

Document A: Hitler Speech

To justify the annexation of Austria, Hitler called for a public vote on whether the unification should stand. This is an excerpt from a speech he gave on April 9, 1938, the day before the vote. As Hitler points out in his speech, he himself was born, and grew up, in Austria.

When one day we shall be no more, then the coming generations shall be able to look back with pride upon this day, the day on which a great **Volk** affirmed the German community. In the past, millions of German men shed their blood for this **Reich**. How merciful a fate to be allowed to create this Reich today without a suffering.

Now, rise, German Volk, subscribe to it, hold it tightly in your hands! I wish to thank Him who allowed me to return to my homeland so that I could return it to my German Reich! May every German realize the importance of the hour tomorrow, assess it and then bow his head in reverence before the will of the Almighty who has wrought this miracle in all of us within these past few weeks.

Vocabulary:

Volk: Folk. Hitler used this word to refer to the all Germans in the world
Reich: Kingdom. This is the word Hitler used to refer to the country of Germany.

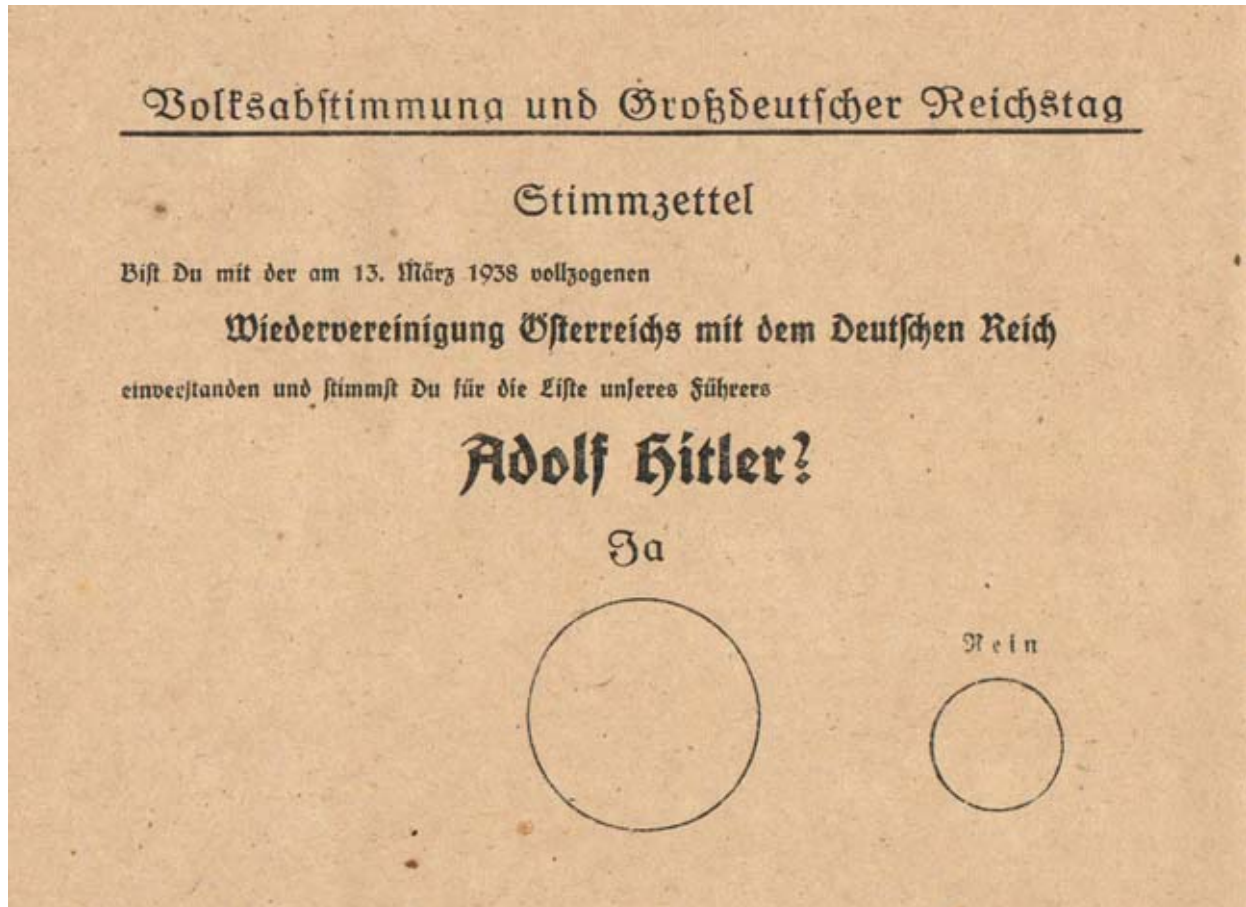
Document B: Poster

Below, is a poster encouraging Germans to vote in favor of annexing Austria. The caption reads “Greater Germany: Yes on April 10th.”



Document C: Ballot

Below is a voting ballot from April 10, 1938. The ballot text reads "Do you agree with the reunification of Austria with the German Reich that was enacted on March 13, 1938, and do you vote for the party of our leader Adolf Hitler?" The large circle is labeled "Yes," the smaller "No".



Guiding Questions

Document A

- 1) (Sourcing) When was this speech delivered? What is the purpose of this speech?

- 2) (Close reading) What did Hitler mean when he said, "I wish to thank Him who allowed me to return to my homeland so that I could return it to my German Reich!"?

- 3) (Close reading) What are 2 reasons Hitler gave for Germans to vote in favor of annexation?

- 4) (Close reading) What specific phrases are designed to convince a potential voter to vote yes on April 10, 1938?

Document B

- 1) (Sourcing) Why was this document created?

- 2) (Context) When did Germans vote on annexing Austria? When did German troops move into Austria?

- 3) (Close reading) What specific details of the image do you think were intended to convince voters to vote yes on April 10, 1938?

- 4) (Corroboration) What images in this poster relate to Hitler's speech?

Document C

- 1) How many questions did the ballot ask voters to vote on?
- 2) Why do you think is the circle for “yes” was bigger than the circle for “no?”
- 3) What specific details of the ballot helped to influence the voters’ choice?

***In the space below write a paragraph that answers the question:
How did the Nazi Party convince 99% of Germans and Austrians to support
the annexation of Austria?
(use evidence from all three documents in your answer)***