How did Hitler consolidate his power?

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| Point | Evidence | Explanation |
| Reichstag Fire | 27th Feb 1933.  There was a fire in the Reichstag building.  The Nazis find a Dutch communist in the Reichstag- Van den Lubbe.  They blame it on him and claim it is part of a wider communist plot.  4000 communists are arrested.  Hitler asks Hindenburg to grant emergency powers. | This helped Hitler consolidate his power because the Emergency Decree (for the Protection of People and State) took away freedom of speech, assembly and press. They could also arrest people without trial. This meant that the Nazis prevented any opposition parties from campaigning or meeting. He especially targeted the Communist party by sending his SA to break up meetings and arrest a huge number. By doing this the Communist party were effectively destroyed, who were Hitler’s biggest rivals. |
| Enabling Act | 24th March 1933  The Enabling Act was a law that meant Hitler could pass a law without the approval of the Reichstag.  He used intimidation to get it passed and the Communist party was banned from voting.  The Catholic Centre Party voted in favour in return for the Protection of the Church.  It was passed 444 to 94. Was supposed to last for 4 years. | The Enabling Act meant that the Reichstag has effectively voted itself out of existence. Hitler had turned Germany into a dictatorship and provided himself with a legal base for this. He could pass any laws he wanted to without anybody standing in his way. This would be especially useful when he created some of his more controversial laws. Hitler had brought about the end of democracy and the Weimar Republic and strengthened his position as Chancellor. |
| Night of the Long Knives | 30th June 1934  Hitler was increasingly worried about the growing numbers and strength of the SA and their leader Rohm who he considered a great threat. The SA were also undisciplined and violent. The army were unhappy with the SA giving them orders and the industrialists were worried as the SA wanted to nationalise industry.  Hitler decided to remove this threat and had Rohm and 400 SA leaders killed. | The Night of the Long Knives had meant that Hitler had kept the support of the army, who he would need for his future plans. He had also kept the support of the industrialists who provided the party with the funds they needed. He had also ruthlessly removed his biggest rival and firmly secured his position as leader of all Germany’s forces. |

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