

The Interwar Period (1919-1939)



Introduction



- All hopes of 1919 failed
- Russian communist revolution led to Stalin's regime
- 1929 crisis triggered a deep world economic recession
- Fascism (1922) and Nazism (1933) Imposed cruel dictatorships

Russian revolution



The causes:

- Autocratic regime: the Tsar governed as an absolute monarch
- Economically backward, scarcely industrialised
- Socially backward: great gap between the wealthy few and most of the population

1905 Russian revolution



- After military defeat against Japan
- Revolution that forced the Tsar to introduce some slight changes
- Anyway, the absolute regime remained in Russia

1917 Russian revolution



February Revolution:

- Military defeats, casualties, suffering of the civil population...
- Tsar Nicholas II was deposed
- Liberal bourgeois government continued in the war and promised reforms
- Social discontent grew

1917 Russian revolution



The 1920 Re-Enactment of the "Storming of the Winter Palace"

October Revolution:

- Growing social discontent because of the war hardships and the lack of reforms
- A new revolution brought a Communist (Bolshevik) government led by Lenin

1917 Russian revolution



Lenin and the formation of the Soviets

Communist government's measures:

- Redistribution of land among peasants
- Control of factories by the workers
- Communist government took control of most of the economy
- Soviets (worker and peasant councils controlled by Bolsheviks) took over political power
- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany

USSR – Lenin's government (1921-1924)

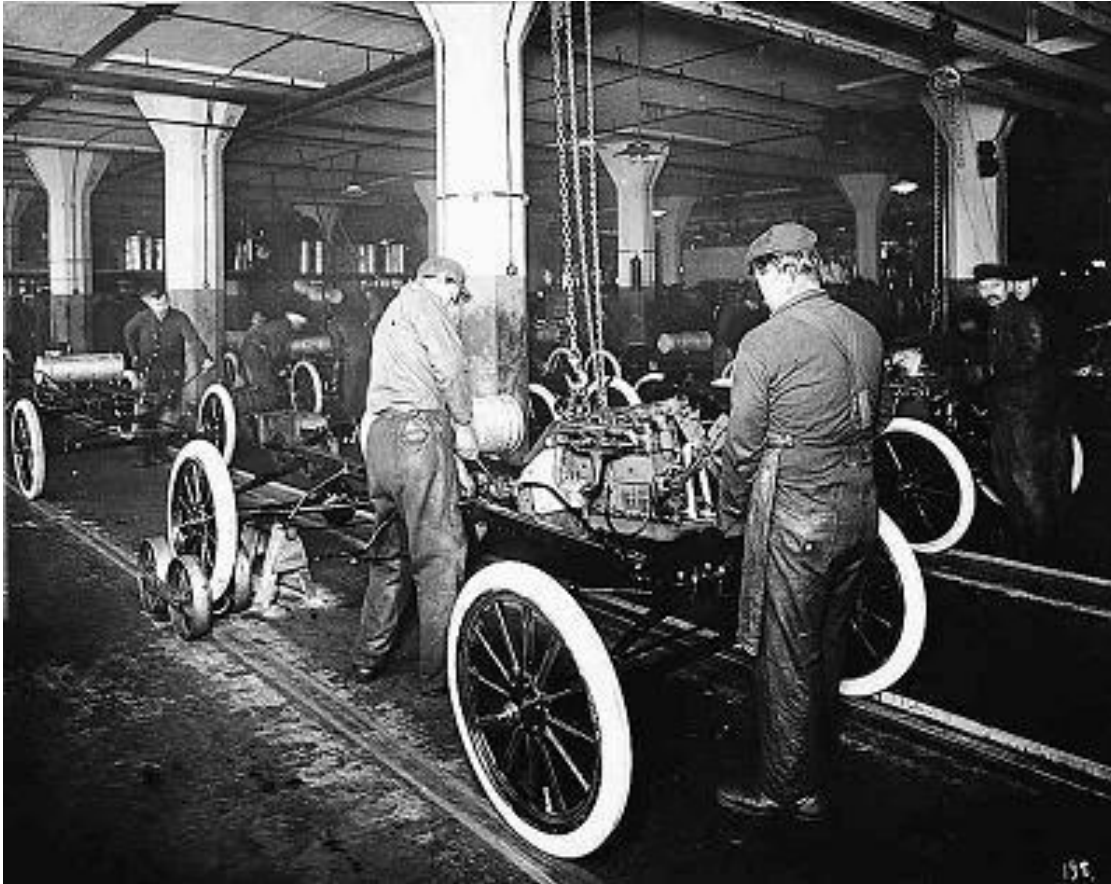


Lenin's Burial and Stalin

Lenin's government:

- Civil War (1918-1921)
- White Army (zarist and anticommunist groups) vs. Red Army
- 1922 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) or Soviet Union was created
- All the power was concentrated in the Communist Party (SUCP) and its leader
- When Lenin died, a struggle among the Bolshevik leadership started

World economy – The Roaring Twenties



Assembly line – Chain production

- After the war, a short period of economic prosperity
- USA: First economic power
- Causes:
 - Supply: Chain production
 - Demand: Advertising, credit and payment in instalments
 - Raising capital: Investment in stocks and shares

World economy – Stock Exchange



NY Stock Exchange in Wall Street

- Companies' capital is divided into shares or stocks
- These shares are bought and sold at the Stock Exchange
- Usually, its price change according to supply and demand
- + demand – supply
→ prices increase
- - demand + supply
→ prices decrease

World economy – Wall Street Crash



Wall street after the Stock Exchange Crash

- 24 October 1929 (“Black Thursday”) stock prices plummeted
- Why? Artificial prices of the shares
- Meanwhile, overproduction (produce more than demand) plagued the American industry, shares raised and raised
- Speculation (Engagement in risky business transactions on the chance of quick or considerable profit)

World economy – Wall Street Crash



1930s Depression

- High price of the stocks did not correspond with its real value
- Markets were growingly aware of this situation and finally stock exchange euphoria was substituted by “stock exchange panic”)
- Investors tried to sell and sell their stocks and as a consequence its price fell and fell
- Wall Street Crash triggered the 1930s economic depression

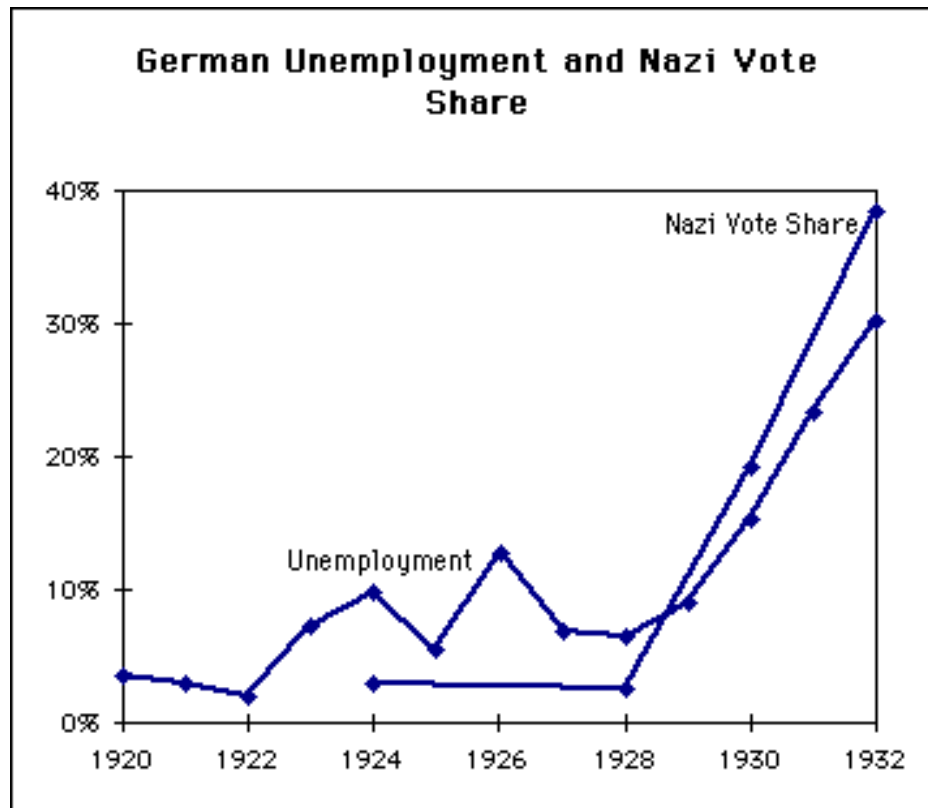
World economy – 1930s Depression



People line up outside the Postscheckamt in Berlin to withdraw their deposits in July 1931.

- Many banks went bankrupt
- Industries shut down
- Agriculture prices collapsed
- Foreign trade diminished
- US crisis → Europe and the world
- Unemployment and social inequality

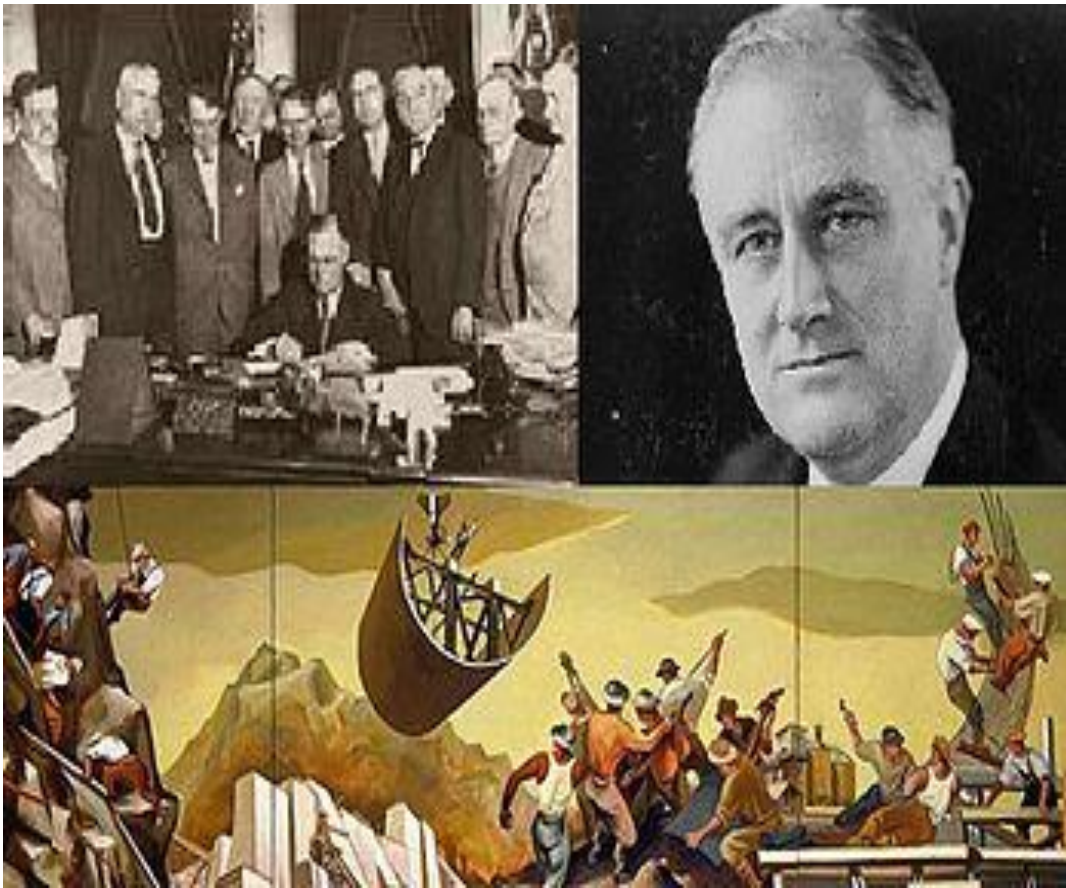
World economy – 1930s Depression



Nazi vote surge was caused by growing unemployment.

- Economic and social crisis led to political crisis
- Growing criticism against liberalism and free market
- Communism grew among working classes
- Fascism, nazism.. grew among middle and upper classes

World economy – Solutions



“New Deal”

- Keynes proposed state intervention to stimulate investment, employment and consumption
- American president, Roosevelt (1933-1945) implemented these ideas in his “New Deal”

World economy – Solutions



American government intervened:

- Banks lowered interest
- Subsidies to farmers
- Working hours reduced
- Minimum wage
- Unemployment benefits
- Public investment in infrastructure

Other (democratic or non democratic) countries intervened in the economy

Totalitarian regimes: Fascism and Nazism



Authoritarian right-wing regimes spread over Europe:

- 1922 Fascism in Italy (Mussolini)
- 1933 Nazism in Germany (Hitler)
- 1936 Francoism in Spain (Franco)
- An other dictatorships in Eastern and Southern Europe

Totalitarian regimes: Fascism and Nazism



Characteristics of these totalitarian regimes:

- Authoritarian political system
 - One single party (PNF, NSDAP)
 - Charismatic leader (Il Duce, Führer)
 - Harsh repression (Fasci, SA, SS, Gestapo)

Totalitarian regimes: Fascism and Nazism



Joseph Goebbels, Nazi Propaganda Minister

Characteristics of these totalitarian regimes:

- Economic and social control
 - Capitalism, but state intervention
 - Propaganda
 - Censorship
 - Indoctrination of youth

Totalitarian regimes: Fascism and Nazism



Characteristics of these totalitarian regimes:

- Ideology based on inequality and fanaticism
 - Race, Gender, Nation... Inequality
 - Irrationalism: symbols, uniforms, parades, songs, slogans...

Totalitarian regimes: Fascism and Nazism



After starting the war, Nazis planned German colonization"

Characteristics of these totalitarian regimes:

- Exacerbated nationalism and expansionism
- Territorial expansion (frustration of Italy, Germany's revenge)
- Great investment in rearmament (a way out of the crisis in Germany)

Italian Fascism – Benito Mussolini



- After WW1, Benito Mussolini founded the National Fascist Party
- Paramilitary violent groups “Black Shirts” that attacked left-wing parties, unions...
- Supported by middle and upper classes, the Church, the Army and the King
- 1922: March on Rome
- Mussolini imposed his dictatorship (1922-1943)

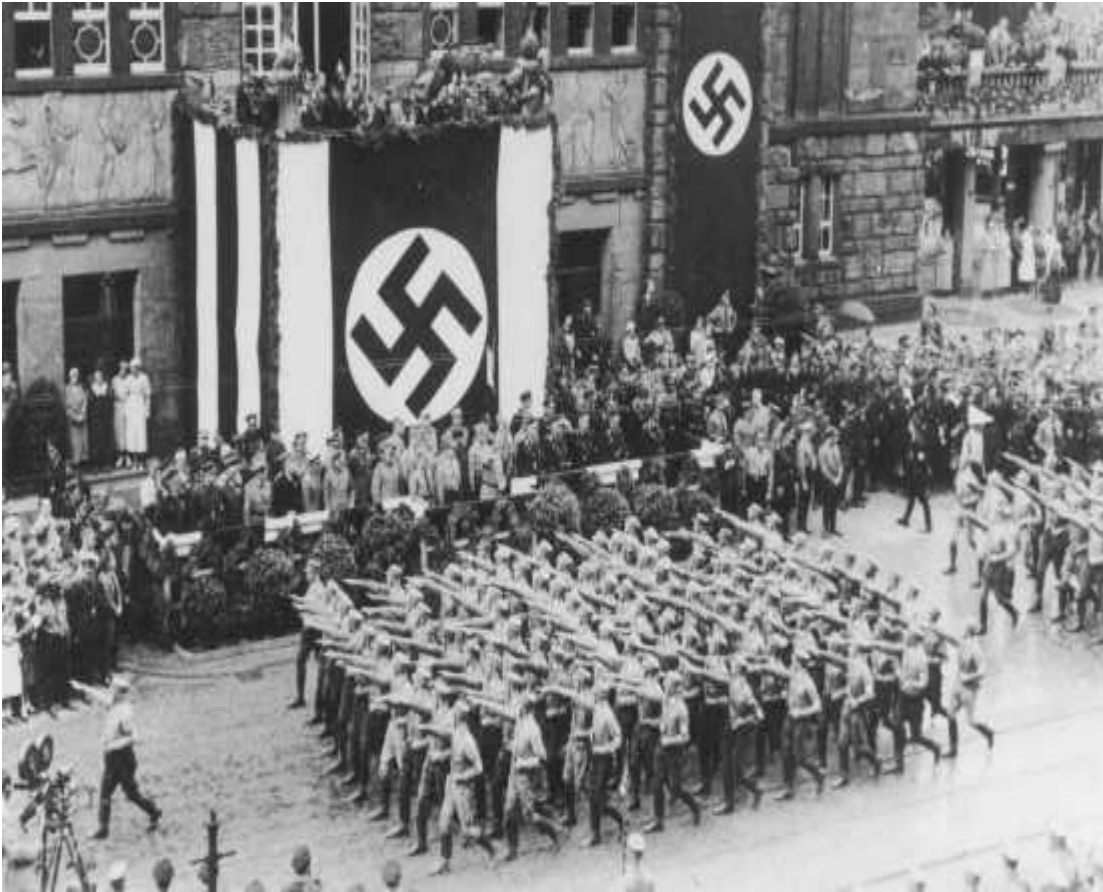
Italian Fascism – Benito Mussolini



Lateran Treaty, signed in 1929

- Mussolini's dictatorship:
 - One single party (PNF), the rest banned
 - Censorship
 - Propaganda
 - Agreement with the Catholic Church
 - OVRA (political police) directed the repression against opposition

German Nazism – Adolf Hitler



Adolf Hitler

- Born in Austria, he fought in the German Army
- Founded the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP) in 1920
- Imitating Mussolini, the Nazis created violent paramilitary groups (SA) that attacked left-wing parties, unions, Jews...

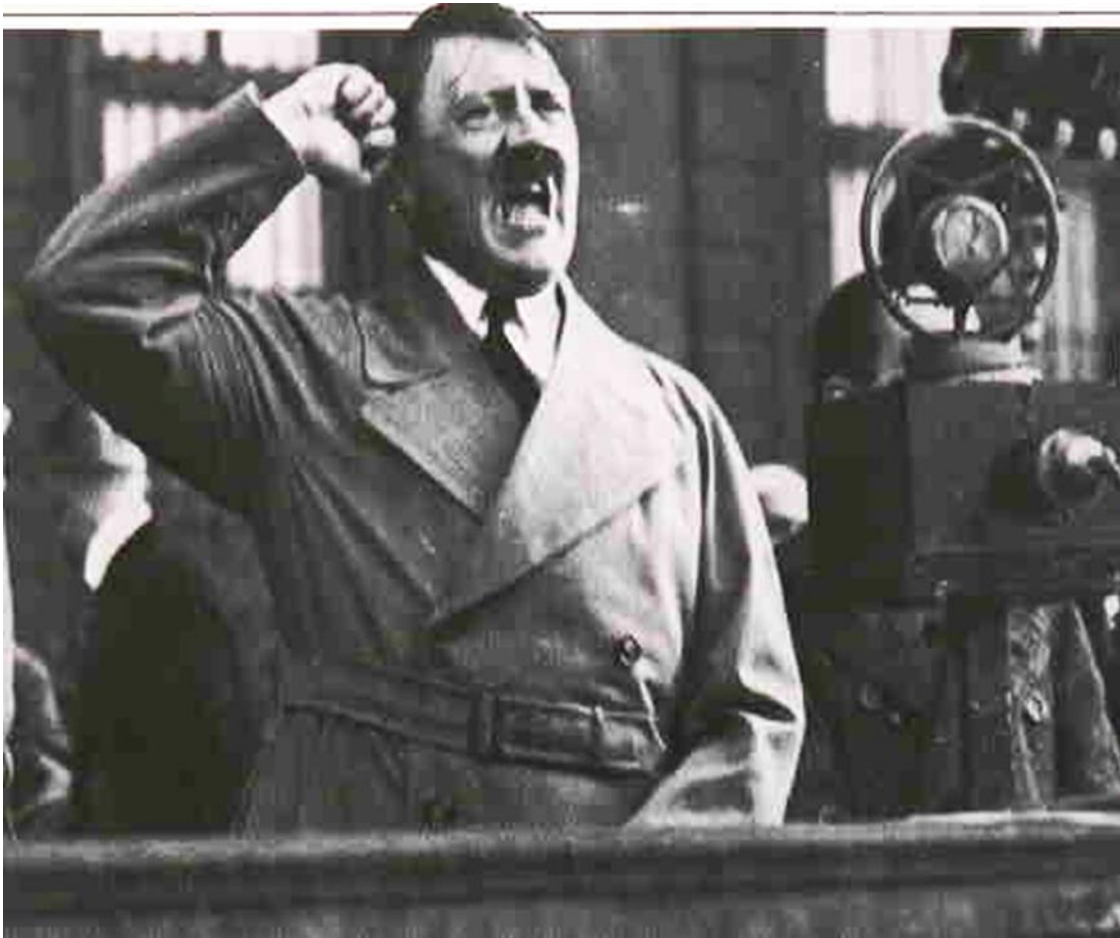
German Nazism – Adolf Hitler



The rise to power

- Over the 1929 crisis, the Nazis gained supporters
- 1932, the most voted party
- January 1933, Hitler was named Chancellor
- The Weimar Republic was destroyed and Hitler proclaimed the Third Reich
- The Führer led a one single party dictatorship

German Nazism – Adolf Hitler



The Nazi dictatorship

- The Führer led a one single party dictatorship
- The paramilitary groups (SA and SS) and the secret police (Gestapo) crashed all sort of opposition
- Very soon, concentration camps were created to jailed all type of political opponents

German Nazism – Adolf Hitler



Nazi racism

- Nazi ideology was based upon the idea of racial inequality
- Superior race: the German Aryans
- Jews, alongside Gypsies and Slavs were considered to be *Untermenschen* (Under men)
- Antisemitism (hatred of Jews) was a key point of nazi ideology

German Nazism – Adolf Hitler



Joseph Goebbels, "If you repeat a lie often enough, it becomes the truth. "

Nazi propaganda

- Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi Propaganda Minister established a huge propaganda machine to brainwash the German population

German Nazism – Adolf Hitler



Nazi expansionism

- Hitler was obsessed with the revenge against the Treaty of Versailles
- The German people, the superior race, needed living space ("lebensraum") that will be obtained by invading inferior races' lands (Eastern Europe)
- Its aggressive expansionism caused the outbreak of WWII