Chapter 17

World War II: The Road to War (1931–1941)
Chapter 17: World War II: The Road to War

Section 1: The Rise of Dictators

Section 2: Europe Goes to War

Section 3: Japan Builds an Empire

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The purpose of the Land ordinance of 1785 was to avoid disputes about how lands in the West were divided and sold.
The Rise of Dictators

17-1

- How did Stalin change the government and the economy of the Soviet Union?
- What were the origins and goals of Italy’s fascist government?
- How did Hitler rise to power in Germany and Europe in the 1930s?
- What were the causes and results of the Spanish Civil War?
During the 1930s, totalitarian governments gained power in Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union. These governments exerted total control over a nation, using terror to suppress individual rights and silence all opposition.

Adolf Hitler in Germany and Benito Mussolini in Italy ruled their totalitarian states with a philosophy called fascism. Fascism emphasizes the importance of the nation or an ethnic group and the supreme authority of a leader.
Stalin’s Economic Plans

- Stalin’s state takeover of farmland resulted in a dramatic fall in agricultural production as well as mass starvation.
- Stalin poured money and labor into industrialization rather than basic necessities such as housing and clothing.
- Due to Stalin’s policies, the Soviet Union soon became a modern industrial power, although one with a low standard of living.
- Lenin died, Stalin, a communist, was the leader of the Soviet Union during WWII.
- In order to modernize agriculture, Stalin combined small family farms into collective farms run by the state.
Stalin’s Reign of Terror

- To eliminate opposition, Stalin began a series of purges, the removal of enemies and undesirable individuals from positions of power.
- Stalin’s purges extended to all levels of society. Millions were either executed or sent to forced labor camps.
- Nearly all of those purged by Stalin were innocent. However, these purges successfully eliminated all threats to Stalin’s power.
- Stalin dominated the Soviet Union using tactics of terror & purges. He had millions of his own people murdered.
• Benito Mussolini gained power in Italy both by advocating the popular idea of Italian conquest in East Africa and by terrorizing those who opposed him.
• Once appointed prime minister by the king, Mussolini, calling himself Il Duce, suspended elections, outlawed other political parties, and established a dictatorship.
• Mussolini’s rule improved the ailing Italian economy. Under Mussolini, the Italian army successfully conquered the African nation of Ethiopia in May 1936.
• **Mussolini, Fascist party leader, became dictator of Italy.**
• **He improved economy and took over Ethiopia for Italy.**
Hitler’s Rise to Power 1919–1934

- **Hitler’s Background:** Adolf Hitler, an Austrian painter, hated the way the Versailles Treaty humiliated Germany and stripped it of its wealth and land.
- **Hitler leader of Nazi Party in GR.**
- **Nazism an extreme form of Fascism**
- **The Nazi Party:** Hitler joined and soon led the Nazi Party in Germany. Nazism, the philosophies and policies of this party, was an extreme form of fascism shaped by Hitler’s fanatical ideas about German nationalism and racial superiority.
- **Mein Kampf:** While imprisoned for trying to take over the government in November 1923, Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf* (“My Struggle”). In this book, he proposed that Germany defy the Versailles Treaty by rearming and reclaiming lost land. He also blamed minority groups, especially Jews, for Germany’s weaknesses.
- **Hitler wrote Mein Kampf. In book he said GR needed more Lebensraum “living space”, and he wanted to take over E. EUR & USSR(}
Hitler Becomes Chancellor: Between 1930 and 1934, the Nazi Party gained a majority in the *Reichstag*, the lower house of the German parliament. Hitler became first chancellor and then president of Germany. He moved to suppressed many German freedoms and gave himself the title *Der Führer*, or “the leader.”

To boost the German economy and to prepare for territorial expansion, the Nazi Party began spending money on rearming Germany.

On March 7, 1936, German troops entered the Rhineland, a region in western Germany that the Versailles Treaty explicitly banned them from occupying. However, neither Britain nor France took any action. League of Nations did nothing.
Germany Rearms and Expands

Also in 1936, Hitler and Mussolini signed an agreement, beginning an alliance between the two nations. Germany, Italy, and later Japan, became known as the Axis Powers.

In March 1938, Germany took over Austria. Several months later, Hitler demanded the Sudetenland, a region of Czechoslovakia. Following the policy of practicing *appeasement*, or giving into a competitor’s demands in order to keep the peace, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain agreed to allow Hitler to occupy the Sudetenland.

Hitler hated the Versailles treaty and disobeyed it (League of Nations did nothing)

- Rearmed the Rhineland
- Joined Austria to GR
- Asked for Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia at the Munich Conference. English Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, practicing appeasement, allowed Hitler to take it.
- In Sept. 1940 Japan joined Axis powers (Germany, Italy)
The Spanish Civil War

In 1936, military rebels in Spain led by General Francisco Franco attempted to take over the Spanish government. These rebels became known as the Nationalists.

In 1936, Francisco Franco attempted to take over the govt. of Spain.

The resulting struggle between the ruling Republicans and the rebelling Nationalists led Spain into a civil war.

Started a Civil War. Italy and GR supported Franco. USSR supported govt. of Spain.
The Spanish Civil War

- Germany and Italy supported the Nationalists, while the Soviet Union supported the Republicans.
- In March 1939, the Nationalist army took over the Spanish capital of Madrid and ended the civil war, making Franco the ruler of Spain.
- **Francisco Franco won & became the Spanish Military Dictator.**
Which of the following describes one way in which the policies of Hitler and Mussolini were similar?

(A) Both were allies of Britain and France.
(B) Both believed in freedom of speech.
(C) Both wanted to expand their nations’ territory.
(D) Both thought the treaty of Versailles humiliated Germany.

Which of these best describes appeasement?

(A) Rebelling against a government
(B) Industrializing a rural economy
(C) Giving into a competitor’s demands in order to avoid war
(D) Rearming a nation in anticipation of expansion

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William Clark, Meriwether Lewis, and Sacajawea are most associated with exploring the Louisiana Territory after the Louisiana Purchase.
How did the German invasion of Poland lead to war with Britain and France?
What wartime victories and setbacks did Germany experience in western Europe?
Why was the Battle of Britain an important victory for Britain?
Setting the Scene

- Not everyone was happy with Chamberlain’s deal with Germany at the Munich Conference in 1938.
- Winston Churchill thought it was a fatal mistake to give up part of Czech.
- Churchill said, “Britain and France had to choose between war and dishonor. They chose dishonor. They will have war.”
- Churchill and Parliament urged Chamberlain to reconsider Britain’s policy toward Germany.
- Within 6 months of annexing the Sudetenland, Hitler occupied the western half of Czech and divided the rest among his allies.
- Italian troops will make a move into Albania.
After Hitler invaded other parts of Czechoslovakia, Britain and France ended their policy of appeasement. They warned Hitler that an invasion of Poland would mean war.

6 months after Hitler took the Sudetenland he took rest of Czech.

Hitler, however, had stopped believing Britain and France. On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France declared war on Germany two days later.

Germany’s firepower was superior to that of France, Britain and Poland combined.

Germany quickly overran Poland using a new military tactic called blitzkrieg, or “lightening war.” Blitzkrieg tactics involved a fast, concentrated attack that took the enemy by surprise.

Planes would move in first followed by tanks and mobile artillery punched through enemy lines.

Germany imposed by German laws and imprisoned and murdered Jewish citizens of Poland.
Nonaggression Pact

To avoid war on two fronts, Germany signed a nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union. In a secret addition to this pact, the two nations agreed to divide between them the independent states of Eastern Europe.

In 1939, Hitler (Fascist) signed Non-aggression pact w/ Stalin (Communist) that promised they wouldn’t make war on each other and secretly said they would attack Poland and divide it b/t them.
Early Stages of War in the West

- **“Phony War” and the Maginot Line:** After Poland fell, the war entered a quiet period. The American press called this lack of combat a “phony war.” France prepared a massive string of fortifications, known as the Maginot Line, along its border with Germany.

- **Germany Attacks:** In April and May 1940, Germany attacked and quickly conquered Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg.

- **Dunkirk:** When Germany advanced on France, British and French forces retreated to the French coastal city of Dunkirk. From there, hundreds of thousands of soldiers were ferried to Great Britain in one of the greatest rescues in the history of warfare.
The Fall of France

On June 22, 1940, France officially surrendered to Germany. In accordance with the surrender terms, Germany occupied most of France, while the French government controlled an area known as Vichy France in the south. Vichy France adopted a policy of collaboration, or close cooperation, with Germany.

A French Resistance movement, supported by the Free French government in exile in Britain, sought to undermine German occupation.

By the summer of 1940, Hitler had conquered most of Western Europe and seemed on the verge of conquering the Allies, the group of countries that opposed the Axis Powers. Britain alone stood against the Axis.
*After Hitler had invaded Czech & made a pact w/ Stalin, he invaded Poland*

- **Aug. 1939** – Non-aggression Pact
- **Sept. 1, 1939** – Germany invades Poland
- **Sept. 3, 1939** – Great Britain and France declare war on Germany.
- **Oct. 1939** – Poland captured by Germany. Hitler used Blitzkrieg “lightening War”
- **Oct –April 9, 1940** – “phony war”, no action
• April 9, 1940 – Phony War over. Denmark, Norway, Neth., Belg., & Lux. fall to Germany. (Hitler had gained control of most of W. Europe by 1940)

• May – June 1940 – Dunkirk: greatest rescue in warfare history
  340,000 Allied troops rescued.

• June 22, 1940 – France falls to Germany; (Resistance or Free France was a French Underground movement to oppose the Germans. It was led by Charles de Gaulle who escaped to London, England)

• August 1940-1941-- Battle of Britain
The Battle of Britain

Relentless Attack

• Before attempting to invade Great Britain, Germany wanted to establish superiority in the air.
• In August 1940, Germany launched an air assault on Britain, called the Battle of Britain, which continued well into September.
• At first, Germany only attacked British military sites. However, it later began bombing London and other cities to decrease British morale.
• Prime Minister Winston Churchill inspired the British people to resist the German Invasion. He was the Prime Minister during WWII.

Courageous Defense

• Although greatly outnumbered, Britain’s Royal Air Force (RAF) worked to shoot down German bombers.
• Despite massive losses, the British people kept their will to fight.
• By February 1940, British scientists cracked the German secret communication code. This enabled Britain to get a general idea of Hitler’s battle plans.
• Great Britain was able to hold out against the German attack at the Battle. They never surrendered. Hitler never was able to conquer Britain.
Between 1939 and 1941, Germany invaded and conquered much of Europe.
Europe Goes to War—Assessment

How did Britain and France react to Hitler’s invasion of Poland?
(A) They declared war on Germany.
(B) They continued their policy of appeasement.
(C) They signed a nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union.
(D) They surrendered to Germany.

Why was the Battle of Britain considered a victory for Great Britain?
(A) It gave Britain control of Denmark and Norway.
(B) It resulted in very little damage to London.
(C) It failed to decrease British morale.
(D) It helped the French Resistance reconquer France.

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• The Missouri Compromise of 1820 maintained a balance b/t slave and free states.
Japan Builds an Empire

What were the causes and effects of Japan’s growing military power?

Why was the Manchurian Incident a turning point for Japan’s civilian government?

What was the initial outcome of Japan’s war against China?

Why did Japan look beyond China for future expansion?
Setting the Scene

• U.S. forced Japan to open its markets to foreigners when Matthew Perry sailed into Tokyo Bay in 1853.
• This event pushed Japan to strengthen its military and modernize its economy. Needed to be able to defend itself.
• Developed a constitutional government with the Emperor as a respected figure and divine leader.
• Wars with China (1894-95) and Russia (1904-05) expanded its sphere of influence in East Asia.
• Had taken control of Korea and gained considerable influence over the Chinese province of Manchuria.
• Became one of the most powerful nations after WWI.
Growing Military Power

- WWI-Japan had joined the Allies. Not a major military influence but able to conquer several German possessions in Asia and won access to abandoned European markets. Economy prospered.
- After WWI, political reforms resulted in a two-party parliamentary system. More people could now vote.
- Helped found the League of Nations and signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact in 1928 to keep the peace.
Growing Military Power

Democracy in Crisis
- After World War I, Japan had established a parliamentary government and granted many citizens the right to vote.
- (1) Series of recessions. (2) Great Depression. (3) High tariffs on Japanese goods in other countries.
- When economic conditions worsened during the 1930s, many Japanese became dissatisfied with multiparty democratic government.
- **Great Depression caused Japan’s people to lose faith in civilian democratic govt.**

Rise of Nationalism
- Several radical groups formed in response to the government’s perceived weaknesses.
- Radicals demanded an end to Western-style institutions and a return to traditional ways.
- These radicals assassinated several business and political leaders, hoping to force the military to take over the government.
- **Military began to grow in strength and influence**
By 1930, Japan lacked the land and raw materials to care for its growing population. Many Japanese saw the acquisition of neighboring Manchuria as a solution to these problems.

In September 1931, a Japanese army stationed in Manchuria captured several cities. By February 1932, the army had seized all of Manchuria. This seizure came to be known as the Manchurian Incident.

1932 Japanese Military took over Manchuria, China for land & raw materials. This increased control of Japanese Army over the civilian govt.

Japan set up Manchuria as a puppet state, or a supposedly independent country under the control of a powerful neighbor.

After the Manchurian Incident, the military took a much stronger hand in governing Japan, especially in the area of foreign policy.
• In July 1937, Japan resumed its invasion of China. Turned a minor clash at the Marco Polo Bridge outside of Beijing into a full-scale war.

• Although China had more manpower than Japan, Japan’s superior weapons allowed it to win control of major Chinese cities. 1937 Japan resumed invasion of China

• “Raping of Nanjing”—Japanese soldiers brutalized or killed at least 100,000 civilians, including women and children.
War Against China

- The United States and other nations condemned Japan’s actions. The United States remained neutral, but the Soviet Union sent war equipment and military advisors to China. Later, Britain sent supplies to the Chinese over the Burma Road, a highway linking Burma to China.

- USSR & Britain tried to help by sending China supplies over the Burma Road. U.S remained neutral.

- Battling political groups in China put aside their differences to fight the Japanese. While Japanese troops controlled the cities, Chinese guerrillas dominated the countryside. The war had reached a stalemate by 1939.

- When Japan attacked China was in the midst of a Civil War b/t Jiang Jieshi (Nationalist) & Mao Zedong (communist). The two united to fight the common threat of Japan.
Greater East Asia

- Co-Prosperity Sphere
- In 1940, Japan announced a Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, to be led by the Japanese, extending from Manchuria to the Dutch East Indies.
- 1940 Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere created. Motive: Japan wanted the regions natural resources for its war against China.
- Japan declared that this move would liberate Asia from European colonization. However, the real reason was Japan’s additional need for natural resources.
Alliances and Further Expansion

• In September 1940, Japan allied itself with Germany and Italy through the Tripartite Pact.

• Japan began to expand into French Indonesia and the oil-rich Dutch East Indies. Netherlands had already been taken over by Germany.

• In April 1941, Japan signed a neutrality pact with the Soviet Union.

• WWII distracted Europe from its colonies in Asia, Japan took advantage.
Japan’s gradual expansion in Asia led to war with China in 1937.
Why did the Japanese military take over Manchuria in 1931?
(A) Because Germany and Italy requested that they do so
(B) To gain land and raw materials for Japan
(C) To expand the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere
(D) Because Chinese manpower outnumbered the Japanese forces

What was the American response to Japanese expansion?
(A) America condemned Japan but remained neutral.
(B) America sent supplies to Japan over the Burma Road.
(C) America encouraged Japan to gain more territory.
(D) America supported Japan’s democratic government.
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The MAIN purpose of the Monroe Doctrine was to prevent further European influence in the Western Hemisphere.
From Isolationism to War

Why did the United States choose neutrality in the 1930s?

How did American involvement in the European conflict grow from 1939 to 1941?

Why did Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor lead the United States to declare war?
During the 1930’s, the U.S. largely turned away from international affairs. The government focused its energies on solving domestic problems brought on by the Great Depression. Even with threats of world domination from Germany, Italy and Japan, the U.S. clung to isolationism. The horrors of WWI still haunted many Americans who refused to be dragged into another foreign conflict. FDR assured Americans he felt the same way…

“I have seen war. I have seen war on land and sea. I have seen blood running from the wounded. I have seen men coughing out their gassed lungs. I have seen the dead in the mud. I have seen cities destroyed. I have seen two hundred limping, exhausted men come out of line-the survivors of a regiment of one thousand that went forward forty-eight hours before. I have seen children starving. I have seen the agony of mothers and wives. I hate war.” -August 1936
Rather than addressing foreign concerns, President Roosevelt focused on domestic issues surrounding the Great Depression during the 1930s.

During the 1930s U.S focused on domestic affairs brought about by the Great Depression

Congress further prevented international involvement by passing a series of Neutrality Acts.

- The first Neutrality Act prevented the United States from providing weapons to nations at war.
- The second act banned loans to nations at war.
- The third act permitted trade of nonmilitary goods with fighting nations, as long as those nations paid cash and transported the cargo themselves. This policy became known as cash and carry.

The Neutrality Acts prevented the United States from selling arms even to those nations that were trying to defend themselves from aggression.
The U.S Chooses Neutrality

- The Neutrality Acts prevented the United States from selling arms even to those nations that were trying to defend themselves from aggression.
- **Neutrality Acts (Cash & Carry) designed to keep U.S out of war. U.S could only sell non military if the country could pay cash and transport goods.**
American Involvement Grows

• As the 1930’s wore on, the American economy recovered somewhat. All attention was no longer on the economy.
• As Germany and Japan stepped up their aggression, America’s views on isolationism softened.
• American opinion shifted even more when Germany invaded Poland in 1939.
• Many did believe we shared the same interest as the British and given the constraints of neutrality, FDR began to look for ways to send more aid to the allies.
American Involvement Grows

Debating the American Role

- After the German invasion of Poland, many Americans began to feel that the United States shared the Allies’ interests.
- Roosevelt asked Congress to revise the Neutrality Acts to make them more flexible.
- When France fell to Germany in June 1940, Hitler set his sights on Britain. Many Americans supported the idea of “all aid short of war.” Trade for 50 old destroyers in exchange for land to build bases on British territory was seen as a dangerous move towards war.
- Isolationists formed the America First Committee to protest increasing American aid to Britain.
- **American policy during early war yrs. was to remain neutral while making war supplies available to Britain.**
- **American First Committee wanted to block aid to Britain (Charles Lindbergh a member)**
American Involvement Grows

The Lend-Lease Act

• In December 1940, Britain confessed its inability to pay cash for supplies.

• In response, Roosevelt announced a new plan to provide war supplies to Britain without any payment in return. “If your neighbor’s house is on fire, you don’t sell him a hose. You lend it to him and take it back after the fire is out.”

• Despite protest from the America First Committee, Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act in March 1941. This act authorized the President to aid any nation whose defense he believed was vital to American security.

• Later Lend Lease Act passed which allowed U.S. to lend or lease war goods to any country vital to U.S defense & security.
Final Months of Peace

• In July 1940, Roosevelt began limiting what Japan could buy from the United States. He hoped to use the threat of further trade restriction to top Japan’s expansion.

• Japan, Italy, & Germany all tried to solve their nation’s problems though conquest.

• When Japan took French Indochina, FDR froze Japanese financial assets in the US.

• General Tojo Hideki, a militant army officer who supported war against the United States, became prime minister of Japan in October 1941. The militant Japanese General Tojo Hideki became Prime Minister in Oct. 1941.

• Because they had cracked a top-secret Japanese code, American military leaders knew by November 27 to expect a Japanese attack in the Pacific. However, they did not know where.
The Attack

- On the morning of December 7, 1941, Japanese warplanes attacked the American naval base at Pearl Harbor on the Hawaiian island of Oahu.
- In less than two hours, thousands of Americans were killed and wounded, and hundreds of American ships and planes were destroyed.
- Japan didn’t like U.S involvement so they attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.
- Germany & Italy dec. war on U.S after we dec. war on Japan.
- “A date which will live in infamy”, by FDR
Japan Attacks Pearl Harbor

• Reasons for Japanese Attack
  – U.S didn’t like Japan attacking European owned colonies in the Pacific for war resources.
    • Wanted oil from Dutch East Indies
    • Conquered French Indochina
  – U.S tried to stop Japan from expanding in the Pacific by:
    • U.S would no longer sell oil to Japan
    • FDR froze Japanese financial assets in U.S
The attack on Pearl Harbor stunned Americans. Roosevelt declared December 7, 1941 as “a date which will live in infamy.”

On December 8, Congress passed a war resolution, and Roosevelt signed a declaration of war on Japan.

On December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. America was once again involved in a world war.
Which of the following did the Lend-Lease Act provide?
(A) Trade in nonmilitary goods to fighting nations
(B) An end to loans to nations at war
(C) Aid to nations deemed vital to American security
(D) Sale of weapons to nations at war

What did the America First Committee advocate?
(A) More American aid to Britain
(B) Less American aid to Britain
(C) More American spending on the military
(D) Less American spending on the military

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From Isolationism to War—Assessment

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