The Rise of Dictatorial Regimes
(17.10)
The Totalitarian State

**definition**: gov’t controls the political, economic, social, intellectual, & cultural lives of its citizens

**Characteristics**
- Uses propaganda & mass media (e.g. radio) to achieve full control over lives of citizens
- 1 leader & 1 party system of gov’t
Characteristics (cont.)

- “The State” more important than Individual freedoms
- Citizens expected to be actively involved in achieving goals of the State
- Goal of all: develop hyper-nationalism
Fascism in Italy

- Experienced effects of GD (like Europe & USA) as well as inflation (like Germany)

- So...
  - Workers went on strike (wanted better wages)
  - Socialists spoke of revolution against Democratic gov’t
  - Middle Class feared Communist take-over (like Russia)

- Result: Italians afraid + paranoid & look for stability
The Rise of Benito Mussolini

- Began as a socialist

- Created new political group called *Fascio di Combattimento* (i.e. Fascist/Black Shirts)

- **Fascism**: glorifies the state above the individual by emphasizing the need for a strong central gov’t led by a dictatorial ruler

- Fascism a version of Totalitarian system of gov’t (complete control)
The Rise of Mussolini (cont.)

- Mussolini & Fascists grew powerful b/c they appealed to:
  - Fear + paranoia over social unrest (were solution)
  - Anger over Treaty of Versailles (Italy didn’t get land)
  - Italian nationalism (return Italy to glory of Rome)

- Became PM after threatening to march on Rome “to protect Italy from Communists”
The Fascist State

- Gov’t punished any who criticized/questioned the gov’t
- PM allowed to create any law by decree (w/o approval)
- Police given unrestricted right to arrest and jail anyone for either political or non-political “crimes”
- Outlawed all other political parties
The Fascist State (cont.)

- Est. secret police (OVRA)
  - Watched citizens’ political activities & enforced gov’t policies

- Est. “State” media
  - All forms of media (e.g. radio, film, newspapers, etc.) controlled
  - Propaganda used to “mold” Italian society into 1 single-minded Fascist community
  - “Mussolini is always right”
The Fascist State (cont.)

- Est. of Fascist Youth organizations
  - 8-18 year olds
  - Learned military tactics & social values (return to old traditional, conservative values)
  - **Goal:** est. a new nation of Italians who were fit, disciplined, and war-loving
Fascism & the Catholic Church

Mussolini recognized:
- 1) legitimacy of Catholic Church & Vatican City
- 2) Catholicism sole religion of Italy

In exchange, the Pope & the Catholic Church recognized:
- 1) The legitimacy of Mussolini & the Fascist regime
- 2) Encouraged Italians to support Mussolini & Fascists
Totalitarianism in the USSR
Still problems in Soviet Union...

- During CW, Lenin & Communists seized control of most means of production (i.e. industries & farms)

- After CW, peasants revolted against Communist Control (e.g. hoarded food)

- Result: drop in Ag & industrial production = bad economy

- Bottom line: Russians want Lenin out & old Czar back!
Lenin’s New Economic Policy

- Peasants could sell own produce & keep money
- Businesses w/ < 20 workers could be privately owned & operated
- Major industries (e.g. mining, banking, etc.) remained under gov’t control
- What happened to Communism? This is more capitalism/socialism!
Lenin Dies - Now What?

- Division in **Politburo**: Communist Party’s main Legislative Body

- Options
  - **Option #1**: rapid Ind/ & spread communism abroad (Leon Trotsky)
  - **Option #2**: continue NEP & focus on building a socialist state (step toward true communism) in USSR only (Joseph Stalin)
If you had been a member of the politburo, which option would you have voted for and why? Justify your answer.
Joseph Stalin

- Held position of General Secretary in Politburo (responsible for gov’t position appointments)
- Appointed people who supported him & est. a dictatorship by 1929
- Trotsky lost power & fled to Mexico
Five-Year Plans

- Replaced NEP
- Est. economic goals for 5 year periods
- **Purpose**: transform USSR ASAP from Ag to Ind. country
- Plans emphasized max production of military equipment & manufacturing
Cost of Stalin’s Programs

• While production of oil, steel, & heavy machine quadrupled...

• Working conditions + wages declined

• Private property used for Ag production eliminated

• Collectivization: system in which private farm ownership is eliminated
Stalin’s Paranoia

- Stalin viewed everyone as a potential threat
- Allowed peasants to starve (17 million in 1932-1933)
- Sent 8+ million to gulags: forced labor camps in Siberia (most never seen again)
- “Purged” Communist party: Old Bolsheviks tried and executed
Stalin & The Great Purge

- **Great Purge**: elimination of all individuals (e.g. Military, politicians, ordinary citizens, etc.) who opposed Stalin and Communist vision (est. 8-20 million murdered)

- Stalin’s response to all opposition: DIE! DIE! DIE!
Summary

• What were the consequences of Stalin’s totalitarian state during the 1930s? (minimum 3)
Authoritarian States in the West
Eastern Europe & the Failure of Democracy

- Many countries (e.g. Austria, Hungary, Poland, etc.) became democracies after WWI
- Most failed b/c:
  1) little tradition of democracy (i.e. no experience)
  2) most of pop. was rural, agrarian, and illiterate
E. Europe & Failure of Democracy (cont.)

3) large land owners wanted to maintain trad. social structure (i.e. wealth & status)

4) Fear of communist take-over + ethnic conflict led many to want powerful gov’t for protection

Result: Authoritarian gov’t viewed as best option to maintaining old social system, peace, & security
Francisco Franco

- Fascist military leader who rebelled against Spanish gov’t (wanted to est. a dictatorship)

- Aided by Hitler and Mussolini w/ weapons, money, and soldiers

- Hitler actually used Spanish CW to test new weapons (e.g. Stuka Dive Bomber)
The 3\textsuperscript{rd} Reich Emerges

- **Bad news**: Hitler now has troops and weapons that have been tested and proven effective in combat

- **Result**: Uh-oh....