

Activity 3 – Rise of Totalitarianism

I. Almost all of the following countries were actively involved in WWI. Watch the video clip [Rise of Totalitarianism](#) and indicate which of them established a totalitarian regime. Tick (✓) the boxes.

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Japan | • Austria-Hungary | • Russia (the Soviet Union) |
| • Serbia | • Italy | • France |
| • the USA | • Germany | • Great Britain |

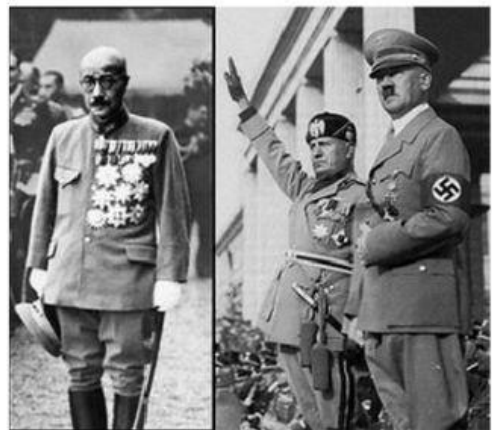
II. Watch the video again and complete the following summary. Be careful with your *spelling*. N.B. The *closed caption subtitles* in YouTube are inaccurate. If you have trouble only listening, click [here](#) for the transcript of the video.

After WWI, totalitarian regimes started developing and spreading across some countries in Europe and Asia, where their leaders ruled with absolute power. One of them, Josef (1) , helped the USSR gain power like never before. However, he eliminated private ownership of farms, which made manufacturing and production (2) fall under the total control of the government. He also persecuted people who opposed or disagreed with his ideas, giving the police faculties to arrest, send to labour camps, and even execute them. Stalin called these individuals “ (3) “

It had not been long after WWI had ended that another totalitarian leader, Benito (4) , also known as “*il Duce*” (the Chief), started gaining power. He persuaded the Italian people that he could create a new Roman Empire. He also began a new political movement, called (5) , and made his way into the Parliament. His supporters pressed the king to make him head of the government, and soon after he became Prime Minister, where he made sure there was no opposition to his regime.

One of the most famous dictators of all times is Adolf (6) , who began his rise to power in a small political party known as the Nazi party; he quickly climbed to the top, becoming its leader, or Führer. Hitler explained his political beliefs in a book called *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle). Taking advantage of the people’s situation that WWI had left behind, he promised them to make Germany get back its pride and (7) , and the people believed him. When he became Chancellor, Hitler seized the opportunity to bring down democracy and establish the Third (8) , where he ruled as a dictator.

In Japan, military leaders desired expansion. The Japanese made their move taking the province of Manchuria, in China, by surprise. Japan was part of the League of (9) at the time, and although this organism strongly disapproved of the invasion, they opted to remain passive, and Japan quit the League. Eventually, the country formed an (10) with Germany and Italy, which would be known during WWII as the Axis powers.



III. Decide if the following statements are True or False. If you need to, watch the video again.

	True	False
1 Stalin's name did not reflect his behaviour as ruler.	☐	☒
2 During the <i>Big Purge</i> in the USSR, more than seven million people were killed.	☐	☒
3 Mussolini gained popularity appealing to the Italian people's feelings of nationalism.	☒	☐
4 The Italian king appointed Mussolini as Prime Minister willingly.	☐	☒
5 For the Nazi party, the collective benefits were over the individual ones.	☒	☐
6 Hitler also appealed to the German people's feelings of nationalism by claiming the Aryan race superiority.	☒	☐
7 Nationalism in Germany led to events of discrimination and persecution of people of other racial, cultural and religious backgrounds.	☒	☐
8 The terrible acts done by the Nazis during the war were known openly.	☐	☒
9 Japan's motives for the attack on Manchuria were also a good example of imperialism.	☒	☐
10 In the end, economic problems played a bigger role than social beliefs in the development of WWII.	☐	☒