Introduction to the “Isms” of the Interwar Period

World History

**Instructions:**

To understand the political consequences of World War I, we are going to take some time to explore the political ideologies that emerged as a result of the conflict. These ideologies played a major role in causing World War II and continue to impact our world today. This document attempts to provide you with a summary of each ideology and is a resource that you will need to use multiple times in this unit.

**Step 1:** Divide the isms(Fascism, Nazisim, Communism and Liberalism) among the members of your table. You should familiarize yourself with your assigned ism and be prepared to explain it to the rest of your table (10 mins). Try to envision what kind of society these ideas would create.

**Step 2:** Jigsaw with the other isms at your table. Discuss the similarities and differences between each ideology.

**Step 3:** Study for the Kahoot on the four ideologies

**Step 4 (After the Kahoot):** Use your understanding of the different ideologies to respond to a scenario and complete the table on the last page.

Introduction to Fascism

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| **Legacy of World War I** | **Founding** | **Vision for the Future**  **(Key Ideas)** | **Leader(s)** |
| * Italy did not receive the benefits they thought they would get from WWI (new colonies, expanded territory, reparations) * Post-War unemployment and rising prices from food shortages lead to unrest. Political protests from the PSI (Italian Socialists) won elections in the Italian Parliament and Communist organizations worked to achieve a revolution like the Russian Revolution(1917). | * In March 1919, the Fascist party was founded to combat the rising threat of Communism in Italy. * They were the “anti-political party”. They wanted abandon political debate and negotiation in favor of action. | * Nationalism-Fascists put the state above all. Individualism was discouraged, service to the state was the priority * One-Party Government with a single authoritarian leader * Believed strength came through military strength and conquest * Wanted to recreate the Roman Empire in Italy. | * Benito Mussolini was the founder and leader of the Fascists * Mussolini was a former journalists who had been a socialist but abandoned after he was kicked out of the PSI |
| **Rise to Power/**  **Who Supported Them** | **Political Policies** | **Social Policies** | **Economic Policies** |
| * Veterans Returning from World War I * Conservative Members of Italian society that saw Communism as a threat. * Catholic Church * In 1922 the Fascists marched on Rome and Mussolini was appointed PM by the King. By 1925 he had banned all other political parties and became the sole ruler of Italy. | * Political opposition was outlawed and protests were dealt with violently * Focused on strengthening Italy’s international power * Mussolini became known as *Il Duce* (the leader) | * Wanted to return to traditional society: religion, gender roles, customs * Education was setup to improve society and teach loyalty to the regime | * Wanted to make Italian economy strong and self-sufficient (autarky) from international trade. * Focuses economy on building public works, government buildings and the military. |

Introduction to Nazism

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| **Legacy of World War I** | **Founding** | **Vision for the Future**  **(Key Ideas)** | **Leader(s)** |
| * The Weimar Republic, established at the end of WWI, was unpopular and struggling economically from the aftermath of WWI. * The Nazis took advantage of the German people’s resentment towards the harsh terms imposed by the Treaty of Versailles. | * Founded in 1919 as the German Workers’ Party, largely reacting to the Treaty of Versailles and Germany's loss of WWI. * Renamed National Socialist German Workers' Party to appeal to the working class, an alternative to Communism. | * Extreme nationalism, anti-individualism, for the creation of a united Greater Germany, cleansed of “inferior” people. * Goal to take over territory to create “living space” for the racially-pure master race. * Strong central one-party government with an authoritarian leader. | * Adolf Hitler became the party’s leader in 1921 and served as the face of the Nazi movement. * Joseph Goebbels was a top Nazi official and loyal follower of Hitler, known for his public speeches and propaganda. * Heinrich Himmler led the Nazi’s paramilitary police force, the SS. |
| **Rise to Power/**  **Who Supported Them** | **Political Policies** | **Social Policies** | **Economic Policies** |
| * Major support was from the poor and working classes who felt the effects of Germany’s economic hardships. * Party came to power in 1933, when Hitler was appointed Chancellor due to popular support. | * 25-Point Plan, with goals of extreme nationalism, economic growth, exclusion of “non-Germans,” and a strong central government. * Anti-communism & capitalism | * Anti-Semitism and white supremacy, blaming Jews and other “non-German” groups for the loss of WWI. * Return to conservative values, away from the experimental culture of the Weimar era. | * Wanted full-employment for white German men through public construction projects, subsidies, and excluding Jews and some women from the workforce. |

Introduction to Communism

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| **Legacy of World War I** | **Founding** | **Vision for the Future**  **(Key Ideas)** | **Leaders** |
| * The war was very unpopular and anti-war demonstrations were growing. * Shortages of food led to protests in major Russian cities that led to the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II (February Revolution) | * The ideas of Marx and Engels were adapted by Lenin and Trotsky to fit the situation in Russia. * The party they founded was called the Bolsheviks | * Eliminate class division * Abolish private land ownership * Create a single party state that would direct economic and social development * Spread Communism to other nations | * Vladimir Lenin, led the Bolsheviks to power in the Russian Revolution of 1919, but died in 1924. * Joseph Stalin, after Lenin’s death, led the Soviet Union and consolidated power to create a totalitarian dictatorship. |
| **Rise to Power/**  **Who Supported Them** | **Political Policies** | **Social Policies** | **Economic Policies** |
| * In October 1917, Bolsheviks gained popular support with workers and peasants and overthrew the Provisional government. | * Great Purge campaign removed anyone who opposed Stalin from the Communist Party, expanding to the greater population, resulting in over one million deaths. * Any dissent was met with violence and repression. | * Education was designed to support economic development and political loyalty * Gender equality * Art was used to support the state (propaganda) | * Stalin’s first 5-Year Plan was an economic plan to industrialize, through full control by that state and forced collectivisation of farms. * The state would continue to drive the economy |

Introduction to Liberalism

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| **Legacy of World War I** | **Founding** | **Vision for the Future**  **(Key Ideas)** | **Leaders** |
| * The war shook the nations of France and England. * A whole generation of young men had been lost and France was destroyed by years of war. * Governments were in debt to the U.S. and their economies were in shambles. | * The government systems continued as they had before the war: France a republic and U.K. a constitutional monarchy * Public opinion shifted to more liberal political parties in response of the devastation of war. | * Freedom * Equality * Individualism * Pacifism * Collective Security through open negotiations (League of Nations) * Capitalism (some socialism in France) | * A coalition of left wing parties were in power. Presidents included Raymond Poincare and Astrid Briand * British politics was divided between the Conservative Party (Stanley Baldwin) and the Labour Party on the left. |
| **Rise to Power/**  **Who Supported Them** | **Political Policies** | **Social Policies** | **Economic Policies** |
| * Public support was divided in each of the countries and elections saw a lack of continuity | * In France there was a desire to punish Germany so the government was aggressive in enforcing the TOV * The British were torn between addressing domestic rebuilding and challenges to their Empire around the World. | * Women gained the right to vote and became more active in the society * Education programs were expanded * Social class divisions were challenged | * Economic recovery was slowed by workers strikes and the damage of the war * Free trade was encouraged * French socialists governments instituted more employment policies to support French workers |

**Instructions:** For your scenario, explain how each political ideology would solve the problem. Be sure to include both the positives and negatives of each ideology’s solution. After you have examined each potential solution, decide which one is the best option and explain your thinking in the last box.

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|  | **Fascism** | **Nazism** | **Communism** | **Liberalism** |
| **How would the ideology solve the problem?** |  |  |  |  |
| **Upsides/Positives** |  |  |  |  |
| **Downsides/Negatives** |  |  |  |  |
| **Which is the best solution? Why?** | | | | |

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| **Massive Unemployment** |
| **Political Demonstrations/Opposition** |
| **Foreign Threat of Invasion** |
| **Education** |
| **Role of Women** |
| **Minorities** |