The Rise of Fascism
Mussolini & Hitler
Fascism

- Fascism: military & political movement
- All loyalty to the state (nation) & it’s leader
- Dominated by the military & force
- Extreme nationalism
- No democracy, 1-party system
- Roman: fasces, symbol of a bundle of sticks with an axe
Ideas of Fascism

The individual should distrust reason and simply obey
Denial of equality – the strong have an obligation to destroy the weak
Violence is an essential tool
Government by an elite as the average person is incapable
Totalitarian – total state control of the lives of the individuals
Racism and Imperialism justified in that certain nations are elite and are obligated to control
Permanent mobilization – soldier valued above all other citizens
Anything is justified if it serves that states ends
Fascism emphasizes victory, glorifies war, is cruel to the weak, and is irrational and intolerant.
By providing a uniform, someone to blame, someone to hate and a leader, fascism restores self-respect
Fascism in Italy

- Italy denied lands after WWI
- Hit hard by depression 1920s
- Threat of communist revolution
- Social unrest
- Benito Mussolini
Mussolini

- Fought in WWI
- Started newspaper in Italy
- Forms the *Fasci Italiana di Combattimento* Fascist Party
- Blackshirts: armed followers of Fascist Party
- Use violence to win elections
- Anti-communist
Blackshirts
Fascists gain power in Italy
Government falls apart
Mussolini threatens to take over government
October 1922: 30,000 Blackshirts march on Rome
King Victor Emmanuel III gives Mussolini power to head the government
Il Duce “The Leader”

- Mussolini becomes dictator of Italy
- Outlaws all political parties except the Fascists
- Censorship, propaganda
- Secret police force
- Expand Italy’s power & military
“All within the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state.”

“Believe, obey, fight”

“War is to man what maternity is to a woman. From a philosophical and doctrinal viewpoint, I do not believe in perpetual peace.”
Rise of Fascism in Germany

- Germany devastated by Treaty of Versailles, reparations, lose military & lands
- Economic depression, inflation (sudden rise in prices)
- Weak new government: Weimar Republic
- Social unrest, threat of communism
- Strikes & violence
Adolph Hitler

- Born in Austria April 20, 1889
- Served in German army in WWI
- “I believe that it is not a case of Austria fighting to get satisfaction from Serbia, but rather a case of Germany fighting for its own existence”
- Swore revenge after the war
- “Stabbed in the back”
Hitler Meets the Nazi Party

- Hired by Weimar Government to spy on political parties
- National German Socialists Workers Party
- Nazi Party
- “After two days of agonized pondering and reflection, I finally came to the conviction that I had to take this step. It was the most decisive resolve of my life. From here there was and could be no turning back”
- Hitler joins the Nazi Party
Hitler’s Ideas

- Writes *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle)
- Describes plan for Germany
- Blames Jews, communists & traitors at home for Germany’s defeat
- Blames Treaty of Versailles & Allies
Rise in Power

- Nazi Party wins more votes, gains power
- Brownshirts: members of the Nazi Party
- Use violence & intimidation against enemies
Chancellor Hitler

- January 30, 1933
- Hitler appointed Chancellor of Germany
- Head of the government
- Will seize total power
- Dictatorship
- Rebuilds German military
Militarism in Japan

- Emperor Hirohito
- Military leaders control Japan
- Increase Japan’s power in Asia
- Build Japanese Empire (Imperialism)
- Control resources, establish naval powers in Pacific
Japanese Aggression

- 1931: Invades Manchuria
- 1933-1934: Japan builds up their navy
- 1937: invades China
- League of Nations powerless to stop Japan’s aggression
Axis Powers

- Mussolini & Hitler form military alliance
- Japan joins in 1940
- Axis powers
  - Germany
  - Italy
  - Japan
Spanish Civil War

- July 1936
- Gen. Francisco Franco
- Overthrows democratic government
- Establishes fascist dictatorship
- Italy & Germany send troops & materials to support Franco
Abraham Lincoln Brigade

- 450 Americans volunteer to fight Franco in Spain
- Integrated group
- Seen by US govt. as supporters of Communism
American Isolationism

- US remains neutral & isolated
- Great Depression a priority
- FDR passes neutrality laws