Rise of Dictatorships and Beginnings of WWII

Chapter 4
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Causes: Why Did Dictatorships Rise?

- Extreme situations call for extreme governments
- People are afraid of disorder
- Sometimes, people will trade ‘order’ for ‘personal freedom’
- Sometimes, people are taught to believe that their ‘ethnicity’ is superior to other ethnicities in the world.
Three Dictators

- What is a dictator?
  - An absolute ruler
  - A tyrant; a despot.

Examples:

> Stalin - Russia
  *Communist*

> Mussolini - Italy
  *Fascist*

> Hitler - Germany
  *Fascist*
Stalin

- Took control after the death of Lenin
- A cruel leader
- Drastic agricultural and economic reforms were imposed to ready Russia for the fight against Capitalism
- Totalitarian state: A form of government in which the political authority exercises absolute and centralized control over all aspects of life. The individual is subordinated to the state, and opposing political and cultural expression is suppressed.
Mussolini

- Came to power in Italy in 1922
- Called: Il Duce
- Opposed to democracy and communism
- Blackshirts
- Dreamed of a new Italian (Roman) Empire
Fascist Governments

- Control the media
- Use propaganda to control people
- Present an ‘infallible leader’ image, i.e., the leader is someone who never makes mistakes
- Myth-building an essential part of the government process, e.g., Jews are evil
Germany After WWI

- Treaty of Versailles established peace terms after WWI
- Article 238: War Guilt Clause, i.e., Germany started WWI
- Reparations ($$$\ldots$$)
- Hyper-inflation
- Stock market crash hurt Germany badly
Rise of Hitler

- Hitler claimed that he had all the answers
- Provided make work projects: Autobahn
- Abolished all other political parties
- Found scapegoats – the Jews
- Used paramilitary groups - Brownshirts
- Took advantage of the failure of the democratic Weimar Government
Art. 48. If a state fails to perform the duties imposed upon it by the federal constitution or by federal law, the President . . . may enforce performance with the aid of the armed forces. If public order and security are seriously disturbed or endangered within the Federation, the President . . . may take all necessary steps for their restoration, intervening, if need be, with the aid of the armed forces. For the said purpose he may suspend for the time being, either wholly or in part, the fundamental rights
Nuremberg Laws

- **ARTICLE 3.** Only citizens of the Reich, as bearers of full political rights, can exercise the right of voting in political matters, and have the right to hold public office.

- **ARTICLE 4.** (1) A Jew cannot be a citizen of the Reich. He cannot exercise the right to vote; he cannot hold public office. (2) Jewish officials will be retired as of December 31, 1935.
Kristallnacht/ Crystal Night

- November 9, 1938 - German mobs attack businesses and Jewish synagogues
- The night of breaking glass = Crystal Night
- Jews were billed for the damages done to their property
The Road to War

- Japan invades Manchuria
- China asks League of Nations for help - Japan walks away from League of Nations
- Italy attacks Abyssinia - France and Britain reluctant to do anything (wanted Italy for an ally against Germany)
- 1936 – Hitler enters the Rhineland
- Spanish Civil War – Communism and Democracy against Fascism
Appeasement

- March 1938 – Anschluss (Austria becomes a part of Germany)
- September 1938 – Germany takes Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia
- March 1939 – Germany takes the rest of Czechoslovakia
- August 1939 – Nazi-Soviet Pact signed
- September 1939 – Poland falls
Hitler’s View - Democracies
Hitler’s View - French/ British Families
Hitler’s View - Austria
Hitler/Stalin View –– Poland
Canada’s Response

- Canada, like America, remained isolationist.
- Why?
- Memories of WWI, Great Depression, and harsh Treaty of Versailles
- PM Mackenzie King thought Hitler was peaceful – good for Germany!
- Canada failed to accept Jewish refugees (the S.S. St. Louis)