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Europe in Crisis: The World Wars in Europe
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1. *Concept Question Solutions*
2. Europe in Crisis: Class 5 – The Rise of Fascism
3. What happened to the Rhineland after WWI?
 - The Rhineland, a German region that borders France, was demilitarized.
4. In 1917, Germany decided to engage in unrestricted submarine warfare. What was the most fateful result of this decision? Who pushed Germany towards this decision?
 - The most fateful result is that the US entered the war.
 - Rightist groups, who thought Germany was being too soft, pushed for unrestricted submarine warfare.
5. Before WWI, Germany was bordered by Russia on the east. What large countries now borders Germany in the east instead?
 - Poland
6. What is the name given to the German government that ran Germany from 1919 to 1933?
 - The Weimer Republic
7. Why did the British economy go into decline after WWI?
 - Britain had spent the war years manufacturing war supplies instead of exporting manufactured goods. During this hiatus, America stole many of Britain's traditional markets.
8. Who was in charge of the USSR during the Great Depression?
 - Jozef Stalin
9. What is the name of Hitler's autobiography?
 - Mein Kampf
10. The Nazis wanted "living space" for the Aryan people. What does this mean?
 - The Aryans needed more room to expand and grow food. The Nazis wanted to take land in Eastern Europe from the Slavs as living space.
11. European Fascist organizations tended to be most popular with what class. Why?
 - Fascists were most popular with the middle class, which believed that the firm-handed fascists could restore law and order.
12. In the late 1920s, the Nazis began to soften their image. List two ways that they did this.
 - There are many possible answers, I've listed three.
 - Toned down anti-Semitism and anti-Marxism, which struck voters as harshy.
 - Described themselves as the party that could "restore German greatness."
 - Recalled 19th century German nationalist movements.
13. Who did Hitler blame for the Reichstag Fire in 1933?
 - Communists. He used the fire as an excuse to round up communists.
14. What is the Italian equivalent of the German "Free Corps"?
 - The Blackshirts, or *squadrasiti*.
15. For each of these traits, answer the question "Is this trait commonly associated with fascism?" Please give an example for each.
 - *There are many examples possible.*

- Militarism: Yes. Hitler began to build up Germany's military within weeks of coming to power.
 - Racism: Yes. The Nazis believed Aryans were racially superior to other races, especially Jews and Slavs.
 - Imperialism: Yes. Mussolini wanted to restore the Italian empire. Hitler hoped to build a German Empire from Slavic land.
 - Marxism: No. All three fascist parties we looked at, the Nazis, the Falangists and the Blackshirts, came to power by persecuting communists.
16. *Guernica* was inspired by the Spanish Civil War. What Spaniard painted it?
- Pablo Picasso
17. As fascism consumed Europe in the 1930s, only a few democracies remained. However, these democracies did not unite against fascism. Why?
- In the aftermath of the Great Depression, these countries had to deal with domestic problems, and didn't have the resources to also deal with foreign affairs.
 - These countries were afraid that any kind of defensive pact would be seen as an act of aggression.
 - The democracies hoped that if they appeased the fascists they would not be attacked.
18. In 1936, the League of Nations did not intervene when Ethiopia was invaded. What country invaded Ethiopia?
- Italy
19. What is hyperinflation?
- Extreme inflation – currency loses value so quickly that it is no longer remotely useful. Germany experienced hyperinflation in 1923 after the invasion of the Ruhr.
20. Francisco Franco led the Falangist party during the Spanish Civil War. What was the political affiliation of Franco and the Falangists?
- Fascist
21. Name the three biggest fascist countries in Europe as of 1940:
- Germany, Italy, Spain
22. Name the two biggest democracies as of 1940:
- Britain, France
23. Which country was spending the most on military buildup in 1940? Britain, Germany or Italy?
- Germany