nazi ideas. He was sentenced to five years in prison but served about nine months. While imprisoned, he began writing *Mein Kampf*, a book presenting his racist ideology and political plans. After his release, he pursued power through elections and legal political activity rather than another immediate armed uprising, though Nazi violence and intimidation continued. The putsch failed as a seizure of power, yet its trial and aftermath helped Hitler gain attention and rethink his strategy. Germany's later dictatorship was not an automatic result of the failed march.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might Germany's conditions in 1923 have made Hitler think his plan could gain support?

2. How did the actions of the police and Bavarian officials help cause the putsch to fail?

3. How did a result of the failed putsch give Hitler a new opportunity?

4. How did Hitler's approach to gaining power change after his release, and what continued?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 100 word museum label explaining why the Beer Hall Putsch was both a failure and a turning point. Build a cause-and-effect explanation using at least three details from two or more paragraphs.

ANSWER KEY

A Failed Seizure

HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.C.4.4.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two conditions Hitler tried to exploit, circle two details that show why the putsch failed, and number two ways its aftermath changed his opportunities or strategy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might Germany's conditions in 1923 have made Hitler think his plan could gain support?	**Hyperinflation had made savings nearly worthless, and many people distrusted the Weimar Republic. Hitler may have expected that discontent to help him gain supporters.**
2	How did the actions of the police and Bavarian officials help cause the putsch to fail?	**Police blocked the march, while the Bavarian officials Hitler had pressured did not give him lasting support.**
3	How did a result of the failed putsch give Hitler a new opportunity?	**His arrest led to a treason trial that gave him a public platform to spread Nazi ideas.**
4	How did Hitler's approach to gaining power change after his release, and what continued?	**He pursued elections and legal political activity instead of another immediate armed uprising, but Nazi violence and intimidation continued.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A crowd in a Munich beer hall heard Hitler announce a new government, but a declaration could not make it real. Bavarian officials withdrew their support, and police stopped the march the next day. Hitler was arrested, so the putsch failed to take power. Yet his treason trial gave him publicity, and prison gave him time to begin *Mein Kampf*. Afterward, he sought power through elections while Nazi intimidation continued. The failed uprising became a turning point in tactics, not a victory for democracy forever.

Accept explanations that connect passage evidence to both the failed takeover and its later consequences. Do not accept claims that the putsch succeeded or that Germany's later dictatorship was inevitable.