



**Question 20: Compare and contrast the methods used to maintain power in two authoritarian states, each from a different region.**

**[Topic 10: Authoritarian states (20th century)]**

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In order for authoritarian state leaders to maintain power, they have to adhere to specific aspects of the nation. Throughout history, the authoritarian state leaders have had similar methods of maintaining their power. Hitler and Mao are two examples of leaders that had similar methods. Both Hitler and Mao utilized terror tactics, propaganda, and incentives for the people in order to maintain their power, yet the ways in which they used these methods differed.

~~Hitler~~ To maintain his power, Hitler used fear to terrorize the nation into compliance. One such event ~~was~~ of terror was the Night of Long Knives. On the Night of Long Knives, Hitler ordered the purge of his own men, namely officials from the SA. Hitler did not want officials to think they were ~~safe~~ safe under Hitler's Germany, because then they ~~might~~ might rise against him. Thus by killing his own men, Hitler instilled fear into the other officials which caused them to obey Hitler's orders ~~out~~ out of fear for being killed. One specific SA leader that was killed was

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Ernst Röhm, and he was an example to the rest of the SA to not act out of order. Mao had a similar campaign that instilled fear within the people of China. In Mao's Hundred Flowers Campaign, Mao encouraged the intellectuals to speak up and express their thoughts about the regime. At ~~the~~ first, the people were too afraid of ~~potential~~ potential consequences to speak up, yet eventually they voiced all of their complaints at both the regime and Mao himself. ~~As~~ As soon as the comments attacked Mao and the regime harshly, Mao purged the people who had spoken out against him. This caused the rest of the citizens to live in silence and ~~not~~ not speak out in fear of being killed by the regime. Both Hitler's ~~Night~~ Night of Long Knives and Mao's Hundred Flowers Campaign allowed the leaders to maintain their power through the use of fear.

Propaganda was also a method ~~used~~ to ~~keep~~ maintain power used by Hitler and Mao. Hitler's propaganda gave him a cult of personality and a God-like status in Nazi Germany. Propaganda reached every aspect of society: media, education, arts, and more. 66% of all newspapers in Nazi Germany ~~were~~ were controlled by the state, and ~~the~~ most television and radio ~~channels~~ channels reported positive news only about the nation. The propaganda in Hitler's Nazi ~~Germany~~ Germany idolized Hitler and the Nazi Party, and allowed Hitler to ~~maintain~~ maintain power, as ~~the~~ the German people had no escape from reminders of



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the greatness of their Führer. Mao's propaganda had a similar effect in China. The propaganda in Mao's China also created a ~~big~~ cult of personality for Mao, and definitely ~~gave~~ gave him a God-like status, as Mao was virtually worshiped by his people. Paintings and posters of Mao could be seen everywhere throughout China, and they ~~was~~ usually portrayed him with the shining, red sun in the background. The propaganda in ~~ed~~ China truly made the people believe that ~~as~~ Mao was their savior, and the citizens idolized him. Thus Mao's propaganda also allowed him to maintain his power by convincing the nation of his greatness.

Both Hitler and Mao appealed to the people to maintain power. Both Hitler and Mao ~~as~~ created youth groups to indoctrinate the young to support their ~~party~~ parties at an early age, ~~where Hitler's youth~~ and both Mao and Hitler's groups for youth were particularly successful. Furthermore, Hitler and Mao both had incentives for women in their nations. Mao urged the women to give up their steel pots and pans in order ~~to~~ to ~~increase~~ increase steel production in China, and Mao made them feel as if they were contributing greatly to the nation. In return, the women supported Mao. Hitler also won ~~over~~ over the support of the women by ~~incentivizing~~ incentivizing the production of children. ~~For~~ For women who bore ~~4-5~~ 4-5 children, he would give a bronze medal. For women who



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who bore 6-7 children, he would give a ~~set~~ silver medal, and for women who gave birth to 8 or more children, he would give a gold medal. By giving incentives to the women to have more children and by making them believe they were aiding Germany greatly, Hitler won their support, and thus maintained his power.

Both Mao and Hitler's policies towards <sup>the</sup> people and ~~these~~ their appealing to the people aided in the maintenance of their power.

In order to maintain power within China and Germany, both Mao and Hitler made use of similar ~~the~~ methods: terror tactics, propaganda, and incentives for the people. While both leaders differed in the ways ~~they~~ they carried out these methods, ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ways they did so were undoubtedly successful to some extent. As most authoritarian state leaders have had the same methods for maintaining power throughout history, all authoritarian state leaders have also come to the same demise. Mao and Hitler were no ~~was~~ exceptions to this. Both Mao and Hitler were defeated by the very methods ~~they~~ they used to maintain power in the first place.

Both Mao and Hitler were disillusioned by their own propaganda, and they were ultimately driven to defeat by their own ~~distorted~~ distorted realities.



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Question 24: Evaluate the impact of Cold War tensions on two countries (excluding the USSR and the US).

[Topic 12: The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)]

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The Cold War between the USSR and the US was one that saw the involvement of many other countries due to the actions of paranoid leaders. Once one leader made an action, there was sure to be a reaction from the other leader, and this cycle of action-and-reaction led to many conflicts, and an increase in tensions. Two countries in particular that found themselves caught up in Cold War tensions were Cuba and Korea. The impact of Cold War tensions on Cuba and Korea was unnecessary conflict filled with violence.

The US's involvement ~~was~~ in the Korean war, which caused the USSR to get involved, led to unnecessary conflict filled with violence that lasted far longer than it needed to. The US involved itself in Korea in order to prevent a potential Communist government. The Korean War saw ~~the~~ North Korea, led by Kim, fight for territory against South Korea, led by Rhee. When the US joined the Korean war by deciding to aid Rhee and South Korea, the country had been divided at the 38th parallel. Once the US got involved it was in



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the USSR's best ~~and~~ interest to get involved as well, as they wanted to aid the Communist government of the north. Furthermore the leader of North Korea, Kim, asked for Stalin's aid, and Stalin finally agreed once the US started supporting Rhee. If neither country, the US or the USSR, had gotten involved in the Korean War, it might have ended much sooner than it did and with a more definite victory. However, the Korean War lasted for years and ultimately ended where it started: at the border of the 38th parallel. Throughout the war, there was territorial advancements pushing the border, both in favor of the ~~south~~ <sup>north</sup> and, in other moments, in favor of the south, yet ~~as~~ there was no clear victory. The Cold War tensions caused Korea's war to be ~~an~~ unnecessarily elongated and caused more bloodshed than would have occurred otherwise.

The Cold War tensions also caused ~~unnecessary~~ unnecessary conflict and violence in Cuba. Once Fidel Castro took power in Cuba's revolution, the US suspected the growth of a Communist government. Thus, US President John F. Kennedy sent a group of exiled Cubans to create an uprising against Castro's regime in hopes that the movement would ~~help~~ have ~~good~~ popular support and shut down Castro. This attempt became known as the Bay of Pigs, and it was a failure. ~~As a result~~ The exiled Cuban army could not gather enough support, many were killed or arrested, and Castro's regime sufficed. Soon after, Castro turned to the



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USSR for aid. ~~The~~ The USSR agreed, and the USSR was also able to use Cuba as a missile base. This pulled Cuba into the biggest crisis of the Cold War: the Cuban Missile Crisis. If it were not for the Cold War tensions, Cuba would not have been under such pressure, as they housed the USSR's strategic weapons for annihilating the US, and there would not have been nearly as much violence and conflict within Cuba ~~due~~ due to events such as the Bay of Pigs.

The Cold War tensions led to terror and bloodshed for the citizens of both Cuba and Korea. In Korea, the US and the USSR's involvement in the war ~~caused~~ caused hundreds of more casualties than might have occurred if it were not for the Cold War. Furthermore, ~~the~~ the war <sup>instilled</sup> ~~caused~~ terror into the citizens of Korea, as the fate of their country's borders lay in the hands of two countries that should not have even been involved in the first place. The impact of Cold War tensions was similar in Cuba, as the actions of the US and the USSR in ~~the~~ Cuba caused the Cubans to be fearful of their lives and the existence of their country. If the US and the USSR had gone to nuclear war, then Cuba could very possibly have disappeared off the face of the Earth. Also, many ~~the~~ Cubans were killed or arrested in the Bay of Pigs operation by the US, and this caused political unrest and made the citizens fearful. Therefore, the Cold



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War tensions impacted the citizens of Cuba and Korea as well, all of which was unnecessary conflict that was terrifying and violent.

Cold War tensions between the US and the USSR could not be contained to the two countries, and thus saw countries such as Cuba and Korea stuck in the horrors of the superpower tensions. The Cold War impacted Cuba and Korea in a way that caused conflict in those countries to last longer than intended, and caused the citizens to live with fear (the ones that did not die through violence, anyway). If it were not for the Cold War and tensions between the US and the USSR, Cuba and Korea would have been better off.



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