Warm-Up Feb. 14th

Prompt: What characteristics/traits make a government a totalitarian government?

Use your background knowledge to make a list of characteristics/traits of a totalitarian gov’t.

DO NOT COPY YOUR NOTES or the DEFINITION!! IN YOUR OWN WORDS!!!
Key Traits of Totalitarianism
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- Ideology
- State Control of Individuals
- Dynamic Leader
- Methods of Enforcement
- Dictatorship & One-Party Rule
- Modern Technology
- State Control of Society
Ideology

• Sets goals of the state
• Justifies gov’t action
• Glorifies aims of the state

Ideas are more powerful than guns. We would not let our enemies have guns. Why should we let them have ideas?

-Joseph Stalin
State Control of Individuals

- Demands loyalty
- Total obedience to authority
- Personal sacrifice for the good of the state
- Denies basic liberties
Dynamic Leader

• Unites people toward common goals
• Encourages unconditional loyalty & uncritical support of regime through force of will
• Becomes the symbol of gov’t
Methods of Enforcement

• Use of police terror & organized violence
• Indoctrination, censorship, persecution
• Uses force to crush all opposition
• Targets certain groups as enemies (minorities, political opponents)
Dictatorship & One-Party Rule

• Exercises absolute authority
• Dominates the gov’t
Modern Technology

• Mass communication to spread propaganda
• Builds up advanced military weapons
State Control of Society

• Control over:
  • Business
  • Labor
  • Housing
  • Education
  • Family life
  • Youth
  • Religion
  • The arts
Instructions: Write a letter to yourself from an individual living in a totalitarian state (real or imaginary). In the letter, discuss the following:

• What it’s like living in a totalitarian state
• What effects living in this type of country has on you and/or your family
• Give at least three examples in your daily life that are from the key traits from this lecture

• Your letter should be at least 250 words (approximately 1 page)
• Make sure to format correctly – “Dear (Your Name),” & “Sincerely, (Friend’s Name)”