

# What is Fascism?

I can define the political ideology of fascism and compare and contrast ideals in fascism to those in communism.



# Entry Task: Questions

- Why do you think dictators were able to rise to power after WWI?
- What was Europe like after WWI ended?
- What side was Italy on during WWI (winning or losing?)?
- What government is ruling Germany? What Treaty did they sign?
- How did that treaty effect Germany?

# The Context

- A worldwide economic depression
  - Inflation causes economic crisis in Germany
  - Economic crisis in France, America and Britain
    - US responds with FDR's new deal & focus on America
    - France & GB focus on themselves & will ignore signs of aggression
    - Italy & Germany will become totalitarian dictatorships

# Fascism Rises in Europe

- Fascism: A militant political movement that emphasized loyalty to the state and obedience to a leader
  - Leader has complete authority
  - Sometimes emphasizes the greater importance of an ethnic group

# What is Fascism?

- A political ideology that focuses on
  - 1 party rule with 1 supreme leader
  - extreme nationalism or loyalty to ones country
  - Obedience and loyalty to an authoritarian leader/dictator
  - Militarism as the definition of a country's strength
  - Censorship & Indoctrination (youth trained from a young age)
  - Economy under state control



- Fasces - Symbol of Fascism, representing strength through unity (throwback to the Roman Empire)

# Fascism VS Communism

- Hated each other
- Supporters:
  - Fascist = business leaders, wealthy landowners, & lower middle class
  - Communist = Urban workers & farmers
- Economic Differences:
  - Fascists preserved capitalism
  - Communist = Gov't controls (command economy)
- Similarities:
- Censorship, secret police, propaganda , totalitarian leader, & intense nationalism

# Video clip

- What is Fascism?
  - Video (first 3 minutes)



# Is it fascism

- Use the characteristics of fascism to determine if its an example of fascism
- Read each case & as a group decide if its an example of **TOTALLY, MOSTLY, SOMEWHAT, or a NON-FASCIST STATE**
  - Once you have decided, write down why you classified it the way you did

# Case 1-Almost totally

- Aspects of fascism:
  - 1 supreme leader & one political party
  - Total control over society
  - Gov't owns major businesses
  - Political prisoners
- NOT fascism:
  - No talk of violence or military conquests

# Case 2-Somewhat

- Aspects of fascism:
  - 1 supreme leader
  - Censorship & obedience required
  - Building up military
- NOT fascism:
  - Assembly of religious leaders have a say (can veto laws & get leader out of power)
  - Has a Parliament
  - Religious law is supreme (they can veto laws passed if they go against religious law)

# Case 3-Not fascism

- Aspects of fascism:
- NOT fascism:
- Political & religious freedoms

# How does Fascism compare?

	Democracy with Capitalism	Communism	Fascism
<b>Ruled by?</b>	Elected leader (president/ prime minister)	Dictator	Dictator
<b>Individual Rights?</b>	Individual freedoms are protected by law	No individual rights—given up for collective benefit	No individual rights State is supreme
<b>Thought about role of classes?</b>	Free trade Majority rules, but minority rights are protected. All people can vote	Working class should unite and overthrow the upper class to move toward a classless society	Rejects the idea of class conflict in favor of class collaboration for the good of the state - even if unequal (mediated by state)