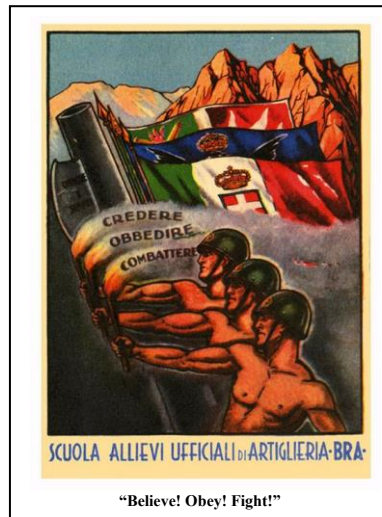
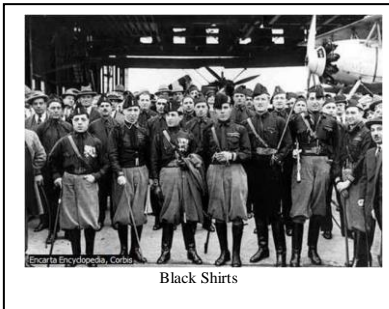
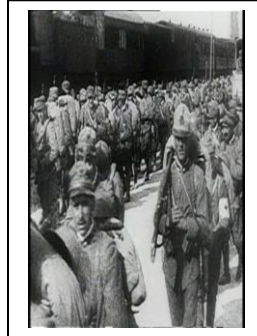
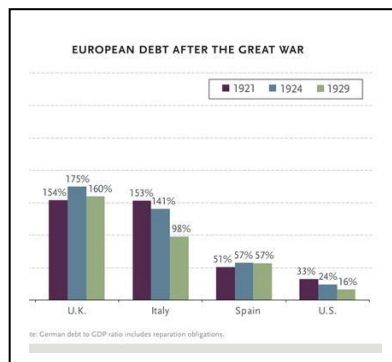
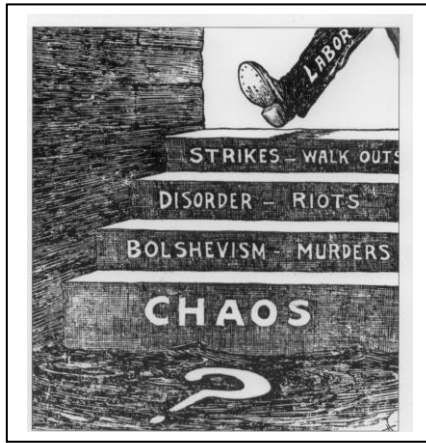


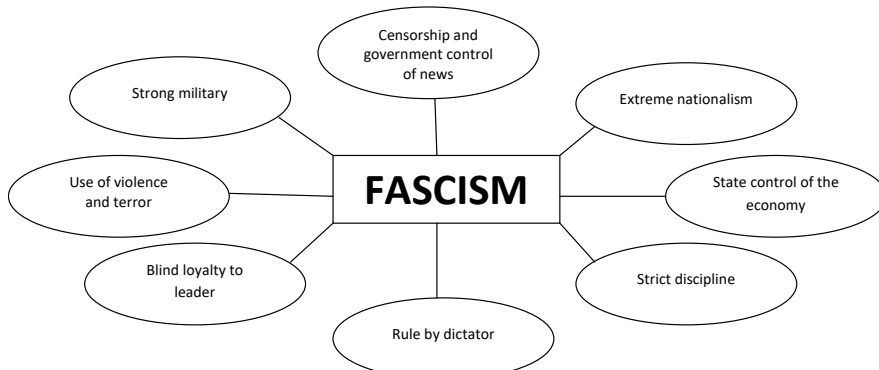
Aim #4: How did Mussolini Rise to Power and Rule Italy?

Mini Lecture

- After WWI, Italian nationalists were outraged when Italy received just some of the territories promised by the Allies.
- Chaos ensued as peasants ceased lands, workers went on strike, veterans faced unemployment, high war debts, trade declined, and taxes rose. There was a large fear of communism. The weak, politically divided government was not able to end the crisis.
- Into this turmoil & hopelessness stepped **Benito Mussolini**, the organizer & charismatic leader of the **Fascist Party**- promising simple solutions to complex problems- order & revival of Roman greatness. Mussolini's supporters, the **Black Shirts**, rejected democratic methods and favored intimidation, violence, & terror for solving problems.
- In the 1922 **March on Rome**, tens of thousands of Fascists swarmed the capital. Fearing civil war, the king asked Mussolini to form a government as prime minister.
- Mussolini (aka "Il Duce") soon suppressed rival parties, muzzled the press, rigged elections, and replaced elected officials with Fascists. Critics were thrown into prison, forced into exile, or murdered. Secret police and propaganda strengthened the regime. In 1929, Mussolini even received support from the Pope.
- Mussolini brought the economy under state control, but basically preserved capitalism. His system favored the upper class and industry leaders. Workers were not allowed to strike and their wages were kept low.
- In Mussolini's new system, loyalty to the state replaced conflicting individual goals. **"Believe! Obey! Fight!"** loudspeakers blared and posters proclaimed. Fascists youth groups marched in parades chanting slogans.
- Mussolini built a modern totalitarian state- his one-party dictatorship controlling every aspect of the lives of its citizens.
- The term fascists was the underlying ideology of any centralized, authoritarian governmental system. Fascism is rooted in extreme nationalism and fascists believe in action, violence, discipline, & blind loyalty to the state. They praise warfare and they are anti-democratic, rejecting equality & liberty.
- Fascists oppose communists- as communists favor international action and the creation of a class society, Fascists are nationalists who support a society with defined classes. Both base their power on blind devotion to a leader & flourished during economic hard times.
- Mussolini and Fascism were appealing to Italians because they restored national pride & glory, provided stability (during economic hard times), and ended the political feuding that had paralyzed democracy in Italy.



Graphic Summary: The Fascist State



* Fascism promised a strong government, but it took away freedoms

Review Questions:

1. How did postwar problems lead to Mussolini's rise?
2. What methods did Mussolini use to get to power? Why were he/his methods appealing?
3. What is Fascism and what are its main characteristics?

A New leader: Mussolini

In the early 1920s, a new leader named Benito Mussolini arose in Italy. The Italian people were inspired by his promises to bring stability and glory to Italy.

“Only joy to finding such a leader can explain the enthusiasm Mussolini evoked at gathering after gathering, where his mere presence drew the people from all sides to greet him with frenzied acclamations. Even the men who at first came out of mere curiosity and with indifferent or even hostile feelings gradually felt themselves fired by his personal magnetic influence...”

-Margherita G. Sarfatti, *The Life of Benito Mussolini*



1. According to this description, how did people react to Mussolini?
2. How did this help him in his rise to power?

1. Identify and explain the cause and effect relationship between the following two documents.

Document 1

The High Contracting Parties agree that the settlement or solution of all disputes or conflicts of whatever nature or of whatever origin they may be, which may arise among them, shall never be sought except by **pacifist means**.

The Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928

Document 2

“Above all, fascism believes neither in the possibility of nor the usefulness of perpetual peace. **It thus rejects the doctrine of pacifism.** Pacifism is born of a rejection of struggle and is an act of cowardice in the face of sacrifice.”

- Benito Mussolini, 1932