**CLASS SET**

**Totalitarianism** A dictatorial form of centralized government that regulates every aspect of state and private behavior.

[Britannica Concise Encyclopedia:](http://www.answers.com/library/Britannica%20Concise%20Encyclopedia-cid-120627) totalitarianism

Form of government that subordinates all aspects of its citizens' lives to the authority of the state, with a single charismatic leader as the ultimate authority. The term was coined in the early 1920s by [Benito Mussolini](http://www.answers.com/topic/benito-mussolini%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top), but totalitarianism has existed throughout history throughout the world (e.g., [Qin dynasty](http://www.answers.com/topic/qin-dynasty%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top) China). It is distinguished from [dictatorship](http://www.answers.com/topic/dictatorship%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top) and [authoritarianism](http://www.answers.com/topic/authoritarianism%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top) by its supplanting of all political institutions and all old legal and social traditions with new ones to meet the state's needs, which are usually highly focused. Large-scale, organized violence may be legitimized. The police operate without the constraint of laws and regulations.

[Philosophy Dictionary:](http://www.answers.com/library/Philosophy%20Dictionary-cid-120627) totalitarianism

The principle of government according to which all institutional and private arrangements are subject to control by the state. There are thus no autonomous associations, nor is there any principled or legally recognized private/public distinction. See [privacy (social)](http://www.answers.com/topic/privacy%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top).