From Support to Control

How the Nazi Party grew and held power in Germany

TOT.C.4.5 "Explain how the National Socialist German Workers' Party, or Nazi Party, grew into a mass movement and maintained power through totalitarian means, including the efforts of the Sturmabteilung (SA), the Schutzstaffel (SS), the Wehrmacht..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways the Nazis attracted supporters, and circle three ways they controlled what people could say or learn. Use your marks to trace the shift from growing support to holding power.

How the Nazis Gained and Kept Power

1. In the early 1930s, unemployment and anger over Germany's defeat in World War I helped the Nazi Party win supporters. Hitler promised jobs, national strength, and an end to political chaos. Nazi speakers and posters repeated these promises, while the SA, the party's uniformed street force, attacked and intimidated opponents at rallies and in neighborhoods. After Hitler became chancellor in 1933, emergency measures and a new law let his government silence rivals and rule without meaningful parliamentary limits.

2. Winning office was not the same as keeping it. The SS, originally Hitler's bodyguard, grew into a powerful organization that ran concentration camps and enforced Nazi racial policies. The Gestapo, the secret state police, investigated and arrested suspected opponents. The Wehrmacht, Germany's armed forces from 1935, served Hitler's regime and carried out his military plans. These groups had different roles, but together they made organized resistance increasingly dangerous throughout Germany.

3. Control also reached homes and classrooms. Nazi officials used radio broadcasts, films, and mass rallies to present Hitler as a savior and spread antisemitic lies. They burned books by critics and Jewish authors, censored newspapers, and controlled radio news so competing views were harder to hear. Schools taught Nazi racial ideas, while the Hitler Youth and League of German Girls organized activities that trained children to obey the regime. Repeated messages and limited dissent helped turn support into lasting control.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Nazi promises and the SA's actions serve different purposes as the party grew?

2. How did the roles of the SS, Gestapo, and Wehrmacht differ in helping Hitler hold power?

3. Why would controlling radio news and burning books make Nazi propaganda more effective?

4. How could schools and youth groups help the Nazis maintain power beyond the 1930s?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four or five sentences tracing a path from winning supporters to holding power. Connect an economic promise, one enforcement group, and one method aimed at young people, and explain how the steps reinforced each other.

From Support to Control

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways the Nazis attracted supporters, and circle three ways they controlled what people could say or learn. Use your marks to trace the shift from growing support to holding power. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Nazi promises and the SA's actions serve different purposes as the party grew?	**Promises of jobs and national strength attracted supporters. SA attacks intimidated opponents.**
2	How did the roles of the SS, Gestapo, and Wehrmacht differ in helping Hitler hold power?	**The SS ran camps and enforced racial policies, the Gestapo arrested suspected opponents, and the Wehrmacht served the regime as its armed forces.**
3	Why would controlling radio news and burning books make Nazi propaganda more effective?	**These actions made competing views harder to find, so Nazi messages faced fewer public challenges.**
4	How could schools and youth groups help the Nazis maintain power beyond the 1930s?	**They taught children Nazi racial ideas and obedience, shaping the beliefs of a younger generation.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During the Depression, promises of jobs drew people toward the Nazi Party. After Hitler took office, the Gestapo arrested suspected opponents, making open resistance risky. Hitler Youth activities trained children to obey the regime. The arrests limited challenges while the youth program shaped future supporters, helping Hitler keep power.

Accept other accurate connections supported by the passage. Distinguish the SA's intimidation of opponents from the Gestapo's role as secret state police.