Communism, Fascism, Nazism

Totalitarian Governments in the 1930s
Treaty of Versailles

Black Tuesday 1929
- stock market crashes

Great Depression during 1930s

Increasing influence of new political parties that emphasize state control
- For example: Communism, Nazism, Fascism

Total Control of State by a Dictator
This is the political spectrum. When you hear the terms “right-wing” and left-wing” in regards to politics, this is what they are referring to. Where do your political beliefs fall on the spectrum?

In terms you may be more familiar with, a Republican would have more in common with the right, sharing characteristics such as conservative beliefs, belief in lower taxes, and capitalism. A Democrat would lean towards the left as they tend to be more liberal, and believe in higher taxes to fund social programs.
Totalitarianism

A. What is it?

✓ is a political system where the state holds total authority over the society and seeks to control all aspects of public and private life wherever necessary.

B. Describe its characteristics...
Totalitarianism

- Government establishes complete control of all aspects of the state (political, military, economy, social, cultural)
- Highly nationalistic (flags, salutes, rallies, uniforms)
- Strict controls and laws
- Military state (secret police, army, military)
- Censorship (opposing literature and ideas)
- Propaganda (media – radio, newspapers, posters)
- One leader (dictator); charismatic
- Total conformity of people to ideas and leader
- Use of Terror and Fear
*These theories, specifically Communism and Fascism, are completely different theories that are bitterly opposed; however they exhibit the same behavior*
What is Communism?

• LEFT WING

• based on theory by Karl Marx
• revolutionary idea of a political, economic and social system that creates a “classless society”

• state ownership and control of the means of production (no private ownership)

• Soviet Communism or “Stalinism”, was more of a totalitarian and military state combined with elements of communism
What is Fascism?

- Right Wing
- intense nationalism and elitism
- totalitarian control
- interests of the state more important than individual rights
- maintains class system and private ownership in cooperation with state

Interesting Fact: The word fascism was derived from the fasces, an ancient Roman symbol of authority consisting of a bundle of rods and an axe.
What is Nazism?

Right Wing

- extremely fascist, nationalistic and totalitarian
- based on beliefs of the National Socialist German Workers Party
- belief in the racial superiority of the Aryan, the “master race”
- belief that all Germans should have “lebensraum” or living space in Europe
- Violent hatred towards Jews and blamed Germany’s problems on them