

Ch 16 World War Looms

Sec 1 Dictators Threaten World Peace

Failures of WWI Peace Settlement

1. Germany and Russia were angered by territorial loss
2. Treaty of Versailles did nothing to help the war-torn nations of Europe rebuild
3. New democracies couldn't resolve all of the problems and collapsed, opening the door for dictators

Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union

1. Russia became a communist state, the Soviet Union, in 1922 under Lenin
2. Lenin died in 1924 and Stalin took over
3. Stalin had two goals: Reconstruct the Soviet Unions agricultural and industrial bases
 - a. Agriculture – combined all private farms into large state-owned farms
 - b. Industrial – instituted 3 “five-year plans” to build massive state-owned factories, steel mills, and power plants
 - c. By 1939, Soviet Union was the world's 3rd largest industrial power
4. Soviet Union became a police state (no one was safe from the prying eyes and ears of gov't spies and secret police)

5. Stalin established a totalitarian government (individuals have no rights and gov't suppresses all opposition)
6. Stalin was responsible for the death of 8-13 million people (Great Purge)

The Rise of Fascism in Italy

1. Benito Mussolini – established the Fascist party in 1921, in 1922 he and his followers marched on Rome forcing the king to allow Mussolini to establish a new gov't
2. Fascism – new political movement, consisted of a strong, centralized gov't headed by a powerful dictator
 - a. An outgrowth of nationalism
3. Gradually extended Fascist control by crushing all of his opposition and creating a totalitarian state

Nazis Take Over Germany

1. Adolf Hitler – a jobless soldier at the end of WWI who worked his way to the top of the Nazi party
2. Nazism – political philosophy based on extreme nationalism, racism, and militaristic expansionism
3. *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) – book written by Hitler outlining his political philosophy
 - a. Unite all German-speaking people in a great German empire

- b. “Aryans” – blue-eyed, blond haired Germans were the master race and destined to rule the world
 - c. Lebensraum (living space) – “secure for the German people the land and soil to which they are entitled on this earth”
4. Great Depression helped Nazis come to power
 5. In 1933, Hitler was appointed Chancellor (prime minister)
 6. Dismantled Germany’s democratic government and established the Third Reich (Third German Empire)

Militarists Gain Control in Japan

1. Nationalism fueled the militaristic movement in Japan
2. Shared Hitler’s belief in the need for more “living space”
3. Launched a surprise invasion of Manchuria in 1931
4. League of Nations condemned Japan’s actions so Japan quit the League

Aggression in Europe

1. 1933 – Hitler withdraws Germany from the League
2. 1935 – Hitler begins a military buildup, a direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles
3. 1936 – Hitler sends troops into the Rhineland, a demilitarized zone
4. June 1936 – Italy invades and conquers Ethiopia

5. League of Nations does nothing

Clinging to Isolationism

1. Documents of large profits made by U.S. banks and manufacturers during WWI gave rise to strong anti-war feelings
2. Neutrality Acts – passed by Congress in 1935 and 1936
 - a. First two acts outlawed arms sales or loans to nations at war
 - b. Extended the ban on arms sales and loans to nations undergoing civil war (Spain)
3. Spanish Civil War – Fascist General Francisco Franco was vying for control of Spain
 - a. Franco's forces are supported by Mussolini and Hitler
 - b. Western democracies sent only food and clothing
 - c. Resistance to Franco collapses in 1939
4. 1937 – Japan launched a new attack against China, Roosevelt breaks the Neutrality Acts and provides aid to China

Sec 2 War in Europe

Union with Austria

1. March 12, 1938, German troops march unopposed into Austria

2. Austrian Chancellor resigns, Germany and Austria unite

Sudetenland – region of Czechoslovakia inhabited by 3 million German-speaking people

1. Hitler began making up stories of Czech atrocities to Germans living in the Sudetenland
2. Munich Pact – Sept. 30, 1938, turned the Sudetenland over to Germany without a shot being fired
 - a. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and the French premier wanted to avoid war at all costs
 - b. Hitler promised this would be his last territorial demand
3. Appeasement – giving up principles to pacify an aggressor

German Offensive Begins

1. March 15, 1939 – Hitler invades the rest of Czechoslovakia
2. Nonaggression Pact – Aug 23, 1939, Germany and Soviet Union agreed not to fight each other
 - a. Eliminated the threat of a two front war
3. Sept 1, 1939 – Hitler invades Poland
 - a. Blitzkrieg (lightning war) – sudden, massive attack with combined air and ground forces, intended to achieve a quick victory

4. Sept. 3, 1939 - Britain and France declare war on Germany
5. Soviet Union takes back territories it had lost after WWI: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania
 - a. Stalin then invades Finland, defeating the Finnish army in 3 months
6. April 9, 1940, Hitler launches a surprise invasion of Denmark and Norway and then into the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg

Fall of France

1. France had built massive fortifications along the Maginot Line, where France border Germany
2. Hitler sends his troops through Belgium and the Ardennes, which was thought to be impassable
3. Allied forces were cutoff and a makeshift fleet had to ferry 330,000 British troops across the English Channel
4. Italy joins the war on the side of Germany and invades the Southern part of France
5. June 21, 1940, France surrenders to Germany

Battle of Britain – Summer of 1940

1. Luftwaffe – German air force, pounded London for two straight months
2. RAF (British Royal Air Force) – utilized radar for the first time in war and fought off the Luftwaffe and the proposed German invasion

Sec 3 The Holocaust

Holocaust – systematic murder of 11 million people across Europe, more than ½ were Jews

1. April 4, 1933 – Hitler orders all “non-Aryans” to be removed from gov’t jobs
2. Hitler blamed the Jews for Germany’s failure in WWI and for its economic problems following the war
3. Nuremberg Laws – stripped Jews of their civil rights and property if they tried to leave Germany
4. Jews over the age of 6 were required to wear a bright yellow Star of David on their clothing
5. Kristallnacht (Crystal Night) – “night of broken glass”, gangs of Nazis attacked Jewish homes, business, and synagogues across Germany
6. Jews fled to France, Britain, and the U.S., but the fear of fueling anti-Semitism caused nations to place limits on the amount of Jews entering

The Final Solution

1. Healthy Jews were sent to labor camps to perform slave labor
2. Anyone who couldn’t work was sent to extermination camps
 - a. Genocide – deliberate and systematic killing of an entire people

- b. Gypsies, Freemasons, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, mentally retarded, the insane, the disabled, and the incurably ill
 - c. Poles, Ukrainians, and Russians were also included as the Germans moved eastward
3. All done to preserve the superiority of the "master race"
 4. Ghettos – Jewish sections in Polish cities where Jews were left to starve and die from disease
 5. Concentration Camps – prison camps operated by Nazis where Jews and others were starved while doing slave labor or were murdered

Extermination

1. Nazis built six death camps in Poland, each with huge gas chambers that could kill 6,000 people/day
 - a. Auschwitz – largest death camp
2. Prisoners were also shot, hanged, injected with poison, and the subject of medical experiments
3. 6 million Jews died in these death camps

Sec 4 America Moves Toward War

Moving Cautiously Away from Neutrality

1. "Cash and Carry" – established by the Neutrality Act of 1939, allowed U.S. to supply France and Britain with military goods as long as they paid cash and transported them themselves

2. Axis Powers – Germany, Italy, and Japan
 - a. Tripartite Pact – mutual defense pact signed by the Axis powers, designed to keep the U.S. out of war
3. U.S. military had grown weak after years of isolation
 - a. 18 countries had larger armies
 - b. Navy could barely protect the Panama Canal
 - c. Italy's air force had more fire power
4. Selective Training and Service Act – established the nation's first peacetime military draft

Election of 1940

1. Roosevelt (Dem) vs. Wendell Willkie (Rep)
2. Very little difference between the candidates views, so voters chose the one they knew best
3. Roosevelt received 55% of vote

Lend-lease Act – 1941, president would lend or lease arms and other supplies to “any country whose defense was vital to the U.S.”

1. Goods were sent to Britain and the Soviet Union
 - a. June 22, 1941 – Hitler breaks his treaty with the Soviet Union and invades
2. Wolf Packs – German U-boats deployed by Hitler to prevent delivery of lend-lease shipments

Planning for War

1. Congress narrowly passes a bill to extend the draft for another 18 months in Aug 1941
2. Atlantic Charter – Aug 1941, put together during a secret meeting of Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill
 - a. Spelled out the causes for which WWII would be fought for
 - i. Seek no territorial expansion
 - ii. Pursue no territorial changes w/o consent of inhabitants
 - iii. Respect the right of people to choose their own gov't
 - iv. Promote free trade among nations
 - v. Encourage international cooperation to improve peoples' lives
 - vi. Build a secure peace based on freedom from want and fear
 - vii. Work for disarmament of aggressors
 - viii. Establish a “permanent system of general security”
3. Allies – group of nations who opposed the axis powers, Big Three – Britain, U.S., and Soviet Union
4. German U-boats attack and sink U.S. destroyers and merchant vessels leading to the loss of American lives in Sept. 1941

Japan's Ambitions

1. Japanese expansionists had long dreamed of creating a colonial empire that would stretch from Manchuria and China south to Thailand and Indonesia
 - a. France, Britain, and the U.S. all had possessions in this area
 - b. July 1941 - Japan invaded French Indochina and the U.S. responded with an embargo of Japan
 - c. Because of embargo Japan had no access to oil, allowing its enemies to defeat them w/o striking a blow
2. Hideki Tojo – militant Japanese general who became Japan’s prime minister in Oct 1941
3. U.S. intercepts a Japanese message on Dec 6, 1941, instructing Japanese officials to reject all American peace proposals

Attack on Pearl Harbor – Dec 7, 1941

1. 180 Japanese warplanes dropped bombs on the largest U.S. naval base in the Pacific nearly undisturbed
2. Crippled the entire U.S. Pacific fleet while only losing 29 planes
3. 18 U.S. ships had been sunk or badly damaged, 350 planes had been destroyed, and 2,400 people were killed
4. Dec 8, 1941 U.S. declares war on Japan
5. Dec 11 – Germany and Italy declare war on the U.S.

