

Year 9 Knowledge Organiser: The Rise of Dictators



What do I need to know?

- ✓ What are the differences between a democracy and a dictatorship?
- ✓ Why were Joseph Stalin (USSR) and Adolf Hitler (Germany) able to become dictators in the 1920s and 1930s?
- ✓ What was it like to live in a country controlled by a dictator (with a focus on whether this benefitted the people who lived in the USSR and Germany)?

KEY VOCABULARY

Dictatorship	A country ruled by one strong leader who has total power (a dictator).
Totalitarian	A form of government that attempts to assert total control over the lives of its citizens.
Democracy	A system that allows people to vote for who should be in the government.
Autocracy	A system of government where one person has absolute power e.g. an absolute monarchy
Communism	A system where all property and business is owned by the government. Each person contributes and receives according to need and ability.
Fascism	A form of government with one strong leader; usually a totalitarian state.


WHAT WERE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A DEMOCRACY AND A DICTATORSHIP?

Democracy	Dictatorship
<p>Elections will be held regularly to vote for who leads the country.</p> <p>The people will be able to vote in secret. There will be a choice of political parties for the people to choose from.</p> <p>Freedom of the press exists – the news can report events without government interference.</p> <p>Freedom of speech is important - people are free to share their views even if they criticise the government.</p> <p>People can protest to show their opposition to the government as long as they do not break the law.</p> 	<p>There are no elections (and no rival political parties) so the people have no say in who leads the country.</p> <p>Freedom of the press does not exist. The news is censored so the people only see what the government wants them to see.</p> <p>Freedom of speech does not exist – people learn to keep their views to themselves for fear of what will happen if they are overheard or reported.</p> <p>No opposition of any kind is allowed. Those people who oppose the government are often sent to prison camps or even killed.</p> 

WHY DID RUSSIA BECOME COMMUNIST?

Before the First World War Russia was ruled by a **Tsar**, who had total and absolute power.

Problems

- ✓ Peasant farmers had hard lives and had no way to complain about bad treatment.
 - ✓ Workers in towns were badly paid and working conditions were poor; they had no way to protest.
 - ✓ In 1905 bad harvests and an economic depression led to demonstrations and strikes but resulted in no real change.
 - ✓ During the First World War peasants were forced into the army which made it hard to grow enough food to feed everyone. This led to an increase in prices and starvation killed thousands. The government became unpopular.
 - ✓ In March 1917 the Tsar was forced to abdicate and arrested. In July he was assassinated.
 - ✓ In November 1917, a man called Lenin led a successful communist revolution, promising people 'Peace, Bread, Land'.
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What was it like to live in the USSR?



KEY VOCABULARY

Industrialisation	Developing industry by building more factories and increasing production.	Gulag	Forced labour camps in Siberia.
Collectivisation	A system where peasants work together on large farms to increase production of crops.	Purges	Attempts to get rid of anyone who was a threat to Stalin's power.

WHAT WAS THE IMPACT OF INDUSTRIALISATION ON THE USSR?

A series of **Five-Year Plans** were introduced to increase production of coal, iron and steel and set clear targets for workers and managers.

As a result of the Five-Year Plans:

- ✓ 15,000 new factories were built creating more jobs, so unemployment vanished.
- ✓ The USSR became a major producer of oil, coal, iron, steel and electricity.
- ✓ Living conditions gradually improved especially in cities - electricity for everyday use and some blocks of flats had central heating.



But

- ✓ Factory managers who did not meet their targets were accused of being enemies of communist rule and were arrested, so many factory managers lied about how much their workers were producing.
- ✓ Working conditions were harsh. Workers worked 7-day weeks with little pay. Being late or absent was a crime.
- ✓ If you lost your job, you lost your house as well. There was also little concern for health and safety, accidents were common.

WHAT WAS THE IMPACT OF COLLECTIVISATION ON THE USSR?

Problem: Small peasant farms using old tools and old methods were not producing enough food for the growing number of industrial workers.

Solution: The State combined peasant farms into collective farms. These would be farmed by the peasants and use new machinery provided by the State.

As a result of collectivisation:

- ✓ Better organisation and the growing use of machinery meant grain and milk production rose.
- ✓ Food could now be exported abroad to pay for more industrial equipment.
- ✓ By 1930, over half of all farmland had been collectivised. By 1937, it was almost all.



BUT:

- ✓ Many peasants destroyed their homes, crops and livestock rather than hand it over to the State.
- ✓ 1929 – 33 – food production actually fell due to bad harvests and peasant destruction of crops and animals. Millions of people died during the famine that followed.
- ✓ The kulaks (rich peasants) were destroyed (dekulakisation). Many were imprisoned in labour camps called gulags and over 5 million were killed.

THE GREAT TERROR: HOW DID STALIN CONTROL THE USSR?

Stalin believed that he had to be in complete control of the country; opposition could not be tolerated.

- ✓ Between 1934 and 1938 he 'purged' all the people in the Communist Party who he saw as his enemies. They were arrested and tortured until they confessed, often to crimes they had not committed.
- ✓ The NKVD, Stalin's secret police, purged the armed forces. Purges were extended to teachers, engineers, scientists, doctors, miners, factory managers and workers.
- ✓ Everyone was encouraged to report suspicious behaviour by colleagues and friends. Some people denounced others to avoid being arrested themselves. Those who did inform on a friend or colleague were more likely to gain promotion and better housing.
- ✓ It has been estimated that, by 1937, 18 million people had been transported to the gulags; over half died there usually of cold or starvation.



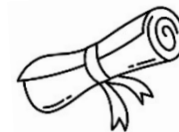
What was it like to live in Nazi Germany?

KEY VOCABULARY

Treaty	An agreement between countries
SA	Also, known as 'storm troopers', they were the private army of the Nazi Party.
Propaganda	Information used to make people believe an idea or support a leader; often misleading.
Fuhrer	The German word for supreme leader.

WHAT WAS THE IMPACT OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR ON GERMANY?

When the First World War ended a new democratic government was formed in Germany. The first act of the new government was to sign the Armistice that ended the fighting on 11th November 1918. Its next job was to sign the **Treaty of Versailles** on 28th June 1919.



The terms of the Treaty of Versailles were very harsh.

- ✓ The German army limited to 100,000 soldiers, the navy limited to 6 battleships and no submarines, and the air force disbanded.
- ✓ Germany lost 10% of its land.
- ✓ In the War Guilt Clause, Germany had to admit that she alone caused the war.
- ✓ Germany forced to pay reparations (compensation) to the Allies. This was later set at £6,600 million.

Germany was humiliated by this treaty. A day of national mourning was declared after the Treaty of Versailles was signed.

WHY WAS HITLER ABLE TO BECOME CHANCELLOR?

During the Munich Putsch of 1923, Hitler attempted to overthrow the Weimar government by force. This was unsuccessful and Hitler was arrested and sent to prison. When he was released, he decided that he would try to get legally elected as Chancellor of Germany. The following helped him to do this:

- ✓ The Great Depression caused 6 million people to be unemployed as businesses closed. The Weimar government dealt with this badly, but Hitler seemed to be a strong leader who had the answers to the problems caused by the Depression.
- ✓ Hitler's message was attractive to people – he promised to tear up the Treaty of Versailles, make Germany a great country again.
- ✓ The SA –to target the Communists, who were the Nazis main opposition, by breaking up their meetings and making it difficult for them to campaign in elections.
- ✓ Propaganda –The Nazis spread their ideas through posters, pamphlets and Nazi controlled newspapers. Posters showed Hitler as 'Our Last Hope' and used catchy slogans like 'work and bread.'

By January 1933, the Nazis were the largest party in the Reichstag and Hitler was Chancellor of Germany.



HOW DID HITLER BECOME DICTATOR?

A week before the March 1933 elections, the Reichstag building was set on fire. Hitler said this was the start of a Communist plot to take over the country, so the Law for the Protection of People and State was passed which banned Communists from taking part in the election campaign.

As a result, Hitler and the Nazis won the March elections. Hitler got the Reichstag to agree to pass the Enabling Law on 23 March 1933. He used this to ban all political parties other than the Nazis and to ensure that Nazis were placed in important positions in the government, and that opponents of the Nazis were removed.

Finally, Hitler needed the support of the army if he was to become dictator, but the army hated the SA. On the night of 30th June 1934, now known as the Night of the Long Knives, Hitler used the SS to arrest and shoot leading members of the SA. Hitler's position was greatly strengthened. The army supported him and he was able to become 'the Fuhrer.'



1923
Munich Putsch

1929 - 32
The Great Depression

January 1933
Hitler becomes
Chancellor of Germany

August 1934
Hitler becomes
dictator of Germany

What was it like to live in Nazi Germany?

KEY VOCABULARY



Censorship	Controlling what information people are allowed to see.
Persecution	Unfair or cruel treatment over a period of time- usually because of race or religion.
Indoctrination	To brainwash people with a set of ideas or beliefs.

HOW DID HITLER CONTROL THE GERMAN PEOPLE?

- ✓ The Nazis used the Gestapo (secret police) to arrest anyone who criticised the government. They spied on people, tapped their phones and used networks of informants to identify suspects. In 1939 alone, 160,000 people were arrested.
- ✓ The Nazis used concentration camps to house political opponents, such as communists, and journalists who spoke out against the Nazi Party and minority groups such as Jews and homosexuals. By 1939, there was six concentration camps, holding about 20,000 prisoners.
- ✓ The Nazis used propaganda to promote ideas which they supported. For example, the Nazis made around 1,300 films which were shown in cinemas.
- ✓ The Nazis used censorship to stamp out ideas which they didn't support. For example, new books could not be published without Nazi approval.



HOW DID HITLER REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT?

- ✓ National Labour Service (RAD) - This was for young men between 18 and 25. They did various jobs such as digging ditches and planting forests.
- ✓ German Labour Front – organised public works schemes such as new motorways (autobahns) were built, as were hospitals, schools, sports stadiums and other public buildings. These schemes created thousands of jobs.
- ✓ Rearmament - the army grew from 100,000 in 1933 to 1.4 million in 1939. Men doing their military service did not count as unemployed. Huge amounts were spent on producing military equipment such as aircraft and tanks. This also employed thousands of men.
- ✓ Some groups were not included in the unemployment statistics such as women who were forced out of their jobs to look after their families and homes and Jews who were dismissed from their jobs.



HOW DID HITLER INDOCTRINATE YOUNG PEOPLE?

Hitler use **education** to make sure that young people were loyal to him and to the Nazi Party.

- ✓ All teachers had to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler and join the German Teachers' League. They taught students to do the Nazi salute, started and ended each lesson with the children saying 'Heil Hitler', and decorated their classrooms with Nazi posters.
- ✓ From 1935, all new textbooks had to be approved by the Nazis.
- ✓ The teaching of school subjects was changed to indoctrinate pupils. History was distorted to celebrate German victories, and all disasters were blamed on Jews and Communists. Race Study explored the differences between six races, explaining the greatness of the Aryan race and the inferiority of other races especially Jews.

Hitler Youth

- ✓ It was made compulsory for all young Germans to join Nazi youth groups from the age of 10. Boys joined the Hitler Youth and girls were required to join the League of German Maidens.
- ✓ It was very attractive to young people – they liked the uniform and the sense of discipline and importance it gave them.
- ✓ It was designed to mould young people's characters and prepare them for the roles they were to play in Germany's future. Boys received military training, practicing map-reading, signalling and small-arms shooting, while girls were trained in the skills of housewifery, including cooking, ironing and sewing.
- ✓ It was also used to teach Nazi ideas e.g. members were taken to the cinema to see a film called 'The Eternal Jew' which was anti-Jewish propaganda.

