

Document 1

Criteria of Totalitarian Regimes

"...I saw a little boy, perhaps ten years old, driving a huge carthorse along a narrow path, whipping it whenever it tried to turn. It struck me that if only such animals became aware of their strength we should have no power over them..."

-George Orwell

Germany, the Soviet Union, and Italy had dictatorships that were unique in the history of the world. They went beyond mere dictatorships. They were *totalitarian* dictatorships. Their control went beyond traditional, authoritarian dictatorships and monarchies. Totalitarian dictatorships wanted total control over the lives of their people, as the name totalitarian implies or suggests. How did these totalitarian governments achieve this kind of control?

Re-read the quote above. In it, the writer George Orwell tells us two of the ways that people, as well as animals, can be controlled. The 2,000 pound horse could be controlled by a small boy of less than 100 pounds because the boy used some of the methods that dictators used to control the large populations of their countries. These dictators used eight methods to gain total control over their people. Look at the following characteristics of totalitarian control. Just as the boy controlled the horse, dictators were able to control people by using the following methods.

- Indoctrination
- Propaganda
- Censorship
- Terror
- Charisma
- One Party Rule
- Economic Control
- Extreme Nationalism

Student Handout 2

Say-Mean-Matter

- What does it say? (Read the definition and underline important phrases.)
- What does it mean? (Put definition into your own words.)
- Why does it matter? (Explain why principle is important in totalitarian states.)

What does it Say?	What does it Mean?	Why does it Matter to totalitarian states?
<u>Indoctrination</u> - To teach people to accept a system of beliefs (thoughts) without questioning.		
<u>Propaganda</u> -Using newspapers, magazines, radio, speeches, and movies to give people a one sided message.		
<u>Censorship</u> -The removal of anything objectionable to or critical of the ruling party.		
<u>Terror</u> -The use of violence or the threat of violence to produce fear so that people will obey the state.		
<u>Charisma</u> -A quality about a leader that makes people eager to follow him or her.		
<u>One Party Rule</u> - Only one political party is allowed to exist. It has complete power.		
<u>Economic Control</u> -The state decides what will be made and sold.		
<u>Authoritarian</u> -Having control, but not total control, over the lives of the people.		
<u>Totalitarian</u> -Having total control over the lives of the people.		
<u>Extreme Nationalism</u> -The belief by a group of people that their country is better than any other country.		