

# AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS

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## *Rise to Power: Hitler*

- Long-Term Bitterness
  - Deep anger about the First World War and the Treaty of Versailles created an underlying bitterness to which Hitler's viciousness and expansionism appealed, so they gave him support.
- Ineffective Constitution
  - Weaknesses in the crippled the government
    - In fact, there were many people in Germany who wanted a return to dictatorship.
    - When the crisis came in 1929-1933, there was no one who was prepared or able to fight to stop Hitler.
- Money
  - The financial support of wealthy businessmen gave Hitler the money to run his propaganda and election campaigns.
- Propaganda
  - Nazi propaganda persuaded the German masses to believe that the Jews were to blame, and that Hitler was their last hope.
- Program
  - Hitler promised everybody something, so they supported him.
- Attacks on other parties
  - The Stormtroopers attacked Jews and people who opposed Hitler
    - Many opponents kept quiet simply because they were scared of being murdered – and, if they were, the judges simply let the Stormtroopers go free (see point 2)
- Personal Qualities
  - Hitler was a brilliant speaker, and his eyes had a peculiar power over people.
    - He was a good organizer and politician.
    - He was a driven, unstable man, who believed that he had been called by God to become dictator of Germany and rule the world.
- Economic Depression
  - After the Wall Street Crash of 1929, the US called in its loans to Germany, and the German economy collapsed.
    - The number of unemployed grew; people starved on the streets.

### ***Rise to Power: Mao***

- After Jiang Jieshi broke the alliance with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) during 1927, Mao believed that revolution would succeed if established in the peasant classes.
  - Formed the Red Army in the the mountains of Jinggangshan
    - Small groups of soldiers would disguise themselves as villagers, then attack the GMD's army when they least suspected it.
  - Mao represented each economic class
  - He came to believe that violence always the only way to achieve change in China.
- The Long March
  - Despite four different campaigns, Jiang Jieshi failed to defeat Red Army
  - GMD surrounded the communist stronghold in an attempt to starve the red army
  - Mao and the Red Army broke through when Jiang was his weakest.
- The Yans Soviet
  - Surviving marchers settled in Yan Soviet.
  - Peasant were won over by the land redistribution
  - Peasants were allowed to participate in revolutionary committed
  - Peasant parties overthrow capitalism and allow for a socialist society

### ***Consolidation of Power: Hitler***

- Once He Was in Power
  - Law Against the Establishment of Parties in 1933
    - Illegal to have any other party outside of the Nazi Party
  - Restoration of Professional Civil Service of April 1933
    - non-Aryans forced to retire, Jews were purged from higher jobs (courts, schools, administration)
- The Night of Long Knives
  - He justified his actions saying that he alone had acted on behalf of the German people at a time of emergency and he thus gained credit for a 'heroic' action
    - In condoning Hitler's actions, the Reichstag effectivley made murder acceptable
  - The purge also left the way open for Himmler's SS to assume dominance in Germany
  - When Hindenburg died in August he combined the chancellorship and the presidency
- The Army
  - Hitler referred to the army as the second pillar of the state
  - The SS-Wckjgasdlagagakagi (eventually known as the Wafflen SS) was established to part of the wartime army in August in 1938
  - This caused considerable unease among professional army leadership

- The army favored the reversal of the Treaty of Versailles and limited conquest to restore the old empire
- Top army officials were critical when, at the Hossbach, Conference in November 1937, Hitler laid down aggressive plans for rapid expansion in the east
- With the departure of von Blomberg and von Fritsch, Hitler became his own war minister
- Hitler's popular triumphs made him virtually unassailable
- Propaganda
  - The aim was to bring about 'thought reform' so that the population would support mass campaigns
    - indoctrinate and reinforce political messages
  - Propaganda was used to spread ideology, encourage activism and show examples of selfless model workers and soldiers.
  - There was a nationwide system of loudspeakers reached into every village
- The Three Antis Campaign
  - This was a campaign against corruption, waste and obstruction, and was directed against communists and non-communists.
  - Managers, state officials, police and cadres were obliged to take part in struggle sessions.
  - Humiliation and group pressure were employed to bring them in line.
  - The campaign was against bribery, tax-evasion, theft of state property, cheating in government contracts and economic espionage
    - If they confessed and paid their dues, they were usually allowed to return to their work.
    - Few were executed, although 2-3 million committed suicide because of shame and humiliation.
- He needed to establish a stable and effective government, restore unified control over the former Chinese empire and fulfill promises of social reform and economic recovery after the war with Japan and the Civil War to consolidate power
- Mao's consolidation of power was built on a series of mass mobilization campaigns, in the course of which, propaganda, self-criticism, rectification and purges were used to stamp out any opposition or 'bourgeois individualism'.

### ***Maintenance of Power (Hitler)***

- Hitler's rule with fear
  - Many citizens (especially those that did not fit the Aryan race) were terrified of Hitler
  - His use of violence as consequence for any broken law prevented anyone from speaking badly about him or the Nazi regime
- Hitler's personality

- To the media he appeared as a loving man who loved his country
- He was portrayed as powerful and all-knowing to retain support of the people
- Portrayed with assistance of Goebells through propaganda.
- Propaganda
  - Censorship of any anti-Nazi information and history
  - Blocking of radio transmissions and other forms of communication from outside the country
  - Cinema
  - The Nazi's were celebrated by German citizens and their violence and camps were often hidden
- Foreign Policy
  - Allied with Mussolini and Italy in 1938
  - Munich Agreement (Sep 30, 1938), allowed Hitler to invade and occupy Czechoslovakia
  - Persuaded 'true Germans' from Austria to migrate into Germany
  - **\*\*GERMAN PEOPLE DID NOT LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT THE NAZI'S CRIMES AND INTENTIONS UNTIL ALLIED BOMBINGS IN 1943**
  - By 1944, the 'illusions' were shattered
- Pacts
  - Pact of steel with Soviet Union and Stalin ensured the two superpowers did not invade one another
- Domestic/Social Policy
  - `The idea of the Aryan race: pure Germans (blond hair, white, non-jewish. etc) were accepted
  - The aryan race was united in their hatred against minority groups
  - Encouraged many to enlist in the army to build and prepare for global domination
- Economic Policy
  - 1936 Four Year plan; Goering as director
    - Managed economy stuff
- Eliminating opponents
  - Sending all minorities, people with disabilities, those who were gay, jews, and those who did not fit a majority aspects of the aryan race were sent to concentration camps, which often resulted in death.
  - MILLIONS were killed (especially jews)
  - Others were experimented on.

### ***Maintenance of Power:Mao***

- The launch of the 'great proletarian Cultural Revolution' brought a dramatic purge of Mao's rivals.

- Mao mobilized the Red Guards who were bands of radical students and ordered them to attack the 'four olds' (thought, culture, practices and customs) and remove 'bad elements' among the party, teachers, intellectuals and former bourgeoisie.
- Terrifying assaults were permitted, and the police were instructed not to intervene.
- Public denunciations, struggle sessions at which victims were expected to 'confess' to their crimes, and mass mobilization were practiced in their most extreme form.
- During this period, Mao removed many of his opponents from the party and retook absolute control of the party hierarchy.

### ***Religion, Minorities, and Women: Hitler***

- Those who failed to fit Nazi criteria for *Volksgenossen* were subject to intimidation and persecution.
- Political enemies have already been considered, but two other important minority groups suffered.
- **Asocials**: habitual criminals, the work-shy, tramps and beggars, alcoholics, prostitutes, gay men and lesbian women and juvenile delinquents.
- **Biological outsiders**: those suffering hereditary defects that were considered a threat to the future of the German race and those who were regarded as a threat because of their race such as Roma, Sinti and Jews.
- **Euthanasia**: the Nazis began a campaign to devalue people with mental or physical disabilities as 'burdens of the community.'
- According to Nazi propaganda, the duties of women were as mothers, housewives supporting their husbands and community organizers.
- In 1935, the *Lebensborn* (Spring of Life) project encouraged unmarried women with good racial credentials to become pregnant with selected SS men as the fathers.
- Legislation and propaganda were used to remove women from the workplace.

### ***Religion, Minorities, and Women: Mao***

- The official communist view was that religion was a capitalist invention, used to keep the lower classes in their place with promises of a better afterlife.
- Mao was particularly hostile to organized religion, calling it poison.
- Religious toleration was officially guaranteed by the Chinese constitution, but the government had its own definition of 'religion' and a campaign against 'superstition' began in 1950.
- Ancestor worship was condemned, and traditional religious rituals were banned.
- Study groups and night schools were set up, and the 'little teacher' scheme was

established, whereby schoolchildren visited adult peasants and workers and shared their learning.

- Chinese characters were simplified for quick learning.
- The CCP had always advocated female equality, with Mao famously proclaiming that ‘Women hold up half the sky’.
- Traditionally, women had been expected to stay at home and obey their men while the practices of concubines, foot binding and arranged marriage had given women a second-class status.
- From 1950, the traditional practice of killing unwanted baby girls was officially abolished, foot binding was outlawed, and girls were expected to go to school and women to work.

### ***Economics: Mao***

- Most Chinese people gained job security
- Economic Policy
  - “Collective ownership of the means of production”
  - Desire to make China a world power, and surpass Soviet economic achievement
  - Most peasants farmed cooperatively because it was more effective with tools
- Great Leap Forward
  - Reassert China’s independence from the USSR
  - He was worried that the CCP was too bureaucratic
    - Five Year Plan
      - All private industries and businesses were nationalized
      - Iron and steel mills were set up in towns