Totalitarianism

Explain how Totalitarian Dictators maintained control and influence over society
What is Totalitarianism?

- a political system in which the government has total control over the lives of individual citizens.

An Extreme form of Dictatorship!!
7 Aspects of Totalitarianism

- Absolute control of the government
- Society of fear
- Use of propaganda
- Lack of news / information
- Individual subservient to the state
- Prohibit all opposition
- Charismatic leader
Historical Dictators

Genghis Kahn

Julius Caesar

Hitler

Benito Mussolini

Saddam Hussein

Napoleon Bonaparte

Stalin
Totalitarianism

• Flourished in the mid 20th Century with:
  – Soviet Union: Joseph Stalin
  – Germany: Adolph Hitler
  – Italy: Benito Mussolini

• Why did it flourish?
  • Debt, desperation, and fear of another war
Video
Stalin and Hitler
Economic Control

Fear & Oppression

Totalitarian Rule

Propaganda

Promotion of Totalitarianism
1\textsuperscript{st} step...

Fear & Oppression
Joseph Stalin

- Stalin not his real name... means “Man of Steel”
  - Josef Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili (real name)
- But he was far from Superman in his “Heroic Deeds”
“Stalin’s Totalitarian State”

Control Methods

Use of Secret Police (NKVD)

- System of secret spies
  - Spies had quotas of “enemies of the state” if not met, you were accused
- Russians tortured into “confessing” to made up crimes
  - Show Trials/ “The Purges”

System of Prisons (the Gulags)

- Forced labor camps where millions were sent
  - Lack of food
  - Insufficient clothing for cold winters
  - Long hours
  - Average life expectancy less than a year
Repression: Ruling Through Fear & Force

- NKVD
  - Brainwashed to tell on one another
  - Children taught to tell on their own parents!
Control Methods
Other Totalitarian Leaders?

Mussolini's Black Shirts

Hitler’s SS Troops and Gestapo
**Gestapo**
- Geheime Staatspolizei.
- Secret State Police.

**The SS**
- Schutzstaffel.
- Formed in 1925 as Hitler's personal bodyguard.
  - Staff for police, camp guards, and military units (Waffen-SS)
Control Methods: Prison Systems

Death Camps

Slave Labor Camps

Hitler and Mussolini
Stalin & Hitler Comparison Video
2nd step...

Economic Control
Economy

Totalitarian dictators have much to total control over economic decisions

Under Stalin:
- Govt. (Stalin) owns all businesses & industry
- Govt. (Stalin) makes all economic decisions

Under Hitler:
- Economy not top priority
- Non-Nazi officials are placed in charge
Under command economy:

- Two 5 Year Plans
  - Goal to increase industrial production
    - Produce more coal and steel
  - Quotas were set very high
    - Those who met goals were rewarded
    - Didn’t? = “enemies of the state” & punished

*failed BUT did help Russia industrialize faster."
Collectivization

• Govt. set up huge “collective” farms
  • Land taken away from all peasants
  • Peasants worked together
  • Farms were supposed to be more efficient

*result was mass starvation as Stalin took all food*
Agricultural Policies

Collectivization Fails

- Ukrainian Genocide
- 1932-33
- 2-10 million starve to death
- Man-made famine by Soviets to destroy Ukrainian people
- Stole entire food supply

Victims of Ukrainian Genocide
Hitler’s Economic Policies?

Lebensraum
• “Aryan” children encouraged to have many “future soldiers & mothers of Germany”
• Farm worker seen as an important job
• Needed land to feed a powerful Germany
  • Land would be taken through war on Germany’s eastern borders
3rd step...

Propaganda: Influences

- Education
- Art
- The media
Totalitarianism

Education
Govt. set up schools
1. Educate workers of Russia to create a modern industrial nation
2. Schools taught communist values
Education in a totalitarianism state?

• **Purpose of education is to brainwash the youth into supporting the ruler, gov’t, etc**

• **Youth in Russia**
  – “Young Pioneers”

• **Youth in Germany**
  – Hitler Youth, Hitler Tots

• **Youth in Italy**

  Mussolini praising a young Supporter.
Totalitarianism

Art/Religion
“Stalin’s Totalitarian State”
Art & Religion

**Art: Socialist Realism**
- Art had to support the vision of Communism & Totalitarianism
  - Glorify the workers
  - Glorify the govt.

**Religion**
- No religion (atheism)
- Religion seen as a threat
- Religious followers were persecuted
Art in Communist Russia

• Art was only useful if it was propaganda
  – Socialist Realism
  • Usually showing peasants, workers, heroes of the revolution & especially Stalin
Russian Socialist Realism

Glorifying the Industrial workers

Honoring the farm workers
Other Totalitarian Leaders & their “art”
Totalitarianism

The Media
“Stalin’s Totalitarian State”

Propaganda & the media

Methods used to brainwash the masses

- Images of leaders seen in statues & posters
- Radio & film support the govt. in power & are censored
- Art is nothing more than propaganda
- Parades, rallies and sporting events help to glorify country & leader
- Censorship of the press (Pravda in Russia)
  - limits information
Stalinist Propaganda

*ways to brainwash the public

Use of film

Use of radio

Gymnastic events to prove how strong & fit The Russian people were
Parades & Rallies as Propaganda

A Parade for Hitler

Hitler meets the people

Mussolini speaks at a Rally
Soviet Propaganda

- Soviet media is the only media after revolution of 1917
  - Only one censored newspaper allowed (Pravda = Truth)
  - Movie’s = Lenin's priority device
- Rewrites history books = Soviet Union invented everything
- Trials began for "enemies of the state," all guilty, all executed, terror reigns
  - Remakes photos each time a leading party member is executed
- Stalin achieves a completely totalitarian state
  - Every facet of life lined with party information
  - Toddlers and schoolchildren already brainwashed
  - Pre-teens and teenagers become "Pioneers" and were influenced as well
  - Families feared even talking to each other for fear of being announced as an "enemy"
Nikolai Yezhov, chief of the Soviet secret police
The Commissar Vanishes
Nikolai Yezhov, was head of Stalin’s secret police, was responsible for the deaths of millions. What goes around comes around: Stalin had him shot.
“Angry mob”

“Watches, gold and silver”
“Happy Mob”

“Struggle for your rights”

“Down with the monarchy - long live the Republic!”
Lenin and Trotsky celebrate the second anniversary of the Russian Revolution in Red Square.
Lenin Celebrates, but Trotsky has been airbrushed out.
Cut out people of pictures too
Video

• Watch Stalin – Cult of Personality
• http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAh5mfuAXk&feature=player_embedded
### Essential Skill Table

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Benito Mussolini

“IL DUCE”
Admired by Hitler...at first...
† 1912 Leader of a socialist party
† 1922: left the socialist (traitor) party to lead the fascist party (Black Shirts)
† Taught school at age 18
† @ 21 political career
† 1924 becomes “Il Duce”
Mussolini

- Took advantage of political, social, and economic crisis
  - Put himself in the position of unchallenged authority.
  - Marched on Rome to seize power

- Fascist dictator of Italy from 1922 to 1943.
  - State stood behind him totally
    - Appeared Godlike to the people
  - Italians believed he was the leader who would get them out of the Depression.
  - Used secret police (black shirts) to get rid of opposition (political adversaries)
Mussolini: Political Career

† 1932-36 global depression: Mussolini invades Ethiopia as a distraction-Italian Empire.

† 1936 Mussolini and Hitler become allies “Rome-Berlin axis”
Mussolini and Propaganda

• Used the media to promote fascism and himself.
• Gradually built himself up as a legend who was always right and could solve all of Italy’s problems.
• Mussolini made Italy dependent on him, like Hitler did with Germany. Anyone who didn't feel the same way was killed.
• “I will fight to the last Italian” suggests he was ready to watch entire country be totally destroyed rather than see fascism fail.

• Towards end of the WWII he suffered serious nervous attacks that caused him to collapse.

• On April 28, 1945, communist regulars executed the 61-year-old Mussolini along with other important fascists.
Mussolini and Wife Dead
Video

• Watch Mussolini video
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EXCELLENT SPEAKER
- Held audience’s attention
- Would speak for hours
- Did not use notes
- Made promises

NO OPPOSITION
- Gave people hope

USED YOUTH PROGRAMS, SCHOOLS, AND PROPAGANDA
Adolf Hitler 1889-1945

† Hitler went to Austria to be an artist ➔ was rejected.

    † That is where he acquired his belief in superiority over Jews, Poles, Serbs

† Tried to avoid conscription (draft)

    † Later enlisted

† Hitler fought in WW1 ➔ blamed the gov’t for the loss: joined German Workers Party

    † Anti-Semitic, Socialist, and Nationalist
1920 German Workers → National Socialists Workers Part (Nazi)

Germany plagued by high inflation and war debts

1923 tried to declare a Revolution in Munich, sent to jail where he wrote Mein Kampf (My Struggle)

By 1930 the Nazi Party became the second largest political party

1932 3 million Germans out of work look to Hitler for answers
• Was elected chancellor by the people
• Used the Gestapo to eliminate opponents and dangers to country:
  • Jews
  • Gypsies
  • Homosexuals
  • Mentally and Physically handicapped
  • Jehovah Witnesses
Reasons for Hitler coming to Power

1. Germany’s defeat in WWI
2. Treaty of Versailles punished Germany = $32 billion
3. Gov’t was weak
4. Communist uprisings broke out
5. Worldwide Great Depression
Reasons for Hitler coming to Power

6. Hitler has a plan to rebuild
7. Popular nationalist ideas
8. Wants to build up military
9. Appeals to peoples quest for revenge
10. Gives them a scapegoat = Jews
Hitler’s Mentality

† Aryans are the master race: Jews enemies
† “Devil takes form as Jews on earth”
† “9/10s of all literary filth, artistic trash, and theatrical idiocy can be traced to Jews”
† “Jewish youth lurks in wait for the unsuspecting girl who he defiles with his blood, thus stealing her from her people”
† “Jews brought Negroes to Rhineland with aim of ruining the hated white race”
† Jew = Parasite that spreads
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Mao
Mao Zedong

- Chinese Marxist philosopher, soldier, and statesman → leads nation's communist revolution.

- Came into power:
  - China had been in a 30 year war with Japan
  - China was facing economic problems.

- 1949, after the Communists take most of mainland China, Mao becomes chairman of the newly established People's Republic of China.
Chinese Civil War
1927-1950

- Between: Kuomintang (KMT or Chinese Nationalist Party) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)
  - Over an ideological split between Western supported KMT, and the Soviet supported CCP
- 1936 - Stopped (sides united) when Japan invaded Manchuria
  - ‘45 couldn’t agree on gov’t so 1946 war restarted
- CCP won and controlled China
  - KMT restricted to Taiwan
Mao Zedong

• Pledges to build a new China, independent, prosperous and strong
• Used secret police to get rid of his opponents.

Mao spreads his ideas

• Adults had to go to school every night to learn his ideas.
• Called “Great Helmsman,”
  – Could do no wrong
• Children’s first word they learned to spell is Mao.
• All his ideas were published in little red books.
Social Reforms
Great Leap Forward (1957–60)

• Chinese economic plan aimed at revitalizing all sectors of the economy.
• Urged people to increase farm and industrial output.
• Dismal failure!
  – Bad weather and declining food led to a famine.
  – Between 1959 and 1961, up to 30 million Chinese starved to death.
Another social Reform: Commune System

- Attempts to make agriculture more efficient → creates communes.
- Communes included several villages, thousands of acres of land, and up to 25,000 people.
  - They had their own schools, factories, housing, and dining halls.
  - All had production quotas
- Another failure, commune system slowed food output.
Last but not least…
Cultural Revolution
1966-1976

- Goal: purge China of non-revolutionary tendencies
  - Mass mobilization of urban Chinese youth
  - China’s youth, waiving “Little Red Books,” attacked those who claimed to be counterrevolutionaries.

- Targeted people in authority,
  - Party leaders
  - Factory managers
  - Teachers
  - Writers
  - Artists

- The accused were publicly humiliated or beaten, and sometimes killed

- FAILURE!
Death Totals...

- Benito Mussolini: 200k-300k
- Adolph Hitler: approx 12 million
- Mao Zedong: 49-78 million people
- Joseph Stalin: 22-80 million people