Totalitarianism
Yer doin it right
What is totalitarianism?

- A 20\textsuperscript{th} century concept
- State (government) control over all aspects of lives of citizens (economic, social, political)
- Leadership imposes will on party, state and society
- The State > Individual
The 7 Elements of Totalitarianism

PIEFOIL
Propaganda

What Is It?
• Media produced by the state
• Contains fallacies and polemics
• Glorification of the state, its leadership and citizens

How Is It Used?
• The ideas of the leadership and state are promoted as foundational/fundamental
• The restrictive version of propaganda is censorship (often with force)
Ideology

What Is It?

• A set of beliefs that constitute a world view on an issue(s)
• A logic for comprehending the world

How Is It Used?

• It creates a basis for domestic and foreign policy (Left v. Right Wing)
• Ideology must be flexible for a leader to respond to a crisis or change with the people
Education

What Is It?

- The methods of passing down ideas from both formal and informal schooling.
- State mandated and crafted curriculum

How Is It Used?

- Allows indoctrination of youth from young age
- Helps to communicate ideology and a common history, present and future

Historical Example

“The construction of the lunatic asylum costs 6 million RM. How many houses at 15,00 RM each could have been built for that amount?”

-1930’s Germany math textbook

Current Example
Force

What Is It?
• The methods used by the state to coerce individuals and institutions
• Appears as forms of military groups, police, secret forces and bureaucrats

How Is It Used?
• Legal – The crafting of laws to discriminate, define or eliminate a person or group
• Physical – Violence and damage (or threat thereof) to people or property

Historical Example

Current Example
Opposition

What Is It?
• A real or perceived threat to a totalitarian society or state.
• Can be an individual, group or institution

How Is It Used?
• A totalitarian state must use force to eliminate opposition and ESTABLISH and/or MAINTAIN power.
• Opposition can be co-opted and have ideas/leaders taken by state

Historical Example

Current Example
Identity

What Is It?
• A sense of belonging based on a common idea.
• Status of women, ethnic minorities and religious groups

How Is It Used?
• Totalitarian states attempt to subvert individualism and create a collective identity.
• This often comes with incredible national pride and either assimilation or elimination of minority groups.
Leadership

What Is It?

• A single or collective source of decision making for the state
• Forms the structure and organization of the state

How Is It Used?

• A “Cult of Personality” establishes the leadership
• Policies of state seek to maintain leadership’s rule