1933 Election
- new elections called within 24 hours of Hitler becoming Chancellor
- election campaign took place in an atmosphere of violence and intimidation
- Nazis used their access to the organs of the state to get their message across and intimidate their opponents
31 Jan. 1933: Hitler’s ‘Appeal to the German People’; blamed Germany’s problems on the Communists and presented his government as a ‘National Uprising’ that would restore German pride and unity
-as minister of the Interior of Prussia Goring recruited 500,000 extra police in Germany’s largest state, most of them drawn from the ranks of the SA and the SS
- violence and intimidation of political opponents; SPD and KPD meetings broken up, voters intimidated etc.; 69 people killed during 5 week campaign

27 Feb. 1933: The Reichstag burned down
- an unemployed Dutch bricklayer named Marius van der Lubbe arrested
- the Nazis claimed this was part of a Communist plot
- ‘Decree for the Protection of the People and the State’: suspended civil liberties and increased the power of central government; the Nazis rounded up political opponents
- Van der Lubbe and Bulgarian Communist Georgi Dimitrov put on trial for fire
- but on-going debate about who was responsible

The Enabling Law
- Nazis won 43.9% of the votes
- without the two-thirds majority in the Reichstag necessary to change the Constitution, Hitler proposed an ‘Enabling Law’ that would enable him the government to pass legislation without the approval of either parliament or the President
- 23 March 1933: ‘Law for the Removal of Distress from People and the Reich’

Gleichschaltung
- after the passage of the Enabling Law the Nazis acted to ‘co-ordinate’ as many areas of German life as possible and bring them into line with Nazi ideology
- April 1933: laws passed enabling Nazi-dominated State governments to pass legislation without the approval of provincial parliaments
- Jan. 1934: State parliaments abolished a local government subordinated to the federal Minister of the Interior