Who Holds Power?

Political choices after World War I

SS24.WH.8 "Analyze the global cultural, economic, and political developments immediately following World War I. 8a Compare and contrast political ideologies that emerged in Europe following World War I, including communism, fascism..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one goal or method shared by two European movements, circle two differences among them, and number three linked events from the Ottoman Empire's breakup to later protests.

A New Order, Unevenly Shared

1 In 1919, Europe faced damaged economies and angry voters. Different groups offered different ways to rebuild. Communists wanted workers, through a revolutionary party, to take control of the state and replace private ownership of major industries with collective ownership. Social democrats also sought fairer wages and public services, but they favored elections and laws over revolution. They generally kept private businesses while using taxes and labor protections to reduce inequality. Both promised change, yet they disagreed sharply about how power should change hands.

2 Fascism offered another answer to crisis. In Italy, Benito Mussolini's movement demanded a powerful leader, fierce nationalism, and obedience to the state. Fascists rejected multiparty democracy and crushed opponents. Like communists, they claimed that sweeping change required concentrated power. Unlike communists, fascists defended social hierarchy and usually allowed private property under state direction. Social democrats instead protected elections and political opposition. These competing ideas shaped who could vote, organize at work, speak freely, and control economic life.

3 Farther east, the Ottoman Empire's defeat and breakup changed who governed Arab lands. Arab leaders who had fought Ottoman rule hoped for independent states, and Arab nationalism gained strength around a shared language and desire for self-rule. Instead, the League of Nations assigned Britain and France mandates over several former Ottoman territories, including Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. European officials claimed they would prepare these places for independence, but they retained political control. The gap between promised self-rule and foreign rule fueled protests and lasting disputes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did communists and social democrats differ in their plans for changing ownership and government?

2. What did fascists and communists share about power, and how did they differ on private property?

3. How did the Ottoman Empire's breakup affect Arab nationalism?

4. Why did the mandate system create tension with Arab demands for self-rule?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence newspaper editorial set in the 1920s arguing whether postwar changes expanded or limited self-rule. Compare two European ideologies, then connect your argument to the mandate system.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one goal or method shared by two European movements, circle two differences among them, and number three linked events from the Ottoman Empire's breakup to later protests. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did communists and social democrats differ in their plans for changing ownership and government?	**Communists sought revolution and collective ownership of major industries. Social democrats favored elections and laws while generally keeping private businesses.**
2	What did fascists and communists share about power, and how did they differ on private property?	**Both called for concentrated power. Fascists usually allowed private property under state direction, while communists wanted collective ownership of major industries.**
3	How did the Ottoman Empire's breakup affect Arab nationalism?	**The breakup raised hopes for independent Arab states, strengthening a movement for self-rule based partly on shared language.**
4	Why did the mandate system create tension with Arab demands for self-rule?	**Britain and France retained political control of mandated territories even though Arab nationalists wanted independent states.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The war's end promised ordinary people more power, but many new governments limited it. Social democrats sought change through elections, while fascists silenced opponents and concentrated authority under a leader. In former Ottoman lands, Arab nationalists hoped to govern themselves, yet Britain and France controlled territories as mandates. Across both regions, promises of a new political order often clashed with the question of who actually held power.

Accept either argument about self-rule if it accurately compares two ideologies and uses the mandates as evidence. For the marking job, accept a clear three-step chain from Ottoman breakup through foreign mandates to protests.