

NAME: _____

CLASS PERIOD: _____

DUELING OF THE DESPOTS



RISE OF DICTATORS

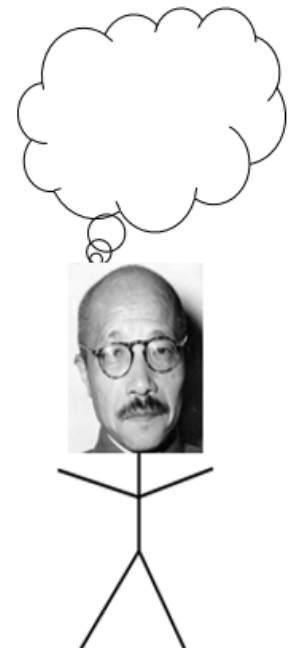
Instructions: Read about each dictator on the handout given to you. The dictators will be dueling/competing for THE WORLD'S MOST EVIL DICTATOR! In each duel, you must analyze which dictator had the largest impact. Duels #1 & #2 are set up for you. Duel # 3 will be the winners of the first 2. You also see a speech bubble for each dictator. You need to make up a quote that this dictator might have said in the 1930s! When you are done, answer the prediction question after you complete the duels.



DUEL 1 → WHO WINS? WHY? USE EVIDENCE FROM THE READING!

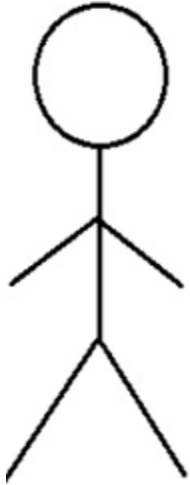


DUEL 2 → WHO WINS? WHY? USE EVIDENCE FROM THE READING!

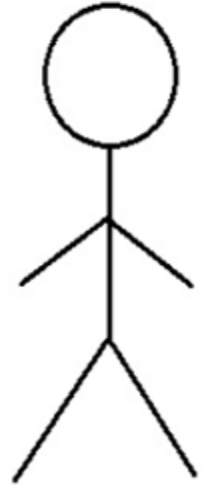


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DUEL 3 → WHO WINS THE WORLD'S MOST EVIL DICTATOR?!



**Decorate each dictator using the above pics... or use your imagination! 😊

YOUR PREDICTION:

WHAT DO YOU PREDICT HAPPENS NEXT? WHY MIGHT THESE DICTATORS BE A CAUSE OF WORLD WAR 2?

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Adolf Hitler

Chancellor Hitler immediately set about arresting and executing political opponents, and even purged the Nazis' own SA paramilitary organization in a successful effort to win support from the German army. With the death of President Hindenburg on August 2, 1934, Hitler united the chancellorship and presidency under the new title of Fuhrer. As the economy improved, popular support for Hitler's regime became strong, and a cult of Fuhrer worship was propagated by Hitler's capable propagandists.

German remilitarization and state-sanctioned anti-Semitism drew criticism from abroad, but the foreign powers failed to stem the rise of Nazi Germany. In 1938, Hitler implemented his plans for world domination with the annexation of Austria, and in 1939 Germany seized all of Czechoslovakia. Hitler's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, finally led to war with Germany and France. In the opening years of World War II, Hitler's war machine won a series of stunning victories, conquering the great part of continental Europe. However, the tide turned in 1942 during Germany's disastrous invasion of the USSR.

By early 1945, the British and Americans were closing in on Germany from the west, the Soviets from the east, and Hitler was holed up in a bunker under the chancellery in Berlin awaiting defeat. On April 30, with the Soviets less than a mile from his headquarters, Hitler committed suicide with Eva Braun, his mistress whom he married the night before.

Hitler left Germany devastated and at the mercy of the Allies, who divided the country and made it a major battlefield of Cold War conflict. His regime exterminated nearly six millions Jews and an estimated 250,000 Gypsies in the Holocaust, and an indeterminable number of Slavs, political dissidents, disabled persons, homosexuals, and others deemed unacceptable by the Nazi regime were systematically eliminated. The war Hitler unleashed upon Europe took even more lives—close to 20 million people killed in the USSR alone. Adolf Hitler is reviled as one of history's greatest villains.

(Source: <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/hitler-becomes-fuhrer>)

Benito Mussolini

Mussolini's first act as prime minister was to demand special emergency powers allowing him to rig elections in the Fascists' favor. Soon after, the Italian parliament made suspicion of being anti-Fascist punishable by imprisonment without trial. The next year police rounded-up Socialists, and the government restricted their publishing activities. A Socialist deputy plotted to assassinate Mussolini, but the betrayal of a friend led to his arrest just before the attempt. Several other assassination attempts followed.

In 1926, all Communist members of Parliament were arrested, and all Socialist members expelled. Anyone who could not be prosecuted for a crime was detained for up to five years and placed in island internment camps. Cinemas were required to screen government propaganda in the form of newsreels. Fascists owned 66 percent of the newspapers and controlled reporting, issuing daily editorial guidelines and threatening editors with arrest. The Order of Journalists was created and membership was mandatory. Newspapers were allowed to criticize the government as long as they generally expressed support.

Mussolini & Hitler: At first, Mussolini disapproved of Germany's Adolf Hitler, but over time their partnership grew and Mussolini embraced anti-Semitic measures. Following Italy's 1935 invasion of Ethiopia, Germany was the second country to recognize Italy's legitimacy there. In 1937, Italy left the League of Nations in solidarity with Germany. In March of 1938, Hitler invaded Austria with Mussolini's support. By October, the two countries had officially joined together as the Rome-Berlin Axis. Mussolini wrote an article in 1938 that aligned Italians with the German concept of the Aryan race. When anti-Jewish laws began to appear in Italy, Germany felt they were weak, but Mussolini was prepared to increase their severity as needed. Soon after, Mussolini called for the expulsion of foreign Jews from Italy. Hitler's invasion of Poland in 1939 immediately caused Britain and France to declare war against Germany, but Mussolini, for the moment, remained neutral. Germany's invasion of Denmark and Norway convinced Mussolini that Hitler would win the war. Soon Holland and Belgium also fell to Hitler. As the Germans plowed through France in June 1939, Mussolini announced Italy's entrance into the war.

(Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/benito-mussolini>)

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Hideki Tojo

Tojo built up a personal power base and used his position as head of the military police of Japan's military force in Manchuria to rein in their influence before he became the Kwantung Army's chief of staff in 1937. He played a key role in opening hostilities against China in July. Seeing the military occupation of Chinese territory as necessary to force the Nationalist Chinese government to collaborate with Japan, he continued to advocate expansion of the conflict in China when he returned to Tokyo in 1938 as army vice minister, rising to army minister in July 1940. He pushed for alliance with Germany and Italy. In October 1941 he became prime minister. Although Tojo supported last-minute diplomatic efforts, he gave final approval to the attacks on the United States, Great Britain, and the Dutch East Indies in December 1941. Japan's early victories greatly strengthened his personal status.

Tojo served many roles in his career; however, Tojo was never able to establish a dictatorship on a par with those created by Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin. He served constitutionally at the behest of the emperor, without support of a mass party, while crucial power centers, such as the industrial combines, and the navy remained beyond his control. After the island of Saipan fell to American forces in July 1944, he was forced from power, despite arguments raised by some officials close to the throne that Tojo should be left in office to the end to accept responsibility for the loss of the war so that a court official could "step in" to deliver peace.

In the end, Tojo was found guilty on various counts of waging wars of aggression in violation of international law and of ordering inhumane treatment of prisoners of war and others. He and six other defendants were sentenced to death and the rest to prison sentences. Many others were tried in other proceedings and either executed or imprisoned.

(Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/tojo-hideki>)

Joseph Stalin

Starting in the late 1920s, Joseph Stalin launched a series of five-year plans intended to transform the Soviet Union from a peasant society into an industrial superpower. His development plan was centered on government control of the economy and included the forced collectivization of Soviet agriculture, in which the government took control of farms. Millions of farmers refused to cooperate with Stalin's orders and were shot or exiled as punishment. The forced collectivization also led to widespread famine across the Soviet Union that killed millions.

Stalin ruled by terror and with a totalitarian grip in order to eliminate anyone who might oppose him. He expanded the powers of the secret police, encouraged citizens to spy on one another and had millions of people killed or sent to the Gulag system of forced labor camps. During the second half of the 1930s, Stalin instituted the Great Purge, a series of campaigns designed to rid the Communist Party, the military and other parts of Soviet society from those he considered a threat.

Stalin & WW2: In 1939, on the eve of World War II, Joseph Stalin and German dictator Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) signed a nonaggression pact. Stalin then proceeded to annex parts of Poland and Romania, as well as the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. He also launched an invasion of Finland. Then, in June 1941, Germany broke the Nazi-Soviet pact and invaded the USSR. (Stalin had ignored warnings from the Americans and the British, as well as his own intelligence agents, about a potential invasion, and the Soviets were not prepared for war.) As German troops approached the Soviet capital of Moscow, Stalin remained there and directed a scorched earth defensive policy, destroying any supplies or infrastructure that might benefit the enemy. The tide turned for the Soviets with the Battle of Stalingrad, from August 1942 to February 1943, during which the Red Army defeated the Germans and eventually drove them from Russia.

Joseph Stalin did not mellow with age: He prosecuted a reign of terror, purges, executions, exiles to labor camps and persecution in the postwar USSR, suppressing all dissent and anything that smacked of foreign—especially Western—influence. He established communist governments throughout Eastern Europe, and in 1949 led the Soviets into the nuclear age by exploding an atomic bomb. By some estimates, he was responsible for the deaths of 20 million people during his brutal rule.

(Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin>)