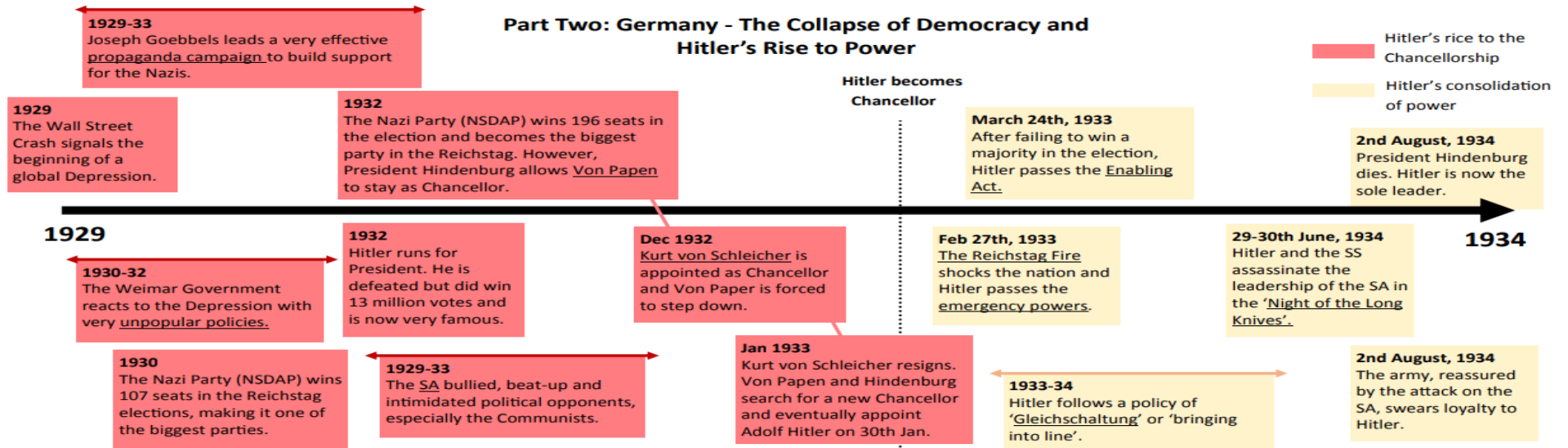


Part Two: Germany - The Collapse of Democracy and Hitler's Rise to Power



1929-33	Goebbels' Propaganda Campaign	Goebbels was a highly skilled propagandist. He made sure the Nazis messages were as broad and vague as possible in order to appeal to almost all parts of society. The Nazis promised to bring back traditional values, to repair the economy and boost unemployment, to help farmers, to value women etc, etc. They also spent vast sums of money flying Hitler around the country to attend rallies and speeches
1929-33	The SA	The SA, also known as 'Brownshirts' or 'Storm Troopers', was the military force of the Nazi Party in the 1920s and early '30s. The SA played a vital role in bringing Hitler to power but it was almost completely wiped out in 1934 once Hitler began to see them as a threat to his power.
1930-32	Unpopular government policies	After the Depression kicked in, President Hindenburg and his Chancellor, Bruning, decided drastic action was needed. They used 'Article 48' of the German constitution to pass laws without going through the Reichstag. Bruning cut welfare benefits and kept wages low in order to save money but this plunged many Germans deeper into poverty.
1932	Franz von Papen	A politician and close friend of President Hindenburg. He played an important role in making a deal with Hindenburg for Hitler to become Chancellor.
1932	Kurt von Schleicher	A politician and advisor to President Hindenburg. His rivalry with von Papen can be seen as part of the reason Hindenburg had to appoint Hitler as Chancellor in 1933.
1933	Reichstag Fire	The Reichstag Fire was blamed on the Communist party and provided the perfect excuse for Hitler to pass the 'Emergency Powers' law, which gave him the right to arrest and imprison whomever he liked.
1933	Emergency Powers	The Emergency Powers were mostly used by Hitler to arrest and imprison members of the Communist party so that he would have fewer opponents in the Reichstag. This was helpful when he came to pass the Enabling Act.
1923	The Enabling Act	The law that gave Hitler total power as a dictator. Hitler had managed to convince the Reichstag to vote itself out of existence through fear and intimidation.
1933-34	Gleichschaltung	This is the name for Hitler's policy of 'bringing into line' all the different groups who could oppose him. All other political parties were banned; trade unions were banned and replaced by the DAF; non-Nazi newspapers were closed down; a Concordat was signed with the Pope to ensure the Catholic Church did not oppose him. This all helped him create a totalitarian state.
1934	Night of the Long Knives	This was the organised assassination of the leaders of the SA by the SS. Hitler had started to see the SA as a threat because the SA leader, Ernst Rohm, wanted the SA to become the official army under his leadership. Hitler knew that the existing German army generals would not stand for this. In order to gain the loyalty and support of the army, he had to remove Rohm and the SA as a threat.

