

### **The Establishment of Nazi Dictatorship and its Consequences for German Jews**

Since the dictatorial rule of the Nazis was a precondition for the Holocaust, this study day explores the political and social process that resulted in Hitler's appointment as Germany's Chancellor and in the following months led to the consolidation of his power. The attitudes of Germans with different political affiliations towards this process will be studied as well as the responses of German Jews. The students will learn that the persecution of political opponents and the discrimination and exclusion of Jews were part of a development that provided the Nazis with almost unlimited power so that by the summer of 1934 Hitler's dictatorship could not be challenged by any German organisation or institution.

#### **Points**

- Economic, social, and political developments on the eve of Nazi rule
- Election campaigns, speeches and results
- German attitudes towards Hitler's claim to power
- A memorandum that aimed at banning the Nazi Party in 1930
- Discussion of opportunities to avoid Hitler's appointment as German Chancellor
- Responses to Hitler's appointment as German Chancellor from various Jewish newspapers
- Terror, propaganda, "Gleichschaltung"
- Power expansion with legal and illegal methods
- The first steps to discriminate and exclude the German Jews
- The repression against political opposition and the persecution of Jews: initiatives and responses

#### **Methods**

- Watching and analysing a documentary
- Power Point presentation
- Comparison of election campaign speeches
- Analysis of election posters
- Reading and discussing diary entries and comments in newspapers
- Writing a report based on contemporary comments to political developments
- Interpretation of newspaper articles
- Visiting the permanent exhibition

*The study day is designed for older students (17+). It can also be adapted for younger students.*

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