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The Crisis Deepens: World War II

Europe in 1939, Eve of World War II



Retreat from Democracy: Dictatorial Regimes

↳ Totalitarianism

↳ The Birth of Fascism

- * Benito Mussolini (1883-1945)
 - Fascio di Combattimento (League of Combat), 1919
 - Support from middle class industrialists and large landowners
 - Mussolini appointed prime minister, October 29, 1922

Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini in Munich Germany ca June 1940



Hitler and Nazi Germany

↳ Adolf Hitler (1889-1945)

↳ Hitler's Rise Power, 1919-1933

- * Munich
 - German Workers' Party
 - National Socialist German Workers' Party, 1921
 - Sturmabteilung (SA), Storm Troops
 - Munich Beer Hall Putsch, November 1923
 - Mein Kampf (My Struggle)
 - Lebensraum

Hitler (Continued)

- * By 1932, Nazi party had 800,000 members
- * Great Depression and unemployment
- * Becomes chancellor, January 30, 1933
- * Enabling Act, March 23, 1933
- * President Paul von Hindenburg dies, August 2, 1934

The Nazi State, 1933-1939

- ❏ Hitler's goal
 - Mass demonstrations and spectacles to create collective fellowship
- ❏ Internal problems: personal and institutional conflict
- ❏ Economics
- ❏ Heinrich Himmler and the SS (Schutzstaffel)
- ❏ Impact on women
- ❏ Aryan racial state
 - Nuremberg racial laws, September 1935
 - Kristallnacht, November 9-10, 1938
 - Restrictions on Jews

Stalinist Era in the Soviet Union

- ❏ First Five Year Plan, 1928
 - To create an industrial country
 - Emphasized production of capital goods and armaments
- ❏ Rapid collectivization of agriculture
 - Famine of 1932-1933; 10 million peasants died
- ❏ Political control
 - Stalin dictatorship established, 1929
 - Political purge, 1936-1938; 8 million arrested
- ❏ Women and the family

Rise of Militarism in Japan

- ❏ Militant elements brought about Japanese militarism
- ❏ Disastrous effect of the Depression
- ❏ Government could not cope
- ❏ Growth of national extremists
- ❏ Assassinations
- ❏ "Asia is for Asians"
- ❏ Failed coup in 1936 by junior officers

The Path to War

- ❏ The Path to War in Europe
 - Hitler's view for civilization
 - Creation of a new air force and expansion of the army by conscription to 550,000, 1935
 - Repudiated of the Versailles Treaty
- ❏ Occupation of the demilitarized Rhineland, March 7, 1936
- ❏ Rome-Berlin Axis, October 1936
- ❏ Annexation of Austria, March 13, 1938
- ❏ Demand the cession of the Sudetenland, September 15, 1938
 - Munich Conference, September 29, 1938
 - German dismemberment of Czechoslovakia
- ❏ Britain and France react to demands for Danzig
- ❏ Nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union
- ❏ Invasion of Poland began September 1, 1939

The Path to War in Asia

- ❏ Seizure of Manchuria, September 1931
 - League of Nations condemns the move
 - Japan withdraws from the League of Nations
- ❏ A Monroe Doctrine for Asia
 - Japan had not planned war against China
 - Chiang Kai-shek refused to give in to the Japanese
 - Japan's real target was Soviet Siberia
 - Japan begins to cooperate with Nazi Germany
 - Warnings from the United States

World War II in Europe



World War II: Europe at War

- ❧ Germany invades Poland, September 1, 1939
 - September 28, 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union divide Poland
- ❧ Blitzkrieg against Denmark and Norway, April 9, 1940
- ❧ Attack on Netherlands, Belgium, and France, May 10, 1940
 - Surrender of France, June 22, 1940
- ❧ Battle of Britain, Fall, 1940
 - Retaliation for bombing Berlin
- ❧ Germany invaded the Soviet Union, June 22, 1941

World War II in Asia and the Pacific



Japan at War

- ❧ Attack on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines, December 7, 1941
 - Germany declared war in the U.S., December 11, 1941
- ❧ Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere
- ❧ Japanese hoped the United States would accept Japanese domination in the Pacific

Turning Point, 1942-1943

- ❧ Agreement to fight until unconditional surrender of the Axis
- ❧ German success in early 1942 in Africa and Soviet Union
 - Allies invade French North Africa, May 1943
- ❧ Battle of the Coral Sea, May 7-8, 1942
- ❧ Battle of Midway, June 4, 1942
- ❧ "Island hopping"
- ❧ Solomon Islands, November 1942

Explosion of the U.S.S. Shaw during attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941



Last Years of the War

- ❧ Invasion of Italy, September 1943
- ❧ D-Day invasion of France, June 6, 1944
- ❧ Soviet March westward
 - Battle of Kursk, July 5 - 12, 1943
 - Reoccupied Soviet Territory
 - Russians enter Berlin, April 1945
- ❧ Hitler's suicide, April 30, 1945
- ❧ Surrender of Germany, May 7, 1945

Last Years

- ☞ War in the Pacific
 - Advance was slow
 - Difficulty of invading the Japanese homeland
 - Hiroshima, August 6, 1945
 - Nagasaki, August 14, 1945
- ☞ Human losses in the war: 17 million military dead, 18 million civilians dead

The mushroom cloud from the Nagasaki atomic bombing, August 9, 1945



The New Order

- ☞ German racial considerations
 - Resettlement plans of the East
 - Slave labor
- ☞ “Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere”
- ☞ Japanese promised independent governments
- ☞ Resources exploited by the Japanese
- ☞ Power of military authorities in occupied territories
- ☞ Use of subject peoples and prisoners of war
- ☞ The Holocaust

The Home Front

- ☞ Mobilization of the People
 - Soviet Union
 - The United States
 - Germany
 - Japan

The Bombing of Cities

- ☞ Bombing of civilians as means to coerce governments
 - Lufwaffe raids on Britain
 - Raids on German cities
- ☞ Japanese cities bombed
 - Japan’s industries destroyed by the summer of 1945
 - People’s Volunteer Corps
 - Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August, 1945

Territorial Changes in Europe After World War II



Aftermath: The Cold War

- ❏ Conferences at Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam
- ❏ Declaration on Liberated Europe
- ❏ Conference at Yalta, February, 1945
- ❏ Conference at Potsdam, July, 1945

Discussion Questions

- ❏ How would you define a totalitarian state? What European states in the 1930s fit your definition?
- ❏ What led to the outbreak of World War II in Europe? Could the conflict have been avoided?
- ❏ Why did tensions between the United States and Japan increase in the 1930s?
- ❏ What role did civilians play in determining the outcome of World War II?
- ❏ Why did the Allies come into conflict with the Soviet Union after World War II?