People

Adolf Hitler

- 1889-1945
- During WWII, Hitler was a dictator of Germany and the leader of the German Nazi Party.
- During this war, Hitler was in charge of the event known as the Holocaust. The Holocaust was an event that enslaved millions of Jewish people and the execution of 6 million of the Jewish people living in or near Germany. This event has gone down in history as one of the worst genocides ever.

Mikhail Gorbachev

- 1931
- Gorbachev was a Soviet official and was the last leader of the Communist Soviet Union. Later, he became the President of the Soviet Union.
- Gorbachev is known for his introduction of Perestroika and Glasnost. Perestroika was a “reconstruction” of the Soviets fallen economy and Glasnost was an “openness” policy to their economy. Within 5 years, his two programs completely rid of Communist parties from East Europe and brought the Cold war to an end. His policies also brought an end to the economic and political issues between the US and SU and their allies.

Franz Ferdinand

- 1863-1914
- Heir to the Austro-Hungarian empire. Ferdinand was short-tempers, cold, and sharp-tongued. He was not very likable and many did not enjoy him in power.
- Ferdinand is important in history because his assassination was the cause of World War 1. Right after his death in 1914 the World basically exploded in chaos and began a war that would go down in history as a major turning point.

Joseph Stalin

- 1878-1953
- Dictator of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic. Stalin helped to turn the USSR into an industrial and military power but he was a ruthless ruler. Stalin used scare tactics and horror to run his country. Millions of his own people died during his brutal ruling. Stalin sent away anyone he thought could be an enemy to be executed or to work in labor camps. He was also allied with Adolf Hitler during World War two.
- The horrors brought on by Stalin’s regime helped to educate the people of the dangers of having one person rule an entire country. Even after his death the USSR went through a “De-Stalinization” because his effects were horrendous. Stalin was also responsible for the death of over 20 million people, more than the amount of Germans killed during World War two. Stalin is not remember as a good guy, but as a brutal leader who should have never gained power in the first place.

Benito Mussolini