Dictators of World War II
Dictators

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Joseph Stalin: Russia

- Vladimir Lenin becomes premier following the Russian Revolution, has Marxist ideals of socialism
- Lenin dies in 1924 before ideals are realized
- Lenin's two allies fight for power: Joseph Stalin and Leon Trotsky
- Stalin forms alliances against Trotsky and eventually becomes dictator of Soviet Union after a campaign based in fear and forcefulness
- Trotsky is exiled and eventually assassinated by Stalin's henchmen
- Stalin's ideology becomes known as "Stalinism"; form of Communism (which is a form of socialism) that is totalitarian and creates a military state
- State ownership & control of the means of production (no private ownership)
Benito Mussolini: Italy

- In 1919, Mussolini formed the Fascist Party after serving in WWI; he got the support of unemployed war veterans
- The veterans were organized into armed squads, the "Black Shirts", and terrorized political opponents
- Fascist Party invited to join the coalition government
- Italy slipped into political chaos in 1922; Mussolini presented himself as the only one capable of restoring order
- Dismantled democratic government and took over as dictator in 1925, known as "Il Duce"
- Fascism is a right wing ideology characterized by totalitarian control, intense nationalism, and elitism
- Interests of the state > individual rights; private ownership and class system maintained
Michinomiya Hirohito: Japan

- Born into Japanese empire; became emperor after 1926 death of his father
- Japanese Imperial family believed to be descendants of sun goddess Amaterasu
- Thus, Emperor regarded as divine by Japanese; regardless, Emperor Hirohito had little power
- National policy decided by military officials, e.g. invasion of Manchuria; Hirohito tried to encourage cooperation with Britain and U.S.A.
- Japanese ideology not as clear; militarism and imperialism most evident
- Imperialism: government ruled by emperor or empress, empire extends rule over foreign countries to acquire colonies
- Militarism: military efficiency regarded as supreme ideal of the state and all other interests subordinated to those of the military
Adolf Hitler: Germany

- Nazism based on beliefs of the National Socialist German Workers Party (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei)
- Ideology was extremely fascist and nationalistic
- Belief that people of one’s nation are a people united by race and tradition
- Foreign/lesser races seen as a threat to nation’s people, must be eliminated or removed
- Hitler’s master race = Aryan (comes from 19th century belief in Aryanism which comes from scientific racism)* blonde-haired, blue-eyed
- Believed that German people needed “lebensraum” (living space) in Europe
- Hitler will have his own lesson later because he was hilarious... said no one ever*

* joke blatantly stolen from John Green