

**AIM:** How were the governments of Mussolini, Stalin, and Hitler similar and different?

### Document 1

As the head of the Italian government, **Mussolini** remade Italy into a Fascist dictatorship:

- Mussolini outlawed all other political parties. Secret police bolstered the regime. Critics of the government were thrown into prison, forced into exile, or murdered.
- Government censors forced radio stations and publications to broadcast or publish only Fascist doctrines.
- Mussolini brought the economy under state control. This policy did help business, and production increased. However, workers were forbidden to strike and wages were low.
- Men were urged to be ruthless, selfless warriors for the glory of Italy. “A minute on the battlefield,” they were told, “is worth a lifetime of peace.”
- Men, women, and children were bombarded with slogans glorifying the state and Mussolini such as “Believe! Obey! Fight!”
- Women were valued as wives and mothers but not as workers. Women were called on to “win the battle of motherhood.” Those who bore more than 14 children were given a medal by Il Duce himself.
- Fascist youth groups toughened children and taught them to obey strict military discipline. Boys and girls learned about the glories of ancient Rome. Young Fascists marched in parades, singing patriotic hymns and chanting “Mussolini is always right.”

### Document 2

**Stalin** aimed to create a perfect Communist state in Russia. To realize his vision, he transformed the Soviet Union into a totalitarian state. **Totalitarianism** describes a government that takes total, centralized, state control over every aspect of public and private life.

- Stalin established a command economy, in which government officials made all basic economic decisions and controlled all factories, businesses, and farms.
- Stalin built a police state to maintain his power. His secret police monitored telephone lines, read mail, planted informers everywhere, and used tanks and armored cars to stop riots.
- In 1937, Stalin launched the **Great Purge**, a campaign of terror designed to eliminate anyone who threatened his power, including Communist Party members. By the time the purge ended in 1938, millions had died.
- Stalin’s government controlled all newspapers, motion pictures, radio, and other sources of information. Many Soviet writers, composers, and other artists faced official censorship.
- Under Stalin, the government controlled all education, from nursery schools through the universities. College professors and students who questioned the Communist Party’s interpretations of history or science risked losing their jobs or faced imprisonment.
- Communists worked to replace religious teachings with the ideals of communism. The police destroyed churches and synagogues, and many religious leaders were killed or sent to labor camps.
- Like the czars before him, Stalin pursued a policy of **Russification**. He promoted Russian history, language, and culture, sometimes forbidding the cultural practices of native peoples.
- Under Stalin, citizens received free education and healthcare. The government invested in improvements in public transportation and recreation.
- Stalin promoted the idea that women should work alongside men in jobs outside the home.
- Under Stalin’s rule, there was an upper class of Communist Party members that received benefits and privileges.

### Document 3:

Q: What feelings about Stalin does the poet express?

*“We receive our sun from Stalin,  
We receive our prosperous life from Stalin...  
Even the good life in the tundras filled with snowstorms  
We made together with him,  
With the Son of Lenin,  
With Stalin the Wise.”*

### Document 4:

Q: How did party representation in the Reichstag (German Parliament) change from 1928 to 1933?

Party Representation in the Reichstag of the Weimar Republic						
Party	May 1928	Sept. 1930	July 1932	Nov. 1932	Mar. 1933	Nov. 1933
National Socialist (Nazi)	12	108	230	196	288	661
German National Peoples	78	41	37	51	52	
German Peoples	45	30	7	11	2	
Economic	23	23	2	1		
Catholic Center	61	68	75	70	74	
Bavarian Peoples	17	19	22	20	18	
State (Democrats)	25	15	4	2	5	
Social Democrat (Socialist)	153	143	133	121	120	
Communist	54	77	89	100	81	
Other Parties	23	53	9	12	7	
Totals	491	577	608	584	647	661

### Document 5:

Hitler used his new power to turn Germany into a totalitarian state:

- ❖ He banned all other political parties and had opponents arrested. An elite, black-uniformed unit called the SS (Schutzstaffel, or protection squad) arrested and murdered Hitler's enemies.
- ❖ Like Stalin in the Soviet Union, Hitler purged his own party, executing Nazis he felt were disloyal.
- ❖ The **Gestapo**, the Nazi secret police force, had wide-ranging powers to monitor the activities of German citizens.
- ❖ The Nazis took command of the economy. New laws banned strikes, dissolved independent labor unions, and gave the government authority over business and labor.
- ❖ Hitler put Germans to work constructing factories, building highways, manufacturing weapons, and serving in the military. The number of unemployed dropped from 6 million to 1.5 million in 1936.
- ❖ He began a program to rearm Germany, in violation of the Versailles treaty. Demand for military equipment helped stimulate business and eliminate unemployment.
- ❖ Hitler turned the press, radio, literature, painting, and film into propaganda tools. Books that did not conform to Nazi beliefs were burned in huge bonfires.
- ❖ In an attempt to control the churches, the Nazis combined all Protestant sects into a single state church. They closed Catholic schools. Churches were not permitted to criticize the government.
- ❖ Schoolchildren had to join the **Hitler Youth** (for boys) or the League of German Girls. School courses and textbooks were rewritten to reflect Nazi views.
- ❖ Nazis sought to limit women's roles. Women were dismissed from upper-level jobs and turned away from universities. To raise the birthrate, Nazis offered women rewards for having more children.
- ❖ Although Jews were less than 1 percent of the population, the Nazis used them as scapegoats for all Germany's troubles since the war. Beginning in 1933, the Nazis passed laws depriving Jews of most of their rights. Many Jews were forced to wear the Star of David, a symbol of Judaism, on their clothing. In some places, Jews were forced to live in separate neighborhoods called ghettos.