

Unit Title: Nazi Germany 1933-1941: The Pre-War and Early War Years

**Common Misperceptions:**

Some students may believe that:

1. The Nazis were the only group that wanted to destroy the Weimar Republic.
2. National Socialism and socialism are the same.
3. The Weimar period in Germany was characterized only by chaos and failure.
4. The Nazi Party overthrew the German democratic government in a violent coup.
5. All Germans supported Hitler and the Nazi regime.
6. Most Germans secretly opposed the Nazi regime.
7. Appeasement of Germany by the Western democracies demonstrates that they were weak and foolish.
8. The Nazi government was well-organized and efficient.
9. The Nazi Party began or planned to begin the mass murder of Jews immediately upon taking power.
10. Jews were the only people persecuted by the Nazis and were the only ones sent to concentration camps.
11. Jewish victims and non-Jewish victims were persecuted for the same reasons and with the same intended results.
12. Jews did not resist their Nazi oppressors.
13. German Jews were outsiders and aliens in German culture.
14. Germany and the Soviet Union were enemies at the beginning of the war.
15. The United States was a combatant against Nazi Germany from the beginning of the war.
16. No one tried to help the Jews in the occupied territories.
17. The outside world had no knowledge of the persecutions carried out by occupying powers during the early years of the war.