

NAME: _____

Mussolini's Italy

At first, Fascists held only a few cabinet posts. By 1925, though, Mussolini had assumed more power and taken the title *Il Duce* (EEL Doo chay), "The Leader." He suppressed rival parties, muzzled the press, limited the number of voters, and rigged elections. In provinces and towns, he replaced elected officials with Fascist supporters.

In theory, Italy remained a parliamentary monarchy. In fact, it was a dictatorship upheld by Fascist violence and terror. Critics were thrown into prison, forced into exile, or murdered outright. Secret police and propaganda bolstered the regime.

Economic policy. To encourage economic growth and end conflicts between owners and workers, Mussolini brought the economy under state control. Unlike socialists, though, he preserved capitalism. Under Mussolini's "corporate state," representatives of business, labor, government and the Fascist party controlled industry, agriculture, and trade. This policy did help business, and production increased. This success came, though, at the expense of workers, who were forbidden to strike and whose wages lagged.

Social policies. To Fascists, the individual was unimportant except as a member of the state. Men, women, and children were bombarded with slogans glorifying the state and Mussolini. "Believe! Obey! Fight!" loudspeakers blared and posters proclaimed. Men were urged to be ruthless, selfless warriors for the glory of Italy. "A minute on the battlefield," they were told, "is worth a lifetime of peace."

Women were called on to "win the battle of motherhood." Those who bore more than 14 children were given a medal by *Il Duce* himself. Women were valued as wives and mothers but not as workers. "Machines and women," declared Mussolini, "are the two major causes of unemployment." Under the Fascists, women were pushed out of paid jobs or earned much less than men for the same work.

Still, Mussolini expected women to make sacrifices for the nation. He once asked them to donate their gold wedding bands to the treasury, handing out iron ones in exchange. The iron symbolized their contribution to a stronger nation.

Fascist Youth- Shaping the young was a major Fascist goal. Fascist youth groups toughened children and taught them to obey strict military discipline. Boys and girls learned about the glories of ancient Rome. Young Fascists marched in torchlight parades, singing patriotic hymns and chanting "Mussolini is always right." By the 1930s, a generation of young soldiers stood ready to back *Il Duce's* drive to expand Italian power.

What Is Fascism?

Historians still debate the real nature of fascist ideology. Mussolini coined the term, but

fascists had no single unifying set of beliefs, as Marxists did. Today, we gener-

ally use the term to describe any authoritarian government that is not communist. In the 1920s and 1930s, though, fascism meant different things in different countries.

All forms of fascism, however, shared some basic features. It was rooted in extreme nationalism. Fascists glorified action, violence, discipline, and, above all, blind loyalty to the state. According to Mussolini:

"Fascism conceives of the State as an absolute, in comparison with which all individuals or groups are relative, only to be conceived of in their relation to the State."



Fascists were antidemocratic. They rejected the Enlightenment emphasis on reason and the concepts of equality and liberty spread by the French Revolution. To them, democracy led to greed, corruption, and weakness. They claimed it put individual or class interests above national goals and destroyed feelings of community. Instead, fascists emphasized emotion and the need for the citizen to serve the state.

Fascists also pursued aggressive foreign expansion. Their ideas were linked to Social Darwinism, with its notion of "survival of the fittest." (See page 571.) Fascist leaders glorified warfare as a necessary and noble struggle for survival. "War alone," said Mussolini, "brings up to its highest tension all human energy and puts the stamp of nobility upon peoples who have the courage to face it."

How Did Fascism Reshape Life In Italy?

Directions : Beginning with "Mussolini's Italy" on page 775, read until "Compared to Communism. Answer each of the following questions.

1. Who was Il Duce? _____

2. Explain why no other political parties challenged Mussolini's rule. _____

3. How was life in a democratic nation different from life under Mussolini's rule? _____

4. Explain why workers opposed Mussolini but business owners didn't. _____

5. What role in society did Mussolini want for men? _____

6. According to Mussolini, what was a woman's most important job? _____

7. How did Mussolini "brainwash" the youth of Italy? _____

8. According to all fascists, what was the most important duty of all people? _____

9. Why did fascists oppose democracy? _____

10. (Examine the photo of Mussolini) What fascist ideas are illustrated in this picture? _____

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Global History III
Nazism in Germany

THE RISE OF THE NAZIS IN GERMANY

Vocabulary: republic, inflation, unemployment, disappeared.

Read the questions and answers below about the rise of Adolph Hitler and the Nazis in Germany. Then answer the questions at the end of the reading.

Q. What was the Weimar **REPUBLIC**?

A. Near the end of World War I, the German people overthrew the Kaiser and set up a democratic government. That government was called the Weimar Republic.

Q. Why did the Weimar Republic have problems?

A. The Weimar Republic had many problems. First, most German people were upset with it because it signed the hated Treaty of Versailles which ended World War I. Second, the Weimar Republic could not solve many of the economic problems facing the country. Two of the most important problems were **INFLATION and UNEMPLOYMENT**.

Q. Why did many people in Germany fear that it might become a communist country in the 1930's?

A. Since there were so many economic problems, the German communist party was growing larger. Communists started to get important jobs in the government.

Q. Why did the German people look to the Nazi Party to solve the problems in Germany?

A. The Nazis believed that a totalitarian fascist dictatorship should be set up in Germany in order to stop the communists. Nazis also believed that the Weimar Republic never should have signed the Treaty of Versailles. The leader of the Nazis, Adolph Hitler, promised to break the Treaty of Versailles when he became the leader of Germany.

Q. Why did Hitler and the Nazis hate the Jews?

A. Hitler needed a **SCAPEGOAT**. This means that he had to blame somebody for Germany's problems. He decided to blame everything on the Jews.

Q. How did Hitler get control of Germany?

A. Hitler and the Nazis used the democratic ideas in the Weimar Republic to get power. In the 1920's and the 1930's Nazis were elected to the Reichstag (the German legislature where laws were made). In 1932, The Nazis became the largest political party in Germany. They received 37% of the vote. This was enough for Hitler to become Chancellor (leader). As soon as he Hitler became the leader of Germany he arrested communists and everyone else who he did not like. By using his secret police, the GESTAPO, Hitler ended democracy in Germany and he became a totalitarian dictator.

Q. Why did the German people choose Hitler to be their leader?

A. Actually, they never did. You read that Hitler never received more than 37% of the vote. That means that 63% of the people voted against him. The Nazis were the largest party in Germany, but they were not the majority. After Hitler became Chancellor, all the people who opposed him **DISAPPEARED** or were murdered. In this way, Hitler became a dictator. The Nazi party became the only party allowed in Germany.

QUESTIONS:

1. Explain how Hitler came to power in Germany?
2. Why is it true to say that Hitler used democracy to destroy democracy?
3. List three things Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini did that were the same.



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Why Didn't the German People Try to Stop Hitler?

Document # 1

“As the Nazi Party and Hitler began to take absolute control over Germany, a long series of laws were passed to help control the German people. One law made it mandatory for German youths to join Hitler Youth, a Nazi version of the Boy Scouts / Girl Scouts. Other laws made it mandatory for all high ranking officials, politicians, and businessmen to become members of the Nazi Party. The **Nuremberg Laws** were laws designed to persecute and eliminate the "Jewish problem of the German nation." These laws prevented Jews from going to German schools, from working in German companies, from owning land or businesses, from living in Germany, and finally from life itself.”

How did life in Nazi Germany differ from life in a democracy? _____

Background: It was the summer of 1938. Andre was twelve years old and lived with his parents in a small town in northern Germany. One evening he came home from his Hitler Youth meeting.

Andre : Daddy, we were told at the meeting that tomorrow we are supposed to throw stones at the Jewish shops in town. Should I take part?

Dad: What do you think?

Andre : I don't know. I have nothing against the Jews. I hardly know them, but everyone is going there to throw stones. So what should I do?

Dad: Well, I think you should examine the consequences of your actions. For instance, what will happen if you do not throw stones at the stores?

Andre : Everyone will say, ‘Andre son of Mr. X did not take part, he refused to throw stones!’ Then they will turn against me and then against you. The townspeople will refuse to buy goods at our store. We will lose everything that we have. Perhaps even the Gestapo (German secret police) will arrive and question us.

Dad: And what will happen if you do throw stones?

Andre : It will be a terrible hateful thing to do against people who have done me no wrong. I will feel like a bully and a coward.

Dad: And what does your conscience tell you to do?

Andre : I am trying not to listen to my conscience because if I do, then I will not throw stones. Then our family will be the ones to suffer.

Mom: Well, your father and I have discussed this already. We decided that if your decision is not to throw stones, then we will immediately leave Germany.

And that is what they did. The following day, Andre's family left Germany.

1. What did Andre's family lose by leaving Germany? _____

2. What did Andre's family gain by leaving Germany? _____

3. Why doesn't Andre's family protest to the government about this problem? _____

4. "Running from a problem instead of fixing it is a sign of a coward" In the case of Andre and family, is this true?

5. If you were Andre, what decision would you have made? (BE HONEST!)

Document #2

The following quote is from Father Niemoller, a German Lutheran Protestant priest who was sent to a concentration camp for publicly speaking out against the Nazis. He later died in the prison camp of Auschwitz.

When they came for the Gypsies, I did not speak up.
When they came for the homosexuals, I did not speak up.
When they came for the Jews, I did not speak up.
When they came for the Communists, I did not speak up.
When they came for the Catholics, I did not speak up.
When they finally came for me, there was no one left to speak up for me.

What is the moral of Father Niemoller's message ? _____
