

## Between the wars, 1918-1939

The Treaty of Versailles was between Germany and Allied countries that established Germany's role and punishment for their part in World War I. Germany was angry for being forced to accept the total blame for the war and lost land, Italy was angered by not getting as much land as they thought they deserved, Japan was insulted because the treaty would not accept their proposed "equality of races" belief. In short, the fighting stopped but the anger still existed.

The United States in the 1920's was a period where most Americans were optimistic (felt positive, good) about the country's future. Business was good in American factories and most people had money to spend on household conveniences and entertainment. Many Americans invested in the stock market and became wealthy. The 1920's were also a period of Prohibition (a time when alcohol was illegal) so speakeasies became popular. Famous gangsters made money selling illegal alcohol gained power.

But by the end of the 1920 everything changed. Millions of people lost everything when the Great Depression started in October of 1929. Banks failed, people were homeless, and families were torn apart.

The rest of the world also suffered from a worldwide depression and people in most countries did not see a good future for themselves and for their country. Because of this fear of the future, people were willing to listen and be convinced by radical (wanting change at any cost) groups or individuals calling for change. It also helped make it possible for governments to be "over-thrown" by groups or individuals who promised to create jobs for the people to end the depression, build their military to become a world power again, and promised a bright future for their country. People demanded change and these people promised to give them change by taking control of the government.

These new world leaders were dictators that controlled not only the government but also the people. They created their own "rules" and began taking land from smaller countries to get natural resources to help support their countries. Because the world had recently finished a destructive world war (World War I) and the world wide depression, most countries were not able to stop dictators from invading neighboring countries and taking control.

<b>Anti-Semitism</b>	
<b>Blitzkrieg</b>	
<b>Theatre of War</b>	
<b>Containment</b>	
<b>Fascism</b>	
<b>Appeasement</b>	
<b>Aryan Supremacy</b>	
<b>Ration</b>	
<b>Holocaust</b>	

# Causes of World War II

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- This means that the government of a country and its leader is weak and lacks support from the people or military of the country it serves. When people in the country no longer supports the government and its leaders, the people will challenge the government of their country by "overthrowing" (pushing them out of power) them and taking power of the country by force.

## What causes "political instability" ????

- High war debts owed by Germany
- High inflation
- High unemployment
- Worldwide Depression

## Why Germany hated the Treaty of Versailles

(This treaty was between only Germany and the Allies)

- Germany was forced to take total responsibility for causing WWI
  - Because the Weimar Government signed this agreement, the Germany people did not support them
- Germany had high war debts and was forced to repay Allied countries
  - About \$400 billion, but, there was never an amount given
  - German people felt this was unfair  
This helped create inflation (when cost to buy goods is high)

- High unemployment (people out of work)
  - Because Germany could not pay the money to France, France Entered Germany in a place called the Ruhr. This was where most of Germany's factories were and France took them over and deported (kicked out) about 150,000 German workers that no longer had jobs.
- Germany lost a lot of land
  - Some given to France, Poland, Belgium, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, and Russia
  - League of Nations took control of Germany's overseas colonies
  - New countries were created from some German land
- Germany's military was limited
  - Could have no more than 100,000 men
  - Could not have tanks
  - Not allowed to have an air force
  - Could only have six naval ships and zero submarines

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- \_\_\_\_\_ This is a political philosophy (your values and beliefs that you live by) that gives total power to a dictator and the peoples individual freedoms are denied (not allowed)
    - Adolph Hitler in Germany
    - Benito Mussolini in Italy
    - Hideki Tojo in Japan

These dictator's and their countries eventually led an alliance that became known as the Axis Powers

- **Why would people in a country support a dictator?**
  - **Because the government the country had was weak**
  - **Because they promised a better life for the people**
    - **Jobs**
    - **Military power**
    - **Economic growth**
  - **Pride of Nationalism (they believed their nationality was the best in the world and the people supported them)**
  - **Military power promised the people in the countries world superiority and economic relief**



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**Why did Germany allow a dictator to take control of the country?**

- **Germans were mad about the Versailles Treaty**
  - **Germany had to take total responsibility for starting the war**
  - **German people were out of work**
  - **Germany lost a lot of land**
  - **German people thought the amount of money they had to repay to the Allied countries was unfair**

- Germany was stripped of its army, navy, and air force
- The policy of "appeasement" led Hitler to become more greedy

### **Why did Italy allow a dictator to take control of the country?**

- Italy's natural resources were not enough to support the number of people the country had. This led to strikes and riots due to the people not having enough jobs. Mussolini promised to bring Italy back to days it had during the Roman Empire.
- Italy only joined the Allies in World War I because they (the Allies) promised to divide up the Central Powers land and Italy wanted to be in a position to get more land. Italy gained less land than they thought they deserved.
- Italy wanted to expand its empire and Italy looked to Africa to fulfill its ambitions for an empire. In 1935, Italian troops invaded Ethiopia, one of the few independent countries in Africa. The Italians used machine guns, tanks, and airplanes to overpower Ethiopia's poorly equipped army.
- The people in Italy were afraid Socialist government from Russia might control them if they remained weak

### **Why did Japan allow a dictator to take control of the country?**

- Japan's natural resources were not enough to support the number of people the country had. This led to Japan needing to expand its territory to get the natural resources it needed. Because of this, Japan invaded Manchuria.
- The invasion would also get the needed natural materials needed to build their military to defend themselves against any future threat from Russia
- Military officers started to hold political jobs and gained power
- Japan built up its defense under the control of military leaders
- Japan was angered by the failure of the Treaty of Versailles to include the "equality of all races".

### **Why did the other countries of the world allow these dictators to rise to power and to start invading other countries?**

- The League of Nations was weak and lacked the power to stop them from taking over other countries
- The world just finished the most destructive war in history and did not want to start fighting again. Countries adopted a policy of....

Who fought World War II

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Axis Powers fought against ...

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



And in 1941,

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Why did Stalin join the Allies?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 1st: appeasement (1938)

In September 1938 the British and French prime ministers met Adolph Hitler and surrendered to his demands. They agreed to divide up Czechoslovakia and allowed Hitler to annex the Sudetenland (part of Czechoslovakia). The reason Hitler was allowed to annex part of Czechoslovakia was to keep world peace.

## 2nd: Nazi-Soviet Pact..... A Shock to the System

- The Pact (agreement) was between Germany and Soviet Union
- The agreement promised that if each of the countries got into a war by invading another country, the other country would not get involved to fight against them
- Secret part of the agreement was that Germany and Soviet Union would invade Poland and divide it up between them.

On 23 August 1939, the world was shocked when, suddenly, Russia and Germany signed a Non-aggression Pact. People would have been even more shocked if they had known at the time that, in addition, the two countries had a secret agreement to invade and divide Poland between them.



Hitler signs pact with Stalin.  
Hitler wants Stalin to "feel safe" from a German invasion. Within two years Hitler invades Russia. This caused Russia to join the Allies against Germany and Hitler.



## Major Events of World War II

- August 23, 1939:
  - Germany and Soviet Union sign Nazi-Soviet Pact. Each country promised they would remain neutral in the war if either of them got involved in a war.
- September 1, 1939

# Germany invades Poland ....

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What test questions could you write from this worksheet?

Q. \_\_\_\_\_

A. \_\_\_\_\_

Or

Q. \_\_\_\_\_

A. \_\_\_\_\_

During the next 10 months, Germany continued to take back the land they felt was theirs. The land they lost in World War I and more....

## 1940

- Germany invades Denmark
- Soviet Union invades Finland
- Germany invades Norway
- Germany invades France and captures Paris
- Germany invades Luxembourg
- Germany invades Netherlands
- Germany begins bombing raids in London but does not take it even though Germany attacks Great Britain with massive air raids on major cities.
- German troops invade Romania
- The Axis Powers are born when Germany, Italy, and Japan sign a pact as partners in the war.

## 1941

- Germany invades Greece
- Germany invades Yugoslavia
- Germany does the unthinkable... June 22, 1941, Germany attacks the Soviet Union. Enraged by this, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin joins the Allies to help stop Hitler. The attack on the Soviet Union is called

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On 22nd June, 1941, the German Army invaded the Soviet Union. Stalin went on Soviet radio and gave instructions that when forced to withdraw, the Red Army should destroy anything that could be of use to the enemy.

The scorched earth policy created severe problems for the German war machine which was trying to keep her three million soldiers supplied with the necessary food and ammunition they would take from places they invaded.