

THE RISE OF FASCISM

- In the 1920s and 1930s, a worldwide economic depression caused many people to lose faith in democracy and capitalism. Extreme ideals arose. Communists celebrated what they saw as the failure of capitalism. Strong leaders arose who supported intense nationalism, militarism, and a return to authoritarian rule. Fascism emerged in Germany and Italy.
- Fascists states were characterized by:
 1. Blind loyalty to a leader
 2. Use of violence and terror
 3. Strong military
 4. Censorship and government control of news
 5. Extreme nationalism
 6. State control of the economy
 7. Strict discipline
 8. Rule by dictator

Mussolini in Italy

- Italy was in trouble after WWI. Treaties had given away land that the Italians had expected to control. In addition, many war veterans could not find jobs. Trade was slow, taxes were high, and many workers were on strike.
- **Benito Mussolini** took advantage of the unrest, gathering a following of war veterans and other unhappy Italians. He called his group the Fascist Party and pledged to solve the nation's problems and strengthen Italy. Mussolini promised to solve the nation's problems and gain more land for Italy. He also vowed to outlaw rebellion among workers and get rid of communism.
- In 1922 the Fascists used force to gain control of Italy. They ended free elections, free speech, and the free press. They killed or jailed their enemies. Grasping desperately for order, Italians put the goals of the state above their individual rights.



Hitler in Germany

- After WWI, the Kaiser stepped down. Germany was in chaos. A new democratic government, the Weimer Republic, was blamed for agreeing to the harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles. Inflation (high prices, low wages) created major economic problems. The troubles of the time led to Nazi rise to power.
- **Adolf Hitler** promised to provide jobs and rebuild German pride. He stated that the Germans were a superior race who was destined to build a new empire. In 1920, he headed the National Socialist German Workers, or Nazi, Party. His Party grew. In 1933, Hitler was appointed chancellor.
- Hitler's Germany, called the **Third Reich**, was a totalitarian state. He built a one-party government, ended civil rights, silenced his enemies with force, put businesses under government control, and employed many people in large works programs. Germany's standard of living rose. Hitler rearmed Germany and built its military which violated the Treaty of Versailles.
- Hitler used the Jews as a scapegoat for Germany's problems. He instituted anti-Semitic policies. He used education and the arts as propaganda tools to push these policies. At first, Nazis organized boycotts of Jewish businesses, but by 1938 they were seizing the property and businesses of Jews and selling them to non-Jews. The Nuremberg Laws of 1935 took away the political rights and German citizenship of Jews.
- Few German citizens worried about Hitler's policies. Most were pleased at the growth of German pride and Germany's increased military and economic power.

Totalitarianism in Nazi Germany

Propaganda	Lack of Civil Liberties
The government controlled all sources of information – newspapers, radio, movies, and books. Schools taught Nazi ideas and children joined the Hitler Youth. Forbidden books were burned.	Only the Nazi Party was allowed and rival political parties were outlawed. The Gestapo (secret police) arrested and executed people without a trial.
Anti-Semitism	Economic Controls
Jews lost their property and citizenship. Their shops and synagogues were destroyed. They were forced to wear a yellow Star of David on their clothing. They were moved to ghettos and concentration camps.	Agricultural and industrial production was controlled. Labor unions and strikes were outlawed. Germans were put to work building public works and weapons. They were drafted into the military.