

# How Communism Works by Alia Hoyt

## Introduction to How Communism Works

In a perfect world, everyone would have food and shelter, and a true utopian society would be devoid of sexism, racism and other forms of oppression. But for most of the world's population, this perfect society just isn't possible. Communism is one proposed solution to these problems.

Most people know what communism is at its most basic level. Simply put, communism is the idea that everyone in a given society receives equal shares of the benefits derived from labor. Communism is designed to allow the poor to rise up and attain financial and social status equal to that of the middle-class landowners. In order for everyone to achieve equality, wealth is redistributed so that the members of the upper class are brought down to the same financial and social level as the middle class. Communism also requires that all means of production be controlled by the state. In other words, no one can own his or her own business or produce his or her own goods because the state owns everything.

According to the philosopher Frederick Engels' "Principles of Communism," the plan for ultimate financial and social equality is built on the principle that the system should spread around the world until all countries are on board. This central goal has caused capitalist nations to keep their guards up, fearing that communist economic practices might spread to their countries.

Who are communists, and why do non-communist cultures consider them radical? Does communism work in practice? Next, we'll take a look at the father of communism.

## Communist Theories and Principles

The political theory of socialism, which gave rise to - communism, had been around for hundreds of years by the time a German philosopher named Karl Marx put pen to paper. Marx, also known as the father of communism, spent most of his life in exile in Great Britain and France. He wrote the Communist Manifesto in 1848, which later served as the inspiration for the formation of the Communist Party. Communism is also known as "Marxism."

Marx believed that a truly utopian society must be classless and stateless. (It should be noted that Marx died well before any of his theories were put to the test.) Marx's main idea was simple: Free the lower class from poverty and give the poor a fighting chance. How he believed it should be accomplished, however, was another story. In order to liberate the lower class, Marx believed that the government would have to control all means of production so that no one could outdo anyone else by making more money. Unfortunately, that proves to this day to be more difficult than he might have realized.

### COMMUNISM-RELATED TERMS

**Socialism:** A system that advocates the state's ownership of land, industry and capital. Communism is a branch of socialism.

**Capitalism:** Economic system in which individuals or corporations own land and means of production

**Bourgeois:** The middle-class/upper-class, or the owners of land and means of production

**Proletariat:** The working-class

**Kulak:** Wealthy peasants

**Bolsheviks/Bolshevists:** Russian word for "majority." Also, the political party that spawned the Bolshevik Revolution, effectively introducing communism in Russia

**Mensheviks:** By definition, "minority," although this Russian party had many more supporters than the Bolsheviks when Lenin returned to Russia in 1917.

**Reds:** Communist/Bolshevik supporters. Also, "red" is a derogatory term to describe communists.

**Whites:** Those opposed to the Bolshevik regime's takeover

**Gulags:** Russian slave labor camps

**Utopia:** A perfect place, in reference to social, moral and political issues.

Marx described three necessary phases toward achieving his idea of utopia.

- Phase 1: A revolution must take place in order to overthrow the existing government. Marx emphasized the need for total destruction of the existing system in order to move on to Phase 2.
- Phase 2: A dictator or elite leader (or leaders) must gain absolute control over the proletariat. During this phase, the new government exerts absolute control over the common citizen's personal choices -- including his or her education, religion, employment and even marriage. Collectivization of property and wealth must also take place.
- Phase 3: Achievement of utopia. This phase has never been attained because it requires that all non-communists be destroyed in order for the Communist Party to achieve supreme equality. In a Marxist utopia, everyone would happily share property and wealth, free from the restrictions that class-based systems require. The government would control all means of production so that the one-class system would remain constant, with no possibility of any middle class citizens rising back to the top.

Marx also detailed the 10 essential tenets of communism, namely:

1. Central banking system
2. Government controlled education
3. Government controlled labor
4. Government ownership of transportation and communication vehicles
5. Government ownership of agricultural means and factories
6. Total abolition of private property
7. Property rights confiscation
8. Heavy income tax on everyone
9. Elimination of rights of inheritance
10. Regional planning

In the communist society that Marx described, the government has supreme authority through its total control of land and means of production. Because the government distributes land and property among the people, communism sets a standard of equality -- both economically and socially -- among its followers.

The system seems to work in theory, but how did communism work in practice? Read on to learn about the rise of the first communist nation.

#### **AFTER MARX: OTHER COMMUNIST LEADERS**

Dictators have been the driving force behind communism, even from the very beginning. Some of the more influential communist dictators include:

**Vladimir Ilich Lenin:** Although Marx is considered the father of communism, Lenin is the one who put his theories into practice, effectively turning Russia from a czarist nation to a communist one. Lenin ruled Russia from 1917 until his death in 1924.

**Joseph Stalin:** As Lenin's extremely powerful successor, Stalin took communism to new heights when he governed the Soviet Union from 1922 until 1953.

**Mao Zedong:** Mao founded the communist movement in China and ruled the country for more than 25 years until his death in 1976.

**Ho Chi Minh:** Once a covert agent for Moscow, Ho Chi Minh is credited with spreading communism to Vietnam. A devoted follower of Stalin, he is probably best known for his guerilla warfare tactics.

**Kim Il-sung:** Grandfather of North Korea's current leader, Kim Jong-un, Kim Il-sung worked closely with the Soviet Union and China to spread communism. North Korea has always remained very isolated from the rest of the world, often causing panic over the country's nuclear capabilities.

**Fidel Castro:** Castro resigned as president of Cuba on Feb. 19, 2008, concluding a nearly 50-year reign. Castro and his revolutionaries overtook the country in 1959 and began a Marxist communist government. Thus, Cuba became the Western Hemisphere's inaugural communist state. Power has really been in the hands of Castro's brother Raul since 2006, when Castro's health began to wane. Raul succeeded his brother as dictator in 2008. Fidel Castro died in 2016.

## **Rise of the First Communist Nation**

Russia was a czarist nation when the philosophies of communism started to take hold. For centuries, Russia was ruled by a monarchy that wielded absolute power over the people: the Romanov Dynasty. Czar Nicholas II and his wife resisted the shift toward democracy that much of the world was making. The members of Russia's lower classes had long suffered in poverty. These two factors, combined with the huge losses suffered during World War I, made the czar very unpopular. In addition, he and his family were living in luxury while their subjects struggled for basic necessities.

By February 1917, the war had taken a massive toll on Russia -- both in the loss of human lives and in the form of a severe nationwide famine. When a metalworking plant closed, resulting in the loss of many jobs, strikes and protests broke out. Russia was in a state of chaos. The army was sent in to control the situation, but many of the soldiers sympathized with the workers and defected, choosing to support them instead. As many as 150,000 soldiers joined the massive protest -- which is now known as the February Revolution.

The situation went downhill so fast that the military lost control completely. With virtually no support from the military, Czar Nicholas II was forced to abdicate his throne. The Russian Provisional Government was set up to take his place, effectively ending the Romanov Dynasty. In July 1918, the Bolsheviks assassinated the czar and his family.

## **The Bolshevik Revolution**

When Czar Nicholas was dethroned in 1917, Vladimir Lenin was in exile in Switzerland for playing a part in some previous anti-czar plots. When he heard of the uprising, Lenin cut a deal with Germany. If the Germans could transport him home, he would get Russia to back out of World War I. The Germans agreed and snuck him back in to Petrograd through a railway car.

The Communist Party was about to gather more steam. Leon Trotsky, a Russian revolutionary who had escaped from prison and fled to America, returned to Russia to serve as Lenin's right-hand man. Trotsky is largely credited for engineering the Bolshevik Revolution.

Because the Russian Provisional Government supported the war effort, it didn't last very long. Many people shifted loyalties to the Bolsheviks, Lenin's pro-Communism party, which opposed the war. When the revolution struck, the Bolsheviks used this momentum to overthrow the Provisional Government. Lenin's Red Guard took control of the Winter Palace (former home of the czar and later the Provisional Government's headquarters), effectively overturning the Provisional Government. And true to his word, Lenin pulled Russia out of the war.

But some Russians still weren't too sure about the Bolsheviks. Lenin endeavored to gain support by broadcasting slogans such as "Bread, Land, Peace" and "All Power to the Soviets." To people suffering from famine, this promise hit the spot. Yet in elections for the Russian Constituent Assembly in late November 1917, only a quarter of voters cast ballots for the Bolsheviks. Lenin overturned the results and sent armed guards to prevent meetings of the democratic assembly. This made it virtually impossible for the Russian people to voice their concerns in a democratic way.

The years from 1917 to 1920 became known as "war communism" due to the methods the Bolsheviks used to push their political agenda. In 1918, the party was renamed the Russian Communist Party. Lenin and his communist cohorts endeavored to put Marx's tenets of belief into practice. This marked the beginning of the Russian Civil War, which lasted from 1918 until 1922. When the war ended, the Soviet Union formed -- also known as the U.S.S.R., the Soviet Union included Russia and 15 bordering states.

Lenin was aware that the upper class wouldn't willingly give up land or wealth, so he created the New Economic Policy (NEP) to legislate redistributing land – taking it from the nobility and giving it to the poor. Upholding the necessary phases that Marx outlined, Lenin initiated the Red Terror, a threatening fear campaign led by the Bolsheviks. His goal was mass murder, which he accomplished through three main methods.

Man-made famine was Lenin's most successful tool. He knew that if he could break the peasantry, he'd have full control. Lenin engineered famines by requiring peasants to sell their crops to him at virtually no profit, using the rationale that he needed the crops to support his army. The peasantry was so indignant that they reduced crop production drastically, leading to a full-scale civil war. The exact numbers vary, but tens of millions of people starved and millions died.

Lenin also instituted slave labor camps. Anyone who disagreed with Lenin's rule was sent to work at one of these camps, where millions more suffered and died. And, he executed his detractors to silence their voices. During the Red Terror, hundreds of thousands of detractors were put to death. Victims included members of the bourgeoisie, White Army prisoners of war, socialists, Czarist sympathizers and innocent civilians.

### **Stalin's Reign and Successive Dictators**

When Lenin died in 1924, Joseph Stalin came into power and managed to target one of the only groups that Lenin never did: fellow communists. In Stalin's eyes, anyone who didn't back him 100 percent was an enemy. He purged many members of the Communist Party for a range of crimes, including treason, political deviations and espionage. When all was said and done, Stalin ordered the deaths of nearly all of his Bolshevik comrades, including Trotsky.

Stalin took Lenin's methods of terrorizing the people a few steps further. Whereas Lenin let people starve to death, Stalin used famine to further his political goals. He took back the land that Lenin had turned over to the peasants through the New Economic Policy and forced collectivization of agriculture in the U.S.S.R. The peasants resisted and crop production diminished even more than during Lenin's reign. Widespread famine continue to kill millions of people, and during the Great Terror of 1936-1939, Stalin ordered the executions of millions more.

Stalin wanted to take communism worldwide. He knew that in order to do so, he would have to industrialize Russia. Stalin built factories in strategic places so they would not be vulnerable to outside enemies. He built so many so quickly that Russia soon surpassed many other major countries in industry. His legacy continued well after his death.

Several other dictators came into power after Stalin's death, including Nikita Khrushchev and Leonid Brezhnev. The Soviet people continued to perish at an alarming rate. From 1953 to 1991, people were put to death for political offenses, and as recently as the 1980s, slave labor camps were still inhabited by detractors.

#### **SYMBOLS OF COMMUNISM**

The main ideal of communism is expressed through the symbols chosen to represent the movement. The hammer and the sickle (a farming tool with a hooked blade used to cut grain) are the two main party symbols. The tools are representative of the industrial and agricultural workers, respectively. And, the combination of the tools illustrates the harmony of the two groups working as equals.

## The Spread of Communism

Communism wasn't contained inside the Soviet Union. As Marx's tenets had instructed, it had to spread worldwide to achieve utopia. Some countries had adopted communism to help realize that goal, including:

- Warsaw Pact Nations: Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Poland and Hungary (communist from about 1945 to 1991). The Warsaw Pact was a military treaty signed by these countries and Russia. In short, it guaranteed that they would come to each other's aid if targeted by another country.
- Yugoslavia (1945 - 1992)
- North Vietnam (1954 - 1976, although still technically communist following the unification of Vietnam)
- Yemen (1969 - 1990)
- Somalia (1969 - 1991)
- Cambodia (1975 - 1989)

It's interesting to note that the communist governments in all of these countries (except North Vietnam) collapsed right around the same time as the Soviet Union, which was a huge support to the smaller countries.

If Stalin had his way, communism would have become much more widespread, especially in the West. In the 1930s, he enacted a plan to overtake this region with furious industrial development. His hope was that Russia would become such a military powerhouse that it would stand up to the other powerful nations, especially the United States. His efforts fell short, and as we've learned, the Soviet Union slowly fell apart due to these economic disadvantages.

However, communism does have a presence in the United States today. The Communist Party USA supports political candidates in local elections. In fact, the group has even supported a presidential candidate as recently as 1984. The group advocates the end of the working class's exploitation and oppression. Ultimately, the party hopes to implement a socialist society where all people will benefit from the wealth present in the United States.

Communism also rose to power in the following nations, where it is still alive today:

- China, since 1949
- Cuba, since 1959
- Vietnam, since 1976
- North Korea, since 1948
- Laos, since 1975

Home to more than 20 percent of the world's population (1.3 billion people), China is one of the world's most prominent communist governments. Mao Zedong, China's dictator, launched and raised the communist government in China, employing many of Stalin's tactics.

In addition to the death camps Mao instituted to combat Chinese counter-revolutionaries, he also developed a plan called the Great Leap Forward, which forced collectivization of agriculture. Peasants were ushered into communes when Mao seized their property. They were forced into slave labor, and personal ties they had to their families and former lives were severed. Mao also forced mass industrialization, which, coupled with the extremes of forced agricultural collectivization, killed somewhere around 16.5 million to 40 million Chinese from 1957 to 1961. He also ordered the executions of Communist Party members during his tenure.

Today, China's government encourages capitalist ventures, which has resulted in a greatly improved economy. China boasts a huge manufacturing industry, churning out toys, furniture, electronics and other products. Despite these gains, the government remains extremely dictatorial in nature, exerting authority over censorship and other basic civil liberties. In fact, China was under pressure to improve human rights conditions before Beijing hosted the 2008 Summer Olympic Games. When China won the bid, the government promised to reform human rights violations. However, the country continues to execute more prisoners than any other country. Human rights activists are regularly harassed, prisoners are detained without a trial and censorship abounds.

## “How Fascism Works” by Julia Layton

### Introduction to How Fascism Works

In 1922, Benito Mussolini gained control of Italy and introduced the world to fascism, a political philosophy that eventually brought the world to war. Mussolini didn't invent the idea of fascism, but he coined the term and defined it. In 1932, Mussolini wrote in the Italian Encyclopedia that fascism "believes neither in the possibility nor the utility of peace".

In fascism, the State is all that matters, and constant conquest through war is a necessity for the glory of that State. The glory of the people comes by extension. "War alone," wrote Mussolini, "brings up to its highest tension all human energy and puts the stamp of nobility upon the peoples who have courage to meet it".

"Fascism" is a word thrown around a lot these days. Some people use it to describe any authoritarian person or government, especially one that pursues its will by violent means. But authoritarianism is only part of the philosophy. Communism under Josef Stalin was authoritarian and extraordinarily violent, but fascism stands in direct opposition to communism. It embodies a philosophy of extremism that seems completely foreign to modern values but in fact still exists today in small pockets around the world.

In this article, we'll look closely at fascism, find out what the term really means and how the ideology has been used to unite nations and divide the world. We'll also see what conditions must exist for fascism to seem appealing on a broad scale. What does it take for millions of individuals to support a philosophy that explicitly negates their personal value?

### A Fascist System

Fascism is notoriously difficult to define, because there is no single philosophy of fascism. Mussolini's brand of Fascism (capital "F") is not exactly like Adolf Hitler's brand of fascism (lowercase "f"), which is different from the skinheads' neo-fascist and post-World War II beliefs. Still, there are some core principles that can identify a fascist movement:

“The Fascist State is itself conscious and has itself a will and a personality...”

- Mussolini, "Fascism,"  
the Italian Encyclopedia, 1932

1. **Survival of the fittest:** Some fascist philosophers were influenced by the writings of Charles Darwin and his theory of natural selection. In the context of fascism, the State is only as powerful as its ability to wage wars and win them. The State is thereby selected for survival due to its strength and dominance. Peace is viewed as weakness, aggression as strength. Strength is the ultimate good and ensures the survival of the State.
2. **Strict social order:** Fascism maintains a strict class structure. In this way, it's the antithesis of communism, which abolishes class distinctions. Fascism believes that clearly divided classes are necessary to avoid any hint of chaos, which is a threat to the State. The State's power depends on the maintenance of a class system in which every person has a definite, unchangeable, specific role in

#### PROMINENT FASCIST REGIMES

- National Fascist Party, led by Benito Mussolini (1924-1943)
- National Socialist German Workers (NAZI) Party, led by Adolf Hitler, Germany (1933-1945)
- Fatherland Front, led by Engelbert Dollfuss, Austria (1934-1938)
- National Union, led by Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, Portugal (1934-1968)

glorifying the state. It's an absolute rejection of humanism and democracy.

3. **Authoritarian leadership:** The State's interests require a single, charismatic leader with absolute authority. This is the concept of Führerprinzip, "the leadership principle" in German -- that it's necessary to have an all-powerful, heroic leader to maintain the unity and unquestioning submission required by the fascist State. This leader often becomes a symbol of the State.
4. **Violence:** Fascist regimes are also typically violent. In fascist ideology, the State cannot achieve and maintain power without strict discipline and the complete unity of mind and body. In this way, physical violence is necessary to suppress anyone who stands outside the group and in the way of the State's power. The State's ever-increasing strength is, in effect, the meaning of life.

One might wonder, then, what life is like in a fascist society. How exactly does one live for the glory of the State? We'll learn how in the next section.

## The Fascist Society

While the fascist State is the center of the universe, the primary stated goal of fascism is social regeneration -- the lifting up of a particular group of people. Regeneration is achieved through national unity and a rejection of individualism. This type of society requires the people's initial support. A fascist regime generally gains this support by promoting a series of ideas through the media, public rallies and other forms of propaganda. These ideas include:

"... the [individual] is deprived of all useless and possibly harmful freedom, but retains what is essential; the deciding power in this question cannot be the individual, but the State alone ..."

- Mussolini, "Fascism," the Italian Encyclopedia, 1932

1. **A nation in crisis:** The State is in decline, and it's only getting worse. There are two primary causes for this decline -- the variety of racial or ethnic groups in the State, which makes the State "impure" and weakens it; and a [conspiracy](#) by certain racial, ethnic or national groups to keep the State down.
2. **An idealized past:** The State is currently damaged but was once supreme. Fascism aspires toward the renewal of the State and its primary ethnic group to some mythical past era of glory.
3. **A need for social change:** The people must submit to major changes, a new social structure and way of life, in order to achieve this revival.

Fascism arises from poor socio-economic conditions -- like those of post-World War I Europe or post-World War II Japan. The countries that were defeated in World War I suffered greatly from the restrictions placed on them after the war. In Germany, the general population (the working class) suffered. A fascist form of government promised a return to a better life and a better position in the world. The German race simply needed to retake its rightful place of superiority.

But here's the twist: While the race is superior, the members of that race mean nothing. In fascism, individuals exist only in relation to the State. The principles of democracy and capitalism, which stemmed from the European Enlightenment of the 18th century, stood in the way of the power of the State. In fascist terms, these trends based on concepts of individuality, equality and positive self-interest, limited the unity and the drive for survival necessary for social renewal. Mussolini wrote in 1932, "Fascism denies [...] the absurd conventional truth of political equality [...] the myth of 'happiness' and indefinite progress".

By dispelling the myth of happiness as absurd, the fascist society is able to constrain its people and convince them to submit for the greater good. People cannot gather without permission, and they can't say anything negative against the State. Instead, they are submerged in an extreme sense of national and

ethnic unity. Political youth groups recruit the youngest members of society, teach them about the State and entrust them with its survival and its power. Fascism glorifies youth, which makes sense if you consider the ideal of survival of the fittest – the young are the strongest and the fittest.

State-sponsored rallies and parades dominate social life, national flags and imposing monuments loom over the landscape, and State holidays fill the calendar. These symbols and celebrations have a religious quality. They encourage absolute faith only this faith is in the State, not in God. Fascism in general is against any religion besides nationalism.

Of course, not all societies aspire to the same goals. How did Mussolini's Fascism differ from Hitler's? How has fascism evolved with the times and changing world conditions? Find out in the next section.

#### **UNITY AND POWER**

"Fascism" comes from the Italian fascio, meaning "bundle." Mussolini first used the term in 1919. It has its roots in the Latin fasces, a bundle of sticks tied to a single ax -- a symbol of unity and righteous power in ancient Rome. One might say the fasces embodies the essence of fascism: The people are the sticks, tied to the state to form a strong, single unit. The State is the ax, which has the power to create, to enforce and to obliterate.

#### **Fascism History**

Fascism was at its height between 1918 and 1945 -- the end of World War I through the end of World War II. Europe's general upheaval during that period left it receptive to fascist ideology. But there were differences between in the ideology's implementation. In Italy, for instance -- the home base of the Catholic Church -- complete rejection of organized religion was unwise. Mussolini claimed ties to the Catholic Church when it suited the State's best interests, and the Catholic Church was at times accused of being part of Fascist rule. Hitler occasionally proclaimed himself a protector of the Church. Yet he openly destroyed members of religious minorities -- most notably Jews but also Jehovah's Witnesses and others outside of the mainstream.

Another difference between the two most powerful fascist regimes in history was the primary driving force behind their respective military pursuits. While Mussolini focused on conquest primarily to show the strength of the State, Hitler made conquest more of a race issue. Hitler strove to unite the entire Aryan race, a supposed master race from northern European descent. This was a primary drive behind the invasion of neighboring countries like Austria. Hitler believed that Austrians were part of the Aryan race and should thus be part of the German State. With the Aryan race united under his rule, they could conquer the world.

#### **FRANCO'S QUASI-FASCISM**

Some people think of Francisco Franco's regime in Spain as a fascist one, but it was really more quasi-fascist. During the Spanish Civil War (1936-1937), General Franco joined forces with the Spanish Falangists, a fascist movement, in a coup. When they won, Franco took control of the country. However, the Falangists weren't a large enough group to rise to power with Franco after the revolution. Franco incorporated some of their fascist ideologies into his government, but mostly to impart a sense of radicalism to a regime that sought to maintain the power of Spain's ruling class, not the power of the State.

In the end, Hitler failed. When the Axis powers, including Germany and Italy, lost World War II, their fascist regimes became widely viewed as evil. Fascism fell out of favor, inextricably tied to genocide and world war. After World War II, with economic upturns around the world, a sense of having defeated "the bad guys," and the Allies' tight control over defeated countries, the chaos that fascism relies on was mostly gone. Fascism in its original form never again got a strong enough foothold in any country to take control of the government.

But is fascism completely dead? What fascist ideals live on today as fringe movements? Read on to find out about neo-fascism.

## Neo-fascism

Today, governments that ascribe to some traditionally fascist ideals like racial purity and the dominance of State interests now pursue these ideals in forms like:

- Anti-immigration laws
- Small, progressive limitations on civil rights in the name of giving a democratic state more power to protect the populace from external aggressors
- Isolationist foreign policy
- Government intervention in means of production to secure the state from shortages and economic downturns.

### IRON GUARD

The Iron Guard in Romania was the only true fascist movement outside of Italy and Germany to gain real power in the 1930s. With the support of Nazi Germany, it nearly took control in Romania in 1941. But when chaos starting breaking out in response to the group's acts of violence, Hitler decided the Iron Guard had to be put down. He told Romanian General Antonescu to go ahead and wipe out the movement.

One fascist value that's now universally rejected is that of military aggression for conquest's sake. That ideal was never successfully transformed into a more middle of the road philosophy.

However, the fall of true fascism in 1945 didn't destroy the movement. Neo-fascism (sometimes "neo-Nazism" if it's specifically based on the views of Hitler) is alive and somewhat well. Mostly, neo-fascism is a variety of small, separate movements through the world that espouse the ideals of power, supremacy and ethnic purity. These groups don't have the power to pursue the military component of fascism, but they do sometimes maintain the violence.

Neo-fascists took responsibility for the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995; a series of bombings in Germany in the 1990s targeting immigrants; and several bombings in London in 1999 against racial minorities and homosexuals. On the other hand, there are neo-fascist movements that are strangely sensitive in their pursuit of fascist ideals. Some espouse of a "love of difference" instead of a belief in racial supremacy. They claim to want to prevent inter-racial mingling because difference is a good thing, not because one race is better than another.

While neo-fascism is widespread, so far it hasn't become powerful enough to take hold in any significant way. But not for lack of trying. Neo-fascists attempt to gain support and power the same way other political groups do: legitimate political involvement, literary publications and all sorts of Internet marketing.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIT 9: TOTALITARIANISM**  
**How Communism Works**

1. Simply put, communism is the idea that ...
2. What is communism designed to do?
3. How is equality achieved?
4. Why has communism made capitalist nations “keep their guards up”?
5. What is communism also known as?
6. Which phase of Marx’s plan has never been achieved?
7. The 10 essential tenets of communism are:
  - a. central \_\_\_\_\_ system
  - b. government controlled \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. government controlled \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. government ownership of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ vehicles
  - e. government ownership of \_\_\_\_\_ means and \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. total abolition of \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. \_\_\_\_\_ confiscation
  - h. heavy \_\_\_\_\_ on everyone
  - i. elimination of rights of \_\_\_\_\_
  - j. regional planning
8. Six major communist leaders are
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_, who ruled Russia from 1917-1924.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_, who governed the Soviet Union from 1922-1924
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_, who ruled China from 1949-1976
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_, who spread communism to Vietnam
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_, who spread communism to North Korea
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_, who ruled Cuba from 1959-2008
9. Czar Nicholas II lost power in the \_\_\_\_\_ Revolution of 1917.

10. \_\_\_\_\_ served as Lenin's right-hand man.
11. Lenin gained support through slogans such as "\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_" and "All Power to the \_\_\_\_\_."
12. When the Russian Civil War ended, the \_\_\_\_\_ formed. It included Russia and \_\_\_\_\_ bordering states.
13. What was Lenin's most successful tool?
14. Lenin also instituted \_\_\_\_\_ camps. Victims of the Red Terror included members of the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Army prisoners of war, socialists, \_\_\_\_\_ sympathizers, and innocent civilians.
15. Stalin forced \_\_\_\_\_ of agriculture in the USSR.
16. During the \_\_\_\_\_ of 1936-1939, Stalin ordered the \_\_\_\_\_ of millions more.
17. In order to take communism worldwide, Stalin would have to \_\_\_\_\_ Russia.
18. The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ are the two main party symbols.
19. Communism also rose to power in the following nations, where it is still alive today:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_, since 1949
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_, since 1959
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_, since 1976
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_, since 1948
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_, since 1975
20. Mao Zedong killed somewhere around \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ million Chinese from 1957-1961.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIT 9: TOTALITARIANISM**  
**How Fascism Works**

1. In 1932, Mussolini wrote that fascism “believes in neither the \_\_\_\_\_ nor the utility of \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. In fascism, the \_\_\_\_\_ is all that matter, and constant \_\_\_\_\_ through war is a necessity for the glory of the State.
3. Some core principles of the fascist movement are:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. strict \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ leadership
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The primary stated goal of fascism is \_\_\_\_\_, the lifting up of a particular group of people.
5. A fascist regime gains support by promoting ideas including
  - a. a nation in \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. an \_\_\_\_\_ past
  - c. a need for \_\_\_\_\_ change
6. Fascism arises for poor \_\_\_\_\_ conditions.
7. While the race is superior, members of that race mean \_\_\_\_\_.
8. People are submerged in an extreme sense of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ unity.
9. Fascism glorifies \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Fascism in general is against any religion besides \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Mussolini claimed ties to the \_\_\_\_\_ when it suited the State’s best interests.
12. Hitler strove to unite the entire \_\_\_\_\_ race, a supposed master race from northern European descent.
13. Some people think of \_\_\_\_\_’s regime in \_\_\_\_\_ as a fascist one.

14. Today, governments that ascribe to some traditionally fascist ideals like racial purity and dominance of State interests now pursue ideals like:

- a. Anti-\_\_\_\_\_ laws
- b. Small, progression limitations on \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of giving a democratic state more power to protect the populace from external aggressors
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ foreign policy
- d. Government intervention in means of production to secure the state from shortages and economic downturns

15. One fascist value that's now universally rejected is that of military aggression of \_\_\_\_\_'s sake.

16. Neo-fascists attempt to gain support and power the same way other political groups do:

- a. legitimate \_\_\_\_\_ involvement
- b. literary \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ marketing