

# HITLER'S *MACHTERGREIFUNG* AND THE DECAY OF DIPLOMACY

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The decay of German diplomacy and its consequences for Europe, and especially Czechoslovakia, were linked closely with the rejection of the concept of *Verständigungspolitik* in the Stresemann era and the collapse of the Republic from 1930 on. What happened was a gradual transition to an ever more ruthless, nationalistic foreign policy. This was accompanied by the marked appearance of authoritarian features in the German system of government and with the rise of Hitler. His „*Machtergreifung*“ was likewise a longer process. Thus 30 January 1933, despite the fundamental change in objectives, outwardly represented for foreign policy only a stage on the road. The alignment to a nationalistic great-power conception subsequently created a further obstacle to the diplomatic resistance to Hitler.