

World War II 1939-1945



Objectives

- Define fascism, totalitarianism, and Nazism
- Analyze causes for the rise of the totalitarian dictators in Europe
- Summarize aspects of the Nuremberg Laws
- Explain how the depression plays a role in the rise of totalitarian leaders

The Rise of Mussolini in Italy



Benito Mussolini (1883-1945)

Problems after WWI

- 460,000 soldiers killed
- Heavy debt
- Britain and France did not give Italy the land they promised
- Governments were all coalitions that could not make decisions
- Rising unemployment led to unrest in cities

The Treaty of Versailles

- Italians believed that it treated them badly.
- Italy had not been given the land it was promised
- Italy's foreign Minister Orlando left before the conference ended, feeling humiliated.

What is Fascism?

- A system of government with centralized authority under a dictator.
- Usually involves terror, censorship, nationalism, and racism.



Benito Mussolini

Mussolini gains power

- Benito Mussolini set up a Fascist Party and promised to solve Italy's problems
- Promised to rebuild Italy and recreate the Roman Empire
- Organized armed gangs called the "Black shirts" used violence and intimidation against Mussolini's opponents
- Came to power in 1922 and was appointed Prime Minister to prevent a Communist Revolution in Italy



Mussolini dominated Italy in 1920s

- Used Fascism
- Attacked Ethiopia
 - Leader of Ethiopia approaches League of Nations and asks what they are going to do
 - League of Nations can't do anything but reprimand

1922 March on Rome

October 22-29

- It was to establish Mussolini and the Fascist Party as the most important party in Italy
- In 1921 the fascist parties in Italy joined together to form the Fascist Party
- Mussolini said this at a party conference:

"Either the government will be given to us or we shall seize it by marching on Rome."

Mussolini and Hitler



Mussolini and Hitler

- Hitler and Mussolini had a close relationship.
- Both hated communists, had a lot in common the way a country should be run, militaristic ambitions
- In October 1936 they signed a non-military alliance.
- Mussolini signed a full defensive alliance with Nazi Germany in the Pact of Steel.
- Form Rome Berlin Axis 1936 (Europe would revolve around that axis)

Italy during WWII

His troops were unprepared for the German invasion of Poland. Italy remained neutral.



Mussolini during WWII

Italy during WWII cont'd

- Italy soon declared war on Britain and France but troops were unprepared.
- Defeated by Greece and lost the world's first carrier strike.
- Italy was defeated on all fronts of the Anglo-American landing.



Mussolini

Mussolini's Execution 1945

Mussolini was taken prisoner by the partisans and was joined by his mistress, Clara Petacci.

A few days later they were shot to death.

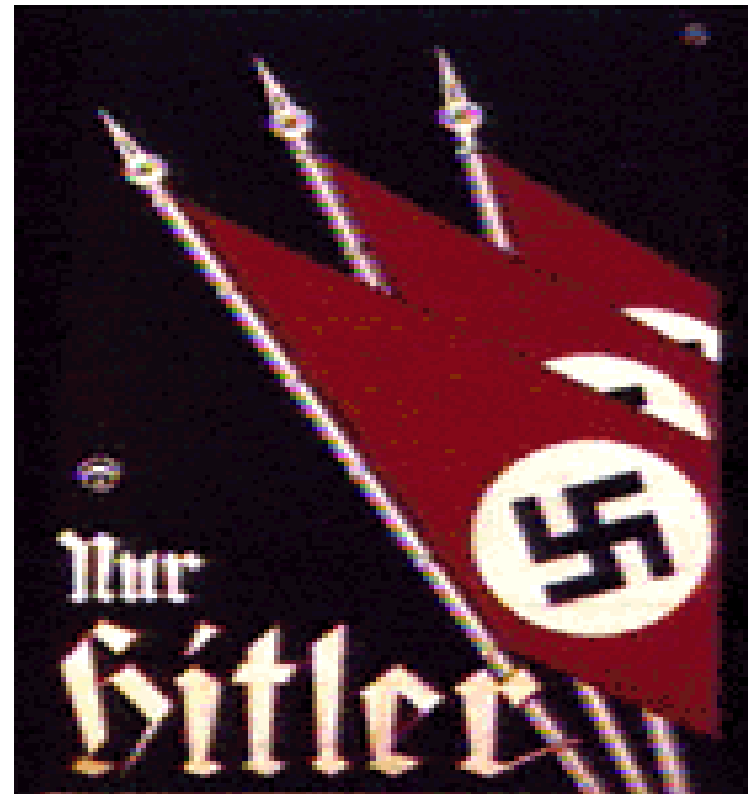
In April of 1945, their bodies were hung along with the bodies of other fascist leaders.



Mussolini and his mistress

Nazi Party

- Founded in 1919, the Nazi party was characterized by a strict authoritarian structure with the Fuehrer (leader) as its head.



Rise to Power

- The Nazi party's rise to power was facilitated by:
 - World depression
 - Cancellation of foreign loans to Germany
 - Withdrawal of foreign investments

Why would world depression impact the Nazi party's rise to power in Germany?

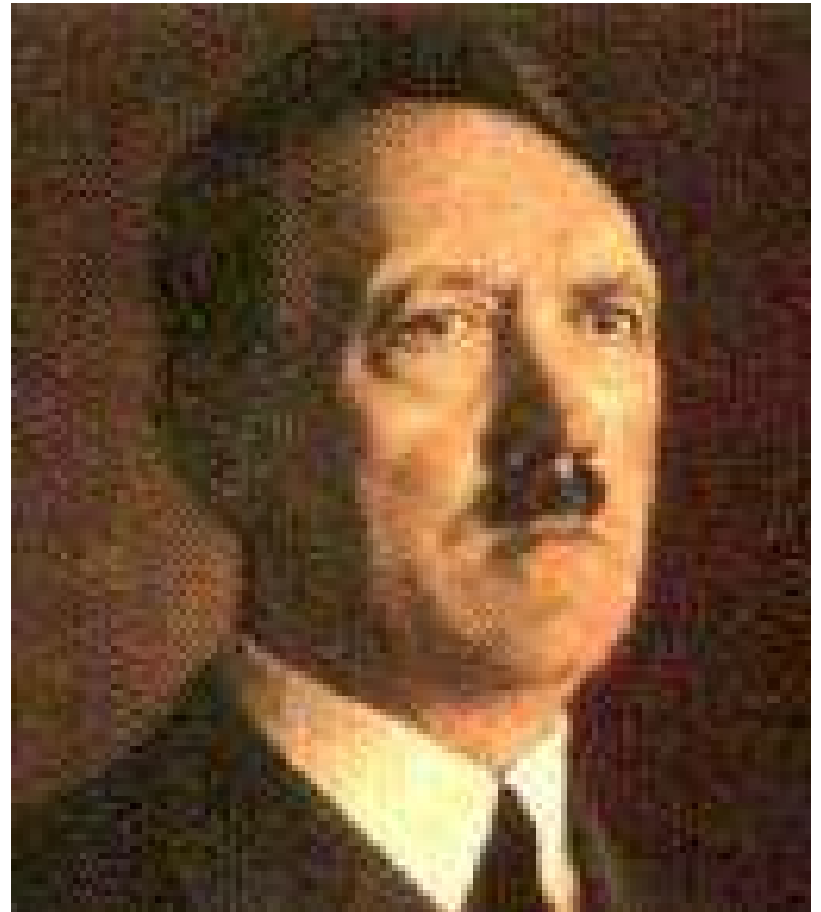
Unemployment

- In 1931, all banks closed and disorders broke out in many cities.
- Year later, the number of unemployed had reached six million (30%)



Salvation for the Masses

- Hungry, frightened, and desperate, the masses turned to Hitler as a source of salvation.
- Gave people jobs in military, building roads (autobahn)



Nuremberg Laws

- Passed in 1935
- Deprived German Jews of citizenship
- Marriages between Jews and citizens of German or kindred blood are forbidden
- Extramarital sexual intercourse between Jews and subjects of the state of Germany or related blood is forbidden
- Jews are forbidden to display the Reich and national flag or the national colors
- Jews cannot be bankers

Worldwide Depression 1930s

- Major cause for rise of dictatorships
- Made worse by countries raising TARIFFS against each other

Germany Violating Treaty of Versailles

- Germany refused to pay reparations under the “War Guilt Clause” in 1933.
- Along with military expansion, Hitler also began to rearm his country, which put military hardware at high demand.
- Germany forced unification with Austria referred to as “anschluss”
- Hitler also sent troops into Rhineland in 1936.
- Interesting enough, the Allies did nothing in response.



Homework

- Chapter 17 Section 1 questions: 1, and 6.
- Bring textbooks to class Thursday and bring in colored pencils and markers to label map.

Review

- What is fascism, and how did Mussolini gain control of the Italian government?
- What were some causes for the rise of the totalitarian dictators in the 1930s?
- How did the depression play a role in the rise of totalitarian leaders?

Objectives

- Define appeasement
- Identify an act of appeasement including the Munich Conference
- Locate various places that Hitler took over prior to the outset of WWII such as the Sudetenland
- Decide if Britain and France made a reasonable decision for the time when they appeased Hitler at Munich

So, what is “appeasement?”

- Do you know what it means to appease someone? What does it sound like?
- Appeasement means to give into an aggressor's demands
- Appeasement refers to how the major European powers of Great Britain and France did not take a stand against the aggressive actions of Hitler and Mussolini prior to the beginning of World War II.
- As you will see, what happens at the Munich Conference is the classic example of appeasement, but there are others as well.

Examples of Appeasement

- Germany began to remilitarize.
- What does this mean?
- Was it allowed to remilitarize?
- Should any nations have stepped in to force Germany to stop?
- What about the League of Nations?

Examples of Appeasement



- German troops marched into the Rhineland (this land was supposed to remain demilitarized as per requirement by the Treaty of Versailles).
- Should any nation have taken action as a result of this?

Example of Appeasement – Anschluss with Austria

- What was anschluss? Was this allowed?
- Hitler forced a unification with his home nation of Austria.
- Wanted Lebensraum--- “living space” for all Germans

Munich Conference

- Meeting to decide the fate of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia---1 of 2 remaining democratic countries left in Eastern Europe
- Britain and France agreed to allow Hitler to occupy the Sudetenland (wanted to avoid war)
- Britain and France were aware of Germany's violation of Treaty of Versailles (Neville Chamberlain), did nothing
- Appeasement – giving into an aggressor

Czechoslovakia Falls (Fall 1938)

- Hitler said the Czechs were abusing Sudeten Germans and also wanted more “living space” for Germans
- France and Britain had promised to protect Czechoslovakia. This means that if Germany attacked Czechoslovakia that Great Britain and France should declare war on Germany.
- Munich Pact: Chamberlain and Daladier. Hitler said it was his “last territorial demand”
- Sept. 30, 1938: signed pact turning the Sudetenland over to Germany without any conflict
- Chamberlain firmly believed that if he catered to the demands of Hitler and Mussolini, Britain could fully avoid another war in Europe.
- “Peace for our time”



- Why is it important to know that Great Britain and France did not stand up to Hitler's demands?
- How do you think the people of Great Britain reacted?

Britain's Response

- Crowds cheered: peace w/ honor
- Winston Churchill: Chamberlain adopted a policy of *appeasement* (giving up principles to pacify an aggressor).
- Churchill thinks this will cause war

Winston Churchill

- “They had to choose between war and dishonor. They chose dishonor; they will have war”
- What does this quote mean? How does Germany respond to appeasement?

What was Hitler's attitude toward the rest of Europe?

- Look closely at this cartoon.
- What is the message behind it?
- What are significant parts of the cartoon that demonstrate the concept?





The head eats ...
... the rest gets milked

- Go over homework

Response

- How was the Munich Conference a turning point in the road toward world war?
- Why is the policy of appeasement by Great Britain and France influential to the way the entire world is today?

Why the west appeased Hitler...

- Fear of destructive modern technology
- Widespread pacifism
- Hitler's actions seemed like a justifiable response to the harsh Treaty of Versailles
- Widespread economic depression
- Faith in diplomacy and compromise
- Misreading of Hitler's intentions

Objectives

- Discuss the Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939 and its effect on Eastern Europe
- Examine Stalin's reasons for not allying with France and Great Britain and why he chose Germany instead
- Explain Germany's invasion of Poland to ignite World War II
- Explain Blitzkrieg and why the German army was so successful using it

Nazi-Soviet Pact 1939

- Nonaggression agreement between Germany and Soviet Union
- Secretly, they agreed to divide Poland
- Gave Germany a free hand to invade Poland

BACKGROUND

- Stalin was worried about German threats to the Soviet Union since Hitler came to power in 1933
- Hitler had openly stated that he wanted Soviet land for his Lebensraum
- Stalin tried to create alliances with Britain and France but did not work out
- In 1934 Stalin took the USSR into the League of Nations as a guarantee against German aggression.

The League Of Nations

- Stalin gained no satisfaction from the League. Instead he saw failures
 - Germany violating Treaty of Versailles on numerous occasions

Britain and France

- Britain:
 - Some welcomed a strong Germany as a force to fight Communism.
 - Communism was seen as a bigger threat than Hitler
- France:
 - Stalin signed a pact with France in 1935
 - He did not trust the French to keep to it-especially after Rhineland

The Munich Agreement

- This agreement made Stalin even more wary
- Stalin was not consulted about the agreement
- Stalin concluded that Britain and France were powerless to stop Hitler
- Or that they were happy for Hitler to take over Eastern Europe and the USSR

The Next Moves

- Despite differences, Stalin talked to Britain and France about an alliance
- The three countries met in March 1939
- Chamberlain was reluctant to commit Britain
- Stalin believed that Britain and France made things worse by guaranteeing to defend Poland if it were attacked
- Chamberlain saw the guarantee as a warning to Hitler

- Why would Chamberlain be hesitant to commit to an alliance with the Soviet Union?

A Twist in the tale!

- Negotiations continued between Britain, France and the USSR throughout Spring and Summer 1939.
- Stalin, however, was also getting visits from Nazi foreign minister Ribbentrop to discuss a Nazi-Soviet pact

The deed is done!

- On 24 August 1939 Stalin made his decision and signed a pact with Germany
- The world was shocked as two arch enemies promised not to attack each other.
- Why was an agreement between Hitler and Stalin so shocking?

Why did Stalin sign the pact?

- Stalin was not convinced that Britain and France would be strong and reliable allies against Hitler
- He also wanted large parts of eastern Poland
- He did not believe that Hitler would keep his word. He wanted time to build up his forces.





Invasion of Poland

- On September 1, 1939 Germany invaded Poland without a declaration of war.
- Britain and France then declared war on Germany
- German and Soviet Union split Poland
- Soviet Union also invaded Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania
- Germany used blitzkrieg
- How does Germany know that using blitzkrieg will be effective?

Blitzkrieg BOP!

- 1931 Spanish Civil War
- Spanish revolted against King → King went to exile in North Africa revolutionaries created republic and elected new leaders. (Egypt?)
- A lot of conservatives wanted King back
- Francisco Franco invaded Spain (fascist) begins civil war. (Loyalists vs. Fascists) 500,000 died.
- If Franco didn't get help of Hitler and Mussolini war could have dragged longer; might not have won.
- Franco saw eye to eye with Hitler; wanted help
- Germany practices blitzkrieg in Guernica, Spain
- Republic lost, fascism triumphed.
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Blitzkrieg...What is it?

- Translated roughly into “Lightning War”
- The key to blitzkrieg is ... SURPRISE!
- It is designed to attack many different targets with overwhelming numbers so as to simply devastate the enemy.

Step One

- Attack with the Luftwaffe
 - Fighters (air superiority)
 - Stuka (Dive bombers)
 - Bombers
- Destroy Communications (radio...)
- Destroy Transportation (bridges, RR)
- Destroy Military Targets (bases, supply)

Step Two

- Next come the PANZERS (tanks)
- Hitler's military designers had developed extremely advanced tanks.
- Advance very quickly, and destroy any remaining targets that the Luftwaffe had left behind. (Comm, Trans, Military)

Step Three

- Finally come the infantry
- They had been training for several years and these troops were VERY ready.
- Hitler's troops were already battle experienced b/c of the Spanish Civil War.
- Their job was to MOP UP anything left.



Ending

- The Blitzkrieg was a style of battle, that had never been seen before.
- It was extremely successful, it was so overwhelming that no one had a defense to it.
- When other nations saw this attack they were not sure if Hitler was **THAT** good, or was Poland **THAT** bad
- Why do Germans know blitzkrieg would work?

This is a political cartoon from the late 1930s.

Identify the figures shown.

To what significant event is the artist referring? Discuss the significance of the saying at the end?

(5 minutes)



Review

- What was the Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939 and what was its effect on Eastern Europe
- What were Stalin's reasons for not allying with France and Great Britain? Why did he choose Germany instead?
- Explain Germany's invasion of Poland to ignite World War II.
- What is Blitzkrieg?