Fascism in Italy

Between World War I and World War II, the world suffered through the Great Depression. During this economic crisis, many people lost their jobs and savings. Democratic governments had not been able to help people who suffered during the Depression. So, some countries turned to a different type of government. In Italy, for example, people wanted a leader who would take action. Benito Mussolini started the first fascist state in the early 1920s.

During a time of economic turmoil and political corruption, Mussolini promised to bring order to Italy. He gained popularity with his patriotic and nationalistic speeches. Mussolini knew the Italian people were angry that Italy did not get more land from the peace settlement after World War I. He promised to bring back Roman greatness.

Mussolini won many supporters. In 1922, fascists marched on the Italian capital of Rome. Mussolini threatened the king. He said, “Either we are allowed to govern, or we will seize power.” Afraid, the king gave in and made Mussolini prime minister. Mussolini used his position as prime minister to create a new fascist government for Italy.

Fascism is a type of totalitarian government. In a totalitarian state, the government controls everything in its citizens’ lives. Fascist Italy was governed by one leader and had one political party. Fascists believed that citizens should put loyalty to their country above everything else. Fascists did not agree with the Enlightenment ideas that had been popular for so long. Limited government and the guarantee of individual freedoms were finished. Instead, fascists tried to create a nation of disciplined, war-loving citizens. The fascists used violence to rule.

Under Mussolini, it became illegal for the press to say anything bad about the government. The police were allowed to arrest people and put them in jail for any reason. The fascists made it illegal for other political parties to exist in Italy. Although Italy still had a king, Mussolini was the dictator, or single ruler, of the country. He ruled the country as “Il Duce,” which is Italian for “The Leader.”

Supporters of fascism liked the political movement because it promised a strong, stable government. Fighting between political parties had made democratic rule seem hopeless. A strong leader, Mussolini showed power and confidence during a confusing time. Other nations, like Germany, saw Mussolini’s success in Italy. In fact, Italian fascists’ achievements were soon overshadowed by a German admirer of Mussolini—Adolf Hitler.
Fascism in Italy

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. The __________ happened between World War I and World War II.
   A. American Civil War
   B. Great Depression
   C. Scientific Revolution
   D. Enlightenment

2. In a __________, the government controls everything in its citizens’ lives.
   A. totalitarian state
   B. democratic state
   C. monarchy
   D. constitutional monarchy

3. Mussolini started the first fascist state in __________.
   A. Germany
   B. the Soviet Union
   C. Italy
   D. Portugal

4. In Mussolini’s fascist state, __________.
   A. it was illegal for the press to say bad things about the government
   B. the police were allowed to arrest people for any reason
   C. it was illegal for other political parties to exist
   D. all of the above

5. Supporters of fascism liked the political movement because it promised __________.
   A. a strong, stable government
   B. limited government
   C. individual freedoms
   D. all of the above
Fascism in Italy

Crossword Puzzle
Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS
1. Mussolini was officially the _________ _________ of Italy.
4. The _________ tried to create a nation of disciplined, war-loving citizens.
5. Mussolini promised to bring back _________ greatness.
6. The fascists used _________ to rule.
7. Fascist Italy had _________ leader and one political party.
8. Mussolini was known as “_________ _________,” which is Italian for “The Leader.”
9. _________ was a German admirer of Mussolini.
10. In _________, people wanted a leader who would take action.

DOWN
2. _________ won many supporters with his patriotic and nationalistic speeches.
3. The Great Depression was a/an _________ crisis.
Fascism in Italy

Chart – Three Dictators in Europe

Use the chart to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date in Power</th>
<th>Political Title</th>
<th>Political Party</th>
<th>Type of Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benito Mussolini</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Prime Minister</td>
<td>Fascist Party</td>
<td>Fascist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Stalin</td>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>1929</td>
<td>General Secretary</td>
<td>Communist Party</td>
<td>Communist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolf Hitler</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Chancellor</td>
<td>Nazi Party</td>
<td>Fascist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Over which country did Adolf Hitler rule?

2. What was Joseph Stalin’s political title?

3. In what year did Benito Mussolini come to power in Italy?
Quiz: Fascism in Italy

True/False
Decide if each statement is true or false, and write “true” or “false” in the blank.

1. In a democracy, the government controls everything in its citizens’ lives.
2. Mussolini started the first fascist state in Italy.
3. The Great Depression happened between World War I and World War II.
4. Mussolini promised to bring back Greek greatness.
5. The fascists used violence to rule.

Multiple Choice
Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

6. Fascist Italy had _________ leader(s) and one political party.
   A. one
   B. two
   C. three
   D. four

7. _________ was a German admirer of Mussolini.
   A. Joseph Stalin
   B. Juan Perón
   C. Adolf Hitler
   D. Francisco Franco

Short Answer
Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. Name one thing that was illegal in fascist Italy.

   ____________________________________________
After World War I, German leaders set up a new government. This democratic government was led by a chancellor, or prime minister. The republic had problems from the start. The government could not fix the economic problems of the Great Depression, and Germans wanted change. Adolf Hitler promised to bring greatness back to Germany.

Hitler had fought in the German army in World War I. He thought the new government that was formed after the war was weak. Hitler joined an extremist group that became known as the National Socialist German Workers Party, or Nazi Party. Soon, Hitler became the leader of the Nazi Party. In 1923, he tried to take over the government but was arrested and found guilty of treason.

While serving time in prison, Hitler wrote Mein Kampf, or My Struggle. This book listed the basic ideas of the Nazi Party, which believed in extreme nationalism and racism. Hitler thought that Germans belonged to a “master race” of Aryans. People who had blond hair and blue eyes were thought to be much better than other people. Hitler was racist against Jews. He said that non-Aryan races, like Jews and Slavs, were not even human. Hitler blamed the Jews for Germany’s political and economic problems. He promised to take back the lands that had been taken away from Germany. Hitler said Germany was crowded and that it needed more lebensraum, or living space.

In less than a year, Hitler got out of prison. He kept gathering support for the Nazi Party. In passionate speeches, Hitler promised to create jobs, end the payments Germany was making to the Allies after World War I, and rebuild the military. Many people liked Hitler’s plan for a stronger Germany. Soon, the Nazi Party had a million members. Hitler was elected Chancellor of Germany in 1933.

To achieve his goals as leader of Germany, Hitler set up a totalitarian system of government. Under this system, Nazis controlled every area of German life, including government, religion, and education. All other political parties were outlawed. A police group called the Schutzstaffel, or SS, arrested and murdered hundreds of Hitler’s opponents. Detention centers called concentration camps held people who were considered enemies of the state.

Most Germans did not worry about the terror Hitler used to rule. Instead, they were happy that he created jobs for thousands of people. National pride was coming back to Germany. In the 1930s, Germany became Europe’s second fascist state. After winning absolute power at home, Hitler dreamed of expanding Germany’s power in Europe.
Hitler Comes to Power

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. Hitler became the leader of the _______.
   A. Communist Party
   B. Nazi Party
   C. German Nationalists
   D. Fascist Party

2. Hitler wrote a book while he was ________.
   A. running for political office
   B. touring the country and making speeches
   C. in prison
   D. fighting in the German army

3. Hitler was racist against ________.
   A. people with blond hair and blue eyes
   B. people who were not born in Germany
   C. Jews
   D. Aryans

4. Hitler promised to ________.
   A. create jobs
   B. end payments to the Allies
   C. rebuild Germany’s military
   D. all of the above

5. Most Germans ________.
   A. were happy that Hitler created new jobs
   B. wanted to remove Hitler from office
   C. moved away from Germany
   D. all of the above
Hitler Comes to Power

Crossword Puzzle
Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS
3. Under Hitler's __________ government, the Nazis controlled every area of German life, including government, religion, and education.

7. Hitler believed that Germans belonged to a “master race” of __________.

9. Hitler thought the German democratic government formed after World War I was __________.

10. __________’s book is called Mein Kampf.

DOWN
1. Hitler promised to create __________.

2. Hitler was elected __________ of Germany.

4. Hitler promised to take back the __________ that had been taken away from Germany.

5. Most people did not worry about the __________ Hitler used to rule.

6. The __________ Party believed in extreme nationalism and racism.

8. The Nazi police were called the __________.
**Hitler Comes to Power**

**Venn Diagram – Dictators in Europe**

*Use the Venn diagram to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.*

1. How did Hitler come to power?

2. Who was the leader of fascist Italy?

3. What did the two leaders have in common?
Quiz: Hitler Comes to Power

True/False

Decide if each statement is true or false, and write “true” or “false” in the blank.

1. Hitler was the leader of Italy’s Nazi Party.
2. Hitler wrote Mein Kampf while in prison.
3. The Nazi Party believed in democracy.
4. Hitler used terror to rule.
5. The Nazi police were called the SS.

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

6. The Nazis controlled Germany’s _________.
   A. government
   B. religion
   C. education
   D. all of the above

7. Hitler believed the Germans belonged to a “master race” of _________.
   A. Jews
   B. Slavs
   C. Aryans
   D. Nazis

Short Answer

Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. What was one thing that Hitler promised the German people?