



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT  
STANDARD 10.7.3**

## *Totalitarian Regimes in Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union*

**Specific Objective:** Analyze the rise, aggression, and human costs of totalitarian regimes in Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union, noting their common and dissimilar traits.

**Read the summaries and chart to answer questions on the next page.**

In the years after World War I, Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union saw the rise of **totalitarian** regimes—a form of government in which the state attempts to assert control over every aspect of public and private life. In all three countries, a new charismatic leader would become infamous for cruelty. Each of these leaders rose to power in the chaos that followed World War I, promising strength and stability to war-ravaged nations.

| <b>Nation</b>            | <b>Germany</b>   | <b>Italy</b>                                 | <b>Soviet Union</b>                                  |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Leader</b>            | Adolf Hitler   | Benito Mussolini                             | Joseph Stalin  |
| <b>Political Party</b>   | Nazi (National Socialists)   | Fascist                                      | Communist  |
| <b>Dates In Power</b>    | 1933–1945  | 1922–1945                                    | 1928–1953  |
| <b>Unifying Idea</b>     | Germans as “master race”   | strongly nationalistic                       | desire for a classless society                       |
| <b>Economic Policy</b>   | capitalist; government/business partnerships   | capitalist; government/business partnerships | communist; state owns everything, controls economy   |
| <b>Control of Media</b>  | total  | less than total                              | total  |
| <b>Religious Control</b> | some freedom, but not for Jews   | Catholicism was state religion; free choice  | religion suppressed                                  |
| <b>Use of Terror</b>     | Millions killed; Jews and Romani particularly, and many non-Germans, and minorities were singled out for terror. | murder rare; about 4,000 imprisoned          | secret police imprisoned and killed over 20 million. |

The totalitarian regimes shared a number of **similarities**, including:

- Ruled by a dictator who was glorified as a hero
- Allowed only one political party
- Emphasized total loyalty to the government and its leader
- Denied individual rights
- Censored the press and other media
- Used art, culture, and mass communications to spread propaganda
- Encouraged a high birthrate; rewarded women who had many children
- Controlled people by terror, especially by means of secret police
- As police states, used secret police to terrorize people.

**CALIFORNIA CONTENT  
STANDARD 10.7.3**

## *Totalitarian Regimes in Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union*

Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1** What conditions surrounded the rise of totalitarianism in Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union?
  - A Each totalitarian regime arose after a revolution.
  - B All the regimes re-energized weak capitalist systems.
  - C The regimes followed the devastation of World War I.
  - D Each regime, built upon a former totalitarian government.
  
- 2** Which traits were shared by *all* three regimes—Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union—during the 1930s?
  - A single-party rule
  - B widespread use of murder
  - C total control of the media
  - D state control of the economy
  
- 3** Which trait was *unique* to the totalitarian regime in Germany compared with other totalitarian governments of the 1930s?
  - A encouragement of a high birth rate
  - B Catholicism as a state religion
  - C an emphasis on total obedience to the leader
  - D belief in a “master race”
  
- 4** Which trait was *unique* to the totalitarian regime in the Soviet Union compared with other regimes of the 1930s?
  - A religious freedom
  - B partnerships between government and businesses
  - C a desire for a classless society
  - D the widespread use of propaganda
  
- 5** A *main* reason that an estimated 20 million Soviet citizens were imprisoned under Stalin was that they were
  - A at war with the government.
  - B Jewish.
  - C not really citizens.
  - D suspected of opposing Stalin.
  
- 6** In a police state, the police carry out the will of
  - A police chiefs.
  - B the ruling leader.
  - C the people.
  - D military equals.