

Dictators and Decisions

Read how authoritarian rule grew and why appeasement failed.

USII.6.a “explaining the rise and spread of fascism and totalitarianism internationally and the policy of appeasement towards Nazi Germany;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions that show totalitarian control, then circle each event in paragraph 3 that shows Nazi Germany expanding its power. Use your marks to trace how control at home and expansion abroad were connected.

Power, Expansion, and Appeasement

- ① After World War I, economic trouble, fear, and anger helped some leaders gain support. In Italy, Benito Mussolini built the Fascist Party. Fascism stressed extreme nationalism, obedience to a strong leader, and military strength. Mussolini's followers used violence against opponents, and he became prime minister in 1922. He later limited elections, crushed opposition, and controlled newspapers. Italy became a totalitarian state, where the government sought to control politics, public life, and ideas across the country.
- ② Germany faced economic hardship during the Great Depression. Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party promised jobs and a restored German power. Hitler was appointed chancellor in 1933. The Nazi government ended democratic freedoms, used propaganda and secret police, and passed laws that persecuted Jewish people. The totalitarian Nazi state controlled schools, media, and groups, and arrested critics. Similar movements, led by people who rejected democracy, gained strength in several countries, including Spain and Japan during the 1930s.
- ③ Hitler openly broke the Treaty of Versailles by rearming Germany and sending troops into the Rhineland. He took over Austria in 1938 and demanded the Sudetenland, a border region of Czechoslovakia. Britain and France followed appeasement, accepting some Nazi demands because they hoped to avoid another war. At the Munich Agreement in 1938, they allowed Germany to take the Sudetenland. Hitler then took the rest of Czechoslovakia and invaded Poland in 1939. These actions showed that appeasement did not stop Nazi expansion, and war began in Europe.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Name two actions Mussolini took that showed totalitarian control in Italy.

2 How did the Nazi government control people in Germany? Give two methods from the passage.

3 Why did Britain and France accept some of Hitler's demands?

4 What did Hitler do after Germany was allowed to take the Sudetenland, and what did this show about appeasement?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence message to a British or French leader in 1938. Name one Nazi control method from the reading, explain why continued appeasement is risky, and recommend a response.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline actions that show totalitarian control, then circle each event in paragraph 3 that shows Nazi Germany expanding its power. Use your marks to trace how control at home and expansion abroad were connected. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two actions Mussolini took that showed totalitarian control in Italy.	He limited elections, crushed opposition, and controlled newspapers. Accept any two.
2	How did the Nazi government control people in Germany? Give two methods from the passage.	It used propaganda and secret police, controlled schools, media, and groups, arrested critics, ended democratic freedoms, and passed persecuting laws. Accept any two.
3	Why did Britain and France accept some of Hitler's demands?	They hoped appeasement would avoid another war.
4	What did Hitler do after Germany was allowed to take the Sudetenland, and what did this show about appeasement?	He took the rest of Czechoslovakia and invaded Poland in 1939. This showed that appeasement did not stop Nazi expansion.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nazi propaganda and secret police help Hitler control Germans and silence critics. Continued appeasement is risky because Hitler has already rearmed Germany, sent troops into the Rhineland, and taken over Austria. Britain and France should work with other countries to oppose further Nazi expansion.

Accept accurate descriptions of totalitarian control and cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For the open response, require exactly three sentences that include a Nazi control method, a risk of appeasement, and a reasonable recommendation.