






How Hitler became German Citizen: Braunschweig 1932

Supplementary Materials

Dramatis Personae

City of Braunschweig was bombed and 90% destroyed on Oct 15, 1944

State of Braunschweig was dissolved during the British occupation in 1946, and merged with four other states to form the new state of Niedersachsen.

<p><u>Ernst Böhme (1892-1968)</u>, SPD, major of Braunschweig 1929-1933, in 1933 arrested, tortured and forced to resign, released in 1934 and worked as tax adviser. Reinstated as city major by British authorities in 1945.</p>	
<p><u>Anton Franzen (1896-1968)</u>, NSDAP, Braunschweig Minister of Interior October 1930–July 1931, resigned over perjury incident, left the party and worked as judiciary.</p>	
<p><u>Gustav Gassner (1881-1955)</u>, Professor of Botany, University President 1932-1933, arrested in 1933, exile in Ankara, Turkey, visiting Germany in 1939 surprised by the start of war in Germany, survived the war in a private business, reinstated as University President in 1945.</p>	
<p><u>Carl Heimbs (1878-1972)</u>, Entrepreneur, of DVP in Braunschweig in the early 1930s, later built the Heimbs brand for coffee.</p>	
<p><u>Paul Horrmann (1878-1942)</u>, Prof of Pharmacology, first NS-member among professors (1932), University President 1933-1936.</p>	

<p><u>Heinrich Jasper (1875-1945)</u>, SPD, Prime Minister of Braunschweig several times between 1919 and 1930, arrested March 1933, released 1939, rearrested 1944, died in concentration camp Bergen-Belsen on February 1945.</p>	
<p><u>Dietrich Klagges (1891-1971)</u>, NSDAP, remained Prime Minister until 1945, arrested by the British forces, and served time in prison for his involvement in acts of violence in 1933.</p>	
<p><u>Werner Küchenthal (1882-1976)</u>, DNVP, Prime Minister of Braunschweig 1930-1933, president of the state bank until 1945.</p>	
<p><u>Carl Mühlenpfordt (1878-1944)</u>, Professor of Architecture, architect of major buildings in Germany, University President 1925-1929, Acting President in 1932, suspended from university in 1933, then worked as free architect.</p>	
<p><u>Ernst August Roloff, sen (1886-1955)</u>, Professor of History, member of state parliament for DNVP, group leader 1930-1933, left politics in 1933, promoted to full professor in 1932,</p>	
<p>Otto Schmitz (1879-1965), Professor of Mechanical Engineering, University President, dismissed 1932 over a (supposed) scandal involving contacts to the Soviet Union, then worked in industry, reappointed to University Professorship in 1945.</p>	
<p><u>Ernst Zoerner (1895-1945?)</u>, NSDAP, president of state parliament 1930-1933, mayor of Dresden 1933-1939, Governor of Lublin (district in occupied Poland) 1940-1943, MIA 1945.</p>	

Timeline: Politics in Germany 1927-1933

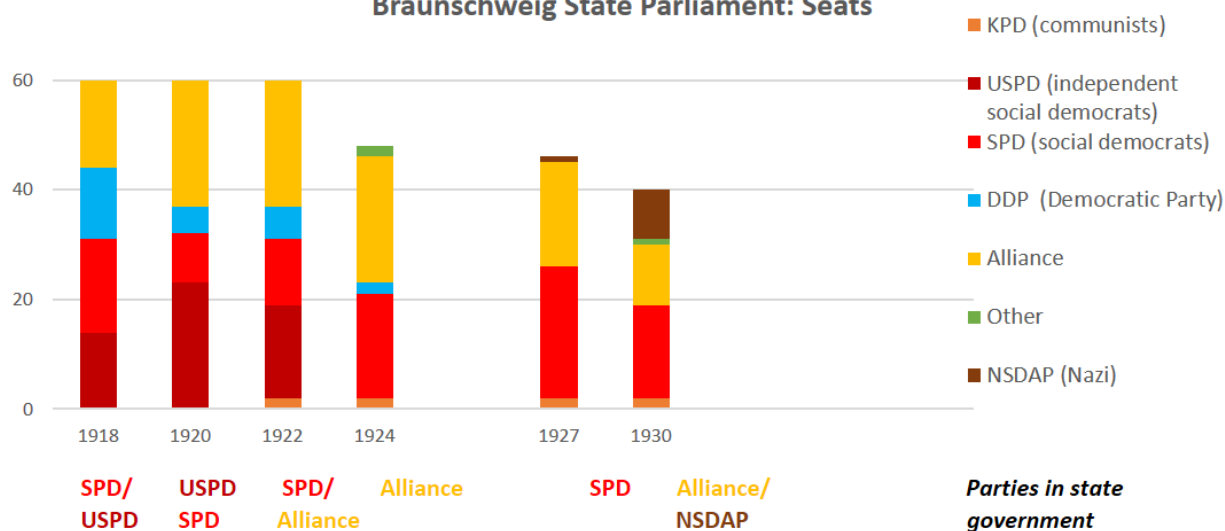
1930, September	In national elections, NSDAP increases its vote share from 2.6% in 1928 to 18.3%. Hitler commits to 'legalistic' strategy to attain power.
1932, February	On the day his appointment in Braunschweig is approved, Hitler announces candidature for German presidency
1932, March	Presidential election, first round Hindenburg 49.6%, Hitler (NSDAP) 30.1%, Thälmann (KPD) 13.2%, Düsterberg (DNVP) 6.8%.
1932, April	Presidential election, second round: Hindenburg 50.3%, Hitler 36.8%, Thälmann 10.2%.
1932, July	Parliamentary elections: NSDAP increases vote share to 34.7% making it the largest party, which gives it post of Speaker of the Parliament.
1932, September	Parliament dissolved after Speaker Goering (NSDAP) ignores Chancellor (Prime Minister) Papen's request to speak ahead of the vote.
1932, November	Parliamentary elections: NSDAP loses slightly with 33.1%
1933, January	On January 30, Hitler appointed Chancellor (Prime Minister) of Germany by President Hindenburg, with support of NSDAP and DNVP.
1933, February	On February 28, the parliament building burns down. The event is used by Hitler as excuse to arrest political opponents.
1933, March	Parliamentary elections: NSDAP 43.9%. With KPD members never able to take their seats, this gives NSDAP complete control. End of democracy in Germany.

Timeline: Politics in Braunschweig 1927-1933

1927, November	<p>In state elections, social democrats (SPD) win majority in state parliament with 24 out of 46 seats, and form single party government (the only one in Germany at the time). NSDAP wins 1 seat only.</p> <p>During SPD government, members of SPD are favored for appointments in government, schools, and newly created chairs at the educational department of the university.</p>
1929, November	<p>In municipal elections, Ernst Boehme (SPD) is elected major of the city of Braunschweig.</p>
1930, September	<p>In state elections, SPD loses its majority (17 of 40 seats), ahead of Alliance of center and enter-right parties (11), NSDAP (9), KPD (2) and 1 DDP.</p> <p>Formation of an Alliance-NSDAP government. Anton Franzen, a moderate within the NSDAP, becomes Minister of Interior (which include education and police). Ernst Zoerner (NSDAP) becomes President of the Parliament.</p>
1930 December to 1931 January	<p>Several government officials, heads of school and teachers who are members of the SPD are dismissed.</p>
1931, March	<p>Boehme re-elected as city major.</p>
1931 September	<p>After prolonged crisis of government triggered by the resignation of Franzen over a scandal, the coalition is renewed with Dietrich Klagges as Minister of Interior.</p> <p>Parliament president suspends one of the communist members from parliament for causing disturbance, thus securing majority.</p>
1931 October	<p>Paramilitary groups associated with NSDAP meet in Braunschweig with a parade in front of Hitler, supposedly over 100,000 men (the limit of the German army according to Versailles Treaty). Street fights in the city leaves 2 persons dead.</p>
1932 February	<p>Klagges is asked by national leadership to secure German citizenship for Hitler by appointing him as state official (Beamter) in Braunschweig.</p> <p>After failure to appoint him to a professorship Klagges pursues appointment to a governmental position in the Braunschweig representation in Berlin.</p>

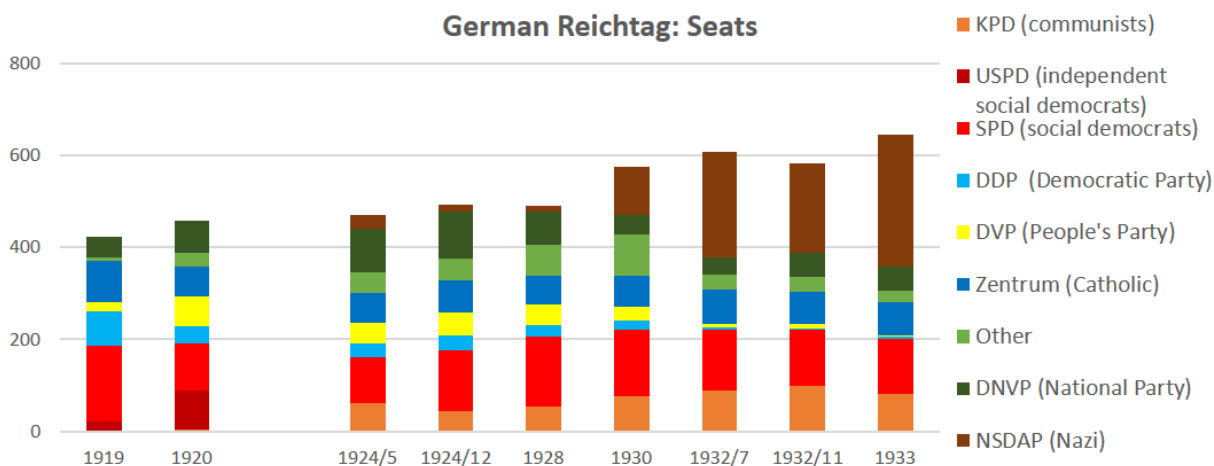
	<p>Both Communist members of parliament are suspended for 8 sessions after a speech attacking government and tumult in parliament, thus securing majority for the coalition.</p> <p>Alliance parties agree to Hitler's appointment on the condition that he is actually working in that role (which he never did).</p> <p>Hitler appointed as official for business development in the Braunschweig representation in Berlin, which gives him Braunschweig (and hence German) citizenship.</p>
1932, July	Two members of parliament of the Alliance change to the NSDAP, shifting the balance of power in the coalition
1933, February	Klagges introduces emergency laws that lead to arrest of Communists members, including members of parliament.
1933, March	<p>1.3. All political activities of SPD and KPD are prohibited</p> <p>9.3. NS paramilitary group occupies SPD meeting house</p> <p>13.3. Major of Braunschweig, Ernst Böhme (SPD), is arrested, tortured and forced to sign his resignation.</p> <p>18.3. Opponents assemble in the building of the insurance company.</p> <p>27.3. NS paramilitaries and police storm the insurance building, claiming to be averting a putsch, arresting about 1400 people. Supported by Klagges, this was the first major violent event of the Nazis in Germany.</p>
1933, April	<p>4.4. Formation of a new state parliament, without elections, entirely consisting of NSDAP members.</p> <p>End of democracy in Braunschweig.</p>
1933, May	<p>Klagges appointed prime minister of Braunschweig</p> <p>Intensified prosecution of not only KPD, SPD, trade unionists but also of traditional conservatives who caused obstacles to Klagges.</p>
1933, June	Ten randomly picked social democrats and trade unionists (from the hundreds arrested) are murdered by NS paramilitaries in Rieseberg near Braunschweig.

Braunschweig State Parliament: Seats



Note: DVP, DNVP and other centrist parties formed a joint list ('Alliance') in Braunschweig for the 1918, 1920, 1922 and 1930 elections.

German Reichstag: Seats



Timeline: University of Braunschweig 1931-1933

1931, Spring	<p>Several professors in the education department of the university are dismissed or contracts are not renewed. As these mainly represent reform-pedagogy promoted by the SPD, this is supported or tolerated by centrist parties.</p> <p>The head of the education department (Riekell) is subjected to disciplinary procedure and forced to take early retirement.</p>
1931, November	<p>NS Student Group leader Schaffeld accuses a Bulgarian student of insulting a female German student and demands dismissal of the Bulgarian.</p> <p>Vice President Carl Mühlenpfordt initiates an investigation that leads to a reprimand but no firmer penalty. In consequence, Mühlenpfordt becomes focus of attacks by NS students for lack of drastic action.</p> <p>Senate outlaws the NS student group, but is overruled by the Minister of Interior (Klagges). A new investigation leads to the dismissal of the Bulgarian student.</p>
1932, January	<p>Protests of NS students against President Otto Schmitz and Vice-President Carl Mühlenpfordt. Polarization among student groups NS-students vs. others esp. in the architecture department. University conflict triggers a crisis in government.</p>
1932, February	<p>Rumors emerge that Hitler is to be appointed as professor at the university.</p> <p>Klagges prepares to appoint Hitler to a vacant position, bypassing the university.</p> <p>Strong opposition in the professoriate of the university. University president Schmitz asks the Prime Minister (Küchenthal) for clarification, bypassing Minister of Interior (Klagges). Eventually, Küchenthal refused to counter-sign the appointment certificate.</p>
1932, March	<p>Klagges complains about Schmitz bypassing him in objecting to Hitler's appointment. The Senate explicitly backs Schmitz' handling of the affair.</p>
1932, May	<p>Klagges suspends and initiates disciplinary procedures against President Schmitz for research collaboration with the Soviet Union (in principle approved by the German authorities at the time). Schmitz is formally dismissed from university service in November.</p>
1932, August	<p>NS student leader Schaffeld is killed in a street battle between NS and communist paramilitary groups.</p>

	Formation of a new Senate, with Gustav Gassner as President. The conflict with the Minister of Education (Klagges) escalates.
1932, November	NS students attempt to convert memorial days celebration for victims of war to a celebration of killed student leader Schaffeld. Gassner prohibits political student associations to carry political banners. Klagges intervenes in university affairs to focus memorial day activities on the killed NS student leader, and to overrule the ban on carrying political banners.
1932, December	Gassner receives support from the German University Presidents' Conference and from the Alliance parties.
1933, January	From the day of the national power grab (January 30), Gassner hides in the building of the SPD-related local insurance company. Senate confirms its support for Gassner in view of hateful attacks in the NS-media and by NS student groups.
1933, March	Gassner leaves Braunschweig in late March, announces his resignation while in Bonn, and is arrested at the train station upon return to Braunschweig on April 1.
1933, April	The entire Senate resigns. Paul Horrman is appointed Acting University President by Klagges (not elected by Senate as was the norm previously)
1933, May	Klagges introduces the new Senate and the new President with a grand celebration on the steps of the university main building. Klagges denies non-German faculty any rights of participation. End of university autonomy in Braunschweig. Books of Jewish and politically left-leaning authors are burned on a central square in Braunschweig, including books from the university library. Several thousand people including Horrmann attend the event.
1933 to 1937	Of 98 professors at the University of Braunschweig, 25 have been dismissed for political or racial reasons, many go into exile. The share is slightly higher than in other universities because of the larger number of professors deemed 'politically unreliable' by the state government.

Main sources:

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