

## Terms Chapter 29 (Part One):

### Modern Totalitarianism:

The idea of a radical dictatorship arose in the 1920s in the U.S.S.R. and Germany— partially in Italy as well. Totalitarian governments sought total control over those under their power and rebuffed classic liberalism and restrictive parliaments. Willpower, conflict, and violence were the cornerstone of modern totalitarianism; this contrasted with the liberalist policies that promoted the bourgeois class, free capitalism, rationality and education, and peace. Those under totalitarian regimes had hardly any rights, and the state became the center of life. Those who ascended to power were, most remarkably, not members of some elite group. Instead, those who were diehard nationalists or socialists that managed to slip into the government often led the uprising of a totalitarian state. Propaganda was a vital lifeline for totalitarian administrations during the 1930s and onward to influence the thoughts of their peoples. Totalitarianism was also a very grey area. Stalin's communist U.S.S.R. and Hitler's Nazi Germany both embodied the ideals of Totalitarianism: an endless revolution that pushed for incredible change at great costs. Even Mussolini's fascist Italy exemplified this concept to some extent, incomplete only in his lack of interest in asserting total power. Modern Totalitarianism was nonetheless important as it was a new form of rule the dictated every feature of the country it infested itself in, was a response to classic liberal ideology, and reflected that people turn to radicalism in tough times.

### Final Solution:

In 1941, Hitler had reached the height of his power. WWII, Hitler realized, would be one of the few chances he would have to dispatch the lower races without worldwide outcry. Under the cover of war, the Nazi dictator dictated: Every Jew had to be eradicated. The construction of concentration camps like Auschwitz-Birkenau and the mass murder of the Jewish population ended in 6 million dead. By 1943, however, the Germans were on the defensive, and the capture of Warsaw, Poland (Poland was the heart of Nazi extermination plans.) by the Russians prompted the hastening of Hitler's executions—all in the name of the Aryan race. All the while, most of the German people turned a blind eye toward the monstrous Nazi killing machine. Hitler's "Final Solution" was symbolic of the Nazi's hatred of Jews and would lead to the Balfour Declaration following the conclusion of WWII, officially establishing a Jewish state in the Middle East.

### Fascism:

The first fascist state was created by Mussolini in Italy during the 1920s. Fascist regimes often were ardently nationalistic, strongly antisocialist, and heavily militaristic. Led by a piquant, revolutionary leader, these dictatorships usually allied with the wealthy gentry and pressed for constant revolution. Fascism was a branch of totalitarianism, stressing the importance of the state and restricting the rights of the common people. Hostile to free-thinkers and notoriously rigging elections, fascist states were repulsed by socialists, often using them as scapegoats to gain more power. Hitler's Nazi Germany (1933) and Francisco Franco's Spain (1939) were also examples of fascist governments. The birth of fascism was important as it was a new form of totalitarian government and was a response to communism.