

# ***UNIT 4- THE SECOND WORLD WAR***

***DAY 1***



# **THE RISE OF DICTATORS**

***"POWER TENDS TO CORRUPT, AND  
ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY.  
GREAT MEN ARE ALMOST ALWAYS BAD MEN."  
- LORD ACTON***



# OBJECTIVES

- Understand why so many countries saw dictatorial leaders following WWI
  - Identify the 6 primary causes of WWII
  - Compare and Contrast the four “Dictators”
- *Terms:*
    - Inflation
    - Dictator
    - Benito Mussolini
    - Fascism
    - Adolf Hitler
    - Nazism
    - Emperor Hirohito
    - Joseph Stalin
    - Appeasement



# REMIND ME...

- What was America's economy like during the 30s?
- What were some of the changes FDR instituted?
- Why would people support some of those things that seem like government encroachment?
- Remember that, as we judge other countries, that we, too, gave up some "liberty" for other things...

# VERSAILLES OF RELIEF

- *Remember that silly little “war to end all wars”?*
- *Who won?*
- *What were the conditions for the “losers”?*
- *See, the Treaty of Versailles, in many ways, set the world up for failure... especially financially.*



# COMPLICATED INFLATIONSHIPS

- **As a result of high debt from WWI, many countries in Europe experienced high inflation**
  - **A general increase in price**
  - *Decrease in the purchasing power of money*
- *This was especially true in Germany where “hyperinflation” destroyed the economy*
- *People were buying a loaf of bread with a wheelbarrow full of money*
- *And thus, people wanted something, ANYTHING that was better...*







# **FLEX YOUR MUSSOLINI**

- **In Italy, the people elected *Benito Mussolini***
- **A journalist originally**
- **Democratically elected**
- **Mussolini slowly became a dictator**
  - **Leader with total power**
  - **Unelected / Uses force to stay in power**
- **Mussolini also promoted the idea of fascism**
- ***Was in power for over 20 years!***





**WARNING**



**FASCISM**



# ITALIAN FASC-ION

- **Fascism**
  - **Radical Nationalism**
  - **Dictatorial rule**
  - **Suppression of opposition** (*with force*)
  - **Leader controls industry**



# HITLER BABY, ONE MORE TIME

- *Meanwhile, as earlier discussed, Germany was especially hard-hit economically*
- *They, too, looked for a leader that could “regain their glory”*



- **Adolf Hitler**

- Career politician / powerful speaker
- **Also** democratically elected
- Very quickly suppressed democracy
- Focused on inflation, unemployment, and anger over **Treaty of Versailles**
- **Becomes** Chairman of the Nazi Party
- 1936 Forms alliance with Mussolini  
(*Germany with Italy*)







Adolf Hitler

# Mein Kampf

Eher Verlag



# NAZISM

- **“The National Socialist German Workers’ Party”**
  - *Although we will learn why they weren’t truly Socialists, and why Communists hated them*
- **German superiority**
- **Anti-Semitic** (*anti-Jewish*)
- **Germany has a *right* to expand, and have a military**







# JAPANESE DEMON

- *Of course, economic woes aren't the only reason countries go to war*
- *Remember “Nationalism” and “Militarism”?*
  - *What do they mean?*
- *In the Far East, many Japanese felt they had a right to China and nearby countries and resources*
- *Saw themselves as racially superior*
- *Their Emperor, Hirohito, agreed*
  - *Began a major build up of military*
  - *Promoted the idea of Japanese control of the entire Pacific*
  - *NOT elected (“Emperor”)*



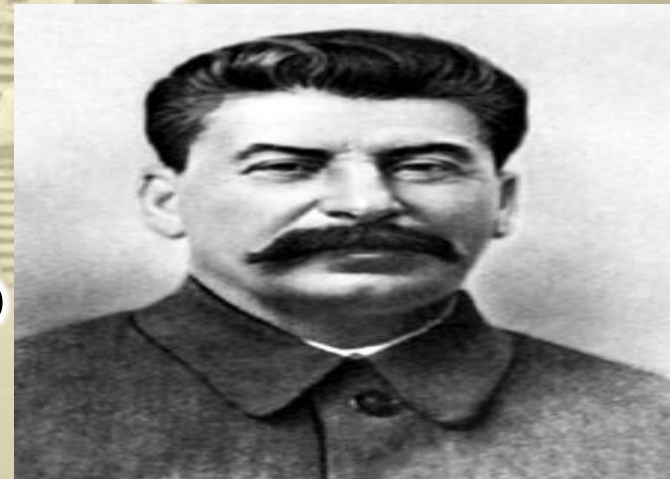




“The Japanese People have been chosen for this one purpose – to control the Pacific from the Americas to Australia. This is why we exist. ”

# BACK IN THE U.S.S.R.

- Finally, it's important to study a country that would wind up on *both* sides in WWII – The Soviet Union
- *While Lenin had made them Communist, his successor, Joseph Stalin became a dictatorial leader*
  - Chosen by the Communist Party **to succeed**
  - Rapid agricultural and industrial growth
  - “Cult of Personality”
    - Eliminate religion, limit artistic expression, and use extreme censorship
  - **Murders millions more Russians than WWII will!**









# APPEASE AND THANK YOU

- *Finally, it's important to note that there always exists those who would abuse power, or harm others*
- *Part of what made this time period so damaging is that, for most of these actions*
  - *Hitler rebuilding military, Stalin purging the peasants, Mussolini invading Africa, Japan attacking naval vessels - the world largely ignored or allowed them.*
- **WHY?**



# APPEASE AND THANK YOU

- **Appeasement**

- **Conceding to aggression**
- **Avoiding confrontation**

- **Why might this be so bad?**

- **What could it lead to?**

- **The irony, is that many who were willing to do almost anything or allow anything to avoid war, ultimately helped cause one...**

# CAUSES OF WWII

- While, like all wars, there are **MANY** factors, the primary ones for WWII will be:
  - 1) Fascism
  - 2) Appeasement
  - 3) Treaty of Versailles
  - 4) Expansionism
  - 5) Nazism
  - 6) Depression
- *That's right, it spells "Fat End" ☺*



# AND SO...

- *The Great Depression hit the world with such force that many nations were forced to find ways to economically survive*
- *Some chose invasion, others extreme nationalism, and others socialism, but nearly all learned the hard lesson that in a choice between liberty and bread, most people choose bread.*
- *It would be almost comical, if it weren't real.*





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