

Triumph of the Will – Video Notes Template - Addressing German Problems

[Triumph of the Will](#) - This version streams from [archive.org](#)

This video was a German propaganda film produced by the Nazi government in 1934. It depicts the Nazi party congress at Nuremberg held in the summer of 1934, a little over a year after the Nazi Party took power in Germany. Your assignment, while watching the video, is to think about how the video might appeal to Germans who had lived through the chaos of the war and its aftermath. As you watch the video, look for examples from the film that address the concerns shared by the German people listed below (A-H) and for examples of the tools of the propagandist (I-J) and the characteristics of totalitarianism (M-P). Then fill out the template below. Examples from the video should be described in column one. In the middle column indicate the letter or letters of the issues addressed in the example. In the third column explain how the example would likely make Germans who had lived through the last twenty years feel. Please note – many of your examples will be symbolic and not stated in words. Look for ways that the filmmaker creates feelings in the audience that address the issues below.

**Concerns in Germany prior to the rise of the Nazis:**

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| <p>A. Economic problems. The hyper-inflation of the early twenties had greatly hurt many ordinary Germans. The Depression beginning in 1929 left as many as 1/3 of all Germans out of work and unable to make a living or provide for their families</p> <p>B. Germans felt that the Treaty of Versailles was humiliating unjust in that it stripped Germany of territory, dismantled the once proud German military and forced Germany to accept all blame for the war.</p> <p>C. Germans did not believe that they had really lost the war, but had been sold out by weak and subversive elements corrupting Germany.</p> | <p>D. The new Weimar government was unable to maintain order and was perceived as weak and indecisive. Fighting in the streets between rival political parties was common and several prominent politicians were assassinated. People did not feel secure and Germany seemed in chaos.</p> <p>E. Despite their defeat, Germans still felt an intense nationalism and pride in the traditions and history of the German people.</p> <p>F. The German middle class feared communism and communist seizure of private property</p> <p>G. Many Germans feared that the Versailles settlement had left Germany weak and vulnerable to foreign attack</p> | <p>H. Many Germans felt that traditional German culture and values had been corrupted by modern influences during the 1920s</p> <p><b>Tools of the propagandist/ characteristics of totalitarianism</b></p> <p>I. Appeals to emotion</p> <p>J. Insider/outsider, us v. them dynamics</p> <p>K. Appeals to history and patriotism</p> <p>L. Central guiding ideology</p> <p>M. Cult of personality</p> <p>N. State control of media</p> <p>O. Racism and genocide as tools of control</p> <p>P. Extreme Political repression</p> |
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Clip one - start to 9:14

Example from the film	Issue (letter above)	How would this make German people who had lived through the last twenty years of war and chaos feel? Explain with reference to the issue raised.

Clip 2 - 31:00 - 37:50

Example from the film	Issue (letter above)	How would this make German people who had lived through the last twenty years of war and chaos feel? Explain with reference to the issue raised.

Clip 3 - 102 - 107:45 Out door stadium finale

133:35 - 1:44:26 Hitler final speech

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