CHAIM PORTAL 3 - THE RISE OF THE NAZIS

It happens too often! In the desire for a better future, people support political parties that make grandiose promises to make life better, while masking a platform supporting intolerance. This is step one to eventually toppling democracy. The Nazi party capitalized on the weakness of the Weimar democracy which had to deal with:

- hyper-inflation - German money became nearly worthless in the early 1920's.
- extreme unemployment brought on by the Great Depression
- degradation and hopelessness Germans felt due to the harsh sanctions imposed by the treaty of Versailles which ended WWI.

The Nazi party was led by Adolf Hitler, a charismatic speaker, who promised to *Make Germany Great Again*. Embedded in his platform to rebuild Germany was the racist idea that the Germans were the master race (called Aryan), and to achieve greatness they had to rid the country of the inferior *undesirables* (Jews, Slavs, Roma, Homosexuals, Disabled, Blacks…). He expressed this in his book *Mein Kampf* written while in prison for trying to overthrow the government in the 1920s. Back then he was considered a nuisance, but by 1933 the Germans were desperate for a strong leader. Once in power, Hitler gave himself the title of *Fuhrer* and transformed the government into a dictatorship. Once in power, he was able to pass whatever laws he wanted and get rid of those who disagreed with him. With small incremental steps Hitler was also able to transform a country of *humans* into collaborators with his diabolical plan to eliminate all but the Aryan race (no such thing) from the *Fatherland.*