

Why was there a growth of dictators after WWI?



## Democracy Vs. Dictatorship

A 'democracy' is a type of political system that is ran by it's citizens or elected representatives. In a democratic society, all it's citizens are equal and free.

**Example:**  
In the UK, we can choose who we want to run the country for us. We vote in an election to nominate our government and Prime Minister.



Citizens of a dictatorship do not have the right to nominate their leader.

A dictator is someone who is in charge and not restricted by any constitution, laws or opposition.

Example:

Hitler was a dictator because he had absolute power over Nazi Germany.



Key features of a democracy

Key features of a Dictatorship

You'll see some features on the next slide, you need to decide what side they should go into on this grid...



# Decide which of these go in a Democracy or Dictatorship.

1. One party in power
2. Laws made by the courts and elected politicians
3. Secret police frighten people
4. Leader made to be a hero
5. Regular elections
6. People are not punished for speaking out
7. Government controlled media
8. Trade Unions are banned
9. People can read what they like
10. Laws changed when the leader decides
11. Police and armed services protect people
12. Government uses spies and informers



## The Rise of the Dictators – Why?

After World War I, political unrest and poor economic conditions lead many countries to develop a dictatorship as their government. Dictatorships held total power and ruled without regard to law. Often those who opposed the dictatorships would be imprisoned or executed.



# GERMANY



- In 1932 the Nazi party came to power in Germany, with Hitler as its Chancellor.
- Germany gained territory by taking over weak countries that it had lost in the Treaty of Versailles.
- Hitler gained power by telling the German people that Germany would be powerful again and would ignore the Treaty of Versailles and avenge Germany's defeat in World War I.
- He also told the German people that they were a superior race that would take over the world and that he would rid Germany of Jew and Slavs.
- One of Hitler's goals was to unite German speaking people. He also wanted to gain land for Germans to live in and for Germany to become powerful again.

Rise of Hitler - Andrew Marr

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Br-QxsOJ-Jg&t=12s>



# Italy



- After World War I in Italy, the weak economy led to strikes and riots.
- The Fascist party, a strongly nationalistic dictatorship, gained supporters in Italy and later on controlled the government.
- The leader of the Fascist party, **Benito Mussolini**, vowed to restore order and prosperity to Italy.
- He wanted Italy to be powerful, like it was in the days of the ancient Roman Empire, and for Italy to dominate the world.

# The Soviet Union

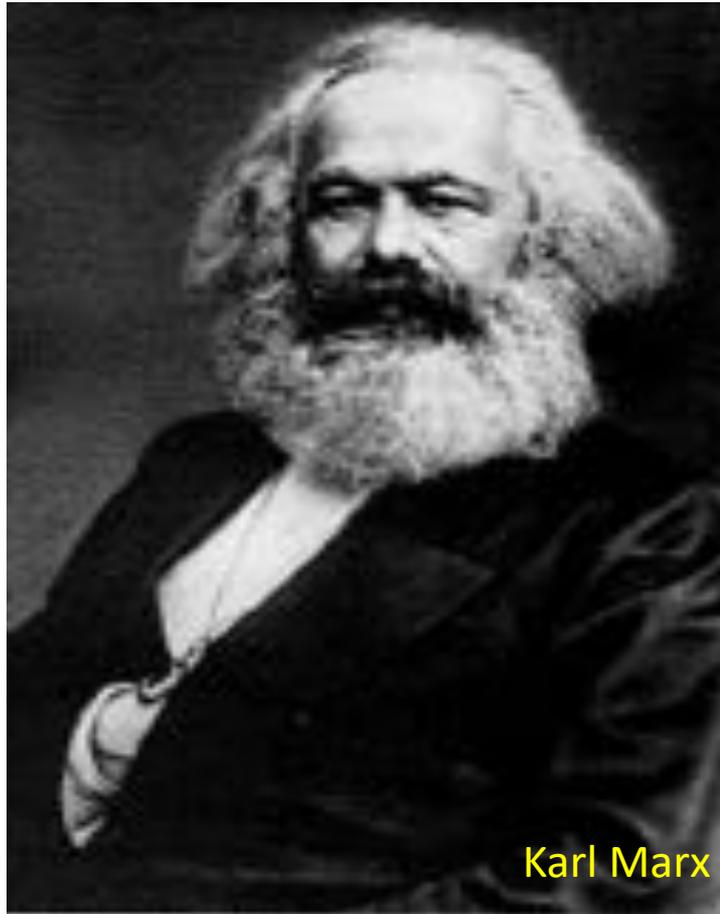


- The Communists, lead by Lenin, gained power in the Soviet Union in 1917.
- Lenin set up a communist dictatorship that firmly controlled the country and the government.
- Right before World War II, **Joseph Stalin** came to power as the leader of the Communists.
- Because Germany thought the Soviet Union was weak, it did not form an alliance with the Soviet Union.
- At the beginning of the war, the Soviet Union joined with the Allies.

# RECAP

Karl Marx- he developed the idea of communism

Blamed capitalist factory owners making large profits but treating workers badly



Karl Marx

He believed eventually workers will not accept this and there would be a revolution. Workers will seize power

Then a workers government will share out the wealth of society fairly.





## How similar were Joseph Stalin and Adolf Hitler?

Although they had different political beliefs neither of them believed in Democracy.



During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, two men from relatively low backgrounds managed to become dictators of two of the most powerful countries in the world. How did Stalin and Hitler rise to power? Once in power, how did they change the lives of people living in the Soviet Union and Germany? How similar were the dictatorships they established?...

Fill in the table on the next page with information from the following pages



	Stalin	Hitler similarities	Hitler differences	Similarity rating / 10
Early Life				
What did they believe in?				
How did they rise to power?				
How did they keep control?				
How did they change people's lives- Work				
How did they change people's lives - women and family.				
How did they change people's lives- young people				

# JOSEPH STALIN

## Family life

- Born in 1879 in Georgia, which was part of the Russian Empire.
- Original name was Iosif Dzhugashvili. Changed his name to Stalin (which means 'man of steel').
- His father was a shoemaker and alcoholic. He abandoned the family when Stalin was a young child.



## Early political life

- Stalin made his name by taking part in violent bank raids to raise money for the Communist Party which was trying to overthrow the Tsar (the ruler of Russia).
- He was twice exiled to Siberia by the Tsar's secret police but he managed to escape each time.
- Stalin became a leading communist after playing an important role in defending the city of Tsaritsyn (later Stalingrad) during the Civil War.

## Leadership qualities

- Not rated highly by Lenin (the leader of the Communist Party) or other leading communists. In 1923 Lenin had called for Stalin to be replaced. Stalin was seen as being slow, steady, dull and unimaginative. He was not a great public speaker.
- Ruthless and devious. He held grudges and was determined to make his enemies suffer.
- Hardworking and a clever politician. He was very good at using his power within the Communist Party. He took on many boring but important jobs such as General Secretary. He used this position to put his own supporters into important posts within the Party.

# ADOLF HITLER

## Family life

- Born in 1889 in Austria. He got on badly with his father who died in 1903.
- Unhappy and lonely at school. He was moody, shy and poor at most subjects. Hitler left school with no qualifications.
- Hitler failed to get a place at art school. For the next few years he struggled to make a living on the streets of Vienna.
- In 1914 he joined the German army. He fought in the First World War and won a medal for bravery.



## Early political life

- After the war Hitler was sent by the army to spy on a meeting of the German Workers' Party. He found himself agreeing with many of their ideas and joined the party. He was given membership card 555.
- The Party was renamed the National Socialist German Workers' Party (or Nazi Party). Hitler became leader of the Party in 1921. By the end of 1922 the Party had 20,000 members.
- In 1923, during the Munich Putsch, the Nazis attempted to overthrow the government by force. The Putsch failed and Hitler was sent to prison. However, he only received a short sentence and was soon back as leader of the Nazi Party.

## Leadership qualities

- Energetic and charismatic. Hitler was a great public speaker. His timing, the style of his delivery and the content of his speeches captivated his listeners.
- Single-minded and very suspicious of others.
- Devious and ruthless.

Stalin believed in Communism and supported the Russian Revolution to remove Tsar Nicholas II.

Following Lenin's death, Stalin went against Trotsky for the leadership of USSR. Stalin wanted to establish communism in USSR not spread it abroad.

Stalin tricked Trotsky by telling him the wrong date for Lenin's funeral so Stalin was the only one there and it made him more popular and Trotsky less popular

Stalin removed all key politicians including Trotsky by having him murdered with an ice pick!



Stalin used Terror to control USSR. There could be no opposition and they would be too scared to oppose.



- Secret Police / Spy network
- Children informed on their parents
- Critics were tortured and sent to the Gulags
- Purged all enemies within the Party – public show trials (500,000)
- Teachers, engineers and workers were also 'Purged' – 18 million by 1937!

Stalin used propaganda and censorship to control ideas.

- Controlling all newspapers and radio stations
- Churches were closed, religious worship banned, they had to worship Stalin
- Stalin was popular (due to propaganda and fear)
- Every town had a large Stalin statue



Government ran all industries.  
100 new Industrial towns and  
15,000 new factories were  
built.

Unemployment was almost non  
existent

Workers were paid less and  
worked long hours. Harsh  
punishments were given for  
lateness eg loss of home, fined,  
sent to Gulags



Women should be more independent, not just their  
domestic role. 1000's of creches were set up so women  
could work in the factories.

Many children ended up on the streets in gangs of  
orphans and survived by stealing and begging.

Each young person should receive 9 years of  
free education. However resources were  
poor and teachers badly paid.

- RE was replaced with atheism and  
Communism
- Curriculum was mostly technical training  
for the factory jobs
- Soviet History was rewritten to promote  
Stalin and Lenin as the great heroes,  
Trotsky was airbrushed out of history.

Peasants in the countryside were forced  
to join collective farms under the control  
of the local communist leader. If they  
refused they were sent to Gulags.

Millions died of starvation during  
Collectivisation

Young people were expected to join the 'Pioneers' and  
promise to obey what the Communist Party told them.

There was camping and team building events in the  
Pioneers.



Hitler didn't seize power like Stalin, he was elected. Germany was a Democracy after WWI. The new Weimar Republic faced many problems and lots of anger related to WWI (Versailles). Hitler took advantage.

- Fear of Communism
- Economic difficulties (Hyperinflation 1923)
- Poverty and homelessness
- Great Depression – 6 million unemployed



Hitler used propaganda and censorship to control ideas.

- Controlling all newspapers and radio stations
- Hitler was portrayed as a hero to save Germany and make it great again
- Hitler promised the desperate and 'depressed' people 'work and bread' using propaganda posters

Although he was elected in 1933, Hitler had attempted an armed take over of Germany in 1923 in the Munich Beer Hall Putsch. He was sent to jail and realised the only way to power was through Democracy – When he was in power though... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ui248IRd14Q>



Hitler believed that the Aryan race were the master race and he would rid the world of non Aryans within 1000 years.

Jews were blamed for many of the problems in Germany as well as the defeat of WWI. Hitler promised to rid the world of Jews as well.

Propaganda was used to convince the masses Hitler was their glorious leader

- Rallies
- Newspapers and Radio
- Films, art, buildings and posters

Propaganda was also used to convince the masses Jews were evil as well as Communists and other enemies of the state.

- Millions of books were burnt
- Jazz music was banned

Terror was used by Hitler to keep power & control Nazi Germany after his election in 1933.

- SS – Private bodyguards, were a ruthless killing machine that ran the concentration camps
- Gestapo – part of SS, could spy, torture, search and kill anyone suspected of being an enemy of the state
- Law courts were controlled by the Nazis, fair trial was impossible



- Concentration camps set up for enemies (homosexuals, Jews, disabled, people who told jokes about Nazis etc)

Hitler's enemies from within the Nazi Party and other political enemies were also dealt with in a purge called the Night of the Long Knives

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ibQ5P3zBVE>



Hitler Youth was an organisation for all children at different ages.

- Holiday camps
- Sporting activities
- Physical activities and character building exercises
- Close combat
- Learn how to use weapons
- Jump over fires and out of windows



Education was controlled by the Nazis. Boys were educated in being ruthless, strong and proud. Girls were educated in how to be a good house wife and mother.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XNLbvqzao>

- Curriculum was rewritten, especially History. There was lots of sport
- Biology was changed to teach about how superior the Aryan was and the dangers of mixing with other races

Now you have completed your table, lets see how similar Hitler and Stalin were...

Are there common themes or reasons for Dictators to rise within a country?...

Women were expected to be at home running the home and having children for Hitler.

- Medals were given for specific numbers of children
- Kinder Kirche Küche

