**Nazi Seizure of Power**

During depression many parties in the Reichstag

Kurt von Schleicher was an influential army officer who was a key advisor of Hindenburg

Persuaded to appoint Heinrich Burdening as Chancellor in 1930

Bruening could form a coalition that was stable which left much of the governing in the hands of the President and forcing the chancellor to rule by decree

* William Shirer believes that appointing Bruening was a mistake because it bringing the Army into politics proper
* He believed the key to controlling the gov’t was to approach the Nazis whose popularity was improving

Breuning’s ministry was very unpopular -wage and price controls, controlled business, cut back social services

Bruening proposed reestablishing the Hohenzollern constitutional monarchy to take the wind out of the Nazi’s sails

Hindenburg and Hitler both refused as did other parties - there would be another presidential election and Hindenburg would run

Hitler decides to run against Hindenburg for president

The campaign was confusing, mixing and matching old loyalties - socialists and unionists supported the conservative and monarchist Hindenburg etc

Hindenburg won

Rumors of a SA coup - more than rumours

Hindenburg orders the SA suppressed

Schleicher began to favour the Nazis

Both Schleicher and Rohm wanted the SA to be incorporated into the regular army - the Army generally opposed this as did Hitler who wanted the approval of the army

Schleicher persuades Hindenburg to dismiss Bruening - May ‘32

President dissolves the Reichstag in favour of a presidential cabinet

Hitler supports the new gov’t on condition that the ban on the SA is lifted - agreed

Franz von Papen is chosen as Chancellor

Elections called for July 1932 - SA brutal in campaign

Nazi’s won 231of 608 seats – their highest ever

Hitler demanded key positions for the Nazis including the chancellorship for himself - denied

In September ‘32 the Nazi’s help defeat the Papen gov’t - elections

Nazi’s lost 32 seats in the Reichstag - people were sick of elections and propaganda, Nazis running out of money - Nazis on the ropes

Schleicher named Chancellor on Dec 2 - tried to split the Nazi party

Hitler takes over complete control of the party and purges tose who would cooperate with Schleicher

Hitler strikes a deal with bankers that they will take over the debts of the Nazi party

Schleicher could not form a gov’t

Hindenburg at last appoints Hitler as chancellor in a coalition gov’t with Papen

* Nazis had 3 posts of eleven including Hitler (Frick, Goering)
* Goering named Minister of interior i for Prussia - controlled police
* Other cabinet post went to conservatives who thought they had used the Nazis for their own ends