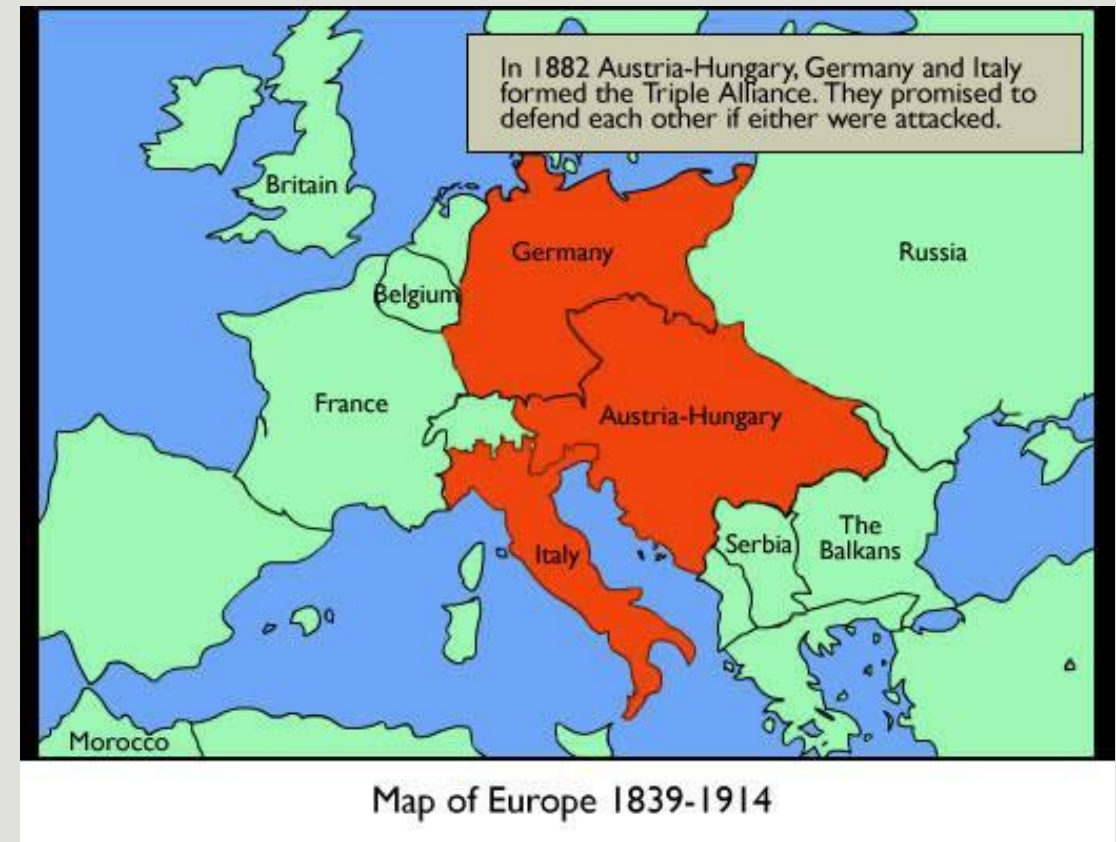


Italy during WWI

- Leading up to **WWI**, **Italy** had formed an alliance with the Central Powers of the German Empire and the Empire of the Austria-Hungary **in** the Triple Alliance.
- **Italy** should have joined on the side of the Central Powers when war broke out **in** August 1914
 - but instead declared neutrality.



Italy enters the War

- On April 26, 1915, Italy negotiated the secret Pact of London by which Great Britain and France promised to support Italy annexing the frontier lands in return for entering the war on the Entente side.
- On May 3, Italy resigned from the Triple Alliance and later declared war against Austria-Hungary at midnight on May 23.
- At the beginning of the war, the Italian army boasted less than 300,000 men, but mobilization greatly increased its size to more than 5 million by the war's end in November 1918.
- Approximately 460,000 were killed and 955,000 were wounded in the conflict.



Pact of London (Treaty of London)



Fascism in Italy- Benito Mussolini

- After serving in the Italian army during World War I, Mussolini returned home, looking for a way to unify the Italian people.
- In 1918, he began to deliver emotional speeches, calling for a dictator to head the country.
- He argued that only a strong leader could unite the people to:
 - overcome Italy's postwar mass unemployment
 - chaotic political party conflicts
 - and strikes by socialists and communists.





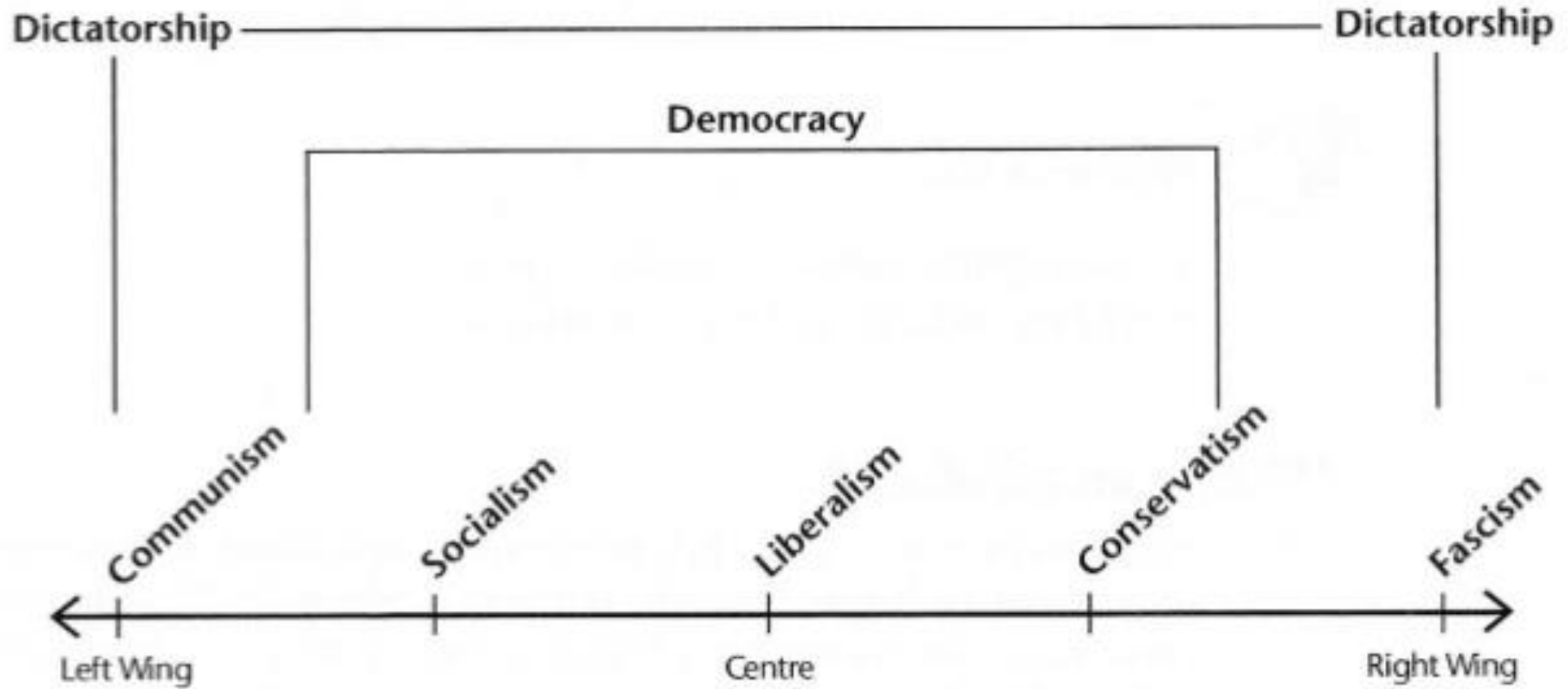
Rise of Fascism

- Fascism arose in Europe after World War I when many people yearned for national unity and strong leadership.

Definition of Fascism:

a political philosophy, movement, or regime that exalts nation and often race above the individual and that stands for:

- a centralized autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader
- severe economic and social regimentation
- and forcible suppression of opposition



Fascism in Italy

- In 1919, Mussolini organized his fascist movement in the northern city of Milan. He formed squads of street fighters who wore black shirts.
 - His “Blackshirts” beat up socialists and communists and threw them out of local governments.
- The communist revolution in Russia had taken place only two years earlier.
 - Mussolini’s fascist movement quickly gained the support of anti-communist business people, property owners, and middle-class professionals like teachers and doctors.
- In 1921, Mussolini formed the National Fascist Party.

Mussolini in Power

- After organized marches and protests, Mussolini urged King of the Italian kingdom to resign.
- The king gave in, and at age 39, Mussolini became Italy's youngest prime minister on October 29, 1922.
- He would go on to become Il Duce, (the Leader) , the Fascist dictator of Italy
- His ultimate goal was to re-create a new Roman Empire



Fascism and the Rise of the Nazi Party

- Much of Mussolini's Fascist ideologies inspired what we see in Nazi Germany
- The Nazi Party utilized many of Mussolini's tactics and policies in terms of violence and state initiated fear.
- While we will see Mussolini and Hitler go on to form an alliance during WWII, Mussolini actually looked down upon Hitler, viewing Nazism to be simplistic and somewhat barbaric
- Antisemitism would prevail in Italy, however.

