

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 May 3, Italy resigned from the Triple Alliance and later declared war against Austria-Hungary at midnight on May 23.
- Approximately 460,000 were killed and 955,000 were wounded in the conflict.



Fascism in Italy- Benito Mussolini

- After serving in the Italian army during WWI, 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.

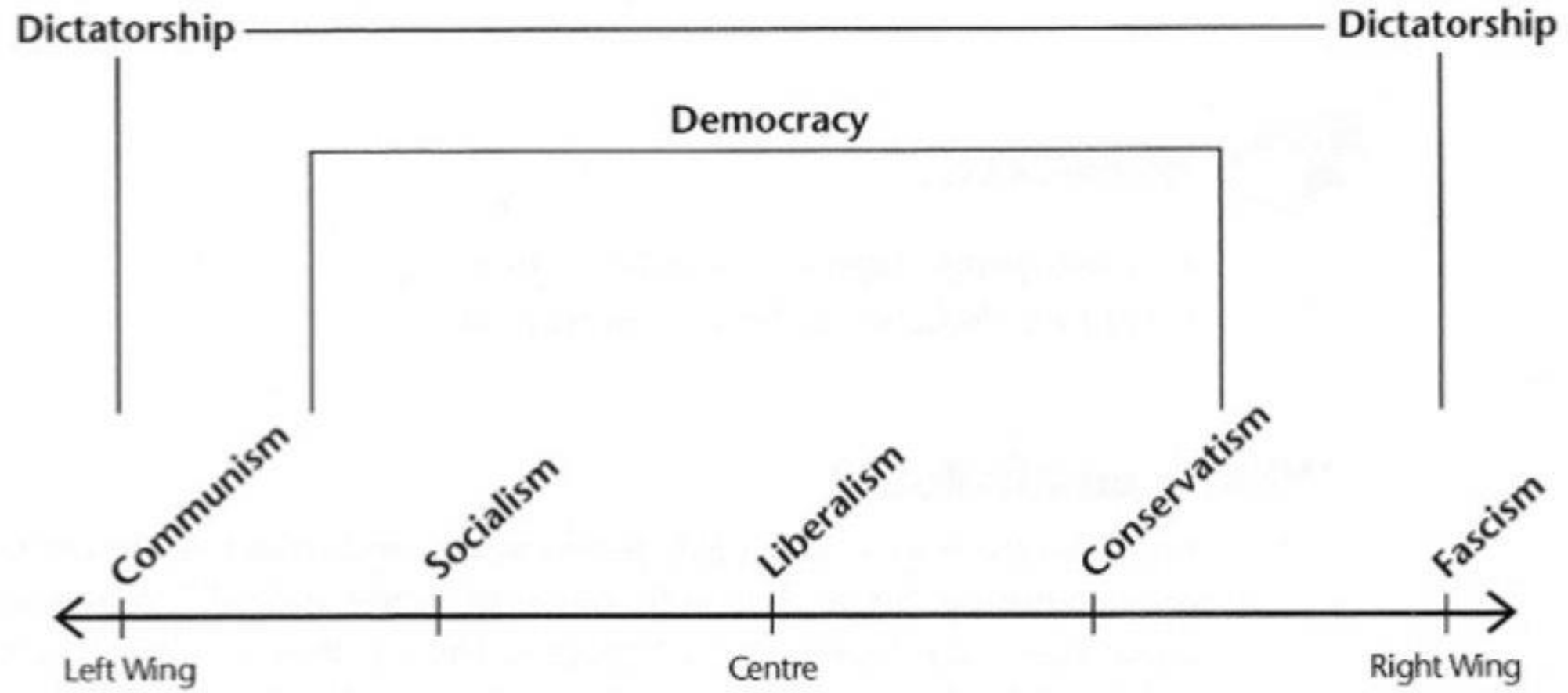


Definition of Fascism

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

