From Putsch to Purge

Trace how key events helped Hitler gain and tighten power.

TOT.C.4.4 "Trace the significant events that led to Adolf Hitler's rise to power. Munich Beer Hall Putsch Hitler's arrest and the writings of Mein Kampf Reichstag fire Enabling Act; Concordat of 1933 Night of the Long Knives (Rohm Purge)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the key events and number them in time order. Circle words that explain how each event changed Hitler's path to power.

How Hitler Gained Power

1. In November 1923, Adolf Hitler and his Nazi followers tried to seize power in Munich in the Beer Hall Putsch. Police stopped the march, and the attempt failed. Hitler was arrested, tried for treason, and sent to prison. During his imprisonment, he dictated much of *Mein Kampf*, a book that laid out his antisemitism, rejection of democracy, and plans for German expansion. Released in 1924, he shifted toward gaining power through elections while keeping the threat of violence. Germany's economic crises and political divisions later helped the Nazis gain votes and influence.

2. Hitler became chancellor in January 1933, but he still faced limits on his power. On February 27, the Reichstag, Germany's parliament building, burned. Nazis blamed communists, and Hitler's government used the fire to secure an emergency decree that suspended civil liberties and helped it arrest political opponents. In March, Nazi intimidation and the exclusion of Communist deputies helped the Enabling Act pass. The act let Hitler's cabinet make laws without a vote in parliament, even laws that departed from the constitution. A crisis had become a means to strip away checks on government power.

3. In July 1933, Hitler's government signed the Concordat with the Holy See, the central authority of the Catholic Church. The agreement promised protections for the Church in Germany and restricted Catholic clergy from party politics. It gave the Nazi government a diplomatic agreement with a major religious institution, although the Nazis later violated its terms. In June 1934, Hitler ordered the Night of the Long Knives, a purge in which Nazi forces killed SA leader Ernst Röhm and other perceived rivals. By crushing rivals within his movement, Hitler helped secure the army leadership's support and strengthened his hold on power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the failed Beer Hall Putsch and Hitler's imprisonment change his approach to gaining power?

2. Trace how the Reichstag fire helped create conditions for the Enabling Act to pass.

3. How did the Enabling Act and the Concordat each help Hitler's government in a different way?

4. How did the Night of the Long Knives change Hitler's position within his movement and with the army?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six-sentence account tracing the shift from Hitler's failed attempt to seize power in 1923 to his stronger hold on power in 1934. Include at least four named events from the passage and explain two cause-and-effect links rather than just listing events.

From Putsch to Purge

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the key events and number them in time order. Circle words that explain how each event changed Hitler's path to power. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the failed Beer Hall Putsch and Hitler's imprisonment change his approach to gaining power?	**After the failed attempt, Hitler dictated much of Mein Kampf in prison. Once released, he shifted toward gaining power through elections while retaining the threat of violence.**
2	Trace how the Reichstag fire helped create conditions for the Enabling Act to pass.	**The government used the fire to secure an emergency decree and arrest opponents. Nazi intimidation and the exclusion of Communist deputies then helped the act pass.**
3	How did the Enabling Act and the Concordat each help Hitler's government in a different way?	**The Enabling Act let Hitler's cabinet make laws without parliament. The Concordat gave his government a diplomatic agreement with the Holy See.**
4	How did the Night of the Long Knives change Hitler's position within his movement and with the army?	**The purge removed perceived rivals within the Nazi movement and helped secure the army leadership's support.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Beer Hall Putsch failed in 1923, and Hitler was imprisoned. In prison, he dictated much of Mein Kampf and later pursued power through elections. After the Reichstag fire, his government used an emergency decree to arrest opponents. Nazi intimidation and the exclusion of Communist deputies helped the Enabling Act pass, letting his cabinet make laws without parliament. The Concordat gave his government an agreement with the Holy See. During the Night of the Long Knives, he had rivals killed, helping secure the army leadership's support and tightening his rule.

Accept other accurate cause-and-effect links grounded in the passage. Do not credit claims that the passage proves who started the Reichstag fire or that the Concordat meant the Holy See endorsed Nazi policies.