

COURSE OUTLINE

THE DENIAL OF DEMOCRACY

Europe would never be the same after the First World War. The 'war to end all wars' and the peace settlements which followed were only the prelude to a period dominated by civil war, dictatorship and ultimately a further devastating conflict in World War Two.

Whilst diverse in appearance, the dictatorships shared much in terms of a common rejection of the liberal and democratic tradition. And, whatever their particular ideological differences, they also shared common elements in practice – the cult of the leader, the use of repression, and a propagandist attempt at mass appeal.

The course will focus on Hitler, Mussolini, Lenin and Stalin, and the circumstances in which they came to power, thrived and developed. It will look at how their regimes affected society, and examine why there was so little effective opposition. But the situation of contemporary democracies will also be examined, particularly that of Britain and France. Finally, the nature of wider international relations will also be looked at, especially the growth of Appeasement, and the role this played in the outbreak of World War II.

Students will be expected to read widely, to examine contemporary sources such as films and speeches, and to complete written assignments at regular intervals. Above all, they will be encouraged to think.

1. INTRODUCTION: Europe before the First World War

THE 1920s

2. Lenin – background to the 1917 revolutions, Civil War and NEP
3. Mussolini - rise to power, policies and practices, decline and fall
4. Weimar Germany – rise and fall, legacy of Versailles.
5. Britain and France – the legacy and impact of War.
6. 'Locarno Spirit' – Peacemaking and the League of Nations

THE 1930s

7. Hitler - rise to power, policies and practices, propaganda and terror
8. Stalin - power struggle, policies and practices, war and propaganda
9. Britain and France – the legacy and impact of Depression
10. 'The Guilty Men' - international relations and the rise of Appeasement
11. CONCLUSION: Reflections on the period

Course Aims

- To provide an understanding of the Dictators' rise to power
- To explain how they held on to that power
- To understand the relationship between contemporary democracies and dictatorships

Outcomes

- To demonstrate, orally and in written form, a knowledge and understanding of the ideologies of the dictators
- To read widely and critically
- To develop, sustain and illustrate an argument
- To complete a weekly assignment

Assessment Process

Students complete weekly assignments, in the form of documentary analysis, in line with those set for Advanced Level examination boards. In addition students complete a final end of term presentation, to be agreed with their tutor. These marks as a whole, combined with an assessment of student performance in class, make up the final grade for the course, as shown.

Grade breakdown: -

- 50% Documents Assignments
- 20% Final Presentation
- 20% Class Participation
- 10% Attendance

Assessment Criteria

DISTINCTION Grade A	Student understands broad range of ideological concepts, has excellent understanding of their impact in relation to given historical situations, and shows excellent communication skills in constructing an original and persuasive argument, with reference to a broad range of evidence.
CREDIT Grade B	Student understands core ideological concepts clearly, has advanced understanding of their impact in relation to given historical situations, and can construct a sound argument to reflect that with persuasive use of evidence.
MERIT Grade C	Student understands core ideological concepts, has clear understanding of their impact in relation to given historical situations, and can construct an argument to reflect that knowledge accurately, with reference to a range of evidence.
PASS Grade D	Student understands basic ideological concepts, has some understanding of their impact in relation to given historical situations, and some ability to communicate that information both orally and in written form.
FAIL	None of the criteria listed above followed.

Recommended Reading

- Stephen J Lee *The European Dictatorships 1918-1945* ISBN: 0415027853
- Martin Kitchen *Europe between the Wars* ISBN: 0582418690

If you are unable to obtain books locally, they may be ordered from

<http://www.bookshop.blackwell.co.uk> or www.Amazon.co.uk