Roots or Rearmament?

Sort the beliefs and pressures behind fascism from Germany's military steps.

USH.C.5.1.A "Examine fascism in Germany and Italy, including its roots in economic depression, effects of the Versailles Treaty, and ideology, culminating in German rearmament and militarization of the Rhineland."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ROOTS OF FASCISM

Roots are problems and beliefs that helped fascist leaders gain support in Germany or Italy. They include economic hardship, anger after World War I, and ideas about how a country should be ruled.

Some Italian landowners supported Mussolini because they feared a communist uprising.

GERMAN MILITARY STEPS

Actions are steps Germany took to build its armed forces or move troops into an area where they had been barred.

Berlin ordered new battleships built in the mid-1930s.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ROOTS or ACTIONS for each item, then choose one item from each category and write one sentence explaining each choice.

1.	1. Mass unemployment during the Great Depression helped extremist parties gain support in Germany.	ROOTS ACTIONS
2.	2. Many Italians believed their country had received too little territory after World War I.	ROOTS ACTIONS
3.	3. Germany brought back compulsory military service in 1935.	ROOTS ACTIONS
4.	4. Nazi propaganda spread the racist claim that an Aryan people were a superior race.	ROOTS ACTIONS
5.	5. German troops entered the demilitarized Rhineland in 1936.	ROOTS ACTIONS
6.	6. Germany publicly announced a new air force in 1935.	ROOTS ACTIONS
7.	7. Nazis blamed the Versailles Treaty for Germany's troubles and promised to overturn it.	ROOTS ACTIONS
8.	8. Fascist leaders praised dictatorship instead of democratic debate.	ROOTS ACTIONS

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new ROOTS example and one new ACTIONS example that are not in the sort.

ROOTS _____

ACTIONS _____

CHALLENGE

In two sentences, explain how a ROOTS factor helped make an ACTIONS step possible, using examples not in the sort.

ANSWER KEY

Roots or Rearmament?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. Mass unemployment during the Great Depression helped extremist parties gain support in Germany.	**ROOTS**	Economic hardship helped create support for extremist parties.
2	2. Many Italians believed their country had received too little territory after World War I.	**ROOTS**	Disappointment over postwar gains contributed to support for fascism in Italy.
3	3. Germany brought back compulsory military service in 1935.	**ACTIONS**	Conscription expanded Germany's armed forces.
4	4. Nazi propaganda spread the racist claim that an Aryan people were a superior race.	**ROOTS**	This racist belief was part of Nazi ideology.
5	5. German troops entered the demilitarized Rhineland in 1936.	**ACTIONS**	Germany sent troops into an area where the Versailles Treaty had barred them.
6	6. Germany publicly announced a new air force in 1935.	**ACTIONS**	Creating an air force was a step in German rearmament.
7	7. Nazis blamed the Versailles Treaty for Germany's troubles and promised to overturn it.	**ROOTS**	Anger toward the treaty helped the Nazis gain support.
8	8. Fascist leaders praised dictatorship instead of democratic debate.	**ROOTS**	Support for dictatorship was part of fascist ideology.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **ROOTS**: Political gridlock in the Weimar Republic weakened confidence in German democracy.
- **ACTIONS**: Hitler's government sharply increased military spending during the 1930s.

Challenge: Political gridlock in the Weimar Republic helped the Nazis gain power. With that power, Hitler's government funded factories that made military weapons.

The sort has five ROOTS items and three ACTIONS items. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a pressure or belief for ROOTS and a concrete German military step for ACTIONS.