

The emergence of dictatorships in Europe, 1919-39

1. The impact of industrialisation

Industrialisation upset traditional society in central & eastern Europe

Result: Traditional social groups look for ways to restore old stability & order

2. The opening up of the franchise

- New voters were inexperienced and easily manipulated by politicians
- PR meant many parties and no strong governments

Result: political instability and desire for order to be restored.

3. Post war governments of central & eastern Europe faced many problems

- Lack of political experience
- Effects of WW1 led to many difficult problems (eg new borders, defeated nations lost land, had to pay reparations)
- Wall Street Crash of 1929 intensified economic problems.

Result: New democratic govts are seen to be failing and are believed to be weak compared with govts of the past

4. Fear of Communism

- 1917: communists seize power in Russia, nationalising land & property
- 1919 communist risings in Germany & Hungary, factories seized in Italy

Result: Horror & emergence of groups to restore traditional 'order': eg Italian Fascists

5. Shame of World War 1

WW1 = disaster for many countries of central Europe

- Germany defeated & humiliated; Austrian Empire broken up
- Italy: a victor but fought badly and was ignored at TofV

Results: (i) defeats blamed on communists
(ii) more support for groups who promise to restore national pride
(iii) countries retreat into themselves to avoid humiliation

6. Psychology of 1-5: Fear of Freedom

Result: Countries seek strong leadership to

- protect them from the social and political changes
- protect them from communists who want to "seize" their land & property

= they look for dictators

