



THE OCCUPATION OF AUSTRIA

On 12th March 1938 German troops marched into Austria and were greeted by cheering crowds. (But not all Austrians welcomed Hitler.) Austria remained¹ united with Germany until the end of the war.

The Germans had prepared everything well. Members of the German secret police (Gestapo) were already in Austria, with lists of people who were to be arrested immediately² after the union as “enemies of the Nazis”. In Vienna alone, many thousands of people were arrested. As German soldiers marched into Austria, they saw hundreds of Austrians being transported out of Austria to German concentration camps.



Arrested Austrians

The German “Reichsbank” took over the Austrian National Bank and 90 000 kg of gold was transported to Germany.

Austria had hoped for help from other states. However, only four countries protested officially against the German occupation of Austria.



Answer the questions below. (Solution: see the answer page)

- 1 When Hitler invaded Austria, which treaty did he break?
- 2 Which countries did chancellor Schuschnigg hope would help Austria?
- 3 Who would not have welcomed German troops in Austria?



Split the words and make a sentence.

CHILECHINAMEXICOANDTHESOVETUNIONPROTESTEDAGAINSTTHEOCCUPATIONOFAUSTRIA.

¹ bleiben, ² unmittelbar, sofort



ADOLF HITLER

Adolf Hitler was born in 1889 in Braunau am Inn, Austria. He loved Teutonic¹ mythology and Wagner's operas. He was not accepted as a student at an art college in Vienna. Unemployed² and very unhappy, he lived in poverty in Vienna and Munich in the years before the First World War. He often slept in parks and ate in free soup kitchens.



When war broke out, he joined the German army as a messenger³ at the Front and was awarded⁴ medals for bravery⁵. Like many Germans he was horrified⁶ in 1918 when Germany lost the war, and disgusted⁷ at the Versailles Treaty of 1919.

In 1919 Hitler joined and then took over a tiny group called the German Workers' Party. He was a brilliant speaker, with a hypnotic voice. Slowly his party grew and he changed its name to the "National Socialist German Workers' Party" ("Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei" – NSDAP). The Party had its own private army called storm troopers⁸.



Right or wrong? Underline the correct answer. (Solution: see the answer page)

Hitler was born in **Germany/Austria/Bavaria**.

He tried to get a place at an art college in **Linz/Vienna/Munich**.

He was a messenger in the **First/Second/Third World War**.

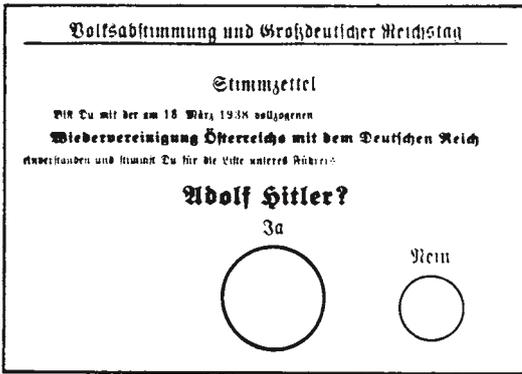
Hitler felt that the Versailles Treaty was unfair to **Britain/France/Germany**.

The German Workers' Party became the **NSDAP/NSAPD/DAPSN**.

¹ germanisch, deutsch, ² arbeitslos, ³ Melder, ⁴ verleihen, ⁵ Tapferkeit, ⁶ entsetzt, ⁷ angewidert, ⁸ Sturmabteilung (SA)



THE ANNEXATION AND THE PLEBISCITE¹ – 10. APRIL 1938



On 10th April 1938, voters in Germany and Austria had to decide whether they were for or against the annexation of Austria. On the voting slip², there was a huge circle for "YES" and only a tiny circle for "NO". 99,73% of all eligible³ Austrians voted "yes". However, this was not a free vote. There had been massive propaganda urging⁴ people to vote for Hitler. The Nazis intimidated⁵ voters at the polls⁶. For example, they told people they need not go into a private cubicle⁷ to vote "yes". Even sick people were carried on stretchers⁸ to vote.



A "Round Robin" Crossword Puzzle for four students: Four students sit round a table and read out their clues⁹ for no. 1, one after the other. Only when the fourth student has read his clue may all four guess¹⁰ the solution. Then they read question no. 2, and so on.



The text above will help you with the answers. To find the solution, read the letters in the shaded boxes backwards. (Solution: see the answer page)

It's: . Look up this word in your dictionary.

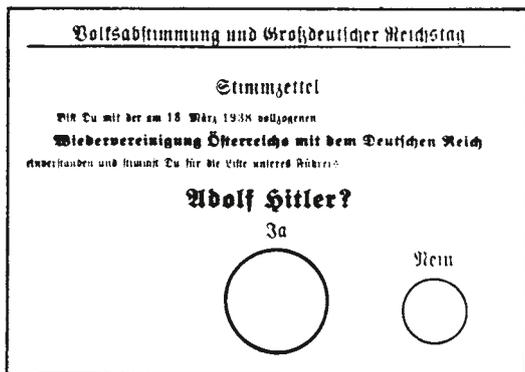
- 1 This word rhymes with "note".
- 2 The first two letters of this word are "EL".
- 3 The opposite of "public".
- 4 Normally, people go inside here to write at an election.
- 5 Leader of the Nazi Party.
- 6 It is round.
- 7 This word rhymes with "snow"
- 8 The Nazis were experts at this.
- 9 The third letter is "S".

			N						
		1		T					
3				V					
5								R	
			A						
		2			G		B		
		4		U			C		
8	P	R							
		6				C			
		7			O				
			A						
		9				S		V	

¹ Volksabstimmung, ² Stimmzettel, ³ wahlberechtigt, ⁴ (be)drängen, ⁵ einschüchtern, ⁶ Wahl, Wahllokal, ⁷ Kabine, ⁸ Tragbahre, ⁹ Anhaltspunkt, ¹⁰ raten



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It's:

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- 1 The first two letters of this word are “VO”
- 2 People have to bethisto take part in an election.
- 3 The first letter is the 16th in the alphabet.
- 4 The first 2 letters make a short form for “see you”.
- 5 Unscramble this anagram: THIREL.
- 6 It is not square.
- 7 Opposite of “yes”
- 8 The last 4 letters are an endangered¹¹ Chinese animal, minus “P”.
- 9 Another word for “great”.

			N						
		1		T					
3				V					
5							R		
			A						
		2			G		B		
		4		U		C			
8	P	R							
		6			C				
		7		O					
			A						
		9			S		V		

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