

Name

Tutor

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Date

Features of Hitler's Leadership Style and Agenda

Introduction

Adolf Hitler was a former leader of Germany who served as a chancellor between 1933 to 1945. During his leadership, the genocide of the Jewish, Romani, and the holocaust occurred. Hitler was a recognized veteran of the First World War; he joined the Nazi Party (formerly known as NSDAP) in 1919. Hitler led a coup in Bavaria that failed and eventually led him to prison. After the imprisonment, he gained a lot of followers through endorsing German nationalism and anti-capitalism. Hitler's ultimate goal was to create a new order of total Nazi German domination in Europe. To achieve his goal, he developed a foreign policy declaring the objective of seizing living space for Aryan People. Hitler was willing to direct all the national resources towards the achievement of his goal. In return, the United Kingdom and France proclaimed a war against Germany, which further turned into the Second World War.

Hitler's Leadership styles

Hitler was very determined to direct his commands personally. Hitler's main agenda centered around power acquisition. He wanted to bring change to Germany by leading a rebel group. Just as planned, he maintained the power of command throughout the war period and enjoyed the unquestionable leadership. He also brought some of the changes he wanted to see in Germany. Based on the readings, his leadership styles can be

classified into three. He was an authoritarian, an autocratic leader and a charismatic leader. He was an authoritarian leader since the final word in his command always belonged to him. The ultimate authority was in Hitler's hands, making him an ultimate leader and example to all of his subordinates (Kershaw, 240).

In all levels of his command, he was the one to give directions for the rest to follow. He was the commander of the armies during work, leading all the operations of his armed groups. As the war went on, Hitler got hold of senior key positions that gave him more direct control over his groups. His authority rose from leader of the German state in 1934 to commander in chief of the armed forces in 1938, and finally, in 1941, he became the commander in chief of the army. Throughout the Second World War, Hitler operated at various headquarters, located across different areas, where his military advisors briefed him regularly. Every time he held briefings, he expected new updates to be in full consistency with the information provided on the previous briefing. Hitler had an incredibly good memory and became outrageously angry in case of any spotted inconsistency (Kershaw, 240). Hitler did not trust most of his generals. Regardless of the problems he had with believing his generals, Hitler still did not have the necessary leadership qualities to help him control his military issues. He simply could not put himself together and accept the information that did not match with his preconceptions. And, in most cases, his assumptions were inaccurate; instead, he entirely depended on his instincts.

As showed by the evidence, Hitler was also an autocratic leader. He had a full command and authority over his army without any limitations or restrictions. He could do whatever he wanted and use his powers whenever he wanted, without anyone questioning

or stopping him. He could deal cruelly with anyone who went against his commands and decisions. His absolute authority made him blind-folded, as he never asked for an outside opinion from anybody. This is why he appointed himself for the senior positions of an army commander - so there is no other person above his authority. He was the overall commander who could order to attack whenever he wanted. Consequently, the members of the armed group feared him due to the competences he possessed. Hitler became a subject to many arguments among his army officers, but there was nothing they could do as they did not have any powers. Hitler could also stick to his views regardless of the consequences since his juniors were the ones responsible. No one could possibly make him meet the responsibility for his actions (Kershaw, 236).

Hitler was also a charismatic leader. From one perspective, Hitler was a dictator. A dictator who managed to rise to the highest positions thanks to incredible charisma, his ability to captivate people's attention and urge them to follow him even into the deadliest plans. To achieve this, Hitler made his group of supporters evident and distinct, not like any other group. Furthermore, he created an image in the minds of his followers on the superiority of the group to win their attention and commitment. Eventually, he gave himself positions that ensured no one could challenge his actions and decisions. Most charismatic leaders lead people astray due to the strong belief that people have over them. Hitler could order his army to attack the strongest military groups, such as the Soviet Union with the world's largest army, but no one could ever question or go against this decision. Even as a young man, he won the trust of older and more influential people. This led to the death of millions of people, his army officers included, as he eventually lost the war (Pridham, 36).

Factors that Contributed to Success of Hitler's Plans

Regardless of the complicated situation in Germany at the time, Nazi's plans worked quite well at first. Several factors made this possible. Originally, Nazi wanted to implement the existing dictatorship in Germany. This intention was do-able since most of its constituents were the social and occupational groups. They have hesitations about the development of modern industrial society and portrayed socially exclusive corporate views of their socio-economic position. Their association was, therefore, strong among those people who did not like the idea of modernism, and they constituted the majority in Germany. In a traditionally conservative society, the support for National Socialism was very high. Nazi's primary motive was not to dismantle the efforts of modernism but to reject the implications it had on the political and social systems. This expression of rejection, however, was expressed through the attack on both Marxist socialism and liberal capitalism (Pridham, 34).

Besides, Hitler was able to turn the situation into his benefit due to the perception he made on people during his appointment as a chancellor. His assignment did not bring any change to the administrative office. Still, people thought of it better than the cabinet reshuffling that had taken place in the previous years. Despite the vaunted plans of the German Coalition partners to restrict the operations of Hitler and his followers, Nazis had foreseen it from the very beginning. They had planned to grab the full power and make use of it in revolutionizing the nation (Pridham, 34). Another opportunity found Hitler back at the beginning of his rebellious operations. People were in a cheerful mood because of the peace propagandas that were in the wide circulation. Celebrations were followed by bonfires and singing, making people inattentive to the arrival of terror. The

initial signs of terror could not mute the rejoicing that was going on. People interpreted this as an expression of a ruthlessly operating energy that they had been looking for in vain. This is what gave Hitler's grab of power its distressing note.

The rise of the Nazis was also made possible as they had already established an elaborate structure of leadership and laid a basis for its expansion as a mass movement. In a short time, they recovered from the weaknesses they had due to the divisions between their leaders and activists. Its main strength was the image of Hitler who surrounded himself with the myths associated with the Putsch. At this point, it was clear that Hitler's charismatic leadership style was entirely separated from the internal party conflicts over strategies and tactics. This remained constant in all the years of the party's rise to power and became very important during the critical months, which followed Hitler's appointment as a chancellor (Pridham, 32).

Conclusion

Hitler was, however, a good leader, regardless of all his ruthlessness. His followers had enough faith in him due to his charismatic character, letting him lead his operations easily. Their trust also made them interpret his decisions positively, even when the situations were oppressing. His work methods may be regarded as great ones, as his advanced tactics enabled him to sail through the complicated situation in Germany. He was very determined and stubborn, and these characteristics helped him in achieving his primary goal. Even though he lost the war eventually, he still managed to bring in some changes.

Works Cited

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