

# RISE OF TOTALITARIANISM: ITALY, GERMANY, USSR, AND JAPAN

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# Characteristics of Totalitarianism

- Authoritarian Dictator who has Total control of the state
- Unquestioning obedience to one leader
- Widespread use of propaganda and manipulation
- Use of police spies & terror to intimidate citizens
- Brainwash the youth
- Extreme Nationalism that makes the state into an almost religious entity
- Strict censorship & gov't control of the media
- Militarism: used violence to defeat their political opponents and prepared to use war for national expansion.

# Now take 3 mins to illustrate each of the characteristics of Totalitarianism

- Box 1: Authoritarian Dictator
- Box 2: Propaganda
- Box 3: Terror
- Box 4: Nationalism

# USSR: Life under Joseph Stalin

- After coming to power in 1928, Joseph Stalin began the first of his **“5-year plans”**:
  - Aimed at building heavy industry, improving transportation, and increasing farm output.
  - Stalin pushed workers & managers to meet his goals by punishing those that did not meet them
  - Between 1928 & 1939 large factories, hydroelectric power stations, and huge industrial complexes rose across the Soviet Union. Oil, coal, and steel production grew. Mining expanded and new railroads were built.

# Farm Collectivization

- Farmers were forced to live and work on **collectives**: large farms owned and operated by peasants as a group
- Some peasants protested collectivization by killing farm animals, breaking tools, and burning crops
- Others grew just enough to feed themselves
- Stalin's response...

You gonna die!



# Stalin's Response to uncooperative peasants:

- Seize all the grain that is produced and leave the disobedient farmers to starve to death.
- This ruthless policy combined with a famine led between 5 & 8 million people to starve to death in Ukraine alone.
- Feeding the population would continue to be a major problem for the USSR



# Stalin: Purges & Totalitarianism

- In accordance with Communist doctrines, Atheism became an official state policy
- Stalin used his secret police to monitor people's every move
  - Listening devices were planted & private letters were opened without regard for privacy
  - Anyone showing indications of not supporting Stalin's every move was either murdered or sent to work camps in Siberia
- Purges:
  - Stalin's paranoia led him to purge Soviet society of any other influential soviets
  - He replaced them with young communists who owed him absolute loyalty







# Now make a picture representing the following vocab terms:

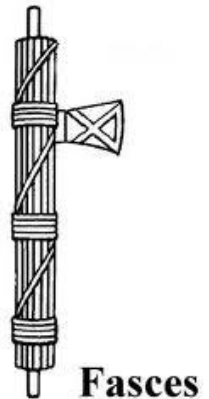
- Box 1: Purges
- Box 2: Siberia
- Box 3: Collectives

# Roots of Fascism

- Anti-Semitism
  - Hatred of Jews. It was common among some Europeans. Jews frequently faced prejudice and persecution. Their unique beliefs and customs made them easy targets in times of social unrest and economic difficulty. This was especially true following the industrial revolution
- Racism
  - Contempt for people of other races. European racism was strengthened by the experiences of overseas imperialism and by the spirit of nationalism
- Social Darwinism
  - Racism and anti-Semitism were made respectably by applying Darwin's theory of evolution to human society. They believed stronger groups had the right to dominate weaker groups, who deserved to die out.

# Italy: Mussolini & the rise of Fascism

- Italy was upset by the Treaty of Versailles
- After the war economic crisis pushed the government into division & chaos- People feeling low & embarrassed
- The fiercely nationalist Benito Mussolini organized veterans & angry citizens into the Fascist Party
- Mussolini promised to return Italy to its former greatness and played up the idea of Italian superiority.
- Mussolini organized his followers into combat squads —“Black Shirts”
- In 1922, Mussolini and his fascists seized power, bloodlessly, from King Victor Emmanuel III





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# Mussolini's Italy

- Mussolini took the title “Il Duce”
- He suppressed rival parties, quieted the press, & rigged elections
- In Fascism, the individual was worthless, except as a member of the state
  - Citizens were given messages like: “Believe! Obey! Fight!” & “Mussolini is always right”
  - Fascist youth groups taught kids to obey strict military discipline
- Fascism took complete control of the state, but was still capitalist
- Fascism glorified action, violence, discipline, and above all, blind loyalty to the state.
- Why would this appeal to citizens?



# Now make a picture representing the following vocab terms:

- Box 1: fascism
- Box 2: Il Duce

# Germany: The Rise of Hitler

- In the 1920's Germany had a democratic government, The Weimar Republic, which face many problems
  - Most notably economic problems: Inflation & Huge reparation payments
- The people of Germany were downtrodden & desperate
- German's turned to an energetic leader, Adolf Hitler, who promised to solve the economic crisis and restore Germany's former greatness





# Adolf Hitler



- Born in Austria in 1889- Interesting relationship w/ parents
- Served during World War I- Known for his bravery & random speeches about German supremacy & hatred for Jews & Communists
- He was distraught when Germany surrendered in WWI & claimed it was all an evil plot by the Jews & Communists
- He hated the new Weimar Republic and began working up the ladder of the National Socialist German Workers Party (Nazis) until he became its leader
- After a stint in jail his message became more popular:
  - Called for reuniting of all Germans (claimed they were master race)
  - Wanted to gain more living space (lebensraum) for Germans
  - Jews, Slavs and other inferior races must bow to their superiority

# Hitler takes Power

- Hitler also vowed to end reparations, create jobs, & defy the Treaty of Versailles
- With the country in shambles his proud, clear message & passion won people over.
- Fearing the growth of communists, conservatives turned to Hitler
- Hitler was democratically elected Chancellor in 1933, but within a year had declared himself Master of Germany- The Fuhrer
- He suspended civil rights, destroyed socialists and communists, & eliminated all competition
- He demanded unquestioning obedience & brutally executed anyone not loyal



# Why would Hitler appeal to Germans?

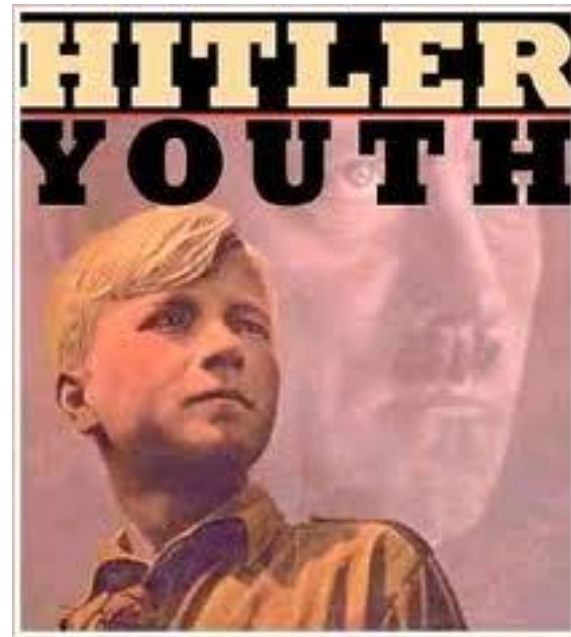
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gS-nQgLehpE&feature=related>



# Hitler's Third Reich



- Nazis controlled all areas of German life- Gov't, religion, education, etc. – Experts at Propaganda use
- Elite Storm Troopers enforced his will
- His secret police, the Gestapo, destroyed opposition
- Most German's celebrated all these changes
- Hitler's public works programs greatly improved the German economy
- He also employed many rearming Germany!
- Hitler indoctrinated the Youth & encouraged them to destroy enemies (non pure bloods) without mercy



# Campaign against Jews

- 1935 Nuremburg Laws placed severe restrictions on Jews
- Nazis beat and robbed Jews and urged others to do the same
- Kristallnacht-1938, Nazi-led mobs attacked Jewish communities throughout Germany
- Eventually Hitler began his Final Solution: The plot to eliminate all Jews from existence through his concentration camps.



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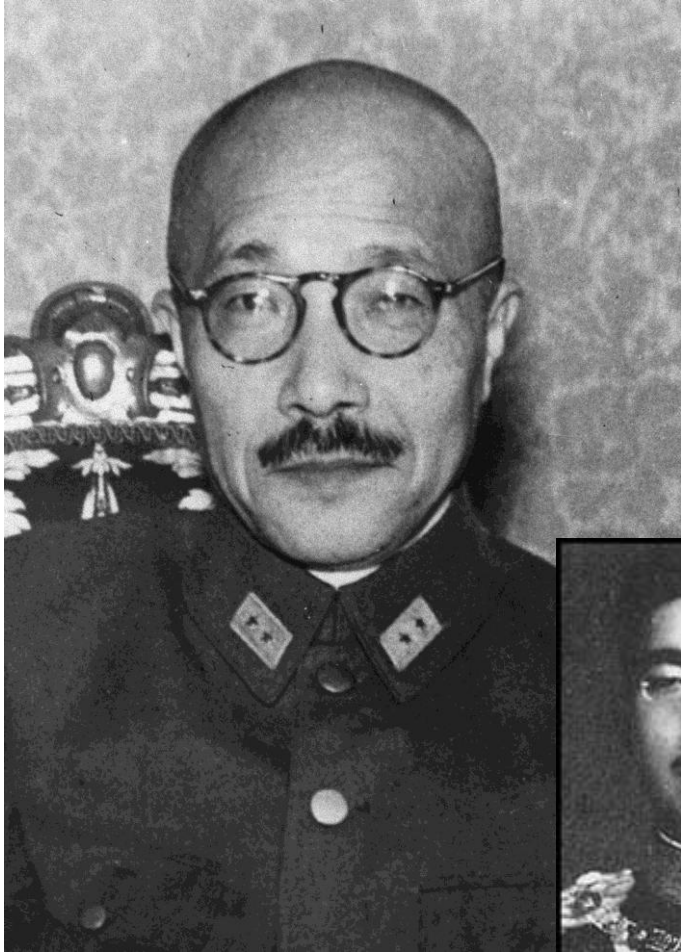
- Box 1: Lebensraum
- Box 2: Nazi
- Box 3: Kristallnacht



# Japan

- During 19<sup>th</sup> Century European Imperialism Japan radically changed their society to become more Western
  - Rather than be exploited by the West, they wanted to be seen as equals
- During WWI, the Japanese economy grew as its exports to allied nations soared.
- It also used the time period to exert greater power over East Asia
- It sought further rights in China with its 21 Demands

# Hideki Tojo



Hideki Tojo, Military Leader of Japan



Hirohito, Emperor of Japan

**Country:** Japan

**Type of Government:** Militarism

**Goals and Ideas:**

- Though Japan had an emperor, the military had taken control of the government
- Emperor Hirohito could not stand up to the powerful generals, but he was worshipped by the people, who often fought in his name
- Industrialization of Japan, leading to a drive for raw materials – how do you get raw materials? IMPERIALISM
- Invasion of Korea, Manchuria, and the rest of China (the League of Nations did nothing)

# Glorification of Militarism and Total Commitment to the Emperor



# Racial Superiority Over “Decadent” Western Culture

- Society highly propagandized
- Media controlled
- Schools were part of the indoctrination process



**Japan**

**CHINA**

**RUSSIA**

**NORTH KOREA**

**SOUTH KOREA**

**Sea of Japan (East Sea)**

**PACIFIC OCEAN**

**Sea of Okhotsk**

**Korea Bay**

**Bo Hai**

**East China Sea**

**Philippine Sea**

**0 250 Miles**

**0 250 Kilometers**

**32° N**

**36° N**

**40° N**

**128° E**

**132° E**

**136° E**

**140° E**

**MAPQUEST**

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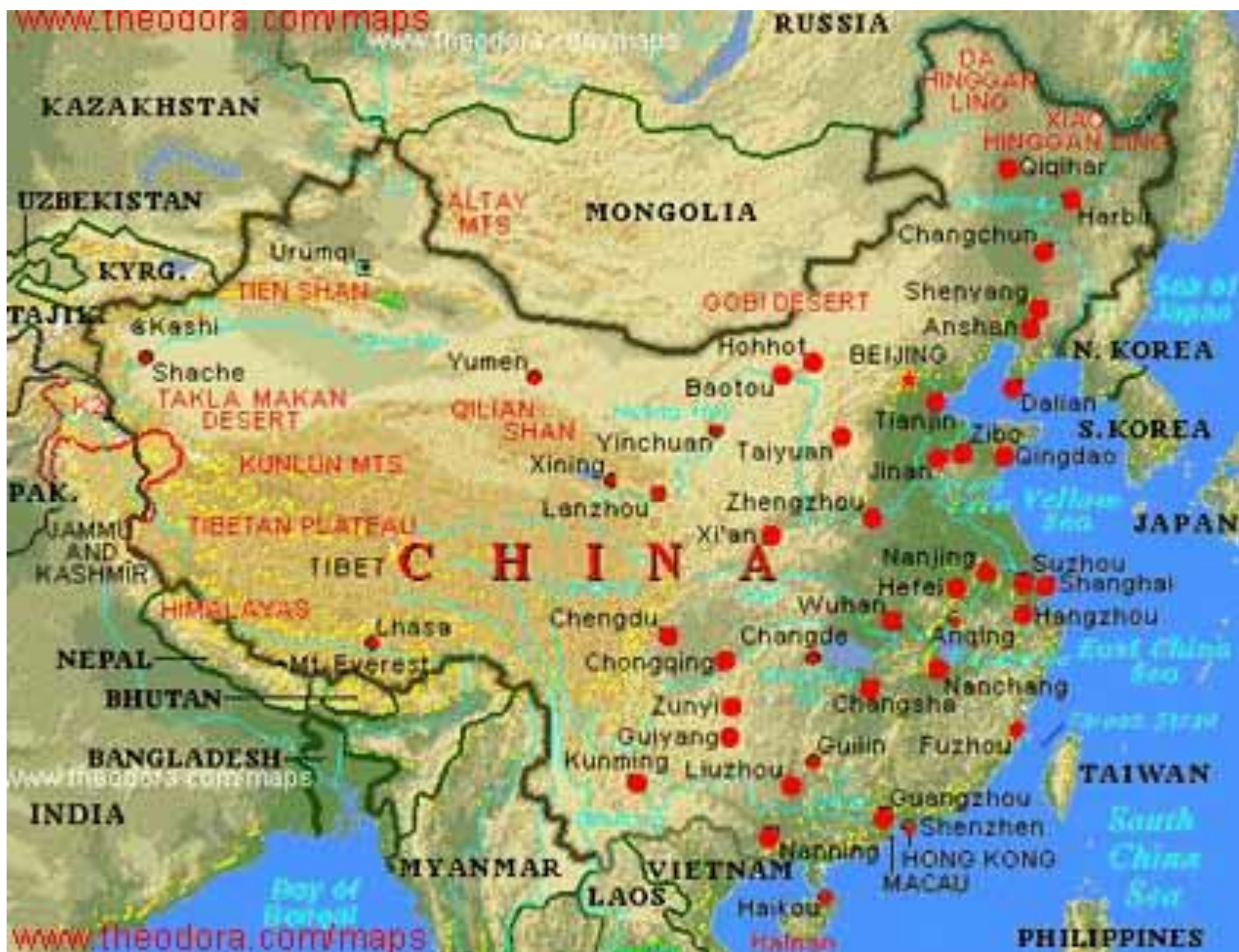


# The World



# Japan's Target: China

- China had been the premiere Asian power for most of its existence.
- It saw itself as the center of the world
- During the era of European Imperialism China's unwillingness to adapt and change led it to become exploited and embarrassed
- China went through great change and turmoil in the early 1900's as it tried to regain its former glory
- Seeing China's weakness, Japan sought to exploit and control China



# Japan vs. China

- Japan (a small island) sought to colonize all of Asia for its own use
- The once great China would be Japan's greatest prize
- Japan defeated China in both Sino-Japanese Wars
- Japan used brutal force to take and maintain control of China, Korea, and other Asian nations
- One such example is the Rape of Nanking where Japan murdered almost 300,000 people in a matter of days.



