

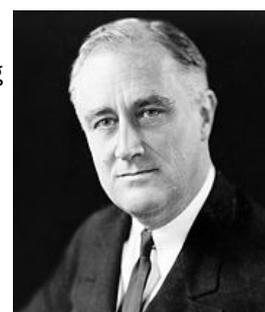
BENITO MUSSOLINI

Benito Mussolini **founded Fascism** and ruled Italy as a dictator for more than 21 years. He dreamed of making Italy into a great **empire**. He **banned** all other parties and took control of industry, schools, the police and the **media**. Il Duce joined an **alliance** with German dictator Adolf Hitler. Both countries sent soldiers to Spain to **support** General Franco in the Spanish **Civil War**. In 1943 Mussolini was **arrested** but soon later **rescued** by German **commandoes**. In 1945 Italians who were against **fascism captured** Mussolini as he wanted to **escape** to Switzerland . The next day he was shot to death.



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

FDR, as he was also called, was the only president **elected** four times. He **served** for more than 12 years, longer than any other person. Roosevelt became president during the **Great Depression**, which was a hard time for American **economy**. One out of four workers had lost their jobs and many families had no money to buy food or clothes. President Roosevelt created a programme called the New Deal in which the **government** helped poor people , gave them work and paid for food and **shelter**. President Roosevelt tried to keep America out of World War II, but when the Japanese **attacked** Pearl Harbour the United States entered the war. Roosevelt was a strong leader **throughout** the war . He died shortly before the war ended in 1945.



WINSTON CHURCHILL

Winston Churchill was the Prime Minister of Great Britain during the Second World War. He was a strong leader and a talented speaker, writer and painter. Churchill held speeches that gave the British people hope and **courage** during the horrible years of the war. After Germany's **surrender** in 1945 Churchill lost his job as Prime Minister but returned in 1951. In 1953 he won the **Nobel Prize** for Literature.



JOSEPH STALIN

Joseph Stalin was the dictator of the USSR from 1929 until 1953. During his **rule**, the Soviet Union became one of the world's greatest powers. In the late 1800s Stalin joined a group of Marxist **revolutionaries** . **Although** Stalin had not played a big role during the Russian Revolution he started **gaining** power. When Lenin died Stalin took control. He was a **ruthless** dictator , in many ways like Hitler, and had millions of people killed or **exiled** because they **threatened** his power or **opposed** his plans. After World War II the Soviet army stayed in the eastern part of Europe and Stalin set up communist governments there.



HARRY TRUMAN

Harry Truman became president in the spring of 1945, shortly before the war in Europe ended . In August of the same year Truman decided to use the atomic bomb to end the war against Japan.



DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

Eisenhower became the leader of the **Allied** forces in Europe .He planned the invasion that led to the end of the war . After the war “Ike” became a very **popular** figure in the US and was **elected** president in 1952.



HEINRICH HIMMLER

Himmler was one of the most **loyal followers** of Adolf Hitler. As the head of the German police he ordered the deaths of millions of people. He **committed suicide** in May 1945 after the Allied troops had **captured** him.



JOSEPH GOEBBELS

Goebbels was Nazi Germany’s propaganda minister. He tried to **persuade** the Germans and the outside world to believe in Hitler’s **regime**. Goebbels controlled newspapers, radio programmes, **motion pictures** and the **arts** in Germany. At the end of the war Goebbels and his wife **poisoned** their six children and then he asked a Nazi soldier to kill them both.



CHARLES DE GAULLE

General Charles de Gaulle was the most **outstanding** French patriot , soldier and **statesman** of the 20th century. He led the French **resistance** against Nazi Germany and **restored order** in France after World War II . He was the architect of a new **constitution** and became president in 1958.



WORDS

- **alliance** = when two or more countries agree to work together
- **Allied** = belonging to the countries that fought against Germany and Japan in World War II
- **although** =while
- **arrest** =to take a person to the police station because they have done something against the law
- **art** =paintings and drawings that show the ideas of a painter
- **attack** =to start using guns or bombs against an enemy in a war
- **ban** =forbid
- **capture** = to arrest someone or take a person prisoner
- **civil war** = war between two groups of the same country
- **commando** = a soldier who is trained to make special attacks
- **commit suicide** = to kill yourself
- **constitution** = the laws that a country has
- **courage** =to be brave and show that you are not afraid in a dangerous situation
- **economy** =the system of buying and selling goods in a country
- **elect** = to choose someone for an official position
- **empire** = a group of countries that is controlled by a ruler or a king
- **escape** = to get away from
- **exile** = if a person leaves their own country and goes to another country for political reasons
- **Fascism** = a system in which people's lives are completely controlled by the state ; no other opinions are allowed
- **follower** = someone who supports the ideas of a leader
- **found** = create, make
- **gain** = grow, increase, get
- **government** = the people who rule a country
- **Great Depression** = the economic crisis after the stock market crash in the United States; in the early 1930s millions of people lost their jobs and banks and companies had to close
- **loyal** =if you always help your friends
- **media** = radio, television and newspapers
- **motion picture** = movie, film
- **Nobel Prize** = a prize that is given to a person for special things they have done.
- **oppose** =to be against
- **outstanding** = great, excellent, something special
- **persuade** = convince; to make someone believe you
- **poison** =something that can hurt you or lead to death if you drink or eat it
- **popular** = liked by a lot of people
- **regime** =a government of a country; mostly one that was not elected in a fair way
- **rescue** = save, set free
- **resistance** = group that fought secretly against the Nazis in World War II
- **restore order** =to stop crime and make people live in a peaceful way again
- **revolutionary** = rebel
- **rule** = govern
- **ruthless** = very cruel, brutal
- **serve** = here: to be President
- **shelter** = a place to live and sleep
- **statesman** = a leader who is respected in his country and in other countries
- **support** = help
- **surrender** = give up
- **threaten** =to say that you will hurt someone if they do not do what you say
- **throughout** = in all of