

The Rise of Dictators

1920's and 1930's

As Canada and the USA struggled with the Depression after the 1929 fall of the Stock Market, other countries were experiencing enormous political, economic, and social upheaval in Europe. The economies of most European nations never fully recovered after WWI, and the Great Depression made matters worse.

- unemployment was high throughout Europe
- food was scarce
- lawlessness behaviour became a huge problem
- governments could not offer solutions
- people across Europe became divided over how these issues should be solved

GOVERNMENTS OF EUROPE

People had lost faith in their governments and began looking to alternative parties who offered to restore law, stop the poverty, and provide a solid economic plan to get the nations back on track. These "alternative party leaders" turned out to be powerful dictators who, once in power, suppressed all forms of opposition and dissension.

DICTATORS OF EUROPE:

1) **Josef Stalin** (Soviet Union)



2) **Benito Mussolini** (Italy)



3) **General Franco** (Spain)



4) **Adolf Hitler** (Germany)



Dictators in Europe- Interwar Period
Social Studies 11

- **Mussolini's Italy**
- **Stalin's Soviet Union**
- **Hitler's Germany**
- **Franco's Spain**

Top 10 Ruthless Dictators

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Dictators in Europe

Main Idea
The political and social unrest that followed World War I helped totalitarian dictators rise to power in Europe.

Reading Focus

- How did Benito Mussolini rule Italy?
- How did Joseph Stalin rule the Soviet Union?
- How did Adolf Hitler rule Germany?
- Who was General Franco in Spain?

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Mussolini's Italy

After World War I, new ideas about government power promoted by Benito Mussolini led to drastic change in the Italian government.

Fascist Ideology

- Mussolini wanted to build a great, glorious Italian empire
- Founded National Fascist Party, 1919
 - from Latin *fascis*, Roman symbol for unity, strength
 - Fascism, authoritarian form of government
 - Good of nation above all else

Mussolini in Power

Fascism brought order to Italian politics. Mussolini's authoritarianism was called *totalitarianism*. Called *Mussolini's Rome*, show of force convinced him ruling as totalitarian head of government. Mussolini moved to restore discipline.

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Mussolini's Italy

Mussolini not satisfied merely with political control

- Used threats, violence, political skill to outlaw all opposition
- Tried to influence Italians' thoughts, feelings, behaviors
 - Government attempt to control all aspects of life, **totalitarianism**
 - Used propaganda to promote Italy's greatness
 - Established festivals, holidays to remind Italians of proud Roman heritage

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Invasion of Ethiopia

- Mussolini set out to make Italy strong military power
- Looked for easy target, settled on Ethiopia
- Ethiopia had two serious disadvantages, located between two Italian colonies, military ill-equipped; Italian forces crushed Ethiopia, 1935

League of Nations

- Ethiopian leader **Haile Selassie** appealed to League to take action against Italy's aggression
- No nation willing to get involved, to risk another world war
- League placed economic sanctions on Italy, took no real action

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Common Features of Totalitarian Governments

Examples of totalitarian governments include Italy under Mussolini, the Soviet Union under Stalin, and Germany under Hitler. These governments shared many common features.

Political

- The state is more important than individuals
- The government is controlled by a single political party
- A powerful dictator unites the people and symbolizes the government.

Social

- The government controls all aspects of daily life.
- Secret police use terror and violence to enforce government policies.
- Citizens are denied basic rights and liberties.

Economic


- The government controls businesses and directs the national economy.
- Labor and business are used to fulfill the objectives of the state.

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Identify the Main Idea

How did Mussolini rule Italy?



Answer(s): with unlimited power; totalitarianism

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Stalin's Soviet Union

Communism under Stalin

- Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin died shortly after Communist Soviet Union formed, 1924
- Joseph Stalin became new Soviet leader after struggle for power

Different Approach

- Karl Marx predicted state would wither away under communism
- Stalin took different approach, worked to return Soviet Union to totalitarian state, controlling all Soviet life

The Five-Year Plans

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Stalin's Soviet Union

5-Year Plans reflected Soviet system of central planning

- Government makes major decisions about production of goods
- Differs from capitalist economic system, where market forces are major influences on production
- Plans did lead to increases in Soviet industrial output
- During first two Five-Year Plans, oil production doubled, coal and steel production quadrupled
- Demands on Soviet workers were high

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Stalin's Soviet Union

Political Purges

- Stalin, absolute power, but feared people plotting against him
- Began campaign called Great Purge, to get rid of people, things undesirable
- During Great Purge, thousands executed, sent to the Gulag

Totalitarian Rule

- Stalin's regime dominated Soviet life
- Children encouraged to join youth organizations, taught attitudes, beliefs
- Religion discouraged, churches closed

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Collectivization and Famine

Increase Farm Input

- Stalin believed millions of small, individually owned Soviet farms would be more productive if combined into larger, mechanized farms
- Combining small farms called collectivization
- Stalin tried to take land back given to peasants after Russian Revolution

Peasant Reaction


- Peasants resisted Stalin's collectivization
- Peasants who resisted were sent to labor camps called gulags
- Peasants who resisted, particularly in the Ukraine, starved to death during collectivization

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Summarize:

How did Stalin use fear and violence to rule the Soviet Union?



Answer(s): executed those who resisted him; sent opponents to Siberia to work in labor camps

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Hitler's Germany

Germany underwent great changes after World War I. The Weimar Republic and Stalin. Germany's Adolf Hitler rose to power during a time of conflict and political instability.

<p>Postwar Germany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany formed new republican government, Weimar Republic Extremely unpopular Germans blamed it for humiliating Versailles Treaty 	<p>Economy</p> <p>Blamed Weimar Republic for economic problems</p> <p>Inflation soared</p> <p>Germans virtually worthless</p> <p>Savings wiped out</p> <p>Depression brought more chaos</p>	<p>Hitler's Early Career</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Born Austria 1889 Served in German army World War I Soon joined Nazi Party Discovered he had knack for public speaking, leadership
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Hitler's Germany

<p>Search for power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Became key figure in Nazi party Wanted greater power Attempted overthrow of government, arrested, imprisoned, 1923 	<p>Mein Kampf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrote book while in prison "My Struggle" described major political ideas Nationalism, racial superiority of German people, Aryans
<p>Hitler gains power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to try to gain power after released from prison Economic effects of Great Depression helped cause 	<p>Promises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germans desperate for strong leader to improve lives Promised to rebuild military Talk of mighty German empire, master race, won supporters

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Hitler's Germany

FACES OF HISTORY

Adolf HITLER
1889-1945



After Germany's humiliating defeat in World War I, a soldier named Adolf Hitler vowed to rebuild a German empire. After the war ended he became active in a small German political party.

A master of propaganda and a stirring public speaker, Hitler soon became known for his attacks on the Treaty of Versailles, Communists, Jews, and anyone or anything else he believed to be a threat to German greatness. Twisting facts to suit his purposes, Hitler used German anger over World War I and the economic effects of the Great Depression to convince Germans that he would restore their nation to glory.

Infer Why do you think so many Germans found Hitler's ideas appealing in the years after World War I?

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Hitler's Germany

Nazi Party Gains Strength

- Many Germans wanted to believe Hitler's words were true
- Nazis continued to gain strength in early 1930s
- Most popular of many German political parties
- Hitler appointed as chancellor, 1933
- Most powerful post in German government

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Hitler's Germany

Nazis mounted more direct attacks on Jews

- November 9 and 10, 1938, anti-Jewish riots across Germany, Austria
- Attack known as **Kristallnacht**, Night of Broken Glass
 - Nearly 100 Jews killed
 - Thousands of Jewish businesses, places of worship damaged, destroyed
- Greater horrors yet to come! (**The Holocaust**)
- Hitler's Germany about to lead world into history's bloodiest war...

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Nazi Anti-Semitism

A key component of the Nazi system was strong anti-Semitic beliefs. **Anti-Semitism** is hostility toward or prejudice against Jews. Hitler blamed Jews for many of Germany's problems, including its defeat in World War I.

<p>Long History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-Semitism had long history in largely Christian Europe Nazi anti-Semitism combined this with false beliefs that Jews were separate race Combined religious prejudice with hatred based on ancestry 	<p>Laws Excluding Jews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many laws passed excluding Jews from mainstream German life 1935 Nuremberg Laws created separate legal status for Jews Eliminated citizenship, civil and property rights Right to work was limited
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Nuremberg Laws defined a person as Jewish based on ancestry of grandparents—not religious beliefs.


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Analyze

How did Hitler's anti-Semitism affect the way he ruled Germany?



Answer(s): Anti-Semitism led to the Nuremberg Laws, riots, and direct attacks on Jews and ultimately...the Holocaust.

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CRASH STUDY GUIDE

CAUSES

- 1918 - Economic hardship in the U.S. due to the war
- 1929 - Stock market crash
- 1930 - Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act
- 1931 - U.S. withdraws from gold standard
- 1932 - Hoover becomes president

Great Depression

EFFECTS

- 1933 - Roosevelt becomes president
- 1933 - New Deal begins
- 1933 - Hoover becomes president
- 1933 - Roosevelt becomes president
- 1933 - Hoover becomes president

Growing Japanese Aggression

- 1931 - Japan invades Manchuria
- 1937 - Japan invades China
- 1941 - Pearl Harbor

Growing Nationalism and Aggression


- 1917 - U.S. enters WWI
- 1918 - Wilson's 14 Points
- 1919 - Versailles Treaty
- 1920 - League of Nations
- 1921 - Wilson's death
- 1922 - Mussolini rises in Italy
- 1923 - Hitler rises in Germany
- 1924 - League of Nations
- 1925 - Locarno Treaties
- 1926 - Locarno Conference
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- 2024 - Locarno Conference

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Who was General Franco?

Dictator of Spain (1892-1975)



The general and dictator Francisco Franco (1892-1975) ruled over Spain from 1939 until his death. He rose to power during the bloody Spanish Civil War (1936) when, with the help of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, his Nationalist forces overthrew the democratically elected Second Republic. Adopting the title of "El Caudillo" (The Leader), Franco persecuted political opponents, repressed the culture and language of Spain's Basque and Catalan regions, censored the media and otherwise exerted absolute control over the country. Some of these restrictions gradually eased as Franco got older, and upon his death the country transitioned to democracy.

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FRANCO

- Though he sympathized with the Axis powers, Franco largely stayed out of World War II (1939-1945) but did send nearly 50,000 volunteers to fight along the Germans on the Soviet front.
- Hitler used the Spanish Civil war of 1936 to test new Nazi technology and weapons. Franco as a thank you, sent volunteers to fight.
- Franco also opened his ports to German submarines and invaded the internationally administered city of Tangier in Morocco. Following the war, Spain faced diplomatic and economic isolation, but that began to thaw as the Cold War heated up.
- In 1953 Spain allowed the United States to construct three air bases and a naval base on its soil in return for military and economic aid.

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The Faces of Totalitarianism

Fascist Italy	Nazi Germany	Communist Soviet Union
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme nationalism • Militaristic expansionism • Charismatic leader • Private property with strong government controls • Anticomunist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme nationalism and racism • Militaristic expansionism • Forceful leader • Private property with strong government controls • Anticomunist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a sound communist state • End war for world revolution • Revolution by workers • Eventual rule by working class • State ownership of property

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What does this political cartoon suggest?



Mussolini, Franco, Stalin and Hitler

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