

War Clouds Gather

1. What was the name of Hitler's book?
2. What issues in Europe caused leaders like Hitler to come to power?
3. Describe Mussolini's rise to power.
4. What is fascism?
5. Describe Hitler's rise to power.
6. What is anti-Semitism?
7. What is totalitarianism?
8. What is the significance of Joseph Stalin?
9. Who were the two leaders of Japan during World War II?
10. What countries made up the Axis alliance?
11. Explain the significance of the Neutrality Acts.
12. What territories did Hitler start to expand into without any conflict?
13. What is the policy of appeasement? How did appeasement influence European affairs?
14. What is the significance of the Soviet-German Non-aggression Pact?

There's More Online!

- ✓ GRAPHIC ORGANIZER
Dictatorships of the 1920s and 1930s
- ✓ PRIMARY SOURCE
• Hitler's Speech on the Nuremberg Laws
• Hitler Political Cartoon



Lesson 1

War Clouds Gather

ESSENTIAL QUESTION *Why does conflict develop?*

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

In the 1930s, the hostile actions of aggressive world leaders helped lead the whole world into war.

The Rise of Dictators

GUIDING QUESTION *What events led to the rise of dictators in Europe?*

In his book *Mein Kampf* ("My Struggle"), Adolf Hitler wrote: "He who wants to live must fight, and he who does not want to fight in this world where eternal struggle is the law of life has no right to exist." When Hitler became Germany's leader, he put those words into action.

Hitler was one of several ruthless leaders who came into power in the 1920s and 1930s. These leaders took advantage of public anger and distress. Many Europeans were unhappy with the Treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I. Then, in the 1930s, economic depression hit. Fear added to anger to create an explosive mixture. Leaders such as Hitler promised prosperity and a return to national greatness. They persuaded frightened, angry citizens to support them. Once in control, these leaders became **dictators** who claimed absolute power and ruled their people by force.

Mussolini in Italy

The first dictator to rise in postwar Europe was Italy's Benito Mussolini. He appealed to Italians who wanted order in an unsettled time. Mussolini also spoke to Italians angry that their country had won little in the Versailles treaty. Mussolini made

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Taking Notes: Identifying

As you read, use a diagram like this one to list the dictator and country where each political party originated.

	Nazi Party	Fascist Party	Communist Party
Dictator			
Country			

Content Vocabulary

- dictator
- anti-Semitism
- totalitarian
- appeasement



Crowds at a rally in Nuremberg, Germany, salute their leader, Adolf Hitler.

fascism—dictatorial government that stresses the greatness of a race or nation—popular. By 1922 his Fascist Party forced Italy’s king to name Mussolini the head of government.

Italians called Mussolini *Il Duce* (DOO·chay)—the leader. He quickly outlawed rival political parties and ended democratic rule in Italy. Civil liberties and a free press ceased to exist. Meanwhile, Mussolini built up Italy’s military. In 1935 his army conquered the African nation of Ethiopia. The League of Nations made a mild protest. Italy left the League and continued its expansion. In 1939 Mussolini’s forces invaded Italy’s neighbor, Albania.

Germany

Just as Mussolini had done in Italy, Hitler played on people’s emotions. The Great Depression hit Germany hard. Businesses failed, and millions lost their jobs. Hitler took advantage of people’s fears to gain support. He also used people’s bitterness over the Versailles Treaty to his advantage. Many Germans resented that their country had to take all the blame for World War I. They also disliked losing lands they felt belonged to them.

Hitler led the National Socialist Party, or Nazi Party. The Nazis believed the German people were superior to others. Hitler blamed the Jews, including German Jews, for Germany’s problems. His **anti-Semitism** (an·tee SEH·muh·tih·zuhm)—hatred of the Jews—would lead to unspeakable horrors.

After gaining power in 1933, Hitler ended democracy in Germany. He set up totalitarian rule. In a **totalitarian** (toh·ta·luh·TAR·ee·uhn) state, leaders crush all opposition and totally control all aspects of society.

In addition to dominating Germany, Hitler sought to dominate other nations. He claimed that Germany had a right to expand. Germany’s neighbors watched uneasily as he broke the Versailles treaty and rebuilt Germany’s military. Hitler also formed an alliance with Italy in 1936.

Mussolini and Hitler were totalitarian leaders who shared a similar set of beliefs.

► CRITICAL THINKING

Drawing Conclusions What does this picture suggest about the similarities between Hitler (right) and Mussolini?



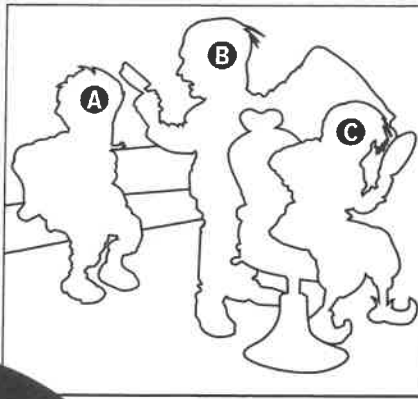
dictator leader who has absolute power and rules a nation by force

anti-Semitism dislike of or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group

totalitarian seeking to control all aspects of life through dictatorial control

ANALYZING POLITICAL CARTOONS

- A The Soviet Union's Stalin
- B Germany's Hitler
- C Turkey's İnönü



Economic problems brought dictators to power in several countries in the years after World War I. This June 1941 cartoon comments on Hitler's strong influence.

- 1 **ANALYZING VISUALS**
Why is Hitler cutting the hair of İnönü (en-ON-u) and Stalin? How are they reacting?
- 2 **CRITICAL THINKING**
Identifying Points of View
What commentary do you think the cartoonist is making about Hitler?

The Soviet Union and Japan

The Soviet Union and Japan also tilted toward dictatorship during this era. In the late 1920s, Joseph Stalin rose to power as the Communist leader of the Soviet Union. He used force to **obtain** obedience from his people. Stalin killed rivals and sent millions of people he thought were disloyal to labor camps.

Japan suffered from a lack of jobs and food shortages during the depression of the 1930s. Japan's leader was Emperor Hirohito. In fact, Japan's military held great power and played a key role in setting an aggressive course for Japan. Military leaders believed Japan needed more land and resources. In September 1931, Japan's army invaded Manchuria, China's mineral-rich northeastern region. One of the generals who led the invasion was Hideki Tōjō. He later became Japan's prime minister.

The League of Nations criticized Japan's invasion but took no action. In 1937 the Japanese army invaded China. Three years later, Japan joined Germany and Italy in the "Axis" alliance.

The United States Tries to Stay Neutral

Most Americans wanted to stay out of the storms brewing in other lands. Between 1935 and 1937, Congress passed Neutrality Acts. *Neutral* (NOO-truhl) means not siding with either party in a disagreement. The Neutrality Acts banned selling weapons and making loans to nations at war. One reason for this was that European nations still had not paid back their World War I loans.

PROGRESS CHECK

Comparing What plans did Mussolini and Hitler share?

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appeasement the policy of giving in to the demands of others in an effort to keep peace

Academic Vocabulary

obtain to gain
unify to join together

Germany Pushes the Limits

GUIDING QUESTION *Why did other nations allow Germany to expand its territory?*

In March 1936, Adolf Hitler ordered troops into Germany's Rhineland. Even though the Versailles treaty forbade Germany from having troops in this area, there was little complaint.

Next, Hitler insisted German-speaking Austria be **unified** with Germany. Again, there was only mild protest. Then he turned his attention to the Sudetenland (soo·DAY·tuhn·land), a part of Czechoslovakia (CHECK·oh·slo·VAH·kee·uh) where many German-speaking people lived. Hitler claimed they were being mistreated and declared Germany's right to the territory.

Czechoslovakia was ready to fight, but Britain and France sought a peaceful solution. They thought they could avoid the outbreak of war by giving in to Germany's demands—a policy known as **appeasement** (uh·PEEZ·mihnt). In September 1938, European leaders met at the Munich Conference in Germany. They told Czechoslovakia to give up the Sudetenland or fight Germany on its own. In return, Hitler pledged not to seek further expansion of German territory. British leader Neville Chamberlain declared the deal would bring "peace in our time."

Hitler soon broke his promise. In March 1939, German troops took the rest of Czechoslovakia. Hitler also planned to invade Poland, which bordered the Soviet Union. However, he worried that such a move would threaten Stalin. Hitler and Stalin signed the Soviet-German Nonaggression Pact in August 1939. This left Hitler free to attack Poland without fear of a Soviet response.

PROGRESS CHECK

Explaining Why was Germany able to invade Poland?

LESSON 1 REVIEW

Review Vocabulary

1. Explain the meaning of *dictator* by using the word in a sentence.
2. Explain the meaning of *appeasement* by using the word in a sentence.

Answer the Guiding Questions

3. **Explaining** What were some of the problems that led to the rise of dictators in Germany and Italy?

4. **Defending** Why did people in the United States think the country needed the Neutrality Acts?

5. **Explaining** How did the policy of appeasement work in Hitler's favor?

6. **Analyzing** What argument did Hitler use to justify his invasion of Austria?

7. **NARRATIVE** Write a dialogue between two Americans expressing their views on the neutrality of the United States in the 1930s. Have one person defend the policy, and have the other person oppose it.

Connections to TODAY

A Modern Dictatorship

Dictators still control some countries. For example, North Korea has been a Communist dictatorship under three generations of the Kim family. Kim Jong Un, the present ruler, came to power in 2011. He succeeded his father, Kim Jong Il, who had begun his rule in 1994. Kim Jong Un's grandfather was Kim Il Sung, who held control from North Korea's founding in 1948 to his death in 1994. Research and share information about the Kim family's rule of North Korea.