

## World History

### Measurement Topic 4: The Cause and Effect of WW2

Level 3: Learn it, study it, and then test it

Learning Target #1: How were totalitarian leaders able to rise to power?

After World War 1 Europe was left with many issues, nearly every nation was left bankrupt. Nations had used all their economic resources to fight the war. These economic issue caused a worldwide great depression resulting in extremely high unemployment, wide spread starvations, and riots. After World War 1, many long standing empires were dissolved creating new nations with weak governments. These weak governments were faced with economic issues, the great depression, and low population of men, starvation, violence and people suffering. People were looking for an end to their misery, as a result of all the issues, people turned to dominate leaders known as totalitarians who promised an end to all the suffering. **A totalitarian leader is a leader who has and wants total, absolute control over their nation, government and people using any method.**

Russia, prior to the end of WW1, saw a large change with the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution which lead Russia to change from an empire to a communist nation. When the new leader Lenin passed away **Joseph Stalin** took over and he renamed Russia the USSR (Soviet Union). He was able to gain the support from the people by brainwashing them with **propaganda**. He controlled the newspaper, movies, radio, education, books, art, and all other forms of media promoting how wonderful communism was for the USSR (Russia). He further gained control of the people by selecting jobs, salaries, and living space for people. He had taken all private land from the farmers and made it into one massive farm which produced food for all of Russia. Communism was the only political group that was allowed and Stalin expected total obedience from everyone who lived in Russia. He also destroyed churches and killed religious leaders because Stalin felt they were dangerous to communism. Those who didn't follow communism would be terrorized by the secret police, jailed, and possibly killed.

Russia was not the only nation to become totalitarian, Italy lead by **Benito Mussolini** also became a totalitarian nation; Mussolini changed Italy into a Fascist nations. Fascist believed that the nation is more important than the individual. Fascism is nationalism at its most extreme. Under Mussolini's authority, the Italian government also used **propaganda** to promote extreme loyalty for Italy. Mussolini would give public speeches, march in parades, and openly praise those that showed their loyalty and support for Italy. Mussolini promised that through unity, Italy would once again be a powerful nation. Mussolini began fixing unemployment, and other issues in Italy, gaining the people's support. Like in Russia, the Italian fascist government also controlled all the media, newspapers, radios, books and used secret police or **vigilantly groups** (ordinary citizens with guns) to terrorize and control the people, keeping them from questioning the authority or actions of Mussolini's fascist government. Those who did not follow Mussolini were arrested, jailed, beaten, tortured and or killed.

Germany, much like the rest of Europe, was struggling with the effects from WW1. Germany had a new government, was faced with wide spread unemployment, starvation, and inflation(fake \$). The German people were also upset regarding how they were treated following the Treaty of Versailles (having to admit guilt, pay billions and losing their military). This struggle created the perfect environment for another Totalitarian leader to take over, **Adolf Hitler**. Hitler wanted Germany to be brought back to its formal glory prior to WW1. He felt this would be possible by eradicating/destroying those weaker races such as the Jews, Slavic people, Poles and other groups. Hitler believed the Aryan race was far superior and needed to dominate Germany and the rest of the world. He **promised** Germans a new, powerful Germany with national pride and honor if the followed him and his plan. Hitler, like Mussolini and Stalin, used **propaganda** to promote his ideas. Hitler would hold public rallies, marches, and speeches to rally the people to support his ideas and beliefs. Those who did not follow his ideas and beliefs would be sent to concentration camps or arrested by the secret police.

Answer the following questions with complete sentences.

1. Why were (what led to) totalitarian nations created?
2. Where were totalitarian nations created?
3. Who were totalitarian leaders?
4. What is propaganda and how was it used to support the totalitarian leaders?
5. What happened to those that did not support the totalitarian leaders?
6. Complete the open mind below. Label the name of each totalitarian leader, nation and main ideas (key beliefs) of each person.

