

What were the consequences of the Munich Putsch?

9 November, 1923: Hitler and 3000 men marched on Munich to overthrow the government. But what were the consequences of the Munich Putsch?

In the months before the putsch, people were angry at the Weimar government. Inspired by Mussolini's march on Rome, Hitler believed the time was right to seize power.

In the short term, the putsch was crushed by the authorities, who killed sixteen Nazis. Hitler was tried, found guilty and given a five-year prison sentence.

He was banned from public speaking until 1927 and the Nazi Party was banned entirely. In theory this put him out of action. In practice things were different.

He turned his trial into a propaganda success, outlining his ideas to the media and attacking the government. Although convicted of treason, Hitler received a light sentence.

His jail was comfortable, he was released after just nine months, and the party ban was lifted in 1925. This favourable treatment from the authorities enabled Hitler and the Nazis to recover quickly.

He also wrote *Mein Kampf*, which laid out Nazi ideology and sold millions of copies in the 1930s.

Perhaps the key consequence of the putsch was Hitler's change of tactics. He decided to win power through democracy, rather than force.

He set about transforming the Nazis into a well-organised, populist party that could win elections.

So, although the Munich Putsch was a short-term failure, it became a propaganda triumph and led to a decisive shift to democratic tactics.