



Rise of the Nazis Revision Guide

Name:



Key Topics

1. The Nazis in the 1920s
2. Hitler becomes Chancellor, 1933
3. Hitler becomes Dictator, 1934

Hitler and the early Nazi Party



The roots of the Nazi party start in 1889, with the birth of Adolf Hitler but the political beginnings of the party start in 1919 with the set up of the German Workers Party, the DAP. This party was one of the many new parties that set up in the political chaos after the First World War and it was the joining of Adolf Hitler that changed Germany's future forever.

The early life of Hitler

Hitler wanted to become an artist but was rejected by the Vienna Art School

In 1913, he moved to Munich and became obsessed with all things German

Hitler was shocked by Germany's defeat in WWI and blamed the Weimar Republic



Hitler was born in Austria in 1889 to an abusive father.



Between 1908-13, he was homeless and sold paintings



He fought in the First World War, winning the Iron Cross but was wounded by gas in 1918

In 1919, Hitler begins to spy on the German Workers Party (DAP) but then joins the party, soon taking over.



Who were the DAP?

The German Workers Party (DAP) was set up by Anton Drexler in 1919 in Munich.

At first there were only a small group of 50 members



The DAP were **national socialists**:

Nationalists – believed that all policies should be organised to make the nation stronger

Socialists – believed that the country's land, industry and wealth should belong to the workers.

They also hated the Weimar Republic, Treaty of Versailles and Jews who they blamed for the problems.



Hitler and the birth of the Nazi Party 1919-21

1. Hitler is invited to join the party in 1919 after Drexler hears him debating at a DAP meeting (which he was spying on!)

2. Hitler becomes Drexler's right-hand man and in 1920 together they announced the party's **25 Point Programme**.



3. **Hitler's personal appeal** and ability as an energetic and **passionate speaker** along with hatred of the Weimar Republic meant membership grew to 3000 by 1920.



4. Hitler suggests the DAP change its name to the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP or Nazis for short). They also choose the Swastika as their symbol.



5. In July 1921, Hitler becomes leader of the Nazi Party



25 Point Plan

The 25 point plan was the Nazi manifesto (their policies) it included their beliefs and ideology.

The key points included:

1. The creation of a strong central government
2. The union of all Germans in a Greater Germany
3. Get rid of the Treaty of Versailles.
4. Increase pensions for the elderly
5. Nationalise industries (government control)
6. Everybody should have a job.
7. Build up Germany's armed forces
8. Only German races may be members of the nation, no Jews and all other non Germans must leave.
9. Expand Germany across new territory to feed the people and to settle surplus population (Lebensraum).
10. All citizens should have equal rights and duties.
11. Every hard-working German to have the chance of higher education.
12. State must protect mothers and infants, stop children working.



The 25 Point Programme appealed to many Germans (workers, soldiers, women) especially at a time when the Weimar Republic was in serious trouble.



Give two things you can infer from the 25 Point Programme about the NSDAP in the 1920s (4 Marks)

Hitler and the early Nazi Party

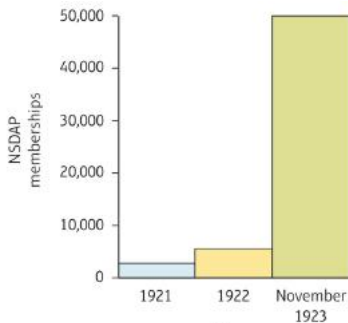
Organisation of the party

Hitler made his personal mark on the party by introducing a number of changes:

- The NSDAP set up a permanent office in Munich
- They also bought two newspapers the Volkischer Beobachter ("Peoples observer") and Der Sturmer, this allowed the Nazis message to spread across Germany
- Hitler carefully selected party leaders for their skills and to help the Nazi image, they included: Rudolf Hess (Hitler's deputy), Hermann Goering (WW1 hero), Julius Streicher (Publisher) and Ernst Rohm (a popular ex army officer)



- Hitler also made powerful friends such as General Ludendorff, leader of the German Army during WW1



The role of Sturmabteilung (SA)

Hitler used the SA (Sturmabteilung), Stormtroopers or Brownshirts as a way to control of the party.

They were setup in August 1921 as a paramilitary force who dressed in brownshirts. Many of them SA were ex-soldiers or Freikorps.



The SA paraded in the streets as a show of force. By August 1922, they numbered about 800 and impressed people with a sense of power and organisation.



The SA control the crowds at meetings often using violence. They were also sent to attack and beat opposition, like communists. Therefore, the SA strengthened the NSDAP and made Hitler more powerful.

Hitler gains complete control of the NSDAP

By the party conference of January 1922, Hitler's control of the NSDAP was complete. He persuaded the members to give up their right to elect their leader.

This was the **Fuhrerprinzip** – where Hitler at the Fuhrer (leader) of the party had complete power and authority over everything. The NSDAP was his party.

Hitler's leadership ensured that Nazi membership grew from about 1,100 in June 1920 to about 55,000 in November 1923.

Exam Questions

Source D: The pledge of loyalty and obedience taken by members of the SA

As a member of the NSDAP, I pledge myself by its storm flag to:

- Be always ready to stake like and limb in the struggle for the aims of the movement
- Give absolute military obedience to my military superiors and leaders
- Bear myself honourable in and out of service

Source E: A member of the Nazi Party describing one of Hitler's speeches in 1922

My critical faculty was swept away. Learning forward as if he were trying to force his inner self into the consciousness of all these thousands, he was holding the masses, and me with them, under a hypnotic spell by the sheet force of his belief...I forgot everything but the ma; then glancing around, I saw that his magnetism was holding these thousands as one.

1. How useful are sources D and E for an enquiry into the early Nazi Party? Explain your answer using Sources D and E and your knowledge of the historical context. (8 marks)

Source A: Extracts from the Twenty-Five Point Programme, originally produced by the DAP in February 1920.

- 1 We demand the union of all Germans in a Greater Germany.
- 2 We demand equality of rights for the German people in its dealings with other nations.
- 3 We demand land and colonies to feed our people and settle our surplus population.
- 4 Only those of German blood are members of the nation. No Jew may be a member of the nation.
- 7 We demand that the State's primary duty must be to promote work and the livelihood of its citizens.
- 9 All citizens shall have equal rights and equal duties.
- 17 We demand a law to take from the owners any land needed for the common good of the people.
- 22 We demand... the creation of a people's
- 25 We demand the creation of a strong central state power for the Reich

2. Give two things you can infer from Source A about the NSDAP in the 1920s (4 marks)

I can infer

Details in the source that tell me this

I can infer

Details in the source that tell me this

The Munich Putsch, 1923



In November 1923, Hitler launched **the Munich Putsch** (The Beer Hall Putsch) a violent uprising to overthrow the Weimar Republic and set up Nazi state.

It ended in failure with 14 dead Nazis and Hitler in prison, and until 1928 the Nazis struggled to get any support. However, the Munich putsch is seen by historians a significant factor in Hitler's eventual rise to power.

Reasons for the Munich Putsch

The Munich Putsch happened for a variety of different causes:

Longer-term causes

From 1918 there was a long list of issues that caused anger amongst Germans, such as; the 'stab in the back', reparations, the loss of the war and the loss of Germany's colonies. Also, there was resentment of the Weimar Republic, particularly in areas like Bavaria where the Nazis were based. Local leader Gustav von Kahr shared many of the Nazi views.



Medium-term causes

From 1921 to 1922, the Nazis were heavily influenced by the Fascists in Italy led by Mussolini (they copied the salute and flags). Mussolini had taken power in Rome by overthrowing the democratic government, perhaps the Nazis could do this too?



Short-term causes

During 1923, Germany was in chaos with hyperinflation and the Ruhr crisis. Hyperinflation in Germany reached its peak and millions of Germans were deeply unhappy. Many saw the Weimar republic as weak and unable to solve people's problems. The time was ripe to exploit these feelings and Hitler decided it was a perfect time to take power.

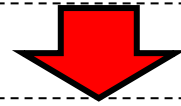
Events of the Munich Putsch

8th November 1923

Hitler with 600 SA entered a beer hall in Munich where the Bavarian government were meeting. At gunpoint, Hitler forced government leaders (Von Kahr, Lossow, and Von Seisser) to support him.



Rohm and the SA then took over the local police and army headquarters but not the local army base. When Hitler left Ludendorff, then let the government leaders go, they refused to support the putsch.

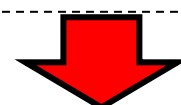


9th November 1923

Hitler gathered with 1000 SA and 2000 volunteers supporters and marched on Munich town center to declare himself the President of Germany. He hoped the local people would support them, but they did not and neither did the army.



The group was met by state police. Someone opened fire and there was chaos. Ludendorff, Rohm and Streicher were arrested.



11th November 1923

Hitler was found hiding at a friend's house in a wardrobe and was arrested. 14 Nazis were dead, Hitler dislocated his shoulder and his allies were in jail. The Putsch had failed.



Consequences of the Munich Putsch

In the short term, the putsch was a disaster for the Nazis.

The uprising had failed due to a lack of support and leading Nazis like Ludendorff, Rohm and Hitler were put on trial in 1924 for treason.

- Ludendorff was found not guilty, as a respected ex-soldier from WW1 the judge let him off
- **Hitler was sentenced to 5 years in prison**
- **The Nazi party was banned**



In the long term, the putsch could be seen as a success.

1. **Hitler only served 9 months in jail** and he used his trial to get national publicity for the Nazis. He spent his testimony attacking the Weimar Republic, the 'November Criminals', Treaty of Versailles and Jews.
2. Hitler used his time in prison to write **Mein Kampf** (My Struggle) which contained his political ideas and it became the inspiration for the future Nazi party.
3. Hitler realised he needed a new strategy – **violence would not work, the Nazis must get to power democratically.** The Nazis must now win public support to get voted into power.
4. **The ban on the NSDAP was lifted in 1925** and the new Nazi party relaunched, getting 32 seats in the election.



The 'Lean Years' 1924-28

The Munich Putsch has proved a political disaster for the Nazi Party - 16 Nazis were killed, the putsch was not supported, Hitler was imprisoned and the Nazi party was banned.



However, Hitler used his time to collect his thoughts in Mein Kampf and plan the reorganisation of the Nazi Party



Hitler was released in December 1924, after only 9 months and 2 weeks later the ban on the Nazis was lifted.

Mein Kampf

Mein Kampf became the basis for Nazi party beliefs and policies from 1924, it included the following:

- 1. Nationalism** – He wanted to 'make Germany great again' by reversing the Treaty of Versailles buildin up the army, invading communist Russia and conquer lands for the German people.
- 2.** Hitler believed the German (Aryan) race was destined to rule the world, but was at risk from Jews who wanted to weaken Ayrans and take over
- 3. Socialism** –Using the wealth of Germany to benefit the working people
- 4. Totalitarianism** – removing democracy and replacing with one leader
- 5. Traditional vales** – Strong Christian family values with clear gender roles.



Relaunch of the party

On 27th Feb 1925, Hitler re-launched the Nazi party at Munich Beer Hall where the Munich Putsch failed. 4000 people came to hear him speak.

Once the Nazi Party was re-launched, Hitler began to take control once more and began to make changes to the Nazi party and its structure.



The reorganisation of the Nazi Party

Nazi Organisation

The Nazi party was based in Munich, with departments for finance, education and industry. They also raised money from businessmen who supported the Nazis.

Germany was split into 35 Gaue (regions) with a local leader, the Gauleiter. Hitler used these to keep control over the party.



The Nazis also set up the German Women's Order and Hitler Youth to gain women and youth members.

By 1929, the Nazi party had over 100,000 members.

Leadership of the party

At the 1926 Bamberg Conference, Hitler strengthened his position. He beat Josef Goebbels and Gregor Strasser for leadership of the party, Goebbels was made Gauleiter for Berlin as a reward.



At Bamberg, Hitler also squashed any splits between the nationalist and socialist parts of the party – he had control over policy.

Ersnt Rohm was removed as leader of the SA as he was seen as a threat

Hitler also set up the SS (Schutzstaffel or protection squad). These were selected members who worked as Hitler's personal bodyguard.



Developing support for the Nazis

Goebbels was also put in charge of propaganda. He and Hitler believed that the best way to get the support of the masses was by appealing to peoples their feelings

The Nazis targeted wealthy businessmen, farmers, women, soldiers and anyone who hated the Weimar Republic, the Treaty of Versailles and Jews. Promises were made to all groups



They waged a propaganda campaign using posters, leaflets, radio and film, and organised rallies.

The Lean Years – A lack of success

Despite the Hitler's changes, the Nazis were failing where it mattered – votes in the polling booth! In 1928, the Nazis only got 3% of the votes, they were the 7th biggest party in the Reichstag.

So why were the Nazis failing to secure more votes?

- The 'Golden Years' - Under Stresemann Germany was economically better off, people had more money and jobs. Therefore they supported extreme parties like the Nazis less. Also, Stresemann improved Germany's international standing, making the people happier.
- Ex army general and war hero Hindenburg became President, he was respected and this increased support the Weimar Republic and cut those who were against it.
- The Nazis struggled to get any support from the working classes (who were the majority), they only got 1% of their votes in Berlin and the Ruhr. IT was very clear, when the economy was strong, few people voted the Nazis.

Date of Election	May 1924	Dec 1924	May 1928
SPD Social Democrats	100	131	153
Communists KPD/USPD	62	45	54
Centre Party (Catholics)	65	69	62
DDP (Democrats)	28	32	25
Right-wing parties (BVP/DVP/DNVP)	156	174	134
NSDAP (Nazis)	32	14	12
Others	29	29	51
Total Deputies	472	493	491

Nazis in the 1920s Exam Questions



Using your revision guide, the sources and A4 paper, practice the below exam questions.

Remember to use the 'how to' guides in the front of this book to help your in your answers.

1. Explain why the Munich Putsch (1923) failed

You may use the following in your answer:

- the German Army
- Bavarian leaders

You must also use your own information (12 Marks)

2. Explain why Hitler carried out the Munich Putsch

You may use the following in your answer:

- Ludendorff
- French occupation of the Ruhr

You must also use your own information (12 Marks)



Using these two boxes to micro-plan your answer to the above questions

You only need to plan out your 3-4 paragraphs, and key words/terms you would include in each

P1.
P2.
P3.
P4.

P1.
P2.
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P4.

Interpretation 1 From Weimar and Nazi Germany, F Reynoldson, published in 1996.

From 1924 to 1929 the Weimar Republic was much stronger than it had been just after the war. Led by Stresemann in the Reichstag, the different parties managed to work together. The extreme parties such as the Nazis gained fewer seats in the elections. The German people were better off and more contented. The Weimar Republic looked safe

Interpretation 2 From Weimar and Nazi Germany, E. Wimplott, published in 1997

German prosperity was built on quicksand foundations The Weimar economy was dependent upon high-interest American loans, which usually had to be repaid or renewed within three months. In times of depression, US moneylenders could demand repayment. Moreover, unemployment never fell below 1.3 million. Although big business grew in the 1920s, small firms struggled and many went bankrupt.

2. Study interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about the extent of German recovery in the years 1924-29 . What is the main difference between these views? Explain your answer using details from both interpretations.

3. Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about the extent of German recovery in the years 1924-29.

4. How far do you agree with interpretation 2 about the recovery of Germany 1924-29 . Explain your answer, using both interpretations and your own knowledge of the historical context. (16 Marks)

How did Hitler become Chancellor in 1933?



1. The Depression

In October 1929, Wall Street in America crashed. As a result US banks lost billions of dollars, businesses and banks shut down causing a world wide depression which spread to Germany.

Firstly the US stopped lending money to Germany and demanded all the loans be repaid.

This caused serious problems within Germany.

German businesses

They were forced to pay back their loans and now received no investments from US banks. Industrial production dropped 40% by 1932 and wages dropped 15%

As a result businessmen lost money and had to fire workers and close their factories and companies causing bankruptcy.

The German Government

The government refused to print more money, so Chancellor Brüning decided to raise taxes and cut unemployment benefits.

They also struggled to agree on how to fix the economy, so nothing happened.

The German people

It led to **mass unemployment** of workers, 3 million workers in 1930 then **6 million by 1932**

The farmers, the middle classes and businessmen lost their savings, businesses and went bankrupt

With no work, raised taxes and benefits slashed the German people suffered terrible poverty

How did the Depression help the Nazis?

The **depression caused more hatred towards the Weimar Republic** who made problems worse. As a result the people began to vote for extreme parties like the communists and Nazis.

The Nazis used the depression to get more votes as they promised to fix the economy. In speeches Hitler promised 'bread and work' to all workers in Germany, whilst they opened soup kitchens for the poor.

There is a **direct link between the depression and Nazi votes**, as unemployment rose so did Nazi votes.

Year	Unemployed	Nazi Seats in the Reichstag
1930	3 million	107
Nov 1932	6 million	230
July 1932	5 million	196
1933	4.8 million	288

The depression was a gift to the Nazis, it helped them finally get into power.



2. The Fear of Communism

The depression also led to a rise of support for the communist party (KPD) from the working classes. They felt they were their best hope.

By 1932 they had 100 members of parliament.



Hitler and the Nazis hated communism (they thought it was linked to a Jewish conspiracy to destroy Germany) and they vowed to destroy communism



The Nazis used the SA to fight the communists in the streets and disrupt meetings.

As communist support grew, this worried the middle and upper classes and German businessmen. They were frightened of a Communist revolution as they would suffer. So they began to support the Nazis giving them votes and money.



3. The Weaknesses of the Weimar Republic

Many people hated the Weimar Republic and they never forgave them for the loss of WW1, the 'stab in the back', the Treaty of Versailles and the Depression which they failed to fix.

Between 1919-1933, there were 20 different coalition governments who constantly fell out, this meant nothing got done so President Hindenburg had to keep using Article 48 to pass every law. This made the Weimar Republic look weak and useless.

This helped increase votes for the Nazis as Hitler who promised a strong government like they previous had in the Weimar Republic.



How did Hitler become Chancellor in 1933?

4. The Organisation of the Nazis and the Role of Hitler

Organisation

The Nazis were very organised, they set up Nazi offices all over Germany to recruit more voters and got financial support from wealthy businessmen and industrialists like Krupp and Bosch. They even set up groups like the Hitler Youth to reach the young of Germany.



The SA

The SA made the Nazis seem organised, disciplined and reliable. In a time of the depression, they looked strong.



The SA were also used to disrupt other parties like the communists and openly fought with them on the streets. In one clash 18 were killed

Role of Hitler

Hitler was shown as the strong, decisive leader that Germany needed. He was a veteran, worker and appealed to all Germans. Germany propaganda called Hitler 'our last hope'

Hitler was an excellent orator (speaker) who drew large crowds, he would fly around 6 cities a day, delivering simple but powerful speeches.



In the 1932 Presidential election, Hitler received 11 million votes (30%) which highlighted how the people saw Hitler as a future leader of Germany.

Propaganda

Josef Goebbels used modern technology such as radios, films, and loudspeakers alongside posters and leaflets. They owned 140 newspapers!

They had simple messages like 'One People, One Nation, One Leader'



Propaganda targeted specific groups; workers, farmers and businessmen.

Goebbels was able to make sure the Nazi message was heard everywhere, locally and nationally. The message was 'unity', bringing Germany together again

Promises

The Nazis **promised something to everyone, it is what gained them votes.**

Above all Hitler promised to make Germany great again by restoring law and order, destroying communism, abolishing the Treaty of Versailles and fixing the depression.

He also attacked the Weimar government and blamed Jews for the problems. Specific groups were targeted with propaganda:

- **Big Business:** Promised Hitler was their best protection from communism
- **Working Class:** They promised 'Work and Bread' and a return to traditional German values
- **Middle Class:** Hitler was the strong leader to bring economic recovery, he would protect them from communism and he would overturn the changes made under the Weimar Republic
- **Farmers:** Promised protection from communism and taking land from Jews

5. Hitler becomes chancellor in 1933



May 1932

- In early 1932, the Nazis were far from being in power but things began to change.
- Brüning resigns after losing support, so Hindenburg makes Franz von Papen Chancellor

July 1932

- The Nazis get their most votes, 240 seats (38%)
- However, Hindenburg refuses to make Hitler Chancellor as he despises him, calling him a 'jumped up corporal'



Nov 1932

- Von Papen loses support and quits as Chancellor
- The Nazis drop to 196 votes in the election, but are still the largest party

Dec 1932

- Schleicher is persuaded to become Chancellor, but he has no power or support in the Reichstag
- Von Papen persuades Hindenburg to sack Schleicher who wants to use the army to take power.
- They foolishly think they can make Hitler Chancellor whilst controlling him.



Jan 1933

- On 30th January 1933, Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany
- The Nazis have got into power legally and democratically



How did Hitler become Dictator in 1934?

1, The Reichstag Fire, 27th Feb 1933

On February 27th 1933, the Reichstag (German parliament) was burnt down with a communist Van Der Lubbe arrested at the scene (There are rumours the Nazis did it.)

As Hitler had been warning of a communist plot to overthrow the government, the fire was the 'proof' he needed to show that communists want to destroy Germany.



Results

The Nazis arrest over 4000 communists and ban the communist party.

They shut down political opponents meetings and newspapers, whilst thousands are sent to concentration camps

This reduces Nazi political opposition.

This gave Hitler more power because...

This led to

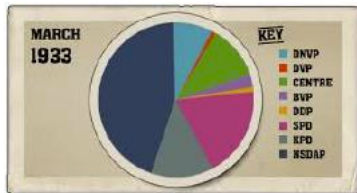
Hitler persuaded Hindenburg to sign '**The Reichstag Decree**', also called the Emergency Decree, which gave Hitler many powers.

1. The laws allow the Nazi controlled police to arrest anyone suspected of opposing the government, ban meetings, close newspapers and hold people without trial.
2. German had now become a police state

The March 1933 Election

In the March 1933 election, the Nazis get their their best ever result (44%) However, it still failed to give the Nazis an overall majority.

This persuaded Hitler to pass the Enabling Act, as he wanted to end democracy.



2. The Enabling Act, 1933

On 23rd March 1933, the Reichstag passes Enabling Act which **gives Hitler power** to pass any law without approval of the Reichstag.

He immediately begins to use these powers to gain more control over Germany.



May 1933, Trade Unions banned

The banning of Trade Unions removed workers rights and brings them under his control.



July 1933, Political parties banned

Hitler bans all political parties except the Nazis, the leaders of the other parties are imprisoned. This gives Hitler total control. Democracy is over



April 1933, People's Courts

Hitler sets up the 'People's Courts' to give him control over the justice system and laws. Judges are made to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler.



Results

Hitler has been given complete power over the government and laws, which effectively makes Germany a dictatorship under Hitler.

The Enabling Act ends all democracy in Germany

Jan, 1934, Local Government

Hitler abolishes local Lander parliaments and replaced them with a governor (Gauleiter) who directly serves Hitler.



3. The Night of the Long Knives, 1934

Hitler begins to fear from threats in his own party, the SA (Brownshirts)

The SA are a force of 3 million men under ex soldier Ernst Rohm. They were originally used to intimidate Nazi opposition and were important in Hitler coming to power in 1933. Hitler believed Rohm wants to overthrow him, whilst the army despised the power the SA had and Himmler and the SS hated Rohm and wanted to replace the SA with the SS.

In 1934, after encouragement from the Army and SS, Hitler orders the arrest of SA 'traitors'

On the night of 30th June 1934, the SS arrest 400 SA leaders, some are imprisoned and others are executed including Ernst Rohm.

Hitler also uses the opportunity to take out old political opponents, such as ex-chancellor Von Papen.

Hitler had now eradicated all threats within his party, the army were now more supportive and it showed Hitler agreed to murder to keep power.

4. The Death of Hindenburg

On 2nd August 1934, President Hindenburg dies

Within hours, Hitler combines the role of President with Chancellor to create a new title '*Fuhrer of the Third Reich*'



He also forced the army to swear a unconditional oath of loyalty and obedience to him. This bring them under Hitlers control.

Hitler is now the complete ruler of Germany

Hitler takes power Exam Questions



Using your revision guide, the sources and A4 paper, practice the below exam questions.

Remember to use the 'how to' guides in the front of this book to help your in your answers.

1. Explain why Hitler was able to become Chancellor in January 1933

You may use the following in your answer:

- The Depression
- The role of Hitler

You must also use your own information (12 Marks)

2. Explain why Hitler was able to become the dictator of Germany by 1934.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The Night of the Long Knives
- The Reichstag Fire

You must also use your own information (12 Marks)



Using these two boxes to micro-plan your answer to the above questions

Micro plan your 3-4 paragraphs, and key words/terms you would include in each

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