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4/23/2016

HIS 109-002

What historical developments caused the eruption of violence of world war and the anxiety of the interwar period?

There are a few developments in the interwar period that caused both violence and anxiety among the people of the world. The main two causes are the development of the Nazi party and the emergence of communist Russia. Not only did these two event create anxiety in their respective territories, but they cause stress among each other’s nation’s leading to what we all know as World War 2.

After the First World War Fascism began to spread in Germany and Italy. In Germany a man by the name of Adolf Hitler became the chairman of the National Socialist German Workers Party or better known as the Nazi party. Twelve years after becoming chairman of the Nazi party in 1933 Adolf Hitler became the Dictator of Germany. The Nazi party wanted to create a perfect race, they gave out rewards for parents who birthed a child considered “racially valuable” and killed children with birth defects or handicaps. (Bentley, Ziegler and Streets-Salter, Traditions, 588) Nazi Germany also practiced anti-Semitism. They created laws that discriminated against the Jewish people. This was to try to force the Jewish people as a whole to migrate out of Germany because they were considered unworthy. (Bentley, Ziegler and Streets-Salter, Traditions, 590)

Meanwhile Russia was in a civil war between the communists and the non-communists (known as the Whites). Countries such as Britain, France, and the United States supported the whites, because they were angry over Russia withdrawing from World War 1. The support for the whites failed and the communists defeated them in 1920. In 1928 Joseph Stalin became the leader of Russia. Stalin’s reign began to install doubt within his congress and in 1934 Stalin forced anyone who opposed him to be sent to labor camps. This event was known as the great purge. (Bentley, Ziegler and Streets-Salter, Traditions, 586)

As the world sat back and watch these events transpire it created a lot of fear and anxiety about what would happen next. Which as we know this leads to another great war.

Works Cited

Jerry H Bentley, Herbert F. Ziegler, and Heather Streets-Salter, *Traditions & encounters: a brief global history, Third Edition* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2010)