

GEORGIA COMMISSION ON THE HOLOCAUST

World History

SSWH18 Examine the major political and economic factors that shaped world societies between World War I and World War II.

- b. Describe the rise of fascism in Europe and Asia by comparing the policies of Benito Mussolini in Italy, Adolf Hitler in Germany, and Hirohito in Japan.
- c. Describe the nature of totalitarianism and the police state that existed in the Soviet Union, Germany, and Italy and how they differ from authoritarian governments.
- d. Explain the aggression and conflict leading to World War II in Europe and Asia; include the Italian invasion of Ethiopia, the Spanish Civil War, the Rape of Nanjing in China, and the German violation of the Treaty of Versailles.

OVERVIEW

Fascism is a far-right political philosophy, or theory of government, that emerged in the early twentieth century. Fascism prioritizes the nation over the individual, who exists to serve the nation. While fascist movements could be found in almost every country following World War I, fascism was most successful in Italy and Germany. (USHMM Holocaust Encyclopedia)

LESSON: Rise of Fascism in Italy and Germany

New Terms

Authoritarianism – enforcement of strict obedience to authority

Communism – a political and economic system which has the government owns all factories, equipment and property; wealth is meant to be shared among all workers

Militarism – belief that a country should have a strong military and use it offensively to advance its goals

Nationalism – loyalty and devotion to your own country, above all others;

One-party state – a state or country ruled by only one political party

The National Community (who does and does not belong) – In Germany, the National Community, or Volksgemeinschaft was open only to those who the Nazi regime identified as being of “German blood.” Jews, Black people, and Roma (Gypsies) were excluded from the National Community.

Socialism - under communism, most property and economic resources are owned and controlled by the government; under socialism, all citizens share equally in economic resources as allocated by a democratically-elected government.

Totalitarianism – a type of government which completely controls each of its citizens’ lives; there is no individual freedom

READ: Fascism

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<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/fascism-1>

| FACISM SUPPORTS | FASCISM REJECTS |
|---|---------------------------|
| Nationalism | Communism |
| Militarism | Socialism |
| Totalitarianism | Individual rights |
| The national community (who does and does not belong) | Equality |
| Violence | Democratic government |
| One-party state | Representative government |
| National unity | Pluralism |
| Expansion of territory | |
| Authoritarianism | |

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

How did the end of World War I lead to the rise of fascism?

Benito Mussolini and Fascism in Italy

Source: <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/benito-mussolini-1>

Explain how Mussolini rose to power in Italy.

How did the Italian constitution contribute to the Fascists' rise to power?

What was Mussolini's government's policy regarding the Jews of Italy? What happened to the Italian Jews when his government fell?

ACTIVITY:

Create a timeline from 1919 – 1925 in which you list the events that led to Mussolini's rise to power in Italy.

Adolf Hitler and Fascism in Germany

Sources:

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/adolf-hitler-and-world-war-i-1913-1919?series=4>

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/adolf-hitler-1919-1924>

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/adolf-hitler-1924-1930?series=4>

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/adolf-hitler-1930-1933?series=4>

Explain how Hitler rose to power in Germany.

What myths and misconceptions about the early life of Hitler are disproved in the article covering 1913-1919?

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List 5 provisions of the Treaty of Versailles that were severe punishments for Germany.

Map courtesy of US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Source: <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/treaty-of-versailles?series=199>

What do you think are the qualities and characteristics of a leader? Did Hitler have these qualities? Explain.

What were 5 of the campaign promises of the Nazi Party?

What was the Beer Hall Putsch? What was its goal?

After the putsch failed, how did Hitler change his tactics?

Explain how Hitler and the Nazis made fascism and antisemitism legal.

Using the Holocaust Chronology and the articles you read, list when, and how, the Nazi regime violated the Treaty of Versailles. How did other countries react? What do you think Hitler and the Nazi regime learned from this?

ACTIVITIES:

Create a timeline from 1913 – 1933 in which you list the events that led to Hitler's rise to power in Germany. Include at least 2 photographs and 1 map from the sources. Make sure to include captions and provide credit for the images.

Sources: <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/fascism-1>

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/benito-mussolini-1>

Fill in the charts on Nazi Fascism and Italian Fascism. Compare and contrast Nazi and Italian Fascism.