**History 12 (II) Promise and Collapse: 1919 – 1933**

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### The Rise of Fascism

#### Prescribed Learning Outcomes

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<th>Prescribed Learning Outcomes:</th>
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<td>Describe circumstances that led to the rise of the fascists in Italy including:</td>
<td>o define fascism</td>
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<td>- social and economic turmoil</td>
<td>o identify conditions that led to the rise of Mussolini and fascism, including:</td>
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<td>- Mussolini’s actions and policies</td>
<td>- economic depression</td>
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<td>- class division and labour strife</td>
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<td>- anger over the Paris peace treaties</td>
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<td>- unstable governments</td>
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<td>o describe key events and methods that solidified Mussolini’s power (e.g. Black Shirts, March on Rome, OVRA, Acerbo Act, Lateran Agreements)</td>
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#### Explain the rise to power of Hitler and National Socialism in Germany, with reference to:
| | |
| - conditions that generated support for Nazism | o describe factors that led to the rise of Hitler and the Nazis, including: |
| - Hitler’s actions and policies | - weaknesses of the Weimar Republic (e.g. series of minority and coalition governments, war guilt) |
| | - hyper-inflation (e.g. occupation of the Ruhr) |
| | - Munich Putsch |
| | - optimism of the Stressemann era ended by the Great Depression |
| | - state police (e.g. Gestapo) |
| | o identify key features of Nazism (e.g. racial policies, anti-communism, aggressive nationalism, lebensraum, undoing the terms of Versailles, autarky, propaganda) |
| | o describe key events and methods that allowed Hitler to establish a dictatorship (e.g. Reichstag fire, Enabling Act, Night of the Long Knives, oath of army loyalty, becomes Führer) |

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**Assigned Reading:**

*Global Forces* pp.35-39; 40-48

*History 12 Student Workbook* pp.47-59

*Map History of the Modern World* 38-39; 40-41

*Twentieth Century History* pp.51-53; 90-95; 110-118

*The World This Century* pp.67-103
Key Vocabulary

Acerbo Act
A law passed in Mussolini’s Italy in 1923 which gave the winning party in an election two thirds of the seats in the elected parliament (Chamber of Deputies).

Article 48
Part of the constitution of the Weimar Republic, which allowed the president to rule by emergency decree. During the Depression, this clause was often invoked, thus setting the stage for Hitler’s blatant use of the decree in 1933.

Aryan
“The Aryan race was a term used in the early 20th century by European racial theorists who believed strongly in the division of humanity into biologically distinct races with differing characteristics. Such writers took the view that the Proto-Indo-Europeans constituted a specific race that had expanded across Europe, Iran and India. This meaning was, and still is, common in theories of racial superiority which were embraced by Nazi Germany. This usage tends to merge the Avestan/Sanskrit meaning of "noble" or "elevated" with the idea of distinctive behavioural and ancestral ethnicity marked by language distribution. In this interpretation, the Aryan Race is both the highest representative of mankind and the purest descendent of the Proto-Indo-European population.” (Wikipedia)

Beer Hall Putsch (1923)
An attempt by Hitler to seize the state government of Bavaria on November 9, 1923. Hitler was convicted of treason and sentenced to 5 years in prison. He served only part of that time.

Blackshirt (Fasci di Combattimento)
Mussolini’s paramilitary force that engaged in violence against the Fascist Party’s enemies from 1919 onward. Similar to Hitler’s S.A. or Brownshirts. They wore black shirts.

Book burning, 1933
Upon achieving power, Hitler ordered that all books by Jews or communists, or books that were pro-democracy, anti-war, or did not put the “correct” slant on history, be made illegal and burned.

Brownshirt
Part of the para-military arm of the Nazi party, they were often used to intimidate supporters of other parties, especially Social Democrats and Communists. They wore brown shirts.

Corporatism; The Corporate State
An economic system used in Mussolini’s Italy whereby all economic activities were divided up into twenty-two corporations. Each corporation theoretically consisted of both owners and workers. In reality, this system was a method of taking away all power from trade unions.

Coup (coup d’etat)
Forcible overthrow of a government or leader.

Enabling Act
Passed by the German Reichstag on March 23, 1933. It gave Hitler the power to make his own laws, thereby essentially ending any semblance of democracy in the Weimar Republic.
**Fascist Grand Council**
A group of Fascist councils in Italy which had the power to nominate all the members of the Italian parliament.

**Frei Korps**
Groups of ex-soldiers in the Weimar Republic who were totally opposed to the Social Democratic government. They felt that Germany had been “stabbed in the back” when Social Democratic politicians had signed the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

**Führer**
Leader. This title was used by Hitler after August 1934 when he abolished the position of president, upon the death of President Hindenburg.

**German Labour Front**
In May 1933 German trade unions were declared illegal and replaced by the German Labour Front, to which both employers and employees had to belong. This new organization was completely controlled by the Nazis.

**Gestapo; Geheime Staatspolizei**
The Nazi secret police, which had essentially unlimited power to deal with all political opponents and any other citizens of Germany.

**Hitler Youth**
A Nazi organization for boys. By 1936 membership was compulsory. The organization emphasized physical fitness, team sports and Nazi indoctrination. The girls' equivalent was known as the League of German Maidens.

**Il Duce**
The Leader - title used by Mussolini.

**Kapp Putsch**
Attempted overthrow of the German government by the right wing on March 13, 1920. The attempt failed because of a general strike by the workers who supported the Social Democratic government.

**Lateran Pacts**
1929 accord between Mussolini's government and the Roman Catholic Church, which gave the Church control over religious education in schools and recognized Catholicism as the state religion of Italy. The Vatican was recognized as a separate state. Mussolini was then able to claim support of the Catholic Church and therefore many of the people of Italy.

**Lebensraum**
Living Space - refers to Eastern Europe, including Soviet Union which Hitler felt Germans had a right to take over on racial grounds; source of raw materials.

**Locarno Agreements, 1925**
Signed by Germany, France and Belgium, guaranteed by Britain and Italy. The most important pact concerned the Rhineland It guaranteed the borders between Belgium, France and Germany and also confirmed demilitarized status of the Rhineland.
March on Rome, October 1922
Mussolini threatened the Italian government by saying “either the government is handed over or we take it by an attack on Rome.” Subsequently King Victor Emmanuel III asked Mussolini to form a government. The “march” was actually by train.

Mein Kampf
*My Struggle* - the book written by Hitler while in prison after the Beer Hall Putsch in 1923, outlining his political theories and policies that he would carry out on achieving political power in Germany.

Munich Putsch
The **Beer Hall Putsch** was a failed coup d'état which occurred in the evening of Thursday, November 8 to the early afternoon of Friday, November 9, 1923, when Adolf Hitler, the popular World War I General Erich Ludendorff, and other leaders of the Kampfbund, unsuccessfully tried to gain power in Munich, Bavaria, Germany. *(Wikipedia)*

Nazism
National Socialism, the ideology of National Socialist German Workers’ Party, it became the ideology of the entire German state under the dictatorship of Hitler.

Night of the Long Knives, June 30, 1934
The S.S. arrested the leaders of the S.A. on Hitler’s orders, and shot them. Hitler felt that he needed to be rid of them in order to achieve the full support of the army. On the same night, some political leaders who Hitler felt might challenge his authority were also shot.

Nuremberg Laws
Anti-Jewish laws passed in Germany in 1935: not allowing Jews to be citizens, forbidding marriages between Jews and citizens of Germany, forbidding extramarital intercourse between Jews and citizens of Germany.

OVRA
In 1927 this secret police force was established in Italy by Mussolini.

Olympic Games of 1936
Held in Berlin and used for propaganda purposes by Hitler and the Nazi Party in order to show the world what great progress had been made in Germany, as well as the superiority of the Aryan race. Much to Hitler’s dismay, the black American Jesse Owens captured 4 gold medals, including the 100 and 200 metre sprints.

Putsch
Political uprising against a government; German word for armed seizure of power by a small group and replacement by a new, non-elected ruling group, coup d’etat.

Rapallo Treaty
A treaty signed between Russia and Germany in April 1922, by which the two countries established diplomatic relations. Russia obtained German steel and technical help. A secret part of the Treaty allowed Germany to manufacture arms in Russian factories.

Reichstag fire, February 27, 1933
A young Dutch communist was accused of setting the Reichstag building on fire. Hitler used this incident to have President Hindenburg invoke Article 48 of the Constitution and suspend freedom of speech and of the press.
Ruhr Occupation
In 1923, with inflation in Germany beginning to make the Mark worthless, the Germans were not paying their reparations debts. France and Belgium invaded the Ruhr industrial heartland of Germany in order to extract reparations by taking over industries. The Germans refused to cooperate.

Saar Valley
Small coal mining area in southwest Germany on the border with France. By the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, the League of Nations was responsible for the territory’s administration from 1919 to 1935. The coal mines were put under French control as a form of reparations. In 1935 the people voted in a League plebiscite to rejoin Germany.

SA (Sturm Abteilung); Stormtroopers
The paramilitary arm of the Nazi party. These so-called Brownshirts were often used to intimidate supporters of other parties, especially Social Democrats and Communists.

Spartakists
A group of left wing radical communists in post-war Germany. Led by Rosa Luxembourg and Karl Liebknecht, they tried to topple the government in January, 1919. The Social Democratic government was forced to call on the Freikorps for help in putting down the uprising.

SS (Schutz Staffel)
Started as a military bodyguard for Hitler in 1925. In the 1930’s it became a police and security organization, later becoming an elite section of the German Army which also ran concentration camps.

Status quo
Existing state of affairs.

Weimar Republic
In 1918 the political power in Germany was placed in the hands of the democratic Weimar Republic. The republic was named after the city of Weimar, where a national assembly convened to produce a new constitution after the German Empire was abolished following the nation’s defeat in World War I.
Key People:

**Dollfuss, Engelbert**
Chancellor of Austria who was murdered by Austrian Nazis in 1934 in an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the government.

**Ebert, Friedrich**
A Social Democrat, president of the Weimar Republic from 1919-1925.

**Goebbels, Joseph**
He was put in charge of Nazi propaganda in 1929, and became Minister of Enlightenment and Propaganda in 1933. Known for his radio broadcasts, he had considerable influence on the German people.

**Goering, Hermann**
In 1933 he became Prime Minister and Interior Minister for the state of Prussia, and the Air Minister of the Reich. He was responsible for the rebuilding of the Luftwaffe (German Air Force). After the war, he was considered to be the leading Nazi tried at Nuremberg. He was found guilty, but managed to swallow poison before he was hanged.

**Hitler, Adolf**

**Kapp, Wolfgang**
led attempted overthrow by right wing of government of Germany March 13, 1920 - failed because of general strike by workers who supported Social Democratic government right wing.

**Mussolini, Benito**

**Röhm, Ernst**
Head of the S.A, who was ordered shot by Hitler on the Night of the Long Knives.

**Stresseman, Gustav (1878-1929)**
German chancellor for a short time in 1923, and then foreign minister until 1929. He managed to have reparations the reduced, negotiated the Locarno Pact, and got Germany into the League of Nations. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1926.

**Von Hindenburg, Paul (1847-1934)**
Prominent army general in WWI, who became president of the Weimar Republic on the death of Ebert in 1925. He appointed Hitler as Chancellor on January 30, 1933. He died in August 1934, thus enabling Hitler to abolish the position of President and replace it with the title “Führer”.

**Victor Emmanuel III**
The king of Italy from 1900-1946. He appointed Mussolini as prime minister in 1922 and also dismissed him in 1943.