Dictators in Europe

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

Main Idea
The Interwar Years

Reading Focus
- How did Benito Mussolini rule Italy?
- How did Joseph Stalin rule the Soviet Union?
- How did Adolph Hitler rule Germany?

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 fasces, Roman symbol for unity, strength
  - Fascism, authoritarian form of government
  - Good of nation above all else

Mussolini in Power
- Fascists significant force in Italian politics, 1922
- Mussolini wanted more, wanted to rule Italy
- Called March on Rome
- Show of force convinced Italy’s king to put Mussolini at head of government
- Mussolini moved to establish dictatorship

Invasion of Ethiopia
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

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 imposed economic sanctions on Italy, took no real action

Common Features of Totalitarian Governments
- Dictators in charge of all branches of government
- Total control over all aspects of life
- Totalitarianism

Political
- The government in charge
- The government in control of all aspects of life

Social
- The government in charge
- Total control over all aspects of life

Economic
- Total control over the economy
- Total economic control

Examples of totalitarian governments include Italy under Mussolini, the Soviet Union under Stalin, and Germany under Hitler.
Identify the Main Idea

How did Mussolini rule Italy?

Answer(s): with unlimited power; totalitarianism

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
- Major part of Stalin's plan to strengthen communism, modernization of economy
- First Five-Year Plan began 1928, factories and mines had production goals

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

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

Cult of Personality
- Portraits of Stalin decorated public places, creating heroic, idealized image
- Streets, towns renaming in Stalin's honor, created cult of personality
- By ruthlessly removing opposition, Stalin gained stranglehold over society

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 responded violently
- Executed thousands, sent more to Siberian system of labor camps, called the Gulag
- Resistance continued, particularly in the Ukraine
- Stalin refused to send food during 1932 famine; millions starved to death

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
Germany underwent great changes after World War I. Like Mussolini and Stalin, Germany’s Adolf Hitler rose to power during a time of conflict and political instability.

### Postwar Germany
- Germany formed a new republican government, Weimar Republic
- Extremely unpopular
- Germans blamed it for humiliating Versailles Treaty

### Economy
- Blamed Weimar Republic for economic problems
- Inflation soared
- German mark virtually worthless
- Savings wiped out
- Depression brought more chaos

### Hitler’s Early Career
- Born Austria 1889
- Served in German army World War I
- Soon joined Nazi Party
- Discovered he had knack for public speaking, leadership

### Hitler’s Germany

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search for power</th>
<th>Mein Kampf</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Became key figure in Nazi party</td>
<td>Wrote book while in prison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wanted greater power</td>
<td>“My Struggle” described major political ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted overthrow of government, arrested, imprisoned, 1923</td>
<td>Nationalism, racial superiority of German people, Aryans</td>
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</tbody>
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### Hitler gains power
- Continued to try to gain power after released from prison
- Economic effects of Great Depression helped cause

### Promises
- Germans desperate for strong leader to improve lives
- Promised to rebuild military
- Talk of mighty German empire, master race, won supporters

### Economy
- Born Austria 1889
- Served in German army World War I
- Soon joined Nazi Party
- Discovered he had knack for public speaking, leadership

### Hitler Controls Germany
- Began to crush opposition
- Many opponents arrested, others intimidated by Nazi thugs
- Cult of personality built up glorifying Hitler as the Führer, “leader”
- Nazi youth organizations shaped minds of young Germans

### Hitler’s Programs
- Began to rebuild German military
- Improved German economy
- Strict wage controls, massive government spending, reduced unemployment
- Much spending for rearmament
- Also new public buildings, roads

### Nazi Anti-Semitism
A key component of the Nazi system was strong anti-Semitic beliefs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long History</th>
<th>Laws Excluding Jews</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Semitism had long history in largely Christian Europe</td>
<td>Many laws passed excluding Jews from mainstream German life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nazi anti-Semitism combined this with false beliefs that Jews were separate race</td>
<td>1935 Nuremberg Laws created separate legal status for Jews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combined religious prejudice with hatred based on ancestry</td>
<td>Eliminated citizenship, civil and property rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuremberg Laws defined a person as Jewish based on ancestry of grandparents—not religious beliefs.</td>
<td>Right to work was limited</td>
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### 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
- Hitler’s Germany about to lead world into history’s bloodiest war
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.