

History 11-IB

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CHARACTERISTICS OF TOTALITARIANISM (1917-1939)

Characteristic	Italy (Fascist)	Germany (Nazism)	Russia (Stalinist)
1. Police States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The OVRA ▪ The Blackshirts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appointment of 'Gauleiters' by Hitler. ▪ The Secret State Police or <i>Gestapo</i>. ▪ Imprisonments without trials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The <i>Cheka</i> and its successor, the OGPU. ▪ The NKVD ▪ The Red Army
2. Charismatic Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mussolini ▪ Promised to restore Italy's former glory. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hitler ▪ Vowed to exterminate the Jews. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lenin ▪ More prominent Stalin. ▪ Promised to improve the economic conditions of his people.
3. Pre-Economic Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Squandered resources. ▪ Poor standard of living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The inflation of 1923. ▪ Vast unemployment and massive economic crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Industrial production had fallen sharply. ▪ Peasants were forced to give up their surplus crops.
4. Post Economy Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unorganized economic system ▪ Lack of autarky or self-sufficiency. ▪ Mussolini imposed high value for Italian currency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Imports on raw-materials were controlled. ▪ Exponential increase in military and re-armament expenditure. ▪ Decreasing unemployment. ▪ Trade unions abolished and the right to strike taken away. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of adequate work-force. ▪ Rapid collectivisation. ▪ Five year plans introduced to increase industry output. ▪ Targets were tripled and were forced to be met within short periods of time.
5. Scapegoats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blamed the Socialists and Communists for Italy's problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blamed the Communists for Reichstag burning. ▪ Anti-Semitism - Jews were responsible for the humiliating defeat and were regarded inferior. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stalin might have mildly used Trotsky as a scapegoat, primarily to divert attention away from himself.
6. Elimination of Opponents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tactfully confused Victor Emmanuel. ▪ Passed the Acerbo Law. ▪ Matteotti, a vigorous opponent, was kidnapped and murdered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Team-up with one opponent, eliminate another, and double-cross the third. ▪ Banned the socialists. ▪ Declared the Centre Party illegal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skilfully eliminated Trotsky and expelled him from the party and later the country. ▪ Dismissed Zinoviev, Kamenev and Bukharin from the Central Party.

7. Violent Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Numerous arrests. ▪ Harassment of political opponents. ▪ Tortures in <i>gaols</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Violent tantrums ▪ Mass killing ▪ Concentration camps ▪ Gas chambers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Severe punishments if failed to meet targets. ▪ The Purges ▪ Several gulags formed.
8. Propaganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inspiring speeches ▪ Always photographed from an upward angle. ▪ Set up own newspaper, 'the Italian People.' ▪ Liked to be called the 'Duce' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nazi posters. ▪ Symbols (the Swastika) ▪ Mass rallies. ▪ Motivating voice and words of Hitler. ▪ Liked to be called the 'Führer' ▪ The Nazi salute, 'Heil Hitler' ▪ Appointed Joseph Goebbels Minister for Propaganda. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Photographs manipulated to hide cheek and arm. ▪ Paintings depicting Stalin's greatness. ▪ Change of name to Stalin (the man of steel).
9. Foreign Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lacked consistency ▪ Increasingly influenced and eventually came under German domination. ▪ Signed the Locarno Pacts with France and Britain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dominate the inferior Poles and Russians. ▪ Bring back all the Germans not living in Germany. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communistic ideas were wide-spread. ▪ Strong measures were taken to overtake Britain and Germany in their industrial production.

