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### **Research and Writing: Communism and Fascism**

This week we learned that communism and Fascism are two distinct political ideologies that emerged in the 20th century. Although they differ in many ways, both ideologies promote specific ideals and goals for society.

Communism is an ideology that advocates for a classless society where the means of production are collectively owned and controlled. Communist societies aim to eliminate social and economic inequality by ensuring that everyone has equal access to resources and opportunities. The primary goal of communism is to create a society where all individuals have equal access to the benefits of social and economic progress and where the working class controls the means of production. It stands against capitalism, which is seen as an unjust economic system that leads to inequality, exploitation, and alienation. Communism also opposes imperialism, colonialism, and other forms of foreign domination, as well as religion, which it views as a tool of oppression and a distraction from the struggle for social justice.

On the other hand, Fascism is an authoritarian and nationalist ideology that emphasizes the importance of the state over the individual. Fascist societies are characterized by centralized government control, militarization, and the suppression of dissent. Fascist regimes seek to establish a unified and powerful nation, often through expansionist policies and the use of force. The primary goal of fascism is to create a society that is strong, disciplined, and united under the leadership of a single party or leader. It stands against liberalism, democracy, and individualism, which it sees as weak

and decadent. Fascism also opposes communism, which it views as a threat to national unity and a cover for Jewish or other subversive interests. In addition, fascism is often associated with racism, xenophobia, and militarism, and it stands against any perceived threats to the purity and strength of the nation, including minorities, immigrants, and political dissidents.

In the first half of the 20th century, communism promoted similar ideals in both China and Russia. Under communism in Russia, the government controlled all aspects of the economy, including industry, agriculture, and trade. Private ownership of property was abolished, and the land was nationalized. The Communist Party also imposed strict controls on the media, education, and cultural institutions. Under communism in China, the government also controlled all aspects of the economy, and the private sector was largely abolished. The Communist Party implemented strict controls on the media, education, and cultural institutions. Maoist policies, such as the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, aimed to transform the economy and society in line with communist principles. While fascism in Italy promoted a highly centralized, authoritarian form of government that emphasized the importance of the nation and the use of force to achieve its goals. It rejected liberal democracy, individualism, and socialism, and instead emphasized nationalism, militarism, and corporatism.