

# Modern World History Benchmark Writing Prompt

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*Department of History and Social Sciences*



Use the three documents that follow, as well as your knowledge of this period of history, to respond to the following prompt:

- What were the consequences of the Treaty of Versailles?
- How did those conditions and the Great Depression help the Fascists come to power in Germany and Italy in the 1920s and 1930s?

## **Document 1**

"Fascism conceives of the State as an absolute, in comparison with which all individuals or groups are relative, only to be conceived of in their relation to the State."

**Benito Mussolini, entry for the Italian Encyclopedia, "What is Fascism" 1932**

## **Document 2**

In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression--everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way--everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want--which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants--everywhere in the world.

The fourth is freedom from fear--which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor--anywhere in the world.

**Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "Four Freedoms" Speech, January 1, 1941**

***DOCUMENT #3 ON THE REVERSE SIDE***

**Document 3**

By naming Hitler as Reichschancellor, you have delivered up our holy Fatherland to one of the greatest [rabble-rousers] of all time. I solemnly [predict] that this accursed man will plunge our Reich into the abyss and bring our nation into inconceivable misery.

Erich Ludendorff, letter to President Hindenburg, February 1, 1933