

UNIT 2 - EXERCISE 7

EVIDENCE QUESTIONS - THE RISE OF ADOLF HITLER

Use Documents 1 to 8 to answer the following questions. You should make careful note of not only what each document says but also who said it and when.

Document 1

There is a secret world conspiracy, which while speaking much about humanity and tolerance, in reality wants only to harness the people to a new yoke. The leaders [of this conspiracy] are big capitalists.

300 big bankers, financiers and press barons, who are interconnected across the world are the real dictators. They belong almost exclusively to the "chosen people". They are all members of the same conspiracy.

The Jewish big capitalist always plays our friend and do-gooder; but he only does it to make us into his slaves. The trusting worker is going to help him set up the world dictatorship of Jewry...

Shake off your Jewish leaders, and those in the pay of Judas! And one final point. Don't expect anything from Bolshevism. It doesn't bring the worker freedom. In Russia the eight-hour day has been abolished. There are no more workers' councils. All cower under the dictatorship of a hundred government commissars, who are nine-tenths Jewish.

~Leaflet published by the *National Socialist German Workers Party* (1920).

Document 2

Basic Program of the National Socialist German Workers' Party:
We demand:

1. The unity of all German-speaking peoples.
2. The abolition of the Treaty of Versailles.
3. Land and colonies to feed Germany's population.
4. Only Germans can be citizens. No Jew can be a German citizen.
- ...
7. Citizens are entitled to a job and a decent standard of living.
- ...
14. Large companies must share their profits.
15. Pensions must be improved.
16. Help for small businesses...
17. Property reform to give small farmers their land.

~From The Nazi Party Program, February 24, 1924.

UNIT 2 - EXERCISE 7

EVIDENCE QUESTIONS - THE RISE OF ADOLF HITLER

Document 5

The inexorable logic and clear conciseness of his train of thought filled me with such enthusiasm with what he said. I asked the Führer to write a pamphlet on the topics he had discussed with me. I then distributed the pamphlet in business and industrial circles. Shortly after our Munich conversation and as a result of the pamphlet written by the Führer and distributed by me, several meetings took place between the Führer and leading industrial personalities.

~Emil Kirdorf speaking about meeting Adolf Hitler for the first time in 1927, Interview in *Preussische Zeitung* (Prussian Times), 1937.

Document 6

Number of unemployed in Germany:

1928	2 million
1929	2.5 million
1930	3 million
1931	5 million
1932	6 million

Document 7

Eighty-nine and nine-tenths percent of the German voters endorsed in yesterday's plebiscite Chancellor Hitler's assumption of greater power than has ever been possessed by an other ruler in modern times...

In the Communist districts protest votes with Communist inscriptions were rare...

Interesting also are the following results... The Jewish Home for Aged People in another district cast 94 "Yes" votes, four "No's" and three invalid ballots. This vote is explainable, of course, by the fear of reprisals if the results from these Jewish institutions had been otherwise. It is paralleled by other results outside of Berlin...

Throughout the day Storm Troopers stood before each polling place with banners calling on voters to vote "Yes". Otherwise voters remained unmolested. Inside the polling places uniforms and even party emblems had been forbidden, but the execution of this order was lax. In some apparently doubtful districts brown uniforms dominated the scene as a warning to would-be opponents.

~Frederick T. Birchall, *The New York Times*, August 19, 1934.

UNIT 2 - EXERCISE 7

EVIDENCE QUESTIONS - THE RISE OF ADOLF HITLER

Document 8

Election Results: 1919-1933

	Jan. 1919	June 1920	May 1924	Dec. 1924	May 1928	Sept. 1930	July 1932	Nov. 1932	March 1933
Social Democrats	165	102	100	131	153	143	133	121	120
Communists	22	88	62	45	54	77	89	101	81
Centre Party	91	64	65	69	62	68	75	70	74
Democrats	75	39	28	32	25	20	4	2	5
Right-wing Parties	63	157	156	174	134	90	66	83	72
NSDAP (Nazis)	-	-	32	14	12	107	230	196	288
Others	7	9	29	29	51	72	11	12	7

1. Explain why Document 4 is a primary source.

2. Assess the reliability of Document 1.

UNIT 2 - EXERCISE 7
EVIDENCE QUESTIONS - THE RISE OF ADOLF HITLER

3. How does Document 3 corroborate Document 2?

4. How might one use the information in Document 6 to explain the data in Document 8?

5. How do Emil Kirdorf's comments in Document 5 about Hitler's personality help explain the immense support Hitler received from the German population?

6. Which document do you think carries the strongest nationalist message? Explain your choice.

UNIT 2 - EXERCISE 7
EVIDENCE QUESTIONS - THE RISE OF ADOLF HITLER

7. Using the documents provided and any other historical evidence, explain how Hitler was able to gain immense popular support in his rise to power.

8. Given that Nazi Germany was a totalitarian state, explain why we should be suspicious about the information given in Document 7?
