# World War II Outcome: Causes of World War II



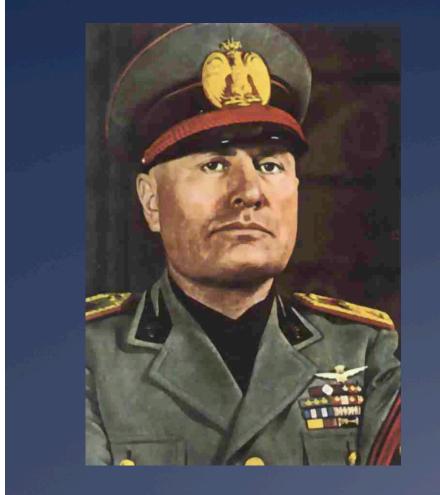
### Underlying Causes of World War II

- a. <u>Totalitarian</u> Dictators gained power around the world
  - Fascist leaders arose in <u>Europe</u> after WWI in:
    - 1. Italy: Benito Mussolini (followers wore black shirts)
  - 2. Spain: Franco's fascists won the Spanish Civil War
  - 3. Soviet Union: Joseph Stalin took control of the communist nation
  - 4. Japan:
    - a. <u>Hideki</u> Tojo: Military Leader & <u>Prime Minister</u>
    - b. Emperor <u>Hirohito</u>: Political & Spiritual figurehead
  - 5. Germany: Adolf Hitler (Nazism = German Fascism)

### Fascism

\* a political philosophy, movement, or regime that exalts nation and often race above the individual and that stands for a centralized <u>autocratic</u> government headed by a <u>dictatorial</u> leader, severe economic and social regimentation, and forcible suppression of opposition

# Benito Mussolini of Italy

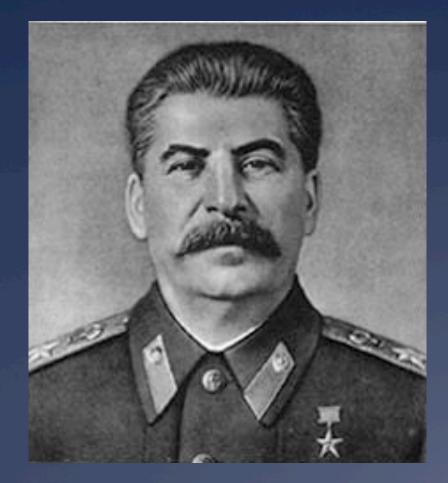




# Francisco Franco of Spain



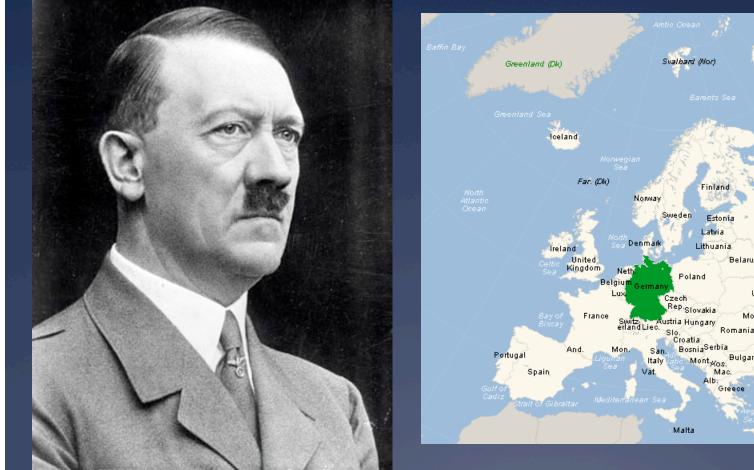
### Joseph Stalin in The Soviet Union







# Adolf Hitler in Germany

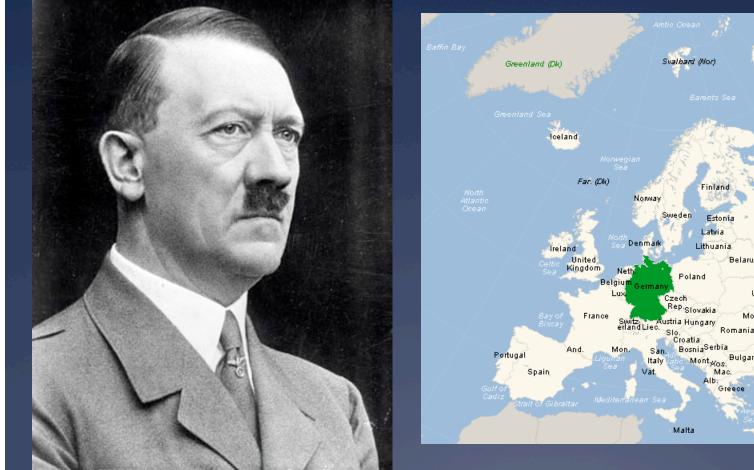




b. Each <u>dictator</u> took advantage of <u>economic</u> problems by:

- Promising **simple solutions** to their nation's problems
- ii. Rebuilding <u>national pride</u> (often using propaganda)
- iii. Providing scapegoats (targets for <u>anger</u> & <u>blame</u>)
- Absorbing <u>power</u>, taking away individual <u>rights</u>, and crushing <u>opposition</u> (1 <u>party</u>; 1 <u>ruler</u>)

# Adolf Hitler in Germany



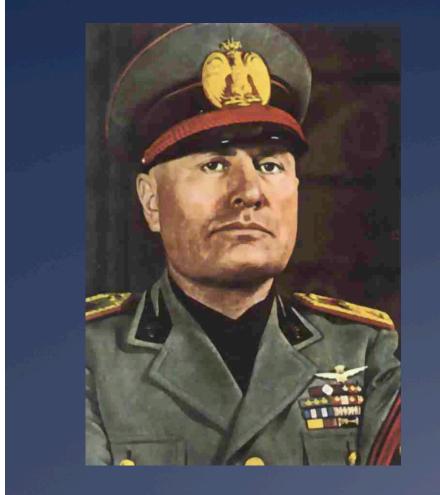


#### c. Nationalism + Imperialism

#### In <u>Germany</u>, Adolf Hitler preached:

- 1. Vengeance against (4 hates)
  - a. **Democracies** (a weak & undisciplined form of gov't)
  - <u>Communism</u> (a threat to <u>Nazi</u> growth)
  - c. November Criminals who signed the WWI Armistice
  - d. <u>Jews</u> (the source of all <u>evil</u> & <u>problems</u> in Germany)
- 2. Anti-<u>Semitism</u> & <u>racial</u> supremacy (The <u>Master</u> Race)
- 3. A desire to unit all people of German ancestry (Blood & language)
- "Lebensraum" (a desire for more living space) needed to build his empire he called The Third <u>Reich</u>

# Benito Mussolini of Italy





#### ii. In Italy, Mussolini (<u>II Duce</u> = "The Leader")

- Felt betrayed by the <u>Allies</u> at the Treaty of <u>Versailles Conference</u> due to a promise of <u>land</u> for joining the Allies that was not kept
- 2. Wished to rebuild the ancient <u>Holy Roman</u> Empire and wanted to control lands around the <u>Mediterranean</u> Sea; "Mare Nostrum = <u>Our Sea</u>



- iii. Japan wanted to be self sufficient and #1 in <u>Asia</u> but needed <u>oil</u> and <u>raw materials</u>
  - 1. Wanted <u>China</u>'s land for this purpose
  - 2. Goal: <u>Greater</u> East Asian <u>Co-Prosperity</u> Sphere: name for power in Asia

#### d. Militarism

#### Germany:

- 1. Defied the Treaty of <u>Versailles</u> & rebuilt the army
- 2. Created the "Nazi War Machine"

#### Japan

- Built up the strongest military regime in <u>Asia</u>
- 2. Soldier's motto: "Death before Dishonor"

#### Italy

1. Formed the **Rome**-**Berlin** Axis (alliance) with **Germany** in 1936

#### e. Poor Decisions were made by the powerful democracies

- France & Great Britain adopted a policy of **appeasement**
- The **League** of Nations would prove ineffective; lacked a **<u>military</u>**
- U.S.: <u>Isolationism</u> & <u>Depression</u> kept our focus on U.S. concerns; once <u>aggression</u> began we claimed to be <u>neutral</u>

Equation:

<u>Nationalism</u> + <u>Imperialism</u> + <u>Militarism</u> = Aggression

Extreme Aggression = <u>War</u>!

