

Fascism
World History
Kienast

European society transformed by World War I and Great Depression

Uncertainty and depression led to the rise of radical ideas

Socialism and communism

Later fascism rose as a response to communism threat; led to embrace of fascism

Fascism first established in Italy under **Benito Mussolini**, 1922

Later became popular in other countries

Fascism- totalitarian, extreme nationalism, private property protection

Why didn't more capitalist governments support fascism? (lack of democracy)

Germany also adopted fascism as a response to communism

Fascist Party in Germany: **National Socialist Workers' Party** (Nazi Party)

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945)

Rise to power:

1923 Munich Putsch: attempted overthrow of German government

1923 Wrote a book called *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) while in prison

1929 Nazis became popular with Great Depression

1932 Nazis won majority of Reichstag (parliament) seats

1933 Hitler became Chancellor (prime minister)

1933 Reichstag building burned to the ground; Hitler blamed communists

1933 Hitler became a totalitarian leader

Hitler formed a government called the **Third Reich** (Empire) in 1933

Nazi Party goals

1. Nationalism based on race, not on culture

2. Unification of German people into a single country

3. Expulsion of "foreigners" from Germany

Done for *lebensraum* or "living space"; more resources for Germans

Hitler and Mussolini both used intensified nationalism to rise to power

Mussolini promised Italians that his empire would be like the powerful

Roman Empire; Hitler said his empire would be like the Holy Roman

Empire

Both also used hatred against communists to get support

Hitler was different than Mussolini in at least one way: he preached hate against anyone non-Germanic

Japan began taking over other countries (mainly after 1919)

Needed resources for their industries

Other countries distracted by Great Depression after 1929