Fascism, National Socialism, Communism and the Beginnings of World War II

Get out some paper for notes and to answer some questions

**Types of Government**

- **Dictator**
  - a person exercising absolute power and unrestricted control in a government without hereditary succession (meaning, not a king)

- **Totalitarian State**
  - a government which maintains complete control over its citizens
  - individuals have no rights, and government suppresses opposition.

**Types of Government**

- **Democracy**
  - "Rule by People"
  - Gov. is controlled by its citizens

- **Communism**
  - a government system where economic and social activity is controlled by a totalitarian state dominated by a single political party.

- **Militarist State**
  - The military is the controlling power in government
Types of Government

- **Fascism** was a reaction against both liberal democracy and the spread of socialism and communism.
- In fascism, the state was primary and individuals were subordinate to the service of the state.
- Emphasized a belligerent form of nationalism (chauvinism) and fear of foreigners (xenophobia).
- Maintained large and expensive military establishments, tried to organize much of public life along military lines, and showed a fondness for uniforms, parades, and monumental architecture.

Fascism

- Strong Military
- Use of Violence and Terror
- Blind Loyalty To the leader
- State controlled economy
- Extreme Nationalism
- Use of Censorship & Propaganda

Fascism

- Political and economic frustrations created opportunities for fascism.
- Popular in many European countries, Japan, China, South Africa, Brazil, Argentina, and several Arab nations.
- Only in Italy and Germany did fascism overthrow a parliamentary system.

Common elements
- Veneration of the state
- Devotion to a strong leader
- Ultra-nationalism
- Ethnocentrism
- Militarism
**Question**

Which type of Government is better? What must go into your decision?

Share your answer with your shoulder partner.

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**Failures of WWI lead to a new War**

- **Treaty of Versailles**
  - Germany- resentful of their treatment, loss of territory and the reparations imposed on it by Great Britain and France.
  - Italy- resentful that they didn’t get a big enough share of the winner’s pot after WWI while Great Britain and France got most of the spoils.
  - Japan- resentful they also didn’t get any colonies in Asia, they all go to Great Britain or France.
  - U.S.- sees WWI as a failure and only Great Britain and France won anything
  - Great Britain and France- are fighting over the spoils do not trust each other.
Post-War European Problems

- In 1919, after WWI, Britain, France, and the USA – the three democracies - appeared powerful.
- However, postwar Europe faced grave problems.
- The most pressing issues were 1) finding jobs for veterans and 2) rebuilding war-ravaged lands.
- Many potential future leaders were killed in the war.

Allied National Agendas

- **France**: Domestic Economy, Maginot Line, Isolate Germany thru treaties & reparations, Empire.
- **Britain**: Focus on Domestic Economy & Empire.
- **USA** – FDR's New Deal, Isolation, Public Opinion, & 'Magic Wand'.
- **USSR** (Stalin): Industrialization, Distrust of West & Purges.
- **Scandinavian** "Socialist" States.
- **Eastern Europe**: Dictatorships and Instability.

Post WWI Diplomacy

- Reliance on Democracy to keep Peace.
- Defensive Measures (Diplomatic):
  - League of Nations
  - USA: Washington Naval Conf. (1922)
  - Dawes Plan (1924) - Reparations
  - Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928)
The Dawes Plan

U.S. loans $2.5B to German corporations

Germany-$2B in reparations to Britain & France

Britain & France $2.6B in war debts to U.S.

Kellogg-Briand Pact

- Many nations signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact promising to "renounce war as an instrument of national policy"
- In this optimistic spirit, the great powers pursued disarmament – the reduction of armed forces and weapons
- Sizes of navies were reduced but not the size of armies
- Unfortunately, neither the Kellogg-Briand Pact nor the WEAK League of Nations (located in Switzerland) had the power to stop aggression
- Ambitious dictators in Europe and Japan noted and exploited this weakness (e.g., Japanese invasion of Manchuria)

Signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact
Question

Could nations actually ban war? What difficulties would arise? Why would nations even attempt to pass such a law?

Economic Pressures

- In the Fall of 1929, financial panic set in
- Stock prices crashed
- The United States economy entered the Great Depression, which soon spread around the world
- “When the USA sneezes, the world catches a cold”

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Elected four times as president of the United States
**Roosevelt’s Foreign Policy**

- Good Neighbor Policy- Roosevelt says America will be a good neighbor to its Latin American friends.
  1. Can’t do Dollar Diplomacy
  2. Wants Latin American cooperation against Germany or Italian aggression.
- American Isolationism- Americans were disillusioned with WWI and tried their best to avoid any wars with Japan, Germany or Italy.
- Neutrality Acts- By 1938 both the Republican and Democratic Party are controlled by isolationists and get this passed.
  1. Authorized the president to prohibit all arms shipments and forbid U.S. citizens from traveling on ships of countries at war.
  2. Forbids the extension of trade or loans to nations at war
  3. Forbids the sale of arms to the sides fighting in the Spanish Civil War

**Question**

Name four characteristics about FDR. Which were positive and which were negative? Why was he so popular?

**The Rise of Dictators**

- Dictators (absolute rulers) seized power in Italy, Germany, Japan, Soviet Union, Spain after World War I
- Germany was treated severely after WWI (stripped of territory, forced to disarm, pay reparations)
- Worldwide Depression also hit – many people looked to new leaders to solve problems
- The MAJOR Dictators: Benito Mussolini in Italy; Adolf Hitler in Germany; Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union, Francisco Franco in Spain, Military in Japan
Benito Mussolini (Italy)

Italy after World War I

- The conditions were right for fascism to take hold
  - Weak political leadership and ineffective government
  - Economic turmoil
  - Social discontent
  - Growing fear of socialism
  - Disappointment over Italy’s limited territorial gains from the Treaty of Versailles

Benito Mussolini

- 1919 advertised for War Veterans to fight politicians who were “destroying Italy.”
- On Oct 28, 1922, Mussolini’s followers marched on Rome and the next day the King asked Mussolini to become Prime Minister and form a new government
- By 1926, Mussolini had seized total power as dictator and became Il Duce (“the leader”)
Mussolini promised:
- To end unemployment
- Gain more land for Italy
- Outlaw communism
- Stop workers from striking
- Strengthen Italy’s military

Germany after World War I
- Treaty of Versailles imposed a harsh peace on Germany
  - Red areas represent losses in German territory
- Hyperinflation wiped out the savings of the middle class
- Political infighting
  - In stepped Hitler
Adolf Hitler (Germany)

- Leader of the Nazi Party
- Spoke about Germany racial superiority
- Wanted revenge for Germany’s loss in World War I

Adolf Hitler Mini-Bio

Adolf Hitler

- Goal:
  1. Uniting all German speaking people in a great German empire because they were a “master” race.
  2. National Expansion – for Germany to survive it needed more “Living Space” “to secure German people the land and soil to which they are entitled on this earth” even if this could be accomplished only by “the might of a victorious sword.”

Adolf Hitler

- Through emotional speeches, Hitler began to build a following
- On Nov 19, 1923 he felt strong enough for a coup (the Beer Hall Putsch), but he was unsuccessful and was sentenced to five years in jail
  - He served nine months
  - While in prison he wrote *Mein Kampf*, his political manifesto
Adolf Hitler

- 1932 – 6 million Germans were unemployed
- Germans turned to Hitler as their last hope: In July 1932, the Nazi Party won 37.3% of the vote (230 parliamentary seats) and became the largest party in the Reichstag.
- On Jan 30, 1933, Hitler became chancellor.

Adolf Hitler

- Creating the Third Reich
  - Quickly dismantled Germany’s democratic Weimar Republic, created THIRD REICH.
  - Thought it would be a “1000 year Reich”
  - Ultimately invades nearby countries in attempt to “create more living space” for Germans.

Germany under Hitler

- Declared a national state of emergency
- Eliminated all opposition
- Outlawed all other political parties and made the National Socialist Party (Nazis) the only legal party
- Replaced the federal structure with a highly centralized state
- Eliminated trade unions and collective bargaining; prohibited strikes and lockouts
- Took control of all police forces.
Adolf Hitler

- Puts businesses under government control.
- Starts public works programs which employs many people.
- Rebuilds the military.
- Raises the standard of living.

Adolf Hitler

- Hitler instituted programs against Jews to restrict their lives in an attempt to drive them from Germany.
- Many did not care about Hitler's policies many were just happy being employed and having a renewed sense of military and nationalistic pride.

Question

Name four characteristics about Hitler. Which were positive and which were negative? Why was he so popular?
German-Italian Alliance

- Germany and Italy formed the Axis Powers
- Now—two dictators with stated goals of expansion are good friends
- Axis Powers help Spain’s Fascist military overthrow its elected government (Spanish Civil War)

Mussolini and Hitler

Francisco Franco (Spain)


definition

Military leader in Spain, in 1936 led a revolt against Spain’s elected party in power called the Popular Front.
- Franco’s nationalist party won Spanish Civil war
- After win in 1939, his rule was law.
- All opposition was ruthlessly dealt with; the nation had to endure the activities of a secret police force
- Fair elections and political opposition, were not tolerated
- In July 1947, a law was passed that made Franco head of state for life.
Civil War Breaks Out in Spain

- Spanish Civil War- seen as a struggle between the forces of fascism and democracy.
- General Francisco Franco- rebels against Spanish republic wanting to start a fascist state. Spanish Civil War begins
  1. Support- Hitler, Mussolini back Franco; Stalin aids opposition
  2. Western democracies remain neutral
  3. War leads to Rome-Berlin Axis— allianc between Italy and Germany
  4. 1939, Franco wins war, becomes fascist dictator

Joseph Stalin (Soviet Union)

- Communist leader (Russia went Communist after WW1)
- Controlled every aspect of people’s lives
- Eliminated all competition to him in order to stay in power

Joseph Stalin Mini-Bio

An Evil Man controls the Soviet Union

- He gains control of the Soviet Union after the death of Lenin in 1924.
  1. Replaces private farms with collectives
  2. Five Year Plan- Stalin declared that in 5 years the Soviet Union would industrialize, boost coal, oil and electricity production and build factories.
  3. Evil- Stalin is rumored to have killed between 25-30 million Soviets during his reign in power.
Goal: Make Russia a worldwide example for a Communist State
In order to accomplish these goals, sacrificed
• Vast Police State
• Heavily punished for criticism
• Great Purge of 1930s
• Famine because of new industrial focus

Question

Name four characteristics about Stalin. Which were positive and which were negative? Why was he so popular?

Japanese Militarists

Hideki Tojo (1941-1944)
Emperor Hirohito & Militarism
“Cult of Personality”

Japanese Expansion
- Resistance to Western Imperialism
- Model: Western Industrial & Military Build Up
  - Growth of Nationalism & Industrial Expansion (Resources / Self-sufficiency / Power)
  - Population Growth
  - Russo-Japanese War 1904-1905
    - Spheres of Influence (Manchuria & Korea)
- WWI: League v. Independence, Equality?
  - Treaty Confirmed Western Arrogance/Power

Japanese Militarists
- Goal – Increase living space for growing Japanese population
- Militarists launched surprise invasion of Manchuria in 1931, controlling this resource-rich land within several months
- League of Nations condemned Japan, who simply quit the league
- Success of the Invasion put the militarists in control of Japan
Question

How did Germany, Italy, Spain, the USSR and Japan grow so quickly, especially during the Great Depression?
Should the democratic nations have tried to stop them?
The Axis Begins to Move

Japan Expands Territory

- 1931 – Japan attacks Manchuria in northern China
- Japan wanted more natural resources for its growing population (Manchuria is rich in natural resources)
- Invades China in 1937, League of Nations does nothing

Italy invades Ethiopia

- 1935 – Italy invaded Ethiopia in Africa
- Mussolini wanted new areas to expand his empire in Africa
- League of Nations does nothing to stop it
Germany Gets Aggressive

- Hitler rejects the Treaty of Versailles – in 1936 and starts to rebuild the German Army and Navy. France and Great Britain wanting to avoid a war fail to stop him.
- Germany-Italy-Japan – sign an alliance calling themselves the Axis Powers in 1937.

Germany Begins Conquests

- 1936 – Hitler moves troops into the Rhineland (German region near the French border)
- WWI treaty said no German troops here
- French Government and League of Nations – TAKE NO ACTION

The Sudetenland

- After taking Austria – Hitler wanted more
- His next desire is the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia
- The Czechs didn’t want to give this area to Germany – nor did France and Russia
“Appeasement” at Munich

- The British step in to offer a peace and avoid war
- British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain meets with Hitler in Munich, Germany
  - They agree to give Hitler the Sudetenland
  - Hitler has to promise he is done seeking territory

Reactions to Munich

- Neville Chamberlain, the British Prime Minister who came up with the agreement, said that he had achieved “peace in our time”
- Winston Churchill, the future Prime Minister, said: “Britain and France had to choose between war and shame. They chose shame. They will get war, too.”

‘Remember... One More Lollipops, and Then You All Go Home!'
Germany’s Expansion

Germany

Rhine
land

Austria

Sudetenland

Hitler breaks his promise: Germany Starts the War

- After being given Sudetenland – Hitler takes the rest of Czechoslovakia
- Hitler signed a Non-Aggression Pact with Stalin and the Soviet Union in August, 1939 (they agree to not make war on each other) – now France and Britain have lost an ally in Stalin
- Immediately after – Germany invaded Poland (France & Britain declare war on Germany) WWII officially begins on September 1, 1939
Question

Why wasn’t the League of Nations able to stop all of the aggressions around the world? What were they able to do?