

Day: _____

Date: 28/1/24.

Q.s: Fascism in Italy and Nazism in Germany emerged as direct responses to instability and economic crisis following WW-1, setting stage for WW-II. Critically examine rise of right-wing authoritarian regimes in both, analyzing how their policies and ideologies contributed to WW-II.

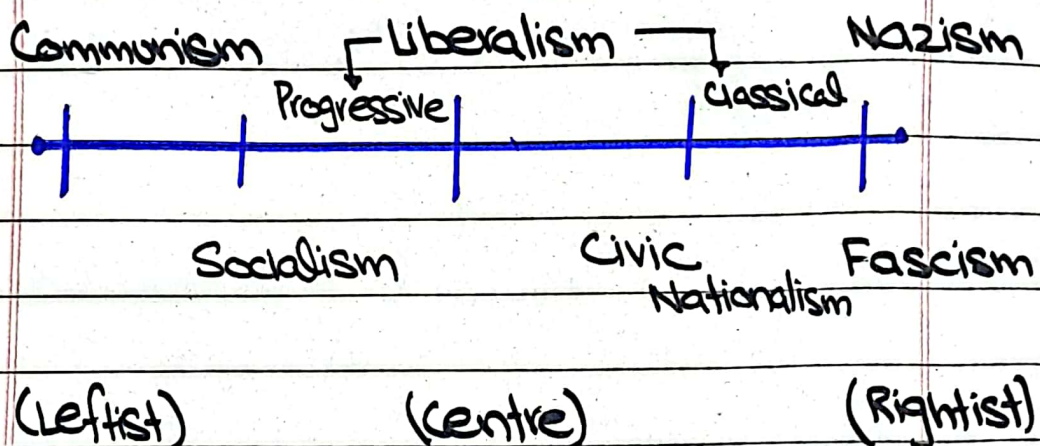
ANSWER

Introduction:

The fall of Weimar Republic in Germany and Socialist party in Italy, combined with Hitler and Mussolini's tact led to rise of Nazism and Fascism in Europe. They were both right-wing dictators who were not aligned initially. By the end of inter-war period, the Rome-Berlin Axis (1936) and Munich Agreement (1938) led to WW-II. Let us evaluate how, further.

(1) Overview of Political Spectrum:

In order to better comprehend these ideologies, we shall interpret them on a political spectrum.



Nazism and Fascism were both far-right ideologies; they represented hyper nationalism.

(2) Rise of Nazi Party:

In the 1932, Nationalists won and Nazi Party got 260/308 seats. The ~~govt~~ invited Hitler

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to form coalition out of fear of seizing power. The plan was to contain Hitler in government, but it was a miscalculation.

Hitler declared himself Chancellor in 1933. He won elections the same year, lacked 36 seats to be majority party. He passed "Enabling Law" in 1933. The PM was no longer dependent on Reichstag's approval.

i) AUTARKY:

Hitler ensured self-sufficiency by encouraging farmers, controlling production. Unemployment reduced, exports increased and imports were controlled.

ii) Nuremberg Laws 1935:

Hitler was against Jews and "Night of Broken Glass"

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was observed against them (1938)
Jews were deprived of German
citizenship under Nuremberg laws

iii) Public Support:

Reduced unemployment
Success of "STORM TROOPERS"
army and decline of Jews won
Hitler and his Nazi party mass
support.

(3) RISE OF Fascism in Italy:

Benito Mussolini

-founded the Fascist party in 1919.
It won zero seats.

He altered his
stance during that time, extended
support for Church via Concordat
agreement and denounced
republican talks.

i) Weak opposition:

In the elections of 1921, 23 seats were captured by Fascist Party of Italy while 123 by Socialists.

General strikes of 1921 and 1922 followed. Giolitti resigned because of threats from Fascists and his failure to control strike.

ii) Economic Effects of War:

Due to war, the economy was in decline, Lira was devalued, inflation was extremely high and debt issue with USA existed.

iii) Successes of Mussolini:

The iron and steel production doubled due to subsidy by government in 1930s.

Artificial silk production also increased.

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(4) Contributions to War:

Both Hitler and Mussolini had expansionist policies.

"Peace is absurd, Fascism does not believe in Peace"

-Mussolini

"National Boundaries are made by man and can be altered by Man"

- Hitler

(5) Italian Perspective:

Italy favored Austria only because it was anti-Nazi regime. During 1935 Abyssinia war, Mussolini realized the issue with neither France, nor Britain came to help. It ended in Berlin-Rome Axis 1936.

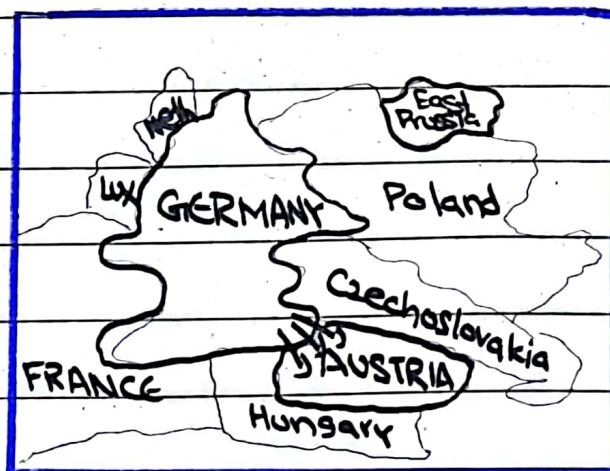
(c) German Foreign Policy that led to WW-II:

(1) ANSCHLUSS 1934:

Hitler wanted to annex Austria and expand the German empire. He was a thorough realist who abided by the quote:

"An empire either expands or it expires."

-Machiavelli



☐ German Territory.

What were the flaws of Treaty of Versailles that led to discontent?

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Role of Great Depression

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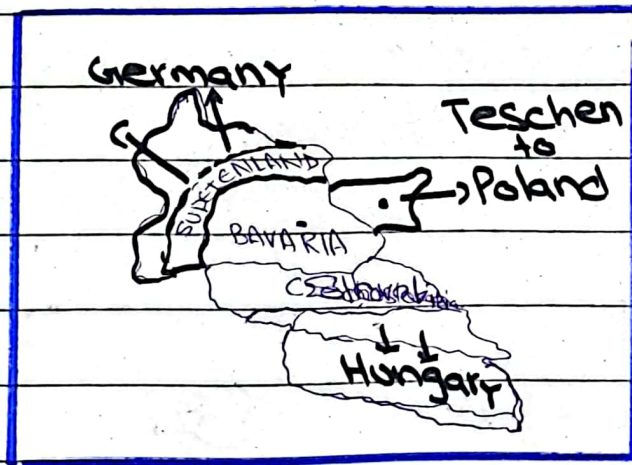
Failure of governments in Germany and Italy

ii) Spanish Civil War:

Both Italy (Rome) and Germany (Berlin) extend support to Franco, in order to contain communism.

iii) MUNICH AGREEMENT 1938:

It was between Italy and Germany and other two GPs. (4 Leaders).



Under this agreement:

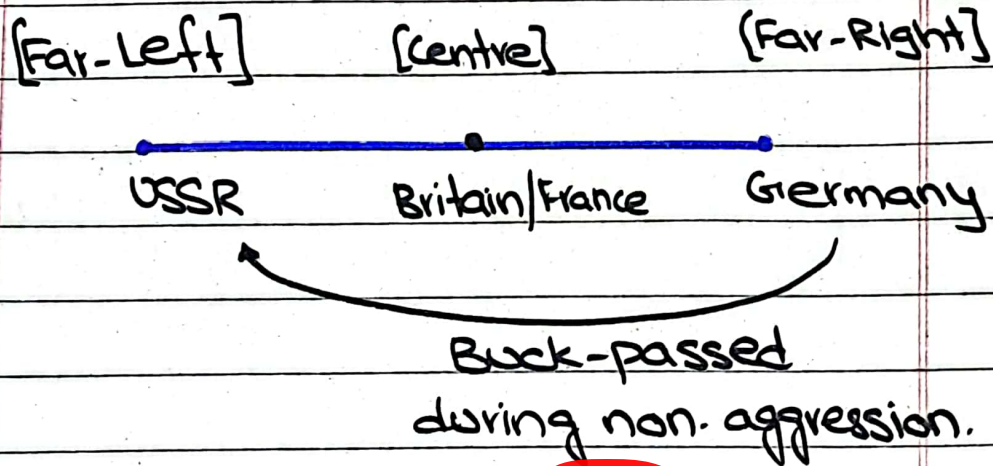
- South Slovakia to Hungary
- Sudetenland to Germany
- Teschen to Poland
- Rest of Slovakia b/w all three.

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(7) Poland Invasion led to WW-II:

Germany (Hitler) signed non-aggression pact with USSR and invaded Poland on 1st Sep 1939. Britain declared war on Germany on 3rd September due to expansionist tendencies



Conclusion:

The hegemonic aims of Nazi and Fascist party and Aryan cast supremacy of Hitler are main causes of WW-II.