

# Fascism and Mussolini



## Journal Activity



Look back at what you learned and watched about North Korea.

How is it different from the United States. Why do North Koreans behave the way they do? What do you think are some ways that can help change the situation for them?



# Europe Pre-World War I

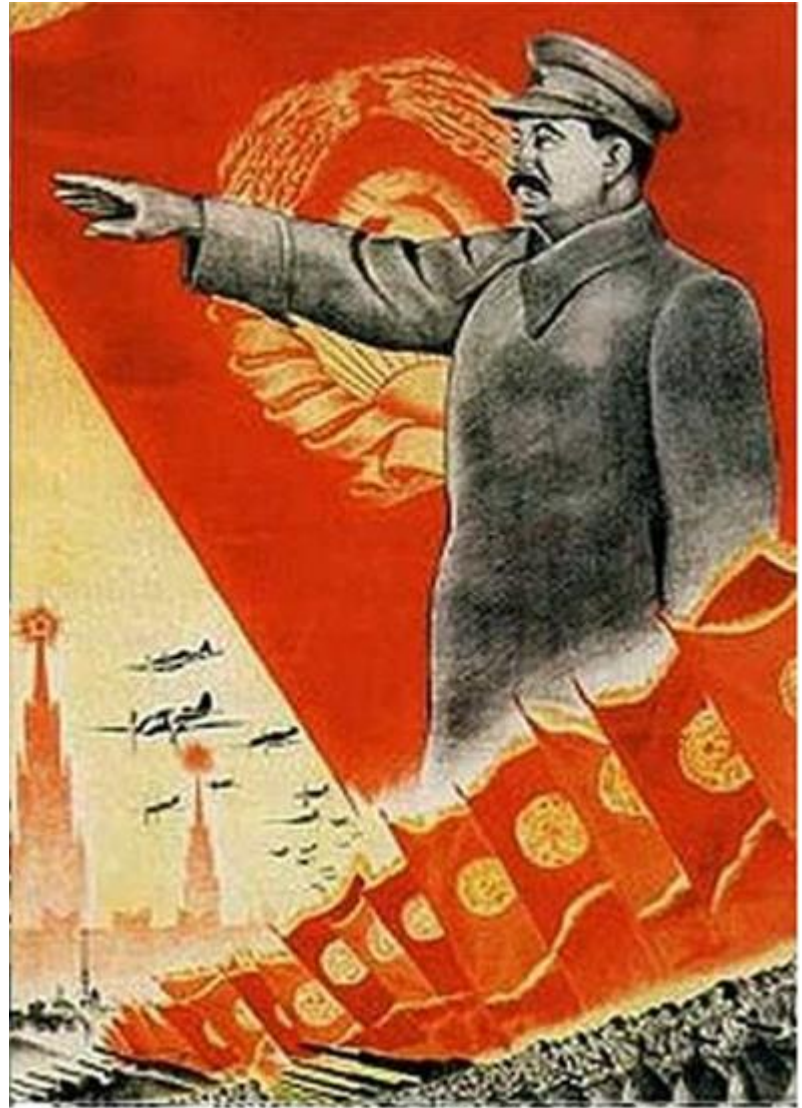




# Europe Post-World War I







# World War I

**WWI changed people's perception of the nature of the world:**

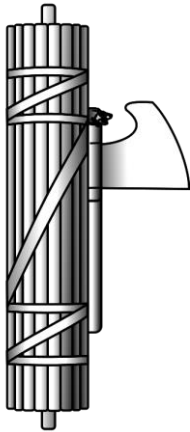
- War
- Society
- State
- Technology

## **Age of Uncertainty**

- New ideas
  - **Fascism**



# fascism



*fasces*  
Ancient Roman  
symbol for  
power/authority

-ism  
Idea, a state, policy

A political idea that glorifies the state and nation and the state has control over every aspect of life

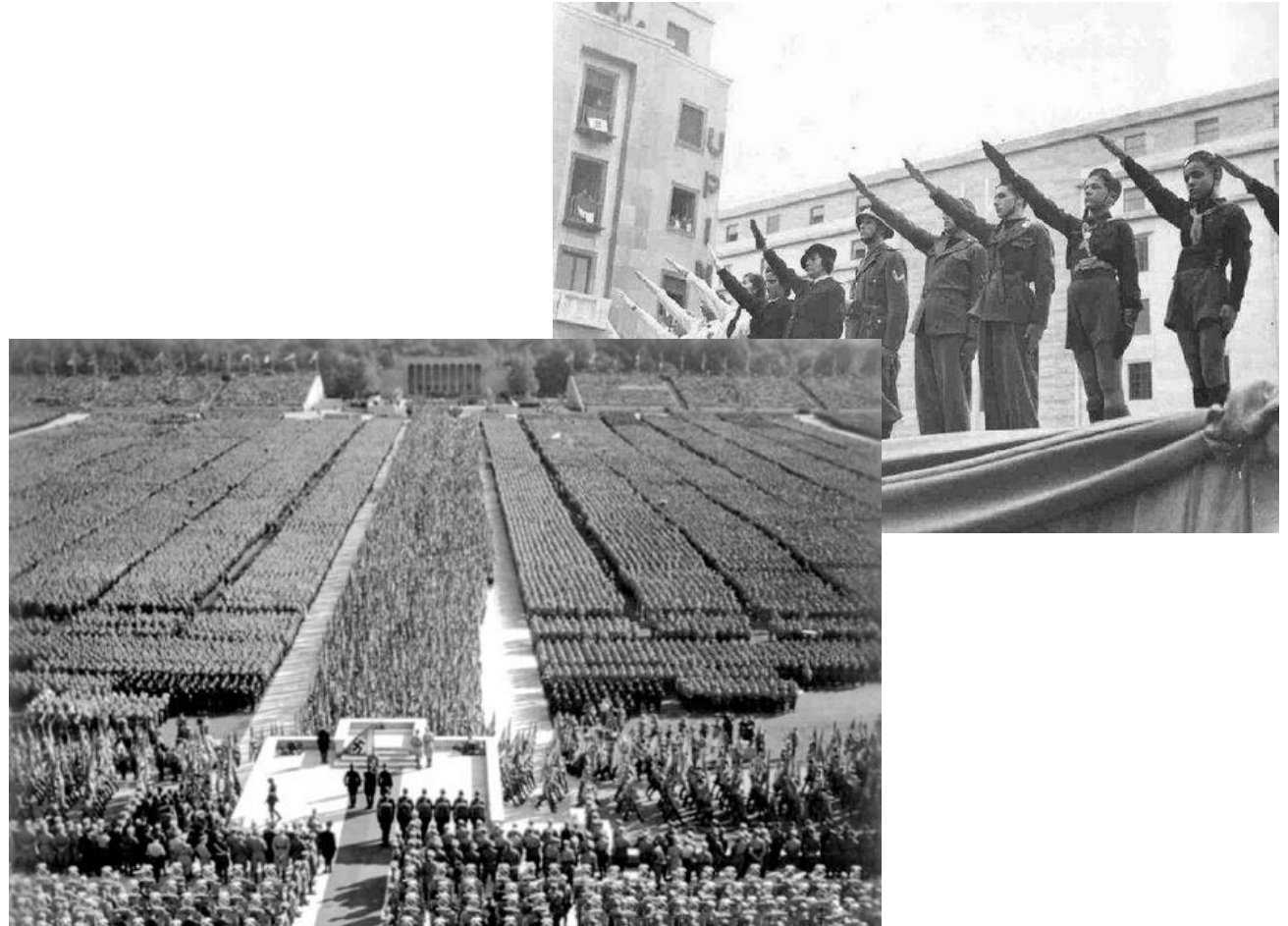


# Fascism

**Democracies are useless to protect people and get anything done effectively**

**Totalitarian one-party state (dictatorship) is the way to go**

- Necessary to completely mobilize society to defend nation and respond effectively to economic difficulties





# Fascism

## Nationalists & Social Darwinists

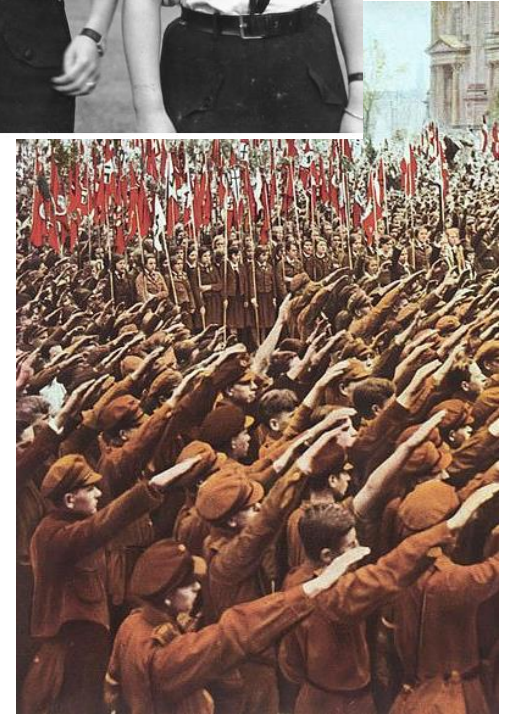
- National unity and orderly society
- **Violence is totally okay if it helps the nation**
  - War
  - Imperialism
  - Political violence
- **Mixed Economy**
  - Capitalism with state control
    - Okay as long as it benefits the state
    - **Autarky** (self-sufficiency)
  - Everybody has their place in society



# Fascism

## Youth and Women

- Huge emphasis on youth
- Youth is critical time for moral development
- **Women**
  - Bearer of children, men, and warriors
  - Incentives to have more children
  - Women with many children were honored





**Stalin's communism is very similar to fascism with some differences. The two most noticeable differences are the following:**

<b>Stalin's Communism</b>	<b>Fascism</b>
"Classless society"	Each social class has their own place and function
Internationalists	Nationalists





# Global Depression

**After WWI, US prosperity meant global prosperity.**

**By 1929, US produced almost half of the world's goods.**

- Overproduction
- Too much supply, lower prices

## **Stock Market Crash (Black Tuesday)**

- Over speculation
- Too many people selling stocks that prices plummeted



# Global Depression

- Mass unemployment soon followed

United State began to raise **tariffs** to protect own economy

- Chain effect of countries imposing tariffs

Lasted about 10 years

- Known as the **Great Depression**
- Solved in the U.S. by FDR's New Deal and WWII
  - Great Recession in 2008 is comparable







# Fascist Appeal

Fascism seemed appealing to a lot of people

- Italy was already fascist under **Benito Mussolini**
- Helped Nazi Party come to power

Fascists promised:

- Revive the economy
- Punish those responsible for hard times
- Restore order and national pride



# Italy

- Disappointed in Treaty of Versailles
- Embarrassed of country and government
  - Constitutional monarchy
- Terrible economy
- Unemployment



People wanted a **STRONG** leadership to lead them



# Benito Mussolini

Teacher, soldier, journalist (1883-1945)

- Started out as a socialist in the Italian Socialist Party
- Got kicked out and changed his ideas radically
  - Rejected class conflict and for revolutionary nationalism
- Believed there should be a revolutionary vanguard class to lead society



# Battle of Caporetto

Battle of Caporetto (1917)

- Central Powers vs. Italy
- 400,000 Italian soldiers
  - 10,000 killed
  - 30,000 wounded
  - 265,000 surrendered and captured

Used as an excuse/propaganda by Mussolini



Referenced in Ernest Hemingway's A Farewell to Arms

# Rise of Mussolini

Got his start in politics from money from MI5 to publish pro-war propaganda

- Supported nationalist sentiment
- Anti-socialist
- Revive glory of its Roman past
- Supported imperialism





# Largest Extent of the Roman Empire



# National Fascist Party

Founded by Mussolini in 1921

- Built strong following
- Gained seats in government
- **Blackshirts** (paramilitary force)
  - “Voluntary Militia for National Security”
  - Complete loyalty to Mussolini
  - Used violence and intimidation against opponents







# March on Rome (1922)

- Blackshirts crushed any socialist movement
- Fascist Party grew to 700,000 members by 1922
- “Our program is simple: we want to rule Italy”
- 30,000 Fascists marched to Rome and seized power



# Mussolini Speaking to the US in English

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=tTXhez2mNmM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTXhez2mNmM)

# Il Duce

- Referred to as “Il Duce,” the leader
- By 1928, complete control of Italy with no restriction to his power
- Outlawed all political parties
- Suppressed all socialist movements
- Cult of personality
- Allied with middle classes, aristocracy, and industrial leaders
- Controlled economy



# Mussolini Speech

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=00v-Ncs7vQk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00v-Ncs7vQk)



# Mussolini Addresses Germany

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=ciQ6MGU4GV8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciQ6MGU4GV8)

# Fascist Italy

- OVRA (Organization for Vigilance and Repression of Anti-Fascism) – secret police
- Propaganda
- Cult of personality
- Focus on youth programs
- Teachers had to swear an oath of loyalty
- Newspaper editors personally chosen

