***Domestic Policies – their aims and outcomes***

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| **Germany – Adolf Hitler 1933 – 1945 (Todd Textbook pages 105 – 125)** | | | | |
| **Aims**  To create a society in line with ideological vision – to transform society.  To change the way people behaved and thought by imposing the concept of ‘Volksgemeinshaft’.  ‘Volksgemeinshaft’ – was a national community in which every member worked to support and to contribute to the greater good of the nation.  This involved controlling how people lived, worked and spent their leisure time. A change in the consciousness of the German people so that they would act as one.  This vision was not intended to break old class division but to almost go back to traditional roles, especially for women. It was intolerant of alternative institutions especially the church.  ‘Volkemeinshaft’ was based on blood and race – the Volk was made up of pure Aryans and the aim was to get every pure German to think of themselves as part of a master race. In this consciousness the state was superior to the individual.  Nationalism and a common world view (Weltanschauung) was to bind the people together. The ‘Volksgenossen’ (the people) would be Aryans and politically and socially committed and everyone would strive towards the growth and goals of the state.  The ideal German was seen as the German peasant farmer whose life was dependent on the German soil and whose background was in a traditional German way of life.  The Nazis sought the eradication of social outsiders and in particular racial outsiders. Aryan Germans were to be united around common nationalist and anti-Semitic goals and all other policy decisions were subordinate to this aim. However, since Hitler had come to power promising to restore Germany’s economy this was a driving force behind domestic policy in the 1930’s. | | | | |
| Domestic Policy | Aims | Features | Successes | Failures |
| Economic |  |  |  |  |
| Religion |  |  |  |  |
| Education/Young |  |  |  |  |
| The Arts |  |  |  |  |
| Minorities |  |  |  |  |
| Women |  |  |  |  |

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| **Cuba – Fidel Castro (Todd Textbook pages 224 - 242 )** | | | | |
| **Aims**  Castro followed a nationalist and socialist (increasingly Communist after 1960) outlook for Cuba. In his 1953 ’History will absolve me’ speech he promised agrarian reform, rent reduction, industrial development and modernization, expansion of education and health care and to take back public utilities from US companies.  After 1960 Castro united with the Cuban Communist Party and became more communist in his view. However, the Cuban Revolution had not been led by the Communist Party nor the result of a class struggle. Castro’s revolution had been more to do with economic growth and social reform.  For Castro socialism was mainly a strategy for a nationalist project of modernization, based on state control of the economy, prioritizing production over consumption and hostility to US imperialism.  Castro came to believe his revolutionary programme of reforms required central political and economic control – not private enterprise or even a mixed economy.  Socialism also provided the moral and ethical codes expected of Cuban citizens and a vision of a world free from poverty, exploitation and injustice.  Castro and a large proportion of its people shared the conviction that the government had a mission to help Cuba improve and serve its people. Redistribution of income as well as healthcare and education benefitted people on lower incomes. | | | | |
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| **China – General Mao (Todd Textbook pages 160 - 177)** | | | | |
| **Aims**  Mao believed he could transform China by implementing his unique version of Communism. This put emphasis on the peasants, mass mobilizations, self-criticism and continuous revolution.  He believed anything could be achieved by ruthless determination.  He avowed to strengthen China and better the lives of its people.  Mao’s belief that ‘sheer commitment’ was sufficient to drive the country forward and make up for China’s lack of capital and industrial technology.  He was driven by his commitment to ‘continuous revolution’. He believed he could ‘remould the souls of the people’ and that ruthlessness and violence were an integral part of the cleansing process. Nothing was allowed to stand still. Whenever stability threatened Mao would launch a new campaign. He believed every generation should have a new commitment.  Mao was anti-intellectual and believed only the masses were capable of carrying the revolution forward and this had a huge impact on his educational policies.  Mao believed that unless the Chinese Communist Party was regularly purified it would cease to be a revolutionary force and China would cease to be truly socialist. | | | | |
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