

Standard 10.7.3 Analyze the rise, aggression, and human costs of totalitarian regimes (Fascist and Communist) in Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union, noting especially their common and dissimilar traits.

## Document-Based Assessment

### Hitler's Rise to Power

In 1919, Hitler joined the National Socialist German workers Party, later known as the Nazi party. It was a marginal party that only received one million votes in 1924. By 1932, however, the Nazi party, with Hitler at its helm was Germany's largest party. Many factors contributed to Hitler's surprising rise to power, as the documents below illustrate.

#### *Document A*

"The depression which spread over the world like a great conflagration toward the end of 1929 gave Adolf Hitler his opportunity, and he made the most of it...To get the votes Hitler had only to take advantage of the times, which once more, as the Thirties began, saw the German people plunged into despair; to obtain the support of those in power he had to convince them that only he could rescue Germany from its disastrous predicament."

-From **The Rise and fall of the Third Reich** by historian and journalist William L. Shirer

#### *Document B*

"The National Socialist movement must strive to eliminate the disproportion between our population and our area-viewing this latter as a source of food as well as a basis for power politics...We must hold unflinchingly to our aim...to secure for the German people the land and soil to which they are entitled..."

-From **Mein Kampf** by Adolf Hitler

#### *Document C*

"...[T]hrough the Fuehrer's anti-Semitic programme furnished the National Socialist party in the first instance with a nucleus and a rallying-cry, it was swept into office by two things with which the "Jewish Problem" did not have the slightest connexion. On the one side was economic distress and the revulsion against Versailles; on the other, chicanery and intrigue...Hitler and his party had promised the unhappy Germans a new heaven and a new earth, coupled with the persecution of the Jews. Unfortunately, a new heaven and earth cannot be manufactured to order. But a persecution of the Jews can..."

-From the **Jewish Problem** by Louis Golding, 1939

#### *Document D*

"The Versailles settlement was seen as a means by which Germany's enemies aimed to keep the Reich prostrate forever and had to be overturned not merely to restore the status quo ante, but to allow Germany to expand and seize the "living space" that it allegedly needed in the east. And violence was viewed as the means by which to achieve a third Reich and a German-dominated Europe-by smashing the democratic Weimar "system," destroying Marxism, solving the "Jewish question," breaking the "chains of Versailles," and building up the armed forces so that Germany again could go to war"

-From **Nazism and War** by historian Richard Bessel

Use your knowledge of the Enlightenment and Documents A, B, C, D, and E to answer the questions

- Document A focuses on which factor that aided Hitler's rise to power?
  - Anger over World War I.
  - Social considerations.
  - The economy.
  - Racial and religious prejudice.
- According to Document C, the Nazis persecuted the Jews, because
  - Most Germans hated them.
  - They wanted to keep attention from other problems.
  - They had already achieved their other goals.
  - Their opponents were all Jews.
- According to Document D, the Nazi's main goal was to
  - Dominate Europe
  - Get revenge for the Treaty of Versailles.
  - Stop communism.
  - End democracy.
- Explain why Germany was fertile soil for the Nazis following World War I. Give your reasons, using these documents and information from the notes and textbook.