**Propaganda DBQ**

**Question**: How did propaganda and the agendas of totalitarian leaders contribute to a breakdown of democratic ideals in the 1930s?

**Document A: Hitler on the Nature and Purpose of Propaganda (excerpt from Mein Kampf), 1923**

The art of propaganda lies in understanding the emotional ideas of the great masses and finding, through a psychologically correct form, the way to the attention and thence to the heart of the broad masses. The fact that our bright boys do not understand this merely shows how mentally lazy and conceited they are...But the most brilliant propagandist techniques will yield no success unless one fundamental principle is born in mind constantly and with unflagging attention. It must confine itself to a few points and repeat them over and over. Here, as so often in this world, persistence is the first and most important requirement for success.

**Q:** What clues can you see in this about how Hitler will use propaganda when he is in power? How will he distort the truth?

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**Document B: Stalin -- November 3, 1929**

We are advancing full steam ahead along the path of industrialization -- to socialism, leaving behind the age-old "Russian" backwardness. We are becoming a country of metal, a country of automobiles, a country of tractors. And when we have put the U.S.S. R. on an automobile, and the muzhik on a tractor, let the worthy capitalists, who boast so much of their "civilization," try to overtake us! We shall yet see which countries may then be "classified" as backward and which as advanced.

**Q:** What is Stalin’s plan for the Soviet economy? To what extent is he telling the truth about what he has done to help the Soviet Union?

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**Document C: speech given by Joseph Stalin in 1930**

Ousting the capitalist elements in the countryside is an inevitable result and component part of the policy of restricting the capitalist elements, the policy of restricting the kulaks’ exploiting tendencies. Ousting the capitalist elements in the countryside must not be regarded as equivalent to ousting the kulaks as a class. Ousting the capitalist elements in the countryside means ousting and overcoming individual sections of the kulaks, those se unable to bear the burden of taxation and the Soviet government's system of restrictive measures. Naturally, the policy of restricting the kulaks’ exploiting tendencies, the policy of restricting the capitalist elements in the countryside, cannot but lead to the ousting of individual sections of the kulaks. Consequently, ousting individual sections of the kulaks cannot be regarded otherwise than as an inevitable result and a component part of the policy of restricting the capitalist elements in the countryside...

In our practical activity we preserve in the countryside the law on hiring labor, the law on renting land, and the ban on dekulakization.

**Q:** Stalin wanted to gain complete control over the countryside. Who are his scapegoats that he uses to justify why he needs to take over agriculture?

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**Document D: Joseph Goebbels, chief of Nazi propaganda, 1930**

Why do we oppose the Jews? We are enemies of the Jews because we are fighters for the freedom of the German people. The Jew is the cause and the beneficiary of our misery...He has made two halves of Germany. He is the real cause for our loss of the Great War. The Jew is responsible for our misery and he lives on it. That is the reason why we, as Nationalists and Socialists, oppose the Jew. He has corrupted our race, fouled our morals, undermined our customs, and broken our power. The Jew is the plastic demon of the decline of mankind. We are enemies of the Jews because we belong to the German people. The Jew is our greatest misfortune.

**Q:** How does Goebbels say the Jews are affecting German society? What would make people believe these statements?

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Excerpt from "The Political and Social Doctrine of Fascism" by Benito Mussolini, 1932

The Fascist accepts life and loves it, knowing nothing of and despising suicide; he rather conceives of life as duty and struggle and conquest, life which should be high and full, lived for oneself, but above all for others-those who are at hand and those who are far distant, contemporaries, and those who will come after...Fascism, now and always, believes in holiness and in heroism; that is to say, in actions influenced by no economic motive, direct or indirect. (Fascism) affirms the immutable, beneficial, and fruitful inequality of mankind, which can never be permanently leveled through the mere operation of a mechanical process such as universal suffrage. Fascism denies, in democracy, the absurd conventional untruth of political equality dressed up in the garb of collective irresponsibility, and the myth of "happiness" and indefinite progress...If every age has its own characteristic doctrine, there are a thousand signs which point to Fascism as the characteristic doctrine of our time.

Q: According to Mussolini, what do fascists believe in? How might they use propaganda to get what they want?

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Sterilization for the ‘Unfit’, Nazi Government (1933)

(1) Whoever suffers from a heritable disease may be made unfruitful (sterilized) through surgical means if, in the experience of medical science, it may, with great likelihood, be expected that his descendants will suffer from serious heritable physical or mental defects.

(2) Whoever suffers from one of the following ailments is considered to be heritably diseased within the meaning of this law:
1. congenital feeble-mindedness
2. schizophrenia
3. manic-depression
4. congenital epilepsy
5. heritable St. Vitus’s dance (Huntington’s Chorea)
6. hereditary blindness
7. hereditary deafness
8. serious heritable malformations.

Further, anyone suffering from chronic alcoholism may also be made unfruitful.

Q: How did the Nazis determine who was “unfit”? What will happen to them? How does this program hurt democracy?
Document G: Alice Hamilton, *Nazism and Youth* (1933) written after her second post-World War I trip to Germany

Hitler made each insignificant, poverty-stricken, jobless youth of the slums feel himself one of the great of the earth, since the youth was a German. Hitler told the young men that the fate of Germany was in their hands...He put them into uniforms, he taught them to march and sing together, he aroused that sense of comradeship and esprit de corps so precious to the young, and gave them what is even more precious- an object for hero worship. The most important subject in the new curriculum is history, with the emphasis laid on German heroes, German inventors, German rulers, poets, artists. The German child must be taught that his nation is superior to every other in every field...It is this violent, fanatical, youthful despot, backed by some millions of like-minded youths, who now rules Germany. Truly it is a new thing in the world- a great modern country submitting itself to the will of its young men

Q: How did Hitler use propaganda to make the Germans feel better about themselves? How would making the Germans feel better allow Hitler to have complete power?

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Document H: Kristallnacht Order, 1938

Regards: Measures against Jews tonight.

a) Only such measures may be taken which do not jeopardize German life or property (for instance, burning of synagogues only if there is no danger of fires for the neighbourhoods).

b) Business establishments and homes of Jews may be destroyed but not looted. The police have been instructed to supervise the execution of these directives and to arrest looters.

c) In Business streets special care is to be taken that non-Jewish establishments will be safeguarded at all cost against damage. As soon as the events of this night permit the use of the designated officers, as many Jews, particularly wealthy ones, as the local jails will hold, are to be arrested in all districts. Initially only healthy male Jews, not too old, are to be arrested. After the arrests have been carried out the appropriate concentration camp is to be contacted immediately with a view to a quick transfer of the Jews to the camps....
Q: What actions were the Nazis taking against the Jews? How were they able to get away with these actions?

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Document J: A. O. Avidenko, Hymn to Stalin, c. 1930s

Thank you, Stalin. Thank you because I am joyful. Thank you because I am well. No matter how old I become, I shall never forget how we received Stalin two days ago. Centuries will pass, and the generations still to come will regard us as the happiest of mortals, as the most fortunate of men, because we lived in the century of centuries, because we were privileged to see Stalin, our inspired leader. Yes, and we regard ourselves as the happiest of mortals because we are the contemporaries of a man who never had an equal in world history…

I write books. I am an author. All thanks to thee, O great educator, Stalin. I love a young woman with a renewed love and shall perpetuate myself in my children--all thanks to thee, great educator, Stalin. I shall be eternally happy and joyous, all thanks to thee, great educator, Stalin. Everything belongs to thee, chief of our great country. And when the woman I love presents me with a child the first word it shall utter will be: Stalin.

Q: Why did Avidenko write this hymn to Stalin? Can we know how he really feels about Stalin? Why? Does it matter that he writes books and is so in love with Stalin?