

Rise of Totalitarianism

Unit 7 - The Interwar Years

I. The Rise of Totalitarianism

A. Totalitarianism Defined

1. A gov't that takes total, centralized state control over every aspect of public and private life.

B. Characteristics of Totalitarianism

1. Using police terror and violence to force obedience and crush opposition.

2. Using indoctrination to glorify the leader and get unconditional loyalty.

3. Using propaganda to spread biased info and suppressing free speech and free press with censorship.

4. Using religious or ethnic persecution to put blame on “enemies of the state.”

II. Stalinist Russia

A. Stalin's Totalitarian State

1. Stalin created a police state and eliminated threats in the Great Purge.
2. He used propaganda and censorship in the media and the arts to glorify communism and Stalin.
3. Stalin ensured that the virtues of Communism would be taught in schools to indoctrinate children.
4. Communists tried to replace religious teachings with ideals of communism.

B. Stalin Controls the Economy

1. Stalin's economic plans called for a command economy.
2. Stalin's Five-Year Plans increased industrial production while decreasing consumer good production.
3. He set up gov't owned collective farms to boost food production.

III. The Rise of Fascism in Italy

A. Fascism Defined

1. Political movement that promotes extreme nationalism, denial of individual rights, and a dictatorial one-party rule.

B. Mussolini Takes Control

1. Disappointments over the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 and rising inflation and unemployment helped fascism rise in Italy.

2. Benito Mussolini founded the Fascist Party in 1919 and soon gained popularity His “black shirts” acted as his militia.

3. King Victor Emmanuel III eventually stepped down, and Mussolini gained power legally.

C. Il Duce's Leadership

1. Mussolini was Il Duce (the leader). He promoted Fascism also used secret police and censorship, and outlawed strikes.

IV. Hitler's Rise to Power in Germany

A. Hitler and the Rise of Nazis

1. Adolf Hitler was der Führer, or leader, of the Nazi party. The Nazi symbol was the swastika, and the Brown Shirts served as the militia.
2. Hitler failed to seize Munich in 1923 and was sent to prison. He then wrote *Mein Kampf*.
3. Hitler said that Aryans were the "master race," the Versailles Treaty was an outrage, and Germany needed lebensraum (living space).
4. When the Great Depression hit Germany, Germans turned to Hitler, hoping for security and leadership.

B. Hitler Becomes Chancellor

1. President Hindenburg named Hitler chancellor. After an election solidified his power, Hitler turned Germany into a totalitarian state.
2. Hitler aimed to take control of every aspect of German life and often used propaganda to his advantage.
3. Anti-Semitism (hatred of Jews) was a key part of Nazi ideology.
4. Laws were put into place to deprive Jews of their rights. During Kristallnacht (Night of the Broken Glass), Jewish people and businesses were attacked.

V. Aggressors Invade Nations

A. Japan Seeks an Empire

- 1. Militarists took control of Japan and kept Emperor Hirohito as head of state. Their nationalistic goal was a Pacific empire.**
- 2. Japan's invasion of Manchuria challenged the League of Nations.**
- 3. Japan invaded China and controlled a large part by 1937.**

B. European Aggressors on the March

- 1. Mussolini ordered an invasion of Ethiopia. Ethiopian Emperor Selassie asked the League for help, but GB and France didn't stop Italy, hoping to keep peace in Europe.**
- 2. Hitler defied the Versailles Treaty. GB urged appeasement, giving in to keep the peace, by letting Germany take the Rhineland.**
- 3. Germany, Italy, and Japan formed an alliance became known as the Axis Powers.**
- 4. A civil war erupted in Spain, resulting in the Francisco Franco becoming a Fascist dictator.**

C. Democratic Nations Try to Preserve Peace

1. The US supported isolationism and passed Neutrality Acts.
2. The Third Reich (German Empire) expanded when Germany annexed Austria in a union known as Anschluss.
3. Germany, France, GB, and Italy met at the Munich Conference in 1938. GB PM Chamberlain let Hitler take the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia if he Hitler promised that's all he would take.
4. The Nazis and Soviets signed a nonaggression pact, promising not to attack each other.