



Hollow Times

World War II was tough but there is no

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Rise of Dictators: Eurasia (Heavenly Naluz)

Stalin and the USSR

- **Joseph Stalin** led the Soviet Union in the 1920s
- Czar was overthrown by Communists in 1917 **Vladimir Lenin** established a government
- **Communists** are people who believe socialism and protecting workers as well as creating equal opportunity for everyone
- Once Lenin passed away, Stalin took control over Soviet Russia by establishing a strong bureaucracy eliminating potential rivals, and introducing **socialism** in one country
- Socialism is a social and economic system characterized by social ownership

Key Characteristics of Stalinism

- Stalin had a strong belief that the power of the Communist government in Russia, rather than spreading revolution across the world
- In 1928 Stalin introduced the series of **Five-Year Plans**,
- The Five-Year plans detailed roadmaps designed to industrial the country
- The roadmaps were mainly focused on the coal and steel sectors and the production of industrial equipment
- Stalin enforced **collectivization** to improve agricultural
- Collectivization is organization on the basis of ownership by the people or the state
- Collectivization caused much anger among the farmers, many unwilling landowners were killed or imprisoned at Gulag while many more migrated

Treaty of Versailles

Totalitarianism is a political system in which the state recognizes no limits to its authority and strives to regulate every aspect of public and private life wherever feasible.

First World War Principle Causes

- Killed 10 million soldiers
- 13 million citizens killed by direct & indirect cause of war
- Weapons-machine guns, gas warfare
- Victorious powers placed harsh treaties on defeated nations
- Treaties took territories and imposed reparation payments
- Russia, Central Powers (Austria-Hungary, Germany, Bulgaria, & Ottoman Empire) didn't take part in treaty negotiation
- **Big Four**-France, Great Britain, Italy, & America were leaders of peace conference
- Allies thought Germany to be main provoker of war

- Article 231 "War Guilt Clause"
- article 231 forced Germany to take responsibility for starting war
- Allies limited German army to 100,000 men
- Banned maintenance of submarine fleet

Reaction of Germany

- saw Versailles Treaty as dictated peace and unfair
- Wanted to revise terms of treaty and even wanted to violate treaty

Impact of Treaty on German People

- **Great Depression 1929**
- Destabilized German nation
- Savings of middle class was wiped out
- Wide unemployment

Totalitarianism in Europe

- **Totalitarianism** is a political system in which the state recognizes no limits to its authority and strives to regulate every aspect of public and private life wherever feasible.
- Russia, Germany, and Italy considered mean totalitarian states

Key Characteristics of National Socialism

- Nazis needed to territorially expand Germany.

- Nazis glorified the concept of a strong leader, a dictator who would personify the national beliefs and practices of the country.
- Eastern Europeans racially inferior to Germans would provide the required Lebensraum, or living space.

Key Events Prior to 1938-1939

- On February 27, 1933, the German parliament building, the Reichstag, mysteriously caught fire and burned.
- He used the incident to force the passage of the Enabling Act, which suspended the Weimar constitution for four years, granting Hitler almost complete power.
- In October 1933, Hitler took Germany out of the League of Nations.
- In March 1935, he announced the a sizeable increase of German military, made military service compulsory and proposed rebuilding of the German air force.
- In 1936, Hitler also officially aligned with Imperial Japan and with Fascist Italy in 1937 via the Anti-Comintern in an effort to hem in the Soviet Union.
- By 1939, a crisis situation was already palpable and the Western powers continued to appease the Nazi dictator.

Militarism in Japan

- Beginning with the Meiji Restoration in 1868, Japanese leaders opted for a middle ground between these two positions.
- Eventually it was the economic problems associated with the Great Depressions that led Japan to adopt a government based on militarism.
- Evidently, by 1931 Japan felt the need to militarism based on these factors.

Japan in the 1930's

- On September 18, 1931, Japanese military blew up a section of the railroad that supplied Japan with critically important raw material and then pinned the incident on Chang's forces.
- In September 1932, the Japanese established a new, independent country in place of Manchuria called Manchukuo.

Mussolini's Rise To Power (Gurneet Randhawa)

- **Mussolini** introduced **Fascist Grand Council**=let him decide policy for Italy without consulting other people (tyranny)
- introduced **Acerbo Law**= if 1 party got 25 percent votes in an election, they would control 65% of the parliament
- fascists thugs were used to prevent politicians from speaking against the law on the day voted
- March Election=passing of Acerbo Law=he got power of 65% of parliament
- **Giacomo Matteoti** (leading socialist) condemned Mussolini in public, murdered= non-fascist walk out of parliament
- Mussolini took opportunity to get rid of opposing members, he slowly introduced **dictatorship**
- Nov. 1926- rivals parties and newspapers banned
- reintroduce **Death Penalty** for "serious political offenses"
- puts loyal supporters on top level of grand council, replace mayors
- 1939-parliament abolished

What is Fascism?

- **Fascism**= an extreme right-wing system of ideas that are different from other modern political ideas, such as socialism, liberalism and democratic ideas
- Favors extreme and violent nationalism that emphasizes power and importance of Italian state
- does not believe in peace being permanently established (utility of perpetual peace)

The Munich Crisis (Olivia Gregory)

- Hitler targeted Czechoslovakia
- British Prime Minister **Neville Chamberlain** and French Prime Minister **Edouard Daladier** met in Munich
- This became known as the **Munich Conference**
- Britain and France convinced Czechoslovakia to hand over their borders to Germany to avoid war
- Poland became the center of the next European crisis
- **August 1939** Germany and the Soviet Union signed the **Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact** (even though Soviet Union was Hitler's main target)
- **September 1, 1939** (beginning of World War II Germany) invades Poland
- When Germany invaded Austria then Czechoslovakia Britain and France knew they had to begin to prepare for war