**The Rise of Nazi Germany**

After World War I, the Weimar government in Germany faced many problems as people looked for someone to blame for their defeat in the war. Extremists on the far left and on the far right threatened revolts. Also, the terrible inflation of the 1920s causes many of the Nazi party, a nationalistic, anti-communist, anti-Semitic organization. Hitler won popular support by blaming Jews for Germany’s defeat in World War I and for its race that was destined to rule the world. As the Great Depression caused unemployment to rise in the early 1930s, many desperate people found hope in the Nazi party. In 1933, Hitler used the treat of a communist uprising to gain power. He then moved against all opposition parties and set up a fascist state in Germany. Hitler used many of the methods of Stalin and Mussolini to build a totalitarian state in Germany. The Nazis preached the need for hard work, sacrifice, and service to the state. The Gestapo, or secret police, arrested anyone suspected of opposing Nazi rule. The Nazis used the press, schools, and even churches to glorify their goals. They also waged a violent campaign against Jews, sending many to concentration, or prison camps. To end unemployment and improve the economy, Hitler launched vast building programs, banned strikes, and placed strict controls on wages and prices. He also increased the German military, a step that violated the Versailles Treaty. The League of Nations condemned German rearmament, but did little to stop Hitler as he began to realize his dream of expanding German territory.

**Essential Vocabulary** - Define each of the following terms.

Inflation -

Destined -

Opposition -

Vast -

Condemned -

Rearmament –

Directions: Answer each of the following questions using specific evidence from the reading.

1. What types of problems did Germany face after WWI? Discuss all.

2. How did these problems affect the way people looked at the Weimar Government?

3. Unlike Mussolini, Hitler had a platform for his political agenda. How did he address one of the problems German’s faced and how did this aid to his rise to power?

4. Why did the people of Germany start to follow Hitler?

5. How did Hitler set up his government? What is a long-term effect that you can see coming in the near future?

6. How did Hitler go about controlling the economy? Describe another leader that used this method to control his country’s economy.