

THE SINGING REVOLUTION



Subject: History

Hitler's Nazism vs. Stalin's Communism: What's the Difference?

Aim / Essential Question

How different were Hitler's Nazism and Stalin's Communism?

Overview

It is often said that Nazism was a right-wing ideological movement and communism a left-wing ideological movement. But how different were they in practice? This lesson takes a brief look at two of the major ideological movements of the 20th Century, and shows some similarities and differences between them both in theory and in practice.

Materials & Technology

- Deportation Stories video clips
(from Disc Two / Section 1: 1939-1956: The Soviet & Nazi Occupations)
- Slide show presentation of activities
- Any DVD-compatible player that will allow distinct chapters to be shown
- A television or video projection unit
- Computer with projection capability

Lesson Time: One 50-minute class period.

Objectives

Students will:

- Distinguish between the stated intentions of ideological movements and governments, and their results.
- Analyze how both ideologies, while different, each led to mass murder.
- Compare the types of governments and the results of their rule.

Instruction

Opening

Begin the slide show, which starts with a, "What's the difference?" series of questions to engage the students in a quick and lively Q&A on their preferences. Get students to decide between the two options on each of the slides quickly, perhaps no more than 30 seconds. You might have the students go to one side of the room or the other when they choose. Slide #7 asks the students to choose between Stalin and Hitler. Have them return to their seats. Show slide #8 and ask the students what were the differences between the two ideologies, communism and fascism. Allow a few minutes for the students to answer.

Activities

1. Continue with the slide show.
2. Slide 10 shows the symbols of Hitler's Nazism and Stalin's communism and asks students to react.
3. Slides 11-14 describe Hitler's Nazism (fascism) and Stalinism (communism).
4. Slide 15 shows some basic similarities and differences.
5. Slides 16 & 17 highlight the common threads of each political ideology.

6. Slide 18 shows a brief synopsis of the two forms of government.
7. Slides 19-21 deal with the deaths associated with Hitler & Stalin. These statistics were obtained from www.necrometrics.com
8. Slide 22 prompts the beginning of the video. Show the following clips from Disc Two / Section 1: 1939-1956: The Soviet & Nazi Occupations / Deportation Stories
 - Enn Sarv: Survivor Nazi Concentration Camp & Soviet Gulag 6:11 (entire clip)
 - Tiia-Ester Loitme: Conductor, Deported at Age 14 (watch the first 4:11 of this clip)
 - Introduction: Mari-Ann Kelam 1:30 (entire clip)
9. Slide 23 asks students if they would still choose one system over the other.
10. Slide 24 asks students to evaluate how different these two systems were in practice.
11. Slide 25 has some questions for discussion at the end of class.
12. Slide 26 has the homework assignment below.

Homework

- Research the terms "totalitarianism," "fascism," and "communism."
- Write an essay in which you compare and contrast fascism and communism.
- Relate each of the two systems of government to the term "totalitarianism."

Alternate Assignment

- Compare and contrast the policies of governments in the Middle East and North Africa, such as Egypt, Iran, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, Tunisia and Syria, to the fascist and communist ideologies. Is there any connection between the turmoil these countries are now experiencing, and the system of government each country has?
- Use the Heritage Foundation Freedom index to rank the countries above.
<http://www.heritage.org/index/ranking>
- Use the CIA WORLD FACTBOOK to help identify the types of governments each country operates. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>