

# Assessment: The Rise of Fascism and Totalitarian States

## Mastering the Content

Circle the letter next to the best answer.

1. Who organized a new political movement known as fascism in 1919?
  - A. Adolph Hitler
  - B. Francisco Franco
  - C. Benito Mussolini
  - D. Joseph Stalin
2. How did Italian leaders view the peace settlement that ended World War I?
  - A. They were angered by the war guilt clause they were forced to sign.
  - B. They were disappointed in the amount of territory they were awarded.
  - C. They were overwhelmed by the reparations they were required to pay.
  - D. They were relieved they were not punished as severely as Germany.
3. Mussolini believed Italy's social and economic problems could only be solved by
  - A. a dictator.
  - B. a parliamentary democracy.
  - C. the Nazi Party.
  - D. the restoration of the Italian monarchy.
4. Mussolini helped Italy modernize its industrial sector by managing the economy according to the principles of
  - A. corporatism.
  - B. free-market capitalism.
  - C. mercantilism.
  - D. socialism.
5. Mussolini believed he was helping to restore Italy to the glory days of the ancient Roman Empire by
  - A. allying with Hitler.
  - B. annexing Sicily.
  - C. establishing a senate.
  - D. invading Ethiopia.
6. Many Germans viewed the Weimar Republic as an illegitimate government because its leaders
  - A. came to power in a violent coup.
  - B. drew Germany into World War I.
  - C. signed the Treaty of Versailles.
  - D. supported the Nazi Party.
7. Which of the following factors helped to radicalize German society in the years after World War I?
  - A. the authoritarianism of the Weimar Republic
  - B. drought and famine
  - C. out of control inflation
  - D. the rise of the middle class
8. Hitler's goal of establishing a Third Reich meant that he wanted to
  - A. create a new German Empire.
  - B. control all three branches of Germany's government.
  - C. enlarge Germany's army.
  - D. exterminate the Jews of Europe.

9. How did the Nazis take power in Germany?
  - A. by appointment
  - B. by force
  - C. by Hitler's decree
  - D. by parliamentary election
10. When Hitler took power, most Germans
  - A. joined the Nazi Party.
  - B. participated in demonstrations against the Nazi regime.
  - C. supported, or at least accepted, Nazi rule.
  - D. attempted to flee the country.
11. The episode of anti-Jewish violence that took place throughout Germany on November 9, 1938 was known as
  - A. Kristallnacht.
  - B. Mein Kampf.
  - C. the Night of the Long Knives.
  - D. SchutzStaffel.
12. Who ruled Spain as a dictator between 1923 and 1930?
  - A. King Alfonso XIII
  - B. Francisco Franco
  - C. Benito Mussolini
  - D. Miguel Primo de Rivera
13. The Spanish Civil War was fought between the left-wing Republicans and the right-wing
  - A. Nationalists.
  - B. Nazis.
  - C. Popular Front.
  - D. Socialists.
14. Stalin's First Five-Year Plan focused on
  - A. eliminating "enemies of the people."
  - B. encouraging entrepreneurship.
  - C. modernizing agriculture and industry.
  - D. producing consumer goods.
15. During the Great Purge in the USSR, top Communist leaders
  - A. came to dominate the Soviet parliament.
  - B. led a failed assassination attempt against Stalin.
  - C. ordered the extermination of Soviet ethnic minorities.
  - D. were forced to confess to fictitious crimes.
16. The regimes that arose in the Soviet Union under Stalin, in Italy under Mussolini, in Germany under Hitler, and in Spain under Franco in the years after World War I were similar in that they were all
  - A. communist.
  - B. democratic.
  - C. fascist.
  - D. totalitarian.

## Applying Social Studies Skills

Read the excerpt below from the encyclopedia entry on “Fascism” that Benito Mussolini wrote in 1932. Use this excerpt and what you have learned in Lesson 23 to answer the questions that follow.

3. Above all, Fascism. . . believes neither in the possibility nor in the utility of perpetual peace. It thus repudiates the doctrine of Pacifism -- born of a renunciation of the struggle and an act of cowardice in the face of sacrifice. War alone brings up to their highest tension all human energies and puts the stamp of nobility upon the peoples who have the courage to meet it. All other trials are substitutes, which never really put a man in front of himself in the alternative of life and death. . . .

6. Fascism attacks the whole complex of democratic ideologies and rejects them both in their theoretical premises and in their applications or practical manifestations. Fascism denies that the majority, through the mere fact of being a majority, can rule human societies; it denies that this majority can govern by means of a periodical consultation; it affirms the irremediable, fruitful and beneficent inequality of men, who cannot be leveled by such a mechanical and extrinsic fact as universal suffrage. . . . Democracy is a regime without a king, but with very many kings, perhaps more exclusive, tyrannical and violent than one king even though a tyrant. . .

9. . . . If it is admitted that the nineteenth century has been the century of Socialism, Liberalism and Democracy, it does not follow that the twentieth must also be the century of Liberalism, Socialism and Democracy. Political doctrines pass; peoples remain. It is to be expected that this century may be a century of authority, a century of the "Right," a Fascist century. If the nineteenth was the century of the individual it may be expected that this one may be the century of "collectivism" and therefore the century of the State. . . .

10. The foundation of Fascism is the conception of the State, its character, its duty, and its aim. Fascism conceives of the State as an absolute, in comparison with which all individuals or groups are relative, only to be conceived of in their relation to the State.

11. . . . In the Fascist State the individual is not suppressed, but rather multiplied, just as in a regiment a soldier is not weakened but multiplied by the number of his comrades. The Fascist State organizes the nation, but it leaves sufficient scope to individuals; it has limited useless or harmful liberties and has preserved those that are essential. It cannot be the individual who decides in this matter, but only the State.

17. According to point 3, what is the fascist attitude toward war? Cite a specific quote from the text.

18. In point 6, what argument does Mussolini make to criticize democracy and defend dictatorship?

19. How does Mussolini view the concept of individual civil liberties? Cite a specific quote from the text.

## **Exploring the Essential Question: What accounted for the rise of totalitarian states after World War I?**

In Mussolini's article defining fascism (point 9), he argues that the rise of authoritarian states in Europe in the twentieth century was inevitable.

“It is to be expected that this century may be a century of authority, a century of the "Right," a Fascist century. If the nineteenth was the century of the individual it may be expected that this one may be the century of "collectivism" and therefore the century of the State.”

20. Using what you have learned in Lesson 23, write a short essay in which you agree or disagree with this argument. Be sure to include:

- What factors led to the rise of fascism and totalitarianism in Europe in the years after World War I? Cite specific historical examples from at least two European countries.
- Was the rise of fascist and totalitarian governments in Europe inevitable? Why or why not?