

# Year 9: Why was the 20<sup>th</sup> century an age of Dictators?

<p><b>1. Key Words:</b></p> <p><b>Weimar Germany:</b> the democratic system in Germany that began after World War One in 1918 and which lasted until Hitler became sole leader in 1934.</p> <p><b>Democratically elected:</b> The citizens of the country voted in a legal manner.</p> <p><b>Dictator:</b> a person exercising absolute power, especially a ruler who has absolute, unrestricted control in a government.</p> <p><b>Treaty:</b> a formal agreement between two or more states in reference to peace, alliance and trade.</p> <p><b>Hyperinflation:</b> a persistent, substantial rise in the general level of prices leading to the value of money becoming worthless.</p> <p><b>Putsch:</b> the German word for rebellion.</p> <p><b>Golden Years:</b> the name given to the period 1924-1929 Weimar Germany where there was prosperity in Weimar Germany.</p> <p><b>Revolution:</b> an overthrow and replacement of an established government or political system by the people who live in that country and are governed.</p> <p><b>The Tsar:</b> the term for a Russian monarch.</p> <p><b>The Bolsheviks:</b> a member of the Russian Communist Party.</p> <p><b>Communist:</b> a social, economic and political system where there is no private wealth, all wealth is owned by the state.</p> <p><b>Opposition:</b> resistance or criticism (in this case – leaders in charge of Germany and Russia).</p> <p><b>First 5 Year Plan:</b> Stalin’s plan to transform the Soviet Union from a weak economy based on agriculture to one based on industry. Unrealistic timescales resulted in starvation for the people, between 3 million and 7.5 million people died.</p> <p><b>The Great Leap Forward:</b> one of Mao’s industrial policies meant to improve agricultural and industrial output.</p> <p><b>The Cultural Revolution:</b> a social movement in China where academics were persecuted against.</p> <p><b>Coup:</b> a sudden, violent, and illegal seizure of power from a government.</p> <p><b>Fascist:</b> a political system based on a very powerful leader, state control, and being extremely proud of country and race, and in which political opposition is not allowed.</p>	<p><b>2. Key People:</b></p> <p><b>Friedrich Ebert:</b> first democratic President of Weimar Germany.</p> <p><b>Gustav Stresemann:</b> Chancellor (Prime Minister) and Foreign Minister of Germany, 1923-1929. He helped to solve Germany’s economic and political problems after World War One, which led to the “Golden Years” of prosperity and culture.</p> <p><b>Adolf Hitler:</b> leader of the German Socialist and Workers Party (NSDAP or Nazi). A soldier in World War One, Hitler hated the Weimar Republic and sought to have it destroyed. He took advantage of economic collapse after the Wall Street Crash to promote himself as a strong and capable leader and was elected Chancellor in 1933. From this position of power, he took absolute control in Germany and ruled it as a dictatorship. He committed suicide in 1945 as the Russian army entered Berlin, which ended World War Two in Europe.</p> <p><b>President Hindenburg:</b> First World War General, Hindenburg became President in 1925. He defeated Hitler in the Presidential election of 1932 and his death in 1934 was the last step in Hitler being able to establish his dictatorship.</p> <p><b>Fritz von Papen:</b> a Germany politician, who made a deal with Hindenburg to make Hitler Chancellor and to then control him as Vice-Chancellor. This plan failed.</p> <p><b>Tsar Nicholas II:</b> the last Tsar of Russia, he ruled the country as an absolute monarch from 1894 until he was forced to abdicate in 1917.</p> <p><b>Vladimir Lenin:</b> a Russian revolutionary communist and political theorist. He served as head of government of Soviet Russia from 1917 to 1922 and of the Soviet Union from 1922 to 1924.</p> <p><b>Joseph Stalin:</b> One of the most notorious 20<sup>th</sup> century dictators, Stalin was the communist leader of Russia from 1926 – 1953. Responsible directly and indirectly for millions of deaths in the Soviet Union. He formed an agreement with Hitler in 1939 that led to the invasion of Poland and World War Two but after Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union, Stalin joined the Allies. The hard fought victory against the Nazis at Stalingrad in 1942 was a turning point in World War Two that contributed ultimately to Allied victory in 1945.</p> <p><b>Chairman Mao:</b> communist dictator of China, 1949 – 1976.</p> <p><b>Benito Mussolini:</b> fascist dictator of Italy, 1922 – 1945. As the first fascist leader in Europe, Mussolini inspired Hitler with his method and political approach.</p> <p><b>General Franco:</b> Spanish general and fascist politician who ruled Spain as a dictatorship from 1939 – 1975.</p>
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### 3. Timeline of 20<sup>th</sup> century Dictatorships.

