

Chapter 17 Section 2 Notes

I. The Rise of Dictators (pages 540–541)

A. Between 1919 and 1939, all the major countries of Europe except France and Great Britain had adopted some form of dictatorial government.

B. A new form of dictatorship was the modern **totalitarian state**. Totalitarian governments aimed to control all aspects of their citizens' lives. Totalitarian governments wanted to control the hearts and minds of everyone and used mass propaganda and modern communication to achieve their goals.

C. A single leader and a single party led the new totalitarian states. There were no individual freedoms or limits to government power. Individuals were considered subservient to the collective will of the masses, which was controlled by the state. The state demanded that its citizens actively support any of its goals.

II. Fascism in Italy (pages 541–543)

A. Benito Mussolini in Italy established the first European Fascist government in the early 1920s. **Fascism** glorifies the state above the individual. A strong central government and a single dictator run the state.

B. Italy suffered severe economic problems after World War I. There was a great deal of social upheaval. Many Italians were afraid that there might be a Communist takeover as in **Russia** and Mussolini's movement gained wide support. Mussolini formed groups of armed Fascists called Blackshirts, who attacked socialists and strikers and anyone who opposed the Fascists.

C. Mussolini appealed to nationalist pride among Italians. He demanded that Italy get more land from the peace treaties of World War I. In 1922, Mussolini had enough followers that he forced the Italian king to make him his prime minister. As prime minister, Mussolini created a Fascist dictatorship. He added extensive powers to the government and was given the power to pass laws by decree. The police were given authority to arrest anyone.

D. In 1926, the Fascists outlawed all opposition. They set up a secret police. At the end of 1926, Mussolini was the only ruler of Italy. He was called *Il Duce*.

E. Mussolini used the secret police to control the people. The Fascists also controlled mass-media outlets. They used the media to spread pro-Fascist propaganda. The Fascists created youth groups that focused on military activities. While the Italian Fascists tried to create a new nation of fit, disciplined, and war-loving people, they still maintained traditional values about the important place of women and families in society.

F. Mussolini never achieved the total control over Italy that Hitler and Stalin did in Germany and the Soviet Union. For example, Mussolini still recognized the sovereign independence of the Vatican in Rome and Catholicism as the state religion.

G. In all areas of Italian life, there was a large gap between Fascist policies and actual practice.

III. A New Era in the Soviet Union (pages 543–545)

A. In the early 1920s, millions died in Russia during a great famine caused by a drought. Industrial output was reduced to 20 percent of that of 1913. The country and government were on the verge of collapse.

B. In 1921, Lenin created the **New Economic Policy** (NEP). He abandoned war communism in favor of a system of modified capitalism. Peasants could sell produce, and small businesses could be privately owned. The government still controlled heavy industries and banking.

C. In 1922, the Communists created the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), or Soviet Union. The NEP saved the Soviet Union from economic ruin, but the Communists saw it only as a temporary measure.

Chapter 17 Section 2 Notes

D. In 1924, Lenin died and a bitter struggle for power in the **Politburo** ensued. The Politburo was a committee that controlled the policies of the Communist Party. One faction, led by Leon Trotsky, wanted to end the NEP and industrialize the nation at the expense of the peasants. They also wanted to spread communism to other countries. Another faction rejected worldwide communism and wanted to continue the NEP while building a socialist state.

E. Trotsky and **Joseph Stalin** were personal rivals in the Politburo. Stalin held the job of general secretary, and as such had appointed thousands of officials throughout Russia. Stalin used his position to gain complete control over the Communist Party. By 1929, he had removed all the Bolsheviks from power and became a powerful dictator. Trotsky was expelled and ended up in Mexico, where he was killed in 1940, probably on Stalin's orders.

F. The Stalinist Era began a time of radical changes in the Soviet Union. In 1928, Stalin ended the NEP and instituted the First Five-Year Plan. The **Five-Year Plans** set economic goals for five-year periods. The First Five-Year Plan emphasized industrialization and production of capital goods. The plan greatly increased the output of heavy machinery and production of oil and steel.

G. The Five-Year Plans took a heavy toll on the Russian people. Urban housing for millions of workers was terrible. Wages declined. The government dealt with these problems by using propaganda to boost morale.

H. Stalin also collectivized agriculture. **Collectivization** was a system in which the government took over ownership of private farms and had the peasants work them. Many peasants resisted collectivization by hoarding food and killing livestock. Stalin responded by increasing the number of farms in the program.

I. During the early 1930s, millions of Russians starved to death due to food shortages from collectivization. Those who resisted Stalin's programs were sent to Siberian forced labor camps. Stalin conducted purges of Old Bolsheviks and others, many of whom were executed. Others were sent to Siberia. The purges spared no part of society.

J. Stalin overturned social legislation passed in the early 1920s. These included laws protecting rights of women, such as divorce and being able to work outside the home.

IV. Authoritarian States in the West (pages 545–546)

A. Authoritarian states were similar to totalitarian states. They were concerned with preserving a social order, but unlike totalitarian states they did not try to create a new mass society that had complete control over the people.

B. In most of the countries of eastern Europe, authoritarian governments replaced parliamentary governments. Parliamentary systems in eastern Europe failed in part because there was no tradition of democracy and most of the peasants were illiterate. Landowners and the churches feared that democracy would lead to revolution. They supported authoritarian governments to keep order. Czechoslovakia was the only country to keep a democratic government.

C. In 1936, General **Francisco Franco** used the military forces to revolt against the democratic government in **Spain**. A civil war broke out. Germany and Italy supported Franco's side. The Soviet Union and volunteers from other countries supported the republican government. Franco won the civil war after he captured **Madrid** in 1939. He then began an authoritarian dictatorship that lasted for many decades.