Compass Life Adult Sunday School

Pastor Pete

February 10, 2019

**“Nazi Germany Invades Europe”**

**I. Adolph Hitler (1889-1945)**  
Adolf Hitler was born on April 20, 1889, in the small Austrian town of Braunau on the Inn River along the Austrian-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ border. The son of an extremely strong-willed Austrian customs official, his early youth seems to have been controlled by his father until his death in 1903. Adolf left \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ altogether in 1905 and began his long years of aimless existence, reading, painting, wandering in the woods, and dreaming of becoming a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In 1907, when his mother died, he moved to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in an attempt to enroll in the famed Academy of Fine Arts. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to gain admission that year and the next led him into a period of deep depression as he drifted away from his friends. He was particularly impressed by the successes of the anti-Semitic nationalist Christian-Socialist party of Vienna Mayor Karl Lueger. Hitler began to develop the extreme anti-Semitism and racial mythology that were to remain central to his own "ideology”. In May 1913, Hitler moved to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and after the outbreak of World War I (1914–18) a year later, he volunteered for action in the German army in their war against other European powers and America. During the war he fought on Germany's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ front with distinction but gained no promotion beyond the rank of corporal. Injured twice, he won several awards for bravery, among them the highly respected \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The end of the war left Hitler without a place or goal and drove him to join the many veterans who continued to fight in the streets of Germany. In the spring of 1919, he found employment as a political officer in the army in Munich with the help of Ernst Roehm—later head of Hitler's elite soldiers, the storm troopers (SA). In this capacity Hitler attended a meeting of the so-called German Workers' party, a nationalist, anti-Semitic, and socialist group, in September 1919. He quickly distinguished himself as this party's most popular and impressive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and propagandist, and he helped to increase its membership dramatically to some six thousand by 1921. In April of that year he became Führer of the renamed National Socialist German Workers' party (NSDAP), the official name of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ party. The poor economic conditions of the following years contributed to the rapid growth of the party. By the end of 1923, Hitler could count on a following of some fifty-six thousand members and many more sympathizers, and regarded himself as a strong force in Bavarian and German politics. Hitler hoped to use the crisis conditions to stage his own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Berlin government. He staged the Nazi Beer Hall Putsch of November 8–9, 1923, by which he hoped to force the conservative-nationalist Bavarian government to cooperate with him in a "March on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_." The attempt failed, however. Hitler was tried for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and sentenced to 5 year's in a minimum-security prison in Landsberg. Here he outlined his major plans and beliefs in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which he dictated to his loyal confidant Rudolph Hess.

II. The Origins of the National German Socialist Workers’ Party

Hitler’s appearances and the party’s activities drew local attention in 1920–1922, but the party was still small and confined mainly to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Hitler denounced the Treaty of Versailles and outlined an anti-Semitic program under which citizenship would be limited to those of German \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Hyperinflation crippled Germany in the early 1920’s. In November 1923, Hitler and his followers conspired to seize power in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, then march on Berlin. On November 8, the “Beer Hall Putsch” occurred, and Hitler’s plan unraveled. Hitler claimed leadership of the party after his release from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. With the economic collapse of 1929–1930, Hitler found his issue. The Great Depression in 1929 brought a stunning drop in industrial production, a sharp increase in unemployment, and a spiraling government deficit. Hitler and the NSDAP waged an aggressive campaign in the fall of 1930 and stunned observers by becoming the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ largest party in Germany, gaining 18% of the vote. The economy worsened between September 1930 and summer 1932; consequences included high unemployment, shantytowns, bankruptcies, and growing deficits. On March 21, 1933, Hitler was sworn in as chancellor in a large ceremony at the Garrison Church in Potsdam. On February 27, the Reichstag building caught on fire. Hitler claimed that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had started the fire; with the “Reichstag Fire Decree,” he ended all civil liberties. This became the “legal” foundation of the Third Reich. Hitler called for the passage of an Enabling Act to give him \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In July, the Nazis outlawed all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ except the NSDAP, thus creating a one-party state. At Hindenburg’s death, Hitler assumed the office of president and chancellor, and the army swore an oath of allegiance, not to the constitution …but to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ personally. The concurrent operations of the Gestapo and the quasi-military SS created a police state of unlimited power and ruthless efficiency. Hitler took the title Führer, or “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”. The period from 1933 to 1935 was one of early “legal” discrimination against the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the civil service and the professions, law, medicine, and education. The years 1935 to 1938 were characterized by the passage of the Nürnberg Laws in 1935; Nazi policy in these years focused on Entjüdung, pressuring Jews to leave \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The infamous Reichskristallnacht in November 1938, the first nation-wide coordinated act of violence against the Jewish community.

III. Positive Christianity in Germany/National Reich Church

The population of Germany in 1933 was around \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Almost all Germans were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, belonging either to the Roman Catholic (\_\_\_ million members) or the Protestant (\_\_\_\_ million members) churches. The Jewish community in Germany in 1933 was less than \_\_\_\_\_ of the total population of the country. In both the Catholic and Protestant German churches there were members, including clergy and leading theologians, who openly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Nazi regime. With time, anti-Nazi sentiment grew in both Protestant and Catholic church circles, as the Nazi regime exerted greater pressure on them. In turn, the Nazi regime saw a potential for dissent in church criticism of state measures. When a protest statement was read from the pulpits of Confessing churches in March 1935, for example, Nazi authorities reacted forcefully by briefly arresting over 700 pastors, including \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Martin Niemöller. After the 1937 papal encyclical

Mit brennender Sorge ("With burning concern") was read from Catholic pulpits, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ confiscated copies from diocesan offices throughout the country. The general tactic by the leadership of both Protestant and Catholic churches in Germany was caution with respect to protest and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the Nazi state leadership where possible. There was criticism within both churches of Nazi racialized ideology and notions of "Aryanism," and movements emerged in both churches to defend church members who were considered "non-Aryan" under Nazi racial laws (e.g., Jews who had converted). Yet throughout this period there was virtually no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to antisemitism or any readiness by church leaders to publicly oppose the regime on the issues of antisemitism and state-sanctioned violence against the Jews. There were individual Catholics and Protestants who spoke out on behalf of Jews, and small groups within both churches that became involved in rescue and resistance activities. After 1945, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the church leadership and the widespread complicity of "ordinary Christians" compelled leaders of both churches to address issues of guilt and complicity during the Holocaust—a process that continues internationally to this day.

IV. Germany Invades Western Europe and Poland

On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Nazi propagandists \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ claimed that Poland had been planning, with its allies Great Britain and France, to encircle and dismember Germany and that Poles were persecuting ethnic Germans. Hitler then used this action to launch a retaliatory campaign against

Poland.  The Polish army was defeated within \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the invasion using a strategy called “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”. German units, with more than 2,000 tanks and over 1,000 planes, broke through Polish defenses along the border and advanced on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a massive encirclement attack. Warsaw surrendered to the Germans on September 27, 1939. Britain and France \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on Germany on September 3, 1939. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ invaded eastern Poland on September 17, 1939. The campaign against the Low Countries and France lasted less than six weeks. Germany attacked in the west on May 10, 1940. British and French commanders believed that German forces would attack through central \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as they had in World War I, and rushed forces to the Franco-Belgian border to meet the German attack. The main German attack however, went through the Ardennes Forest in southeastern Belgium and northern Luxembourg. German tanks and infantry quickly broke through the French defensive lines and advanced to the coast. Belgium and the Netherlands \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in May. More than 300,000 French and British troops were evacuated from the beaches near \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ across the English Channel to Great Britain. \_\_\_\_, the French capital, fell to the Germans on June 14, 1940. As part of the armistice agreement France signed (same railroad car from WWI) with Germany on June 22, Germany occupied northern France and all of France's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ coastline down to the border with Spain. A new French government was established in the town of Vichy, which was in the unoccupied southern part of France. The Vichy government, under Marshall Henri Petain, declared \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the war between Germany and Great Britain, but was committed by the armistice provisions to cooperation with Germany.

**2/17 “Operation Barbarossa and Pearl Harbor”**