



## CHAPTER 11

# Rise of Dictatorships

### Syllabus

#### Rise of Dictatorships

Causes for the rise of Fascism in Italy and the rise of Nazism in Germany. Similarity between the ideologies of Fascism and Nazism.

In the decade after the First World War (1919 to 1929), democracy made remarkable progress all over the world. However, this trend did not last long and gave way to totalitarian dictatorships under different names and forms in Russia, Italy, Germany and Spain. These totalitarian countries were quite similar in their outlook as they 'dictated' the total behaviour of their citizens. Everywhere these countries threatened their neighbouring countries. They refused to work with the League of Nations except on their own terms. In brief, they sacrificed the individual for the sake of the State. Their motto was "everything for the State, everything within the State and nothing outside the State."

During this period, even in democratic countries, many people including some intellectuals, expressed their dissatisfaction with democracy and favoured dictatorship.

### FASCISM

The word 'Fascism' has been derived from the Italian word *fascio* which means union or league. It also refers to the ancient Roman symbol of power: the *fasces*, a bundle of sticks bound to an axe that symbolised civic unity and the authority of Roman officials to punish wrongdoers. Thus, 'Fascism' means autocracy or dictatorship where the power

of the State is vested in one man only; and it is obligatory for all the others to obey his orders. Fascism was an intensely nationalistic, anti-communistic and anti-democratic movement which served as a model to dictatorial regimes in Italy and Germany.

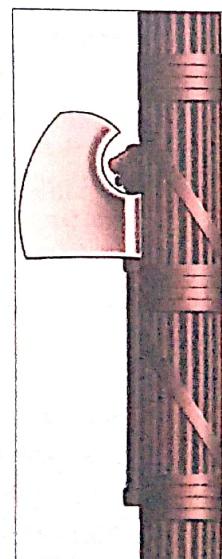
### CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF FASCISM

Fascism emerged as a movement in the post World War I period not only to meet the challenges of the international communist movement but also to tackle the various problems that confronted Italy. The following factors contributed to the rise of Fascism in Italy:

**1. Discontentment after the Treaty of Versailles:** Italy joined the Allies in the First World War to gain territories of Turkey and Germany. But by the Treaty of Versailles, she could get only Southern Tyrol and Trentino, and the Coastal Regions of Dalmatia. She could get no part of the German and Turkish colonial empire.

**2. Economic Crisis:** Italy suffered heavy losses in terms of life and property in the First World War. After the War, many soldiers became unemployed. Trade and commerce were ruined leading to large-scale unemployment. There was a shortage of food grains.

**3. Political Instability:** Democracy was introduced in Italy for the first time in 1919. Elections failed to give a clear



■ The Fasces

majority to a single party. As a result, there was complete instability in the country and between 1919 and 1922 six coalition governments were formed in Italy. The various political parties had different policies and programmes and there was no continuity in their policies. They were unable to deal effectively with the problems of unemployment, strikes and riots which took place during 1921-22. This situation was fully exploited by the Fascists under the leadership of Mussolini, who promised the people a strong national government.

**4. Class Conflicts:** Class conflict increased in many countries after the First World War. The real issue in most parts of continental Europe was whether control of government and economic systems would continue in the possession of aristocracies or would be in the hands of less privileged majorities. The common man had been promised, during the War, that he would be rewarded with greater attention to his economic needs. These promises were ignored and the common man was embittered.

#### **5. Threat of Socialism or Communism:**

The Socialists who included the Anarchists, the Communists and the Social Democrats created conditions conducive to the growth of Fascism in Italy. Inspired by the Russian Revolution, the Communists inflamed the atmosphere with revolutionary ideas. Peasants took away the land from landlords; workmen organised strikes, damaged machines and took hold of the factories. The communists began to devise new plans of overthrowing the government and capturing power. People wanted a powerful leadership who could establish peace and prosperity by ending lawlessness and insecurity prevalent in Italy. The industrialists viewed the growing strength of the labour unions with alarm and provided financial support to Fascism.

**6. Failure of the League of Nations:** After the First World War, the League of Nations was established to maintain peace in the world and to prevent wars. But it proved weak and failed to achieve its aims. It failed to check the rise of dictatorships. Had it acted well in time, the ambitious plans of Mussolini and Hitler would not have materialised.

**7. Leadership Provided by Mussolini:** Mussolini played an important role in the history of Italy. He had a charismatic personality. His speeches praised the past glories of Italy and won the faith of his countrymen. Mussolini was called '*Il Duce*' which means 'the Leader'.

#### **AIMS OF FASCISM**

The main aims of Fascism were the following:

- (i) Fascism was the antithesis of democracy. Fascists believed that democracy was not suitable for the country because it widens the gulf between the poor and the rich.
- (ii) Fascists supported one party and one leader. They believed that the country could make progress only under one leader. According to the Fascists, dictatorship was the best form of government. That is why Mussolini said, "*All parties must end, must fall. I want to see a panorama of ruins around me, the ruins of the other political forces so that Fascism may stand gigantic and dominant.*"
- (iii) Fascists favoured equal control over all sections of society. They wanted to control capitalists, industrialists, labourers, landlords, peasants and artisans.
- (iv) Fascists laid stress on nationalism and not on individual institutions.
- (v) They believed that the interests of the State must get precedence over individual interests because an individual gets all the rights from the State.
- (vi) Fascists regarded quality more important than quantity and therefore, opposed that form of democracy which equates a nation to the majority. The Fascist leaders who embodied the will, sentiments and emotions of people were symbols of a nation's pride.
- (vii) Fascists favoured aggressive foreign



■ Benito Mussolini

policy and regarded war as an instrument for furthering national interest.

## FASCISM IN ITALY

**Background:** Italy was reunited under Victor Emmanuel II between 1860 and 1870. At the beginning of the First World War, the country was being ruled by King Victor Emmanuel III, a weak ruler. It lagged behind in the Industrial Revolution and in the race for colonial possessions. However, the Italians were proud of their history and so were willing to listen to anyone who talked of reviving their past glory.

**Rise of Mussolini:** Benito Mussolini started off as a socialist but became anti-socialist when he realised that he could get finance from industrialists. He formed different groups called 'Fascios' (meaning groups or bands) who were used to organise violence against socialists and communists. They wore a black uniform and, were known as Black-Shirts. They adopted the 'fasces' as their symbol. These volunteers believed in violence and took over factories, municipalities and police stations. Later on, Mussolini organised them into the Fascist Party.

A conference of the Fascist Party was held at Naples on October 24, 1922. It was attended by about 40,000 armed volunteers. In this conference, Mussolini announced that if his demands were not fulfilled, he would attack Rome with his volunteers. The demands put forward by Mussolini included the following:

- (i) Five members of the Fascist Party to be included in the Cabinet;
- (ii) New elections to be announced;
- (iii) The Government should act firmly on its foreign policy; and
- (iv) Economic reforms to be implemented as early as possible.

The Italian Government turned down these demands and Mussolini decided to march towards Rome. The Government of Italy did not show any signs of resistance. Emperor Victor Emmanuel III invited Mussolini to form a new government, which he did on

October 31, 1922. Mussolini appointed Fascists as Prefects in provinces and Chief Officers in the department of Police and Administration. He organised the National Army which included the armed youth of the Fascist Party.

The takeover of the government by Fascists was followed by a reign of terror. Within a short time Mussolini became the absolute master of Italy. Though Victor Emmanuel remained the King, Mussolini governed by plain orders or decrees.

The victory of Fascism in Italy was neither the result of a victory in elections nor of a popular uprising. The government of Italy was handed over to the Fascists because the ruling classes of Italy considered democracy and socialism as threats to their power.

Mussolini used to say, "*Italy must expand or perish.*" He regained the Islands of Rhodes, Dodecanese (which were ceded to Greece) as well as the city of Fiume. He turned Albania into a protectorate of Italy. He entered into commercial and diplomatic treaties with France and Russia. He captured Abyssinia in 1936 and when there was an objection in the League of Nations, Italy left the League of Nations. After that, Italy's relations with England and France deteriorated and she was drawn towards Germany.

**End of Fascism in Italy:** Italy was defeated in the Second World War. The career and life of Mussolini ended in disgrace. He was deposed by his own party council. In April 1945 he was executed ending Fascism in Italy.

## IMPACT OF FASCISM

Initially, Italy benefited a lot under the Fascist regime but in the longer run, it proved quite disastrous for Italy and her people. The following were the consequences of Fascism:

- (i) Mussolini devoted himself to make Italy a powerful nation and carried out administrative



King Victor Emmanuel III

and economic reforms. He took measures to stall further devaluation of the Italian currency. He set up hydroelectric power plants to overcome the shortage of coal. He brought more lands under cultivation and tried to improve and expand the transport system.

(ii) A number of measures were undertaken to reduce unemployment. All factories and mills were nationalised to improve the lot of workers. Various syndicates were established to improve relations between the capitalists and the workers. Mussolini started an impressive public works programme which included the building of roads, bridges, canals, railways, schools, hospitals, etc.

(iii) All efforts were made to eradicate illiteracy by making elaborate provisions for education. Many new schools, colleges and libraries were set up.

(iv) Various steps were taken to increase the military might of the country. Military training was made compulsory and efforts were made to enhance the naval power of Italy to match it with the naval power of France and Germany.

(v) A Pact (*Treaty of Lateran*) was made with the Pope by Mussolini in 1929. By this Pact the Pope agreed to accept a subordinate position to Mussolini and recognised the Italian government over Rome. In return the Pope was permitted to keep in his possession the Vatican and the St. Peter's Cathedral. Under the pact, the Fascist Government recognised Roman Catholicism as the state religion.

(vi) Mussolini embarked upon an aggressive foreign policy to revive the past glories of the Roman Empire and to make Italy a great nation.

(vii) Besides these positive impacts, there were many negative effects of Fascism in Italy. All efforts were made to curb political freedom. After gaining power, Mussolini became a dictator and took all the military and civil powers into his own hands. All political parties except the Fascists were banned. The system of Jury was abolished and special courts were set up where the Fascist civilian and military officers were empowered to decide political cases. Press was censored. The freedom of speech and organising meetings was also prohibited. Mussolini crushed his opponents brutally.

## NAZI DICTATORSHIP IN GERMANY

**Background:** After their defeat in the First World War, the Germans revolted against their King, Kaiser Wilhelm II who was forced to abdicate. Free and fair elections were held to a new Parliament soon after. The new Parliament met in January 1919 at Weimar and adopted a new Constitution which made Germany a democratic republic. None of the parties commanded the support of the majority in the Reichstag (Lower House of the Legislature). Between 1919 and 1933, there were as many as 21 Ministries headed by 12 Chancellors (Prime Ministers). The successive coalition cabinets were unable to cope with the problems faced by the country. There was growing popular discontent expressed through riots and attempts to seize power.



■ Adolf Hitler with his colleagues

**Hitler's Rise To Power:** Adolf Hitler, an Austrian by birth, had fought in the German army during the First World War and had attained the rank of a corporal. In 1919, he joined a small political group called 'The German Workers Party' which was based in Munich. Soon he became its leader and changed its name to the *National Socialist Party* or the *Nazi party*.

The Nazi Party had its own army. The army was divided into two groups. One group wore brown shirts and its main function was to protect its party members and to break up the meetings of the opposition parties. The other group wore black shirts and its main duty was to protect their party leaders.

Hitler had planned to capture power through a march on Berlin. He was arrested and jailed, but released long before his term was over. In jail, he wrote *Mein Kampf* (literal meaning: 'My Struggle') which expressed some of the most monstrous ideas of the Nazi Movement.

In the elections of 1932, he failed to get a majority in the Reichstag. A coalition government, headed by Von Papen, could not continue for long. President Hindenburg then offered Chancellorship to Hitler who formed his first Nazi government on January 30, 1933. General Elections were ordered. In spite of the terror of the Nazis, the Nazi Party could not win a majority in the Parliament. Then Hitler assumed dictatorial powers.

After President Hindenburg's death, Hitler became President and Chancellor and adopted the designation of "Führer" (the Leader). Hitler abolished the Constitution and made himself the Dictator of Germany.

**Fall of Hitler:** In the Second World War Germany was totally defeated by the Allied powers. With Hitler's death in 1945, Nazism came to an end in Germany.

## CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF NAZISM

The factors which contributed to the growth of Nazism were the following:

**1. Humiliating Treaty of Versailles:** Defeat in the First World War and the conditions imposed by the Treaty of Versailles made the Germans feel humiliated and helpless. Germans looked down upon the Weimar Republic which had signed such a disgraceful treaty. Germany was forced to cede large chunks of her territory to France, Belgium, Poland and Denmark. Her overseas possessions (colonies) were divided by the Allies in the War among themselves. Germany was forced to pay heavy reparations to the tune of 33 billion dollars and the total strength of the German army was fixed at one lakh. The terms of this treaty were greatly resented by the Germans who eagerly looked for an opportunity to avenge the same. These sentiments were exploited by Hitler. He openly encouraged the Germans, to consign the Treaty of Versailles into the waste-paper basket, to rebuild the empire of Germany, and to recapture the lost colonies.

**2. Growing Fear of Communism:** After the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, the Communist influence in Germany increased considerably. The Communists organised themselves effectively and succeeded in capturing a number of seats in Reichstag. Hitler warned the people that Communists of Germany would become the servants of their Russian masters and would follow the dictates of Communists. He, therefore, tried to persuade the people in Germany that Nazism alone could check the growing influence of Communism.

**3. Economic Crisis:** As a result of the harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany had to suffer in agricultural production, colonies, foreign investment, trade contracts, etc. The foreign countries raised tariffs against the German goods. The number of unemployed people increased. The condition of the farmers became miserable. By June 1931, debts on farmers had risen to \$300 million.

Hitler promised the farmers that he would condone their debts. He won over the Capitalists by assuring that industries would not be nationalised. The Nazis exploited the situation and assured the people that if they would abide by Nazi ideology their economic misery would come to an end and Germany would regain her lost glory.

**4. Resurgence of Militant Nationalism:** The Germans could not reconcile with the democratic parliamentary system prevailing in their country. They preferred prestige and glory to liberty and freedom. They felt that only a strong man could restore the past prestige of Germany and check the rising popularity of Communism. When Hitler promised them all glory, they welcomed him with open arms.

**5. Anti-Semitic Propaganda:** The anti-Semitic propaganda carried on by the Nazi party also contributed to Hitler's popularity. The Nazis described the Jews as traitors. They said that the Jews had conspired with the Allies during the War and could again commit treason against Germany. They impressed upon the Germans that their hardship was due to the exploitation by the Jews, who dominated German economy. Due to this anti-Semitic propaganda many Germans rallied behind the Nazi Party.

**6. Absence of Strong Opposition:** The rise of the Nazi Party in Germany was facilitated by the absence of any strong opposition party. As a result, the Nazi Party did not encounter any effective resistance and its popularity achieved great heights.

**7. Establishment of Volunteer Corps:** Under the Treaty of Versailles, Germany's military force was considerably reduced and a large number of German soldiers were thrown out of employment. Hitler roped in all these soldiers and organised them into Volunteer Corps, that served as the party army. The members of this Volunteer Corps propagated the programme of the Nazi Party and worked for safeguarding its interests.

**8. Charismatic Personality of Hitler:** Hitler had a charismatic personality. He had all the qualities required for a popular leader. He was a shrewd politician and a brave soldier. He knew the art of moulding public opinion in his favour according to the circumstances. He was a gifted orator who captivated the Germans by his emotional speeches. He told the Germans what they wanted to hear, i.e., the betrayal of Germany by the Treaty of Versailles and the Jewish-Communist plot to conquer the world. The Germans resented the humiliating and insulting behaviour meted out to them by the Allies and wanted to avenge the same. He openly encouraged the Germans to consign the Treaty of Versailles into the waste-paper basket, rebuild the German Empire and to recapture

the lost colonies. He assured the Germans if they would abide by the Nazi ideology the economic misery would come to an end. This greatly appealed to the German people as they extended full support to Hitler and his Nazi party.

### AIMS OF NAZISM

In *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) Hitler expresses the aims of the Nazi Movement as follows:

- (i) To exalt nationalism;
- (ii) To advocate the rule by a great leader from a single party;
- (iii) To despise internationalism, peace and democracy;
- (iv) To use force and brutality;
- (v) To extol war;
- (vi) To uphold the racial supremacy of the Germans and to hate Jews.

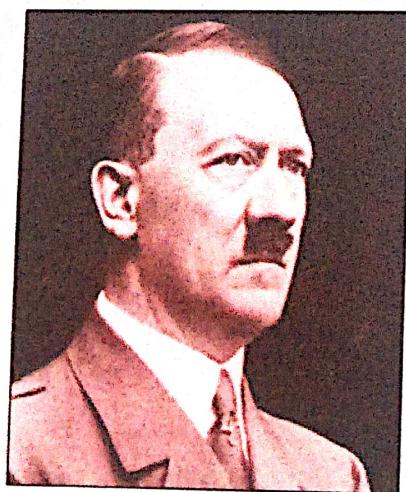
### IMPACT OF NAZISM

**1. Established a Totalitarian State:** Hitler had no faith in the parliamentary system of government. He, therefore, eradicated those elements which offered opposition to his authority.

He concentrated all power into his hands, suppressed all opposition and propagated the ideology of Nazism. He changed the federal government into a unitary government. Hitler himself became the Governor of Prussia. Provincial legislatures were dissolved in 1934 as the sovereign power of the central government was established.

Various political parties were abolished. A ban was imposed on the press, public speech and writing of articles. Even the members of the Nazi party who challenged Hitler's authority were severely dealt with. A secret police known as the Gestapo, kept a check on the activities of citizens. Those suspected of disloyalty to the State were arrested or executed without trial.

**2. Economic Reforms:** Hitler introduced various reforms to meet the economic crisis after the War. He launched the first Five Year Plan to have greater production. The



■ Adolf Hitler



■ Hitler started rearmament in violation of the Treaty of Versailles

economic life of the country was organised with the objective of removing unemployment and making the nation self-sufficient. For this, the following measures were taken:

- Factories were set up to provide work to the labourers.
- Industrial and agricultural production and trade were encouraged.
- A Food Corporation was established to control food production, its pricing and distribution.
- Price controls were introduced and incentives were provided for workers.
- Capitalists were encouraged to increase production and strikes were banned.
- Imports and exports were controlled to maintain favourable trade balance.
- The production of heavy armaments, aeroplanes and naval ships on a large scale was increased.
- Projects of public works, building government offices, stadiums, art galleries; housing development, etc., were undertaken.
- The trade unions were dissolved. All the workers were put under one union whose chief was a harsh Nazi leader. He assured the workers of safeguarding their interests and rights.

Thus, Hitler freed Germany from the economic crisis and put to an end the problem of unemployment. The industrial production almost doubled and the foreign trade also expanded.

### 3. Militarism and Compulsory Military Training:

Special efforts were made to increase

the military force of the country. Military training was made compulsory which again created more employment.

Hitler believed that nations could become great only by defeating other nations in war. He started rearmament in violation of the Treaty of Versailles. This pleased the army officers who had felt humiliated by the terms of the Treaty.

**4. Repudiated Peace Treaties:** The main objective of Hitler's foreign policy was to reject the Treaty of Versailles, which had humiliated Germany. Hitler openly condemned the Treaty of Versailles. He refused to pay the war indemnity as stipulated under the Treaty. He even resorted to the policy of territorial expansion and fortification of Germany in complete violation of the Treaty.

**5. Acquisition of Territories:** Hitler tried to acquire more territories for the surplus German population. Hitler said, "Germany within her existing frontiers could attain only limited self-sufficiency in raw materials and none at all in foodstuffs. The only remedy lay in the acquisition of greater living space....". Hitler tried to expand in South and East of Europe because that region was economically useful for Germany as it possessed huge potential for wheat, oil and coal. To attain this objective, Hitler made use of force and rejected all compromises. He entered into a non-aggression treaty with Poland for a period of ten years in 1934 for the safety of his eastern frontiers. He reclaimed the territory of Saar and Rhineland from France. In 1938, he annexed Austria by force. He concluded a non-aggression pact with Russia.

**6. Racial Supremacy:** Hitler believed in the doctrine of racism which presented Germans as the "master race" with the right and destiny to dominate the world. This race, he said, would rule all other inferior races. For this, he wanted Germany to cleanse itself of the supposed contamination by Jews, Christians and Communists.

**7. Negative Aspects:** Hitler put an end to civil liberties. Those who were suspected of opposing him were treated harshly. Strict censorship was imposed on books, the press and the cinema. All anti-Nazi books and magazines were consigned to fire.

## SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE CAUSES OF FASCISM AND NAZISM

1. Discontentment with the Treaty of Versailles.
2. Economic crisis – unemployment and decline in production in agriculture and trade.
3. Hatred for democratic principles and preference for totalitarian system and one party rule.
4. Fear of the spread of Communism.
5. Political instability and class conflict between the aristocrats and the common people.
6. Failure of the League of Nations.
7. Leadership provided by Mussolini and Hitler.

## SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE IDEOLOGIES OF FASCISM AND NAZISM

1. To have faith in the totalitarian rule.
2. To despise democratic political systems.
3. To hold that the State is supreme and it could suppress the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals.
4. To uphold One-Party and One-Leader rule.
5. To believe in aggressive nationalism and imperialism.
6. To regard war as an instrument for furthering national interests.
7. To uphold intensely nationalistic, anti-communist, anti-democratic rule.

## CHAPTER AT A GLANCE ➤➤➤

**Fascism:** It refers to autocracy or dictatorship where the power of State is vested in one man.

**Causes for the Rise of Fascism:** (i) Discontentment with the Treaty of Versailles; (ii) Economic crisis which led to unemployment, (iii) Political instability caused by six coalition governments; (iv) Growing fear of Communism; (v) Failure of the League of Nations; and (vi) Charismatic leadership provided by Mussolini.

**Aims of Fascism:** (i) contempt for democracy; (ii) hostility to the fundamental rights of the people; (iii) belief in 'One-Party' rule; (iv) suppression of individual interests for the sake of the State; and (v) belief in aggressive nationalism and imperialism.

**Rise of Fascism in Italy:** Mussolini led a march to Rome—Emperor Victor Emmanuel III invited Mussolini to form the new government—Mussolini became a dictator with military and civil powers—Under Fascism, law and order was established, steps were taken to improve the economic conditions of the people—Military training made compulsory—Mussolini signed a Pact with Pope (Treaty of Lateran) in 1929—Fascism came to an end in Italy with the death of Mussolini in 1945.

**Causes for the Rise of Nazism:** (i) Humiliating Treaty of Versailles; (ii) Fear of Communism; (iii) Economic crisis; (iv) Militant Nationalism; (v) Leadership of Hitler; (vi) Absence of strong opposition; (vii) Anti-Semitic propaganda.

**Aims of Nazism:** *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) by Hitler (i) To exalt nationalism; (ii) To advocate the rule by a great leader from a single party; (iii) To despise internationalism, peace and democracy; (iv) To use force and brutality; (v) To extol war; (vi) To uphold the racial supremacy of Germans and to hate Jews.

## EXERCISES

### I. Multiple-Choice Questions

#### A. Select the correct option.

1. The word 'Fascism' means  
(a) Capitalism      (b) Democracy      (c) Autocracy      (d) Communism
2. Which of the following was NOT a cause of Fascism in Italy?  
(a) Economic stability      (b) Class conflicts  
(c) Leadership provided by Mussolini      (d) Threat of Socialism or Communism



- (c) Growth of trade (d) Revival of the economy

10. What was the main focus of the Fascist regime's economic reforms?

  - (a) Promoting workers' unions and trade guilds
  - (b) Discouraging rise of Capitalists
  - (c) Removing unemployment and making the nation self-sufficient
  - (d) Increasing support to fulfil domestic demands for food and power.

B. Select the option that shows the correct relationship between Statements (I) and (II).

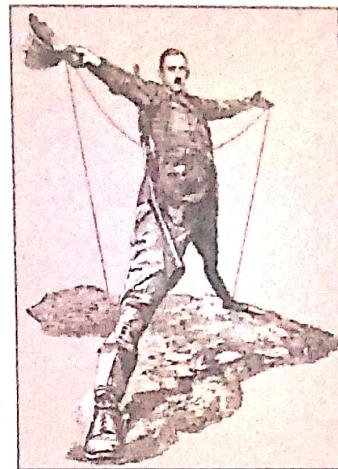
## **II Short Answer Questions**

1. How did the Treaty of Versailles lead to the rise of dictatorship?
  2. How did the failure of the League of Nations lead to the rise of dictatorship?
  3. What is meant by 'Fascism'? Why did the Italians feel that they had been deceived by the Treaty of Versailles?
  4. How did the economic crisis after the First World War create unrest in Italy?
  5. In what way was Socialism a cause for the rise of Fascism in Italy?
  6. State two underlying principles of Fascism.
  7. What did Mussolini do to solve the problem of unemployment in Italy?
  8. Give any two positive results of Fascism in Italy.
  9. Why did Germans feel humiliated by the Treaty of Versailles?
  10. Why was the economic burden of Germany greater than that of other countries?
  11. In what way was the failure of Weimar Republic responsible for the introduction of Nazism?
  12. How did the spread of Communism lead to the rise of Nazism in Germany?
  13. Give any two aims of Nazism.

14. Name the book in which Hitler first expressed Nazi principles. Name the country where the Nazi party came to power in 1933.
15. Give one positive and one negative result of Nazism in Germany.
16. Do you think that the aims of the Fascists and Nazis could have brought lasting peace and prosperity to their countries? Do you agree with those aims? Why or why not?
17. Look at the cartoon depicting the ambitions of Hitler. Briefly describe the steps he undertook to fulfil his ambition.

### III. Structured Questions

1. With reference to the rise of dictatorships in Europe after the First World War, answer the following questions:
  - (a) How did class conflicts lead to the rise of dictatorship that emerged in Italy and Germany after the First World War?
  - (b) How did the decline of democracy help in the rise of dictatorship in Italy and Germany?
  - (c) What was the reason for the failure of the League of Nations?
2. Due to Fascism, Italy made progress in different spheres of life and became a powerful nation. With reference to the results of Fascism in Italy, explain the following:
  - (a) Reforms introduced in Italy to improve the economic condition of the people.
  - (b) Aggressive foreign policy under Mussolini.
  - (c) Negative impact of Fascism in Italy.
3. In the post World War I scenario, Italy and Germany experienced the rise of dictatorships. In this context, explain:
  - (a) Any three circumstances that led to the rise of Fascism in Italy.
  - (b) Any three domestic policies of Hitler.
  - (c) How were the foreign policies of Hitler responsible for the outbreak of the Second World War?
4. Look at the newspaper clipping given below and answer the questions that follow:



- (a) Who is referred to as 'Black Shirt Leader' in the newspaper clipping shown above? Why did he enter Rome?
- (b) Who was the 'King' with whom the 'Black Shirt Leader' was to confer? What did the King do?
- (c) State any three consequences of the incident.
5. (a) Identify the two leaders in the pictures. How did they establish totalitarian states in their respective countries?



(A)



(B)

- (b) State three factors that led to the rise of leader (A).
- (c) State four similarities between the ideologies followed by these two people.

#### IV. Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS)

- Imagine that you are a student living in Nazi Germany in the 1930 and have a pen friend in Italy. While exchanging letters with him/her you realised that he/she is living in a similar situation as in your country. Write a reply to him/her stating the similarities in the conditions in which you both are living.
- Why do you think that all dictatorships have an appeal to the masses? Give reasons to support your answer.
- Every dictator first brings about a positive change in his/her country but eventually leads his/her country towards annihilation. Comment.
- What changes in the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, in your opinion, would have prevented the rise of dictatorships like Hitler's and Mussolini's?
- In your opinion what can the international community do to ensure predominance of democratic machinery in different parts of the world?

