




TOTALITARIAN REGIMES AND THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

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BACKGROUND

- 1918 : End of World War 1
- 1919 : Treaty of Versailles
- 1920 : Creation of the Nazi Party
- 1924 : Death of Lenin / The Dawes Plan U.S. loans to Germany
- 1929 : Wall Street crash, Beginning of the Great Depression

TOTALITARIAN REGIMES GAINING POWER (USSR)

- **Empowered before the crash and Lenin's death: a turning point**
 - Presented himself as Lenin's heir to the power in order to gain more power
- **Political suppression, Economic failure and its manipulation**
 - Removed any counterpart in the government
 - blamed the economic losses on others
 - Used all of these problems to his advantage by ruling with terror and fear.
- **Economic Policies adopted by Stalin: The Great Break of 1928**
 - Rupture with Lenin's ideology and communist economic flexibility
 - Extreme industrialization: become modern and powerful
- **Propaganda Victory over Capitalism**
 - Self sufficient economy
 - USSR's economic growth vs the world
 - How does this differ from the Nazi regime



TOTALITARIAN REGIMES GAINING POWER (NAZIS)

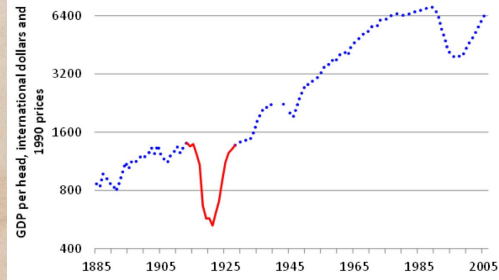
- **Economics Hardships after World War I :**
 - Germany has to pay for all damages of WWI (£6,6 billions) and borrows money from the US
- **Beer Hall Putsch :**
 - Hitler and the Nazi Party tried to overthrow the German government : they fail (Hitler sentenced to five years)
- **Wall Street Crash 1929 :**
 - Leads to economic instability in the country -> high unemployment + decline in living standards
- **Loss of faith in democracy :**
 - Chancellor Bruning policies (1930) fail -> people start to be more interested in extremes
- **1932 : Fall of the Weimar Republic :**
 - The destruction of the Weimar Republic -> the Nazi Party becomes the largest in Reichstag in the July and November elections of 1932 -> **On January 30, 1933, Hitler gets appointed as Chancellor**



TOTALITARIAN REGIMES MAINTAINING POWER (USSR)

- **Propaganda** (capitalist crisis/soviet success): capitalism's collapse = proof of socialism's superiority
- **Central planning:** Economic crisis abroad called for discipline, sacrifice and support from the people. (only authoritarian system could avoid the chaos of capitalism + have economic security)
- **Isolation from western economics:** Isolated from world market (state control/limited foreign trade) = strength that protected workers) → boosted morale + justified harsh measures
- **Strategy and development:** economic + political instability abroad → soviet development (modernization, spy networks)/ mobilized the population for self-defense + justified internal crackdowns

Russian GDP per capita from 1885 to 2005



TOTALITARIAN REGIMES MAINTAINING POWER (NAZIS)



1934 propaganda poster

- **Economic Recovery and Job Creation** : over 6 million unemployed → These actions gave millions of Germans a livelihood → made the regime appear competent and effective
- **Propaganda and National Pride** : Joseph Goebbels, the Minister of Propaganda, controlled all forms of communication : radio, newspapers, film, and education.
- **Suppression of Opposition** : the Nazis targeted political opponents.
- **Censorship** : Any media that conveyed anti-Nazi ideas was censored → Censorship of newspapers, radio, cinema and the theatre was enforced, only books which agreed with the Nazi point of view were allowed



CONCLUSION