

Rise of Fascism in Europe

Fascism

- Origins
 - Grew out of World War I
 - Dissatisfied
 - Wanted to undo Treaty of Versailles
- Ideology
 - Reflected the values of the middle class
 - No single ideology
 - Middle class turning to the right
 - Conservative
 - No parliamentary rule
 - Dictatorships
 - Strong state
 - Charismatic leader
 - Cult of personality
 - Big business
 - Private property protected
 - Capitalistic
 - Individual served the state
 - Highly nationalistic
 - State more important than social/economic problems
 - Expanding borders
 - Use of violence
- Comparisons to communism
 - Similarities
 - Use of propaganda
 - Blame outsiders
 - One party
 - **Police State**
 - Censorship
 - Control of Education
 - Against religion
 - Secret police
 - Youth movements
 - Differences
 - Allowed private property
 - Racism
 - Role of class
 - Communist pushing for classless society
 - Fascism pushing for powerful business



Totalitarianism

- Complete and total control of a country by one party
 - Germany - Nazis
 - Russia - Communists
 - Italy - Fascists
- Heavily Nationalistic
 - Used Propaganda to spread ideas
 - Unified under single, all powerful (normally very charismatic) leader

Eugenics

- Belief that selective breeding could improve the general characteristics of a nation
 - o Popular in the US and Europe in 1920s and 1930s
 - o Tried using science to prove racial superiority
 - o Used as measure of social planning and nationalism
 - o Breed out “impurities”

Italian Fascism

- Italy’s problems had been intensified by World War I
 - o High cost of the war
 - 148 billion lire
 - Twice the government expenditures from before the war
 - o 1861-1913
 - o Cost 700,000 lives
- Felt cheated by the Allies
 - o Did not get all the land they were promised by the Treaty of London
 - Got the South Tyrol and Trieste
 - Were refused Fiume and Dalmatia
 - Territories not Italian enough
- Inflation hurt the middle class
- Demobilized soldiers were unemployed
- Politicians only cared about staying in power

Benito Mussolini

- Originally was a socialist
 - o Editor of the socialist paper *Avanti*
 - o Gradually became an interventionist and wanted to participate in World War I
 - expelled from the party
- Started his own political group **Fascio di Combattimento**
 - o Failed to win any seats in the parliament
 - Parliament split between the socialists (largest party), liberals, and popolari (Christian Democrats)
 - Other parties were so split that the government was not effective
 - o Socialists called for “revolution” and strikes in both industry and agriculture
 - Scared the middle and upper classes
 - “Red Scare”
 - Class warfare
 - o Mussolini became a “rightist”
 - Anti-communist, anti-strike, nationalistic, willing to use physical force
 - **Squadristi**- Mussolini’s gang that went around and attacked socialist offices and newspapers, and strikers
- Temporarily allied with the liberal Prime Minister Giovanni Giolitti
 - o Giolitti naively expected to “use” Mussolini to overpower the socialists
 - o Alliance gave Mussolini “respectability” and a tolerance of the squadristi
- Use of force
 - o ☑ 1921 Mussolini had 200,000 squadristi (veterans and “students”) who he dressed in **black shirts**.
 - They deliberately created disorder to create a fear of “disorder”
 - Squadristi were seen as “bringers of order” by panic stricken middle/upper classes
- October of 1922 Mussolini demanded control of the



government

- Or he would march on Rome
- Victor Emmanuel III made Mussolini Prime Minister
 - Next day: black shirts marched into Rome
 - Created a myth that the Fascists took power by armed insurrection after a civil war
 - In reality Mussolini just having a victory parade in Rome
- Mussolini gains Power
 - At first Fascists had only a few seats in parliament
 - Moved slowly to consolidate power
 - Split in Fascists supporters
 - Rural fascists wanted to seize complete power
 - Industrial, church, and landowning fascists followed Mussolini because they wanted order
 - New elections
 - 1923 Acerbo Law- any party that got 25% of the votes got 2/3 seats in Parliament
 - De-facto rule of the country
 - April 1924 Fascists won 65% of the vote
 - Lots of fraud and force and intimidation

Consolidated power

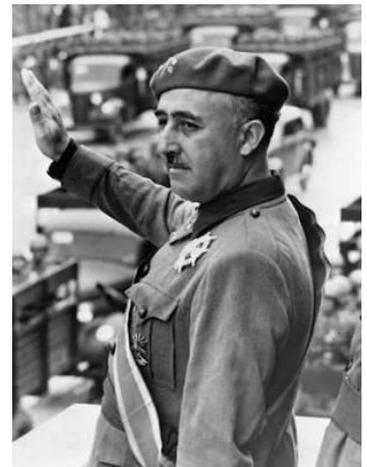
- Mussolini wanted to intimidate the opposition
 - Giacomo Matteotti (socialist)
 - Assassinated
 - People figured Mussolini was behind the assassination
 - Would therefore have to quit
 - Mussolini took responsibility for the violence of the Fascists
 - Said he would make Italy peaceful, "by force if necessary"
- 1926 New laws that made Italy a Fascists dictatorship
 - Controlled on the press
 - Suspended publications that did not respect the Church, the king, and the state
 - Prime Minister was officially defined as the head of state
 - Replaced the king
 - Could rule by decree
 - No need for parliament
 - Police can arrest and imprison anyone for political or non-political crimes
 - No due process
 - Government had to ability to dissolve any political or cultural group it did not like
 - All anti-Fascist political parties were outlawed
 - Authorized secret police
- Limits of Fascist power
 - Education was still not entirely under state control
 - There were youth organizations
 - Were not so appealing
 - Attempt to make everyone go to public schools
 - The upper and middle classes still sent their children to private schools
 - Military and monarchy not under Fascist control
 - Industrialists and large landowners stayed in control
- **Lateran Accords of 1929**
 - For the Church
 - Sovereign control of Vatican City
 - A lot of money



- Catholicism is the “sole religion of the state”
 - For Mussolini/ state
- Papal recognition of the Italian state
 - Church will encourage support for the fascists
- Social policy- traditional
 - Women were bound to the home
 - Discouraged employment of women outside of the home
 - It formed habits contrary to child bearing
 - Bonuses for large families
- Attitudes
 - Pro-war
 - Life is duty, struggle, and conquest
 - Proud that Fascism is the opposite of socialism
 - Opposed democracy and equality
 - State is absolute
 - People exist to serve the state
 - Imperialism is a sign of strength
- **The corporate state**
 - Workers and employers are forced to work together under the direction of the state
 - Private ownership controlled for the interest/benefit of the state
 - Syndicates
 - Nationwide organizations
 - One for each industry and includes workers and professionals
 - Decided how much and where the products went
 - “Corporations”
 - Administrative agencies that united and controlled workers and employers
 - They basically did whatever Mussolini said
 - No strikes or lockouts

Spain

- 1923 General Miguel Primo de Rivera coup
 - A royally approved dictatorship
- 1931 depression and fall of the dictatorship
 - King Flees
 - Creation of a Republic
- Republic unstable (left/right)
- 1936 Popular Front included democrats, socialists, and communists
 - Rejection by army
- 1936-1939 Spanish Civil War
 - Popular Front
 - Got help from the Soviet Union
 - Fascists led by **General Francisco Franco**
 - Got help from Italy and Germany
 - Franco won and was dictator until he died in 1975
 - Not a “Fascist” government
 - Falange official fascist party and did not play a big part



Portugal

- 1910 monarchy was overthrown
 - Established a republic
- Inflation after World War I
 - Instability
- 1926 army took over
- 1930-1970 Antonio Salazar

Germany

- Problems of Weimar Republic
 - o Uprisings and attacks from the left (socialists and communists) and the right (Nazi followers)
 - o Leadership- there wasn't any real leadership
- Von Hindenburg was elected President
 - o Monarchist
 - o Did not support democracy
- Army was not under government control
- Anti-democratic people had influence
 - o Teachers were still monarchists
 - Taught how bad democracy was
 - o Judges and bureaucrats also undermined the democracy
 - o Aristocrats and heads of businesses did not want to give up power
- Inflation hurt many people
 - o Middle class pushed towards the right
- Social discontent and growth of extremist parties

Adolf Hitler

- Early failure
 - o Not a spectacular background
 - *Austrian*
 - Wanted to be a painter, but he was rejected from school
 - Served in World War I
 - Part of German Army
 - Only got as high as a corporal
- Claimed that his experiences in Vienna made him an anti-Semite
 - o Extreme nationalist- wanted to unite all Germans
 - Hitler met Georg von Schonerer led the Pan-German movement
 - Extreme nationalist
 - Wanted to unite all the Germans in one state
 - including Austrians
 - Karl Luger was the anti-Semitic mayor of Vienna
 - Adolf Lanz monk who preached superiority of Aryans
 - Inferior races should be eliminated
 - Saw more religious Jews that looked different
 - Thought they were polluting cultural life
- Munich
 - o Joined German Worker's Party
 - Took it over and renamed it the National Socialist German Workers' Party
 - "Nazi" for short
 - Made it a mass movement
 - Oratory, flags, badges, uniforms, newspapers
 - **Storm Troops**- like the *squadristi*, but in brown shirts
 - o **1923- Beer Hall Putsch**
 - Failed attempt at taking over the government
 - Hitler was tried for treason, convicted and sentenced for 5 years
 - Judge supported rightists



- In prison writes ***Mein Kampf***
 - Lebensraum- room to live
 - Superior individuals have the right to expand
 - Regional organization
 - Extreme nationalism, anti-communism, anti-Semitism, social Darwinism
- Reorganization of the party
 - Fuhrerprinzip
- 1930 elections Nazis got 18%
 - Chancellor Bruning could not get a working majority in Parliament
 - Too many parties
 - President von Hindenburg ruled “by decree”
 - Had the power to issue laws as if they were passed by Parliament
 - 1931: unemployment = 4.35 million
 - 1932 = 6 million
 - Rapid growth of Nazi party
 - Sept 1930- 289,000 Nazis
 - 1932- 800,000 Nazis and SA had 500,000 thugs
 - Modern election techniques + lies 230 seats in July 1932 (largest party)
 - “Hitler over Germany”- slogan in 1932
 - Hitler flew and spoke in 50 cities in 15 days
 - Von Hindenburg still won president
 - Right wing upper class hoped to use Nazi mass support to create a right wing authoritarian government
 - Wanted to “use” Hitler, just like the Italians did with Mussolini
 - Von Hindenburg was pressured to make Hitler Chancellor
 - January 30th, 1933
- Nazis take control
 - Hermann Goring- Minister of the Interior
 - Control of police
 - Got non Nazis out of the police
 - Established auxiliary police SA
 - Storm Troopers, like the black shirts of Italy
 - Fire in the Reichstag February 27th
 - Still unknown who did it
 - Von Hindenburg gave the government “emergency” powers
 - Hitler blamed the communists
 - To Hitler, communists are Jews
 - Suspended all basic rights of citizens
 - Nazis can arrest and imprison anyone for no reason
 - March 5th election- Nazis used the emergency decree to limit the opponents from campaigning
 - Thugs got 288 seats
 - Still not a majority
 - **Enabling Act**
 - Changed the constitution
 - Hitler made a deal with the Catholic Center Party for them to vote for the act
 - Made Hitler a dictator
 - Abolished the Reichstag and von Hindenburg
 - Hitler had the ability to rule by decree
 - Reich cabinet can do anything it wants
 - Cabinet did anything Hitler said



- Gleichschaltung
 - Coordination of all institutions under the Nazis
 - Trade unions were replaced by a Nazi controlled national labor front

Ruling the Nazi State

- Mass participation
 - Wanted to get everyone involved in the state to dominate Europe or even the world for 1,000 years
 - Spectacle
 - Parades, mass speeches, and music all to arouse passion among the citizens
 - Tried to promote unity by combining aspects of a religious ceremony and amusement
- Authoritarian anarchy
 - Parallel government and party bureaucracies compete for influence over foreign policy, education, and the economy
 - Created fighting between government and party
 - Hitler swooped in and ended chaos
- Economic control
 - Business was in private hands but government controlled it
 - Goal: end unemployment
 - Private construction could get government grants
 - Public works
 - Rearmament
 - Unemployment dropped
 - Public acceptance
 - German Labor Front
 - A national union controlled by the government
 - Entertainment for workers
 - Trips, sports, etc...
- Force and Terror
 - Until '34, mostly SA was involved in the use of force
 - June- purge
 - *Ernst Rohm executed*
 - Leader had wanted SA to serve as Army
 - SS- originally Hitler's bodyguards
 - Indoctrinated in racism
 - Became the new SA
 - Terror
 - Concentration camps, death camps, death squads
- Perversion of "normal" groups
 - Catholic and Protestant Churches
 - Schools and Universities
 - Doctors, women, lawyer, etc...
 - All these groups were turned to be pro-Nazi
 - Youth
 - Hitler Youth and Girls Groups were taught to give all their energy to the state
- Anti-Semitism
 - Joseph Goebbels
 - Propaganda director



- Gradual growth of anti-Semitic policies
 - April 1st, 1933 boycott
 - Exclusion of Jews from influential positions
 - 1935 Nuremberg Laws
 - Jews lost citizenship
 - Defines “Jews” racially
- Hassle
- Kristallnacht
 - turned to violence
- Women
 - Women should be wives and mothers
 - Could work in heavy industry
 - “Could harm them producing strong children”
 - Women could be social workers or nurses
 - Men had the big prominent jobs
 - Women had limited job opportunities
- Nazi Eugenics
 - Needed to “purify” Germany
 - Idea of Aryan super race
 - Scientists dispatched around world searching for Aryan culture
 - Segregate and eliminate
 - Groups Targeted
 - Gypsies
 - Jews
 - Homosexuals
 - Mentally and Physically Disabled

