**Review: Why was Hitler able to consolidate his position in power?**

You have studied how Hitler established himself in power, choosing to reassure the elite and control his more radical supporters. As Chart 10E shows, in some

### 10E Routes to power

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before 1933</th>
<th>After January 1933</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Radical approach</strong></td>
<td><strong>CONTINUE REVOLUTION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEIZE POWER IN PUTSCH</td>
<td>Nazis and SA gain full power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tried 1923, but failed. Some, especially in SA, still urged this method until Hitler's appointment as Chancellor in 1933</td>
<td>Danger: The elite would turn against Hitler and remove him from office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danger: The army would suppress any putsch, as it had done in 1923</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>More cautious approach</strong></td>
<td><strong>CO-OPTERATE WITH ELITE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAIN POWER LEGALLY</td>
<td>Rely largely on inherited administrative, economic and military machine to fulfil aims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Win mass support. Win over 50 per cent of votes to gain a majority in Reichstag. Hitler could then demand to be made Chancellor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Win support of the elite</td>
<td>Control radical elements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negotiate with key groups to be appointed Chancellor</td>
<td>Use the SS to control the SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danger: Heterogeneous (varied) Nazi Movement could disintegrate if power not achieved and if economic conditions improved</td>
<td>Appease elite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establish personal dictatorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Danger: Hitler would be used (as planned by the elite) to smash communism and move the system in a more authoritarian direction; then would be discarded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 10F How Hitler consolidated his position

#### HITLER'S STRATEGY

- **METHODS OF CONSOLIDATING POWER**
- **Enabling Act**
- **Use of law**
- **Outlawing of other parties**
- **Propaganda**
- **Ministry of Information and Propaganda**
- **Terror, intimidation**
- **SS, Gestapo**
- **Thousands arrested**
- **March 1933 election**
- **Role of SA**
- **Nazi takeover of states**
- **Pressure on Reichstag to pass Enabling Act**
- **July Concordat with Catholic Church**
- **To workers**
- **Concessions**
- **To Centre to get support for Enabling Act**
- **Defend Christianity**
- **Air of respectability**
- **Stress on traditions**

#### MIXTURE OF METHODS

- Legality and violence, i.e. authoritarian powers from above and Nazi revolution from below

#### HOW TO KEEP POWER

- a) Genuine support through successful policies
- b) Propaganda – indoctrination
- c) Repression
ways this was following the cautious route he had chosen since his failure in 1925. Once he became secure, however, he was more prepared to embark on his own radical vision of the future.

We have looked chronologically at the measures Hitler’s government took. Chart 10F identifies the methods Hitler used to gain full power and the reasons why he faced little opposition. With the benefit of hindsight, we can see that the best time to have removed Hitler would have been right at the beginning, in 1935. There were a few attempts by some on the conservative Right to move against Hitler once they realised how violent he was becoming, but they were intimidated by the Long Knives massacre.

**ACTIVITY**

1. **a)** Study Chart 10F. Elaborate (orally or in writing) on the various methods Hitler used to consolidate his position, giving examples of each method.
   **b)** Why was there so little opposition to Hitler in his first crucial eighteen months in power?

2. Hitler talked of a ‘legal revolution’ and a ‘national revolution’. Röhm, on the other hand, advocated a ‘second revolution’. Explain what each meant by these phrases.

3. Bullock describes the way Hitler consolidated his power as a ‘symbiosis [mixture] of legality and terror … a characteristic interplay of “legal” authorisation from the highest level of government with a mixture of threats, blackmail and terrorism at local level.’ What evidence is there to support this view?

**LACK OF WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION**

- Lured by success, popular appeal
- Lured by belief in a new Germany
- Right attracted to authoritarianism – hostile to Weimar
- To excesses
- Blindness
- Tradition of loyalty
- Respect for legality
- Not resist Hitler’s ‘legal revolution’
- Nasty aspects only temporary
- Underestimation
- Only three Nazis in government
- Right consider could use Hitler then discard

**FAILINGS OF OPPONENTS**

- Opposites: Lured by success, popular appeal
- Opponents: Lured by belief in a new Germany
- Lured by belief in a new Germany
- Right attracted to authoritarianism – hostile to Weimar
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