



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.7.3**

***Totalitarian Regimes in
Germany, Italy, and the
Soviet Union***

Specific Objective: Analyze the rise, aggression, and human costs of totalitarian regimes in Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union, noting their common and dissimilar traits.

In the years after World War I, Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union saw the rise of **totalitarian** regimes—a form of government in which the state attempts to assert control over every aspect of public and private life. In all three countries, a new charismatic leader would become infamous for cruelty. Each of these leaders rose to power in the chaos that followed World War I, promising strength and stability to war-ravaged nations.

Nation	Germany	Italy	Soviet Union
Leader	Adolf Hitler	Benito Mussolini	Joseph Stalin
Political Party	Nazi (National Socialists)	Fascist	Communist
Dates In Power	1933–1945	1922–1945	1928–1953
Unifying Idea	Germans as “master race”	strongly nationalistic	desire for a classless society
Economic Policy	capitalist; government/ business partnerships	capitalist; government/ business partnerships	communist; state owns everything, controls economy
Control of Media	total	less than total	total
Religious Control	some freedom, but not for Jews	Catholicism was state religion; free choice	religion suppressed
Use of Terror	Millions killed; Jews and Romani particularly, and many non-Germans, and minorities were singled out for terror.	murder rare; about 4,000 imprisoned	secret police imprisoned and killed over 20 million.

The totalitarian regimes shared a number of **similarities**, including:

- Ruled by a dictator who was glorified as a hero
- Allowed only one political party
- Emphasized total loyalty to the government and its leader
- Denied individual rights
- Censored the press and other media
- Used art, culture, and mass communications to spread propaganda
- Encouraged a high birthrate; rewarded women who had many children
- Controlled people by terror, especially by means of secret police
- As police states, used secret police to terrorize people.