**Nazi Consolidation of Power**

Called election for March 5, 1933

4 Feb gov’t got power to ban political meetings and newspapers

17 Feb Prussian police ordered to actively support the Nazi Party

50,000 auxiliary police sworn in - mostly SA

Constantly harped on the communist threat of a putsch - not real - Communists were alarmingly docile

Reichstag burned down a week before elections - crazed Dutch Communist

Decree for the Protection of the People and State passed 28 Feb

* Censor the mail
* Arrest individuals without charge
* Search at will
* central gov’t could take over state gov’ts that did not take adequate measures to protect citizens
* meant that Hitler’s survival did not depend on the election

Throughout Feb he forged alliances with business and the army

* Business - anti-socialists
* Army - rearmament

Nazis got 43.9% - disappointing

Election released new terrorist and revolutionary activity - mostly Nazi, most state gov’ts had resigned by 20 March - replaced by Nazis

Danger of administrative chaos - Hitler recognized this

April - reestablished civil service - without Jews and Socialists. The civil service will maintain much of its power due to the rivalries within the party

**Gleichschaltung - Coordination**

March 23, the Reichstag met to consider the Enabling Bill (Later Act)

* Huge Nazi presence in Streets and halls
* Required 3/3 majority
* Locked 81 Communist deputies in jail

31 March State diets were reconstituted to reflect the % of seats in the Reichstag - Unity - abolished by Jan 1934

Goebbels appealed directly to workers to out-maneuver the unions - granted May Day

2 May SA and SS occupied union offices and enrolled all workers in Nazi Labour front

Left wing orgs abolished, right wing associations integrated into existing Nazi orgs like the SA

14 July Nazi Party became the only legal party in the Reich - all by the Communists and Socialists had voluntarily dissolved

Goebbels established central control of information by Spring

* Intellectual workers were forced into Reich Chamber of Culture - check
* Daily press conferences to establish uniformity of news and interpretation
* By September new curriculum established in Al schools and universities
* Nazi student orgs terrorized nonconformist students and profs

In the spring there was still remnants of Socialist Nazis - attacked business

Hitler realize he needed business interests to recover and rearm

Some coordination (Reich Economic Chamber) - but because of their power business was able to keep Nazis out of the key positions

Concordant with Vatican July 1933 - gave Church control over activities - After Saar Plebiscite concordat ignored when it suited the Nazis

Lutheran Church split from *Reichskirche* and maintained some autonomy (Confessional Church)

By autumn 1933 Hitler had taken control - Gleichschaltung

Perhaps not so much by violence as speeches and propaganda

Most of the potential opposition to Hitler were divided and thought that by appeasing Hitler they could benefit in the long run