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serious membership drives in the steel mills, automobile plants, and rubber factories. Lewis wanted these mass production workers to be organized by industry rather than by craft. Only then, he argued, could the power of big business be successfully confronted.

Most AFL leaders were unmoved. As representatives of skilled craftworkers, such as masons and carpenters, they had little interest in organizing industrial unions composed largely of African Americans and ethnic groups from eastern and southern Europe. Indeed, after Lewis finished his emotional plea to the

convention, Carpenters' president "Big Bill" Hutcheson called him a "bastard." Lewis led Hutcheson with a solid right to the jaw and stormed out of the convention. Shortly after, Lewis joined with like-minded labor leaders to form the Congress Industrial Organizations (CIO). Their goal was to create powerful unions in the other mass production industries such as automobiles and steel. Labor's "civil war" begun.

THE FASCIST CHALLENGE

As the 1936 presidential election approached, Americans watched events in Europe with growing apprehension. From the Soviet Union came stories about a regime that was brutalizing its people in an attempt to "collectivize" the society and stamp out internal dissent. In Germany and Italy, powerful dictators emerged, preaching race hatred and vowing to expand their nation's borders. For millions of Americans, the scene was frighteningly familiar—a replay of events that had led Europe, and eventually the United States, into the bloodiest war of all time earlier in the century.

Hitler and Mussolini Adolf Hitler became the German chancellor in January 1933, a few months before FDR was sworn in as president. Born in Austria in 1889, Hitler had moved to Bavaria as a young man and fought in the German army during World War I. Wounded and jobless, he helped form the National Socialist (Nazi) Party, one of the many extremist groups that thrived in the economic chaos of war-battered Germany. In 1923, Hitler was arrested in Munich for staging an unsuccessful coup against the Weimar government. From his prison cell, he wrote *Mein Kampf* ("My Struggle"), a rambling account of his racial theories, plans for Germany, and hatred of Jews.

As the Weimar government collapsed in the Depression, the Nazis gained strength. Millions welcomed their promise to create jobs, restore German glory, and avenge the "humiliation" of Versailles. Nazi representation in the Reichstag (parliament) rose from 12 in 1928 to 230 by 1932. A year later, Hitler became chancellor of Germany. The results were alarming. Constitutional rights were suspended and competing political parties banned. Nazi supporters held mass book-burning rallies, drove Jews from universities, boycotted their businesses, and attacked them in the streets. "Hitler is a madman," President Roosevelt told a French diplomat.

Soviet Union
- "collectivize"
- suppress
Germany/Italy
- dictators
- no union
- conquest?
Hitler/Germany
- A B C
- Nazi
- Nationalist
- Socialist
Program - N.I.A.
voters choose
him?
Chancellor?
& New program