

AP European History
Unit 9 – The Great Depression, Dictatorships, and The Second World War
The Great Depression

- Economically, the 1920s had been a decade of insecurity, with a short lived upswing, followed by collapse in finance and production.
- The Great Depression began in 1929 had high unemployment, low production, financial instability, and shrinking trade.
- European voters looked for new ways to escape the depression.
- Results:
 - Establishment of the Nazi dictatorship in Germany, governments became directly involved in economic decisions alongside business and labor
 - Toward the Great Depression:
 - There were three factors that brought about the severity and extended length of the Great Depression.
 - 1. Financial crisis stemmed from the war and peace settlement.
 - 2. Production and distribution of goods in world market.
 - 3. Lack of economic leadership and responsibility.
 - Financial Tailspin:
 - Inflated currencies.
 - Demand for consumer goods driving up prices
 - Refusal to run budget deficits all contributed to the start of the Great Depression.
 - Reparations and War Debt:
 - Everyone borrowed from one another and expecting to pay each other back using money collected from Germany.
 - Most money eventually went back to the US.
 - Tariffs to gain money prohibited and discouraged trade causing unemployment.
 - American Investments:
 - 1928 America made loans to Europe, which in turn invested into the New York stock market.
 - 1929 October stock market crashed.
 - Huge amounts of money were lost, and customers could not repay the banks.
 - End of Reparations:
 - Kreditanstalt a major bank in Vienna collapsed.
 - It was the primary bank for central and Eastern Europe.
 - Young Plan suspends German payment for a year.
 - France still counting on Germany money and weakens the French economy.
 - Lausanne Conference in 1932 ends reparation payments.
 - Problems in Agricultural Commodities:
 - Demands for European goods decreased, idle factories and few jobs exist.
 - Better farming methods and extensive transport facilities increased supply of grain causing wheat prices to fall.
 - Lower income for European farmers.
 - However, higher industrial wages raised the cost of goods used by farmers and peasants and they could not afford to purchase these products.
 - Farmers could not pay mortgages.
 - Excess of wheat, sugar, coffee, rubber, wool and lard were produced.
 - Underdeveloped countries such as Asia, Africa, and Latin America who produced the excess could no longer afford to buy finished goods from Industrial Europe.
 - Depression and Government Policy:
 - All people feared their own economic security and lifestyle would suffer.
 - The Keynesian theory of governments spending the economy out of the depression did not exist until 1936.
 - Instead governments followed the belief of cutting government spending to prevent inflation.
 - From the 1930s onward government involvement increased rapidly.
 - Political pressures caused the government to interfere in the economy.
- Confronting the Great Depression in the Democracies:
 - Great Britain.

- Ramsay MacDonald headed the minority Labor government, believed budget should be slashed, government salaries reduced unemployment benefits cut.
- National Government took 3 decisive steps to attack depression.
 1. Balance budget, raised taxes, cut insurance benefits to the unemployment and elderly, lowered government salaries.
 2. Stopped the use of the gold standard.
 3. Import Duties Bill - 10% tax on all imports except those from the empire.
- As a result Great Britain avoids the banking crisis that hit other countries.
- Industrial production expanded.
- Government also encourages lower interest rates which led to a boom in housing.
- France: The Popular Front.
 - Wages were lowered, government raised tariffs to protect French goods and agriculture.
 - Right Wing – some wanted monarchy others favored military rule.
 - Popular Front 1935 – Purpose to preserve the Republic and press for social reform.
 - In 1936 Popular Front a majority in the chamber of deputies
 - Blums Government- Popular Front takes office, strikes spread.
 - He acts quickly and brings together representative labor and management.
 - Wages raised 7-15 percent, employers required to recognize unions and bargain collectively with them.
 - Two week vacations, 40 hour work week, raised salaries of civil servants and instituted public works.
 - Government loans to small industry.
 - Had to devalue French currency twice causing friction between business and banks, he resigns in 1937.
 - Production does not begin to reach above 1929 level until 1939.
- Germany: The Nazi seizure of Power.
 - National Socialist (Nazi) – Financial crisis, economic stress, social anxiety, and depression led to the Nazi gaining political power in Germany.
 - Depression and how to deal with it were a major contention for leaders.
 - Social Democrats refused to reduce social and unemployment insurance, and conservatives insisted on a balance budget.
 - To resolve the deadlock President Von Hindenburg appointed Heinrich Brüning as Chancellor.
 - Brüning using emergency power through presidential decrees authorized by Article 48 of the constitution, as a result the Weimar government transformed into an authoritarian regime.
 - Unemployment and economic downturn and parliamentary deadlock worked to the advantage of the extreme political parties.
 - By 1930 Nazis held 107 seats out of 184.
 - Nazis SA storm troopers freely and viciously attacked communist and socialist democrats.
 - Hitler comes to Power:
 - January 30, 1933 Adolf Hitler becomes the chancellor of Germany.
 - Hitler had come into office by legal means.
 - Hindenburg appointed Hitler as a means to control the Nazi party.
 - Hitler was supported by farmers, war veterans, and the young.
 - Hitler promised security against communist and from the socialist government.
 - Hitler's Consolidation of Power:
 - Hitler captured full legal authority, crushes the other political groups and purging of rivals within the Nazis.
 - A Dutch communist sets fire to the Reichstag building in Berlin causing Hitler to issue emergency decree, suspending civil liberties and arrested communists.
 - The burning of the Reichstag was Hitler's proof of an immediate Communist threat to the government.
 - On the following election Hitler's party gained more seats and was able to control the government.
 - March 23 1933 the government Reichstag passed the Enabling Act that gave Hitler the rule by decree.
 - In early May 1933 the Nazi party seized offices, banks, newspaper and arrested leaders.
 - The president dies in 1934 making Hitler head of state and the government.
 - The Police State and Anti-Semitism:
 - The Nazi attack on Jews went through 3 stages.
 - 1933 1) Excluding Jews from civil services, and boycotts of Jewish shops and business.
 - 1935 2) Nuremberg Laws- Robbed German Jews of their citizenship.
 - Jobs were denied to Jews.

- Sex between Jews and non-Jews was prohibited.
- 1938 3) Business careers were forbidden.
- Jewish stores and Synagogues were burned.
- Jewish community required to pay for the destruction, government confiscated insurance money.
- 1941-1942 6 million Jews mostly from Eastern Europe were killed.
- Nazi Economic Policy:
 - Nazi economic experiment sacrificed all political and civil liberties, destroying free trade and the union movement, preventing private exercise of capital, ignoring consumer satisfaction.
 - There was full employment to prepare for war and aggression.
 - Hitler instituted a massive program of public works and spending, and employment into the military.
 - Allowed for private property and capitalism.
- Italy: Fascist Economics.
 - Mussolini undertook vast public works, introduced protective tariffs.
 - Corporatism: Economic policy between Socialism and Laissez-fair system.
 - The government directed national economic life, consumers no longer determined what is to be produced.
 - In the name of social justice and order, corporatism advocates a close collaboration between employers and workers under the direction of the state in all matters regarding conditions of work, wages, prices, production, and exchange.
 - Its aim is to substitute “corporate” (that is, collective) considerations for the free play of the market and for competition.
 - After World War I corporatism was institutionalized in various forms in Spain, Italy, and Portugal.
 - Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1935, the League of Nations imposed sanctions.
 - Countries were not to buy Italian products, which had little effect on Italy.
 - Taxes increased and forced loans on citizens to raise needed money.
- The Soviet Union: Central Economic Planning, Collectivization, and Party Purges.
 - Russia achieved economic growth in 1930 at the cost of 1 million human lives and the degradation of millions.
 - The Decision for Rapid Industrialization.
 - “Industrialization by political mobilization” and “Socialism in One Country” was Stalin’s undertaking.
 - He wanted fast industrialization.
 - Rapid construction of heavy industry, iron, steel, electricity-generating stations, machine tool industry, and tractor manufacturing.
 - To reach Stalin’s goal a series of 5 year plans was enacted starting in 1928.
 - Capital projects were favored over consumer production.
 - The expansion of industry had workers living in deplorable conditions around the factories.
 - Propaganda was used to sell the program.
 - The Collectivization of Agriculture:
 - Decision to rapidly industrialize hurt Soviet agriculture.
 - The kulaks were a wealthy peasant, who owned their own livestock and homes, and often employing hired hands.
 - The Bolsheviks, especially Joseph Stalin and his followers, rejected the ideas of individual farming and a prosperous peasantry.
 - Instead, they espoused the idea of collective production, the central principle of socialist agriculture.
 - When Stalin began his drive for collectivization in 1929, he made a deliberate effort to liquidate the kulaks as a class, confiscating their lands and property and transporting them to Siberia in vast numbers.
 - But since there was no reliable method of distinguishing kulaks from other peasants, the campaign only served to bring about the tragic deaths of millions of ordinary people, crippling and impoverishing Soviet agriculture for many decades to come.
 - Farmers were angry because there were few consumer goods to buy, so farmers withheld their grain causing a food shortage to demonstrate their unhappiness.
 - As a result, Stalin wants to collectivize agriculture, which unleashed the 2nd Russian Revolution.
 - Stalin seized grain, farmers resisted by slaughtering their horses, cows and burning their fields.
 - Stalin had the farmers removed from their land, causing agriculture production to fall.
 - In 1933 extensive famine killed even more people.
 - In 1928, 90% land was collectivized, now the government controlled the food supply.

- To appease farmers they were given small plots of land.
- Urban Consumer Food Shortages.
- The housing shortage that plagues the Soviet Union originated in the 1930s.
- Industrial workers either lived in barracks or in small apartments they shared with other family members, including kitchens and bathrooms.
- Also, a chronic shortage of consumer goods such as food, clothing, and shoes.
- The few goods that people were able to purchase were reserved for party members.
- The transportation system was too small for the rapidly expanding populations.
- Lack of sewer systems, running water, paved roads, and electric lighting created sanitation problems.
- Foreign Reaction and Repercussions.
- Most foreign countries saw the program working without seeing the cost to the Russian people.
- Purges:
 - Although his hold on absolute power was unchallenged by the early 1930s, Stalin worried about potential conspiracies against him, especially after the suicide of his second wife in late 1932.
 - Stalin set in motion a massive purge of the party following the assassination of Leningrad party chief Sergei Kirov in December 1934, which many have speculated was masterminded by Stalin because he viewed Kirov as a threat.
 - Although the purge began gradually, with selective arrests in 1934 and 1935, by 1936 the Soviet secret police were arresting and executing party members by the thousands.
 - Highly publicized trials of leading party figures were staged in Moscow and resulted in their swift execution on trumped-up charges.
 - In 1937 and 1938 the terror spread to all parts of Soviet society, including the military high command.
 - Estimates of those arrested and executed from 1936 to 1938 in the Great Purge range between 1.5 million and 7 million.
 - Countless others were imprisoned in forced labor camps.
 - At the end of 1938, the purge left Stalin with a new generation of officials loyal to him alone.
 - However, the decimation of the military ranks left the country more vulnerable to the threat from Adolf Hitler's Germany during World War II.
- Reasons for Purges:
 - To gain more control over party and the region.
 - To create loyalty to Stalin.
 - Executed party members were replaced by young men who did not know Lenin or the ways of the Bolsheviks.

Dictatorships

- Conservative and radical dictatorships swept through Europe in the 1930s.
- Radical dictatorships were a new development.
- Traditional anti-democratic government was conservative authoritarianism.
- Popular participation in government was limited.
- Yet authoritarian governments lacked the technology to control people's lives.
- After W.W. I authoritarian government was revived.
- By 1938 only Czechoslovakia remained Liberal.
- Other countries changed because:
 - a) Lacked a tradition of self-government.
 - b) Many were torn by ethnic conflicts.
 - c) Dictatorships seemed a way to preserve national unity.
 - d) Large landowners and the church wanted dictators to save them from progressive reforms.
- The Great Depression greatly affected many countries.
- Some authoritarian countries did adopt Hitlerian characteristics but most had limited aims.
- They were concerned with maintaining the status quo.
- Hungary and Portugal were examples of conservative authoritarianism.
- Conservative authoritarianism existed in eastern Europe and in the smaller states.
- Radical dictatorships developed in Russia, Germany, and Italy.
- To understand radical dictatorships we are concerned with:
 - a) the relationship between radical dictatorships and totalitarianism.
 - b) the idea of fascism as a unifying impulse.
 - c) the uniqueness of each regime.

- Totalitarianism developed in the 1920s and 30s.
- Totalitarianism:
- Many saw a connection between Italian and German fascism and Soviet Communism.
- Modern totalitarianism started during WWI when everything was subordinate to victory.
- Lenin and the Bolsheviks carried this concept further and showed how a dedicated small group could overcome a large group.
- Deviation became a crime.
- Liberalism was seen as sentimental slop.
- The individual was less valuable than the state.
- Only a single powerful ruler, without laws could rule effectively.
- People became engaged through a commitment to socialism and nationalism.
- Dictatorships outside the Soviet Union were seen as fascist.
- Fascism was linked to reactionists, domestic class conflict, and decaying capitalism.
- Marxists argued fascism was a way capitalists sought to control the masses.
- Studies show that European fascism shared many characteristics:
 1. Extreme, expansionist nationalism.
 2. Antisocialism aimed at destroying working class movements.
 3. Alliances with powerful capitalists and landowners.
 4. Mass parties - appealed to middle class and peasantry.
 5. A dynamic, violent leader.
 6. Glorification of war and military.
- Fascism was a product of class conflict, capitalist crisis, and post war upheaval.
- Stalin:
- Master of political infighting.
- Eliminated his enemies in the 1920s.
- 1924 Lenin died - Trotsky and Stalin competed for leadership.
- 1928 became undisputed leader of the Communist Party.
- Stalin won because:
 - a) used his office to win friends by granting certain freedoms to minorities.
 - b) the theory of "socialism in one country"
- 1929 Trotsky was expelled.
- Stalin aligned with the moderates to suppress the radicals.
- Later he suppressed the moderates.
- December 1927 the party condemns all "deviation from the general party line"
- 1927 marked the start of the second revolution and the end of the NEP (new economic policy).
- Economic policy would be a series of five year plans - initially were successful.
- Stalin wanted output to increase an unrealistic 250%.
- Internationally - Soviets were well behind other countries.
- Nationally - there was the "cursed problem" of the peasants.
- Stalin declared an economic war on the peasants.
- Collectivization - forced all peasant farms in to one large collective holding.
- In 1929 peasants were ordered to give up land.
- Stalin's intent was to create a new society, a strong economy and a powerful army.
- Once everything was owned and controlled by the state the new society would evolve.
- As for the kulaks (better-off peasants) Stalin tried to "liquidate them as a class"
- Forced collectivization was an economic disaster.
- By 1932 60% of peasants were on collective farms.
- By 1938 93% were on farms.
- The number of horses, cattle, sheep, and goats fell by at least 50%.
- The state was assured of grain for urban workers.
- Industrialization was much better.
- Industry doubled during the first plan and doubled again during the second.
- Soviet planners decreed that 33% of net income go toward investment.
- Money was collected by a heavy sales tax so conditions did not improve.
- Trade unions lost all their power, individuals could be sent anywhere in the country and needed police permission to move.

- Foreign engineers were hired to plan and construct new factories.
- Stalin's wife publicly protested then died.
- In 1934 Stalin's second-in-command, Sergei Kirov, was killed, Stalin used this as an excuse for a reign of terror.
- In 1936, 16 old Bolsheviks confessed to all manner of plots in a huge staged public trial in Moscow.
- In all, probably 8 million were arrested.
- In a totalitarian state the state must always be fighting real or imagined enemies.
- Newspapers and films continually told of socialist achievements and capitalist plots.
- Art and literature became political tools.
- Russian history was rewritten, religion was persecuted, churches became "museums of atheism", Stalin's picture was everywhere.
- People lived on black bread, but vodka was always available.
- A lucky family received one room and shared a bathroom.
- But many saw it as an ideological struggle against capitalism and fascism.
- Many westerners fell in love with the romantic dream of a true socialist society.
- Soviet workers did receive: free education, day cares, free medical services, and old-age pension.
- Unemployment was unknown and crime was scarce.
- The unskilled earned very little but a skilled few received great privileges from the state.
- The Revolution of 1917 had declared complete equality for all women.
- In the 1920's divorce and abortion were readily available, women were urged to work and liberate themselves sexually.
- The most prominent Bolshevik feminist was Alexander Kollontai.
- After Stalin came to power sex was downplayed and the greatest changes remained in work and education.
- Women were continually told of their equality.
- With the five-year plans women worked in factories.
- Opportunities open to men were also open to women.
- But the home and children were still considered a woman's responsibility.
- Mussolini:
 - He hated liberalism and wanted to destroy it in Italy.
 - He began, like Stalin, as a socialist, but sought the support of the conservatives.
 - They were the first to call themselves fascists.
 - He was a brutal dictator.
 - Italy remained between conservative authoritarianism and modern totalitarianism.
 - At the turn of the century Italy was liberal with a constitutional monarchy.
 - The Papacy and landowners were against liberalism.
 - A powerful socialist movement began.
 - But in Italy the radical left wing gained control.
 - The Socialists opposed the Great War from the beginning.
 - To gain support of the working class for the war effort the government had promised social and land reforms.
 - After Versailles the workers felt cheated.
 - The Russian Revolution energized the socialist movement.
 - The Socialists aligned with the Bolsheviks which caused fear among the landowners.
 - After the war the Pope let Catholics become involved in politics and they.
 - Created a strong Catholic Party.
 - Mussolini was a socialist leader who urged Italy to join the Allies - he was kicked out of the Socialist Party.
- Mussolini wanted:
 - a) territorial expansion.
 - b) land reforms for the peasants.
 - c) benefits for workers.
- But, initially he was unsuccessful.
- His private army of Black Shirts grew more violent.
- Mussolini forced the Socialists out of northern Italy.
- In 1922 Mussolini stepped forward as the savior of law and order.

- He demanded the resignation of the government and his own appointment by the king.
- In October 1922 a large group of fascists marched on Rome and forced the king to call upon Mussolini.
- Victor Emmanuel III, no lover of liberals, asked Mussolini to form a new government.
- Mussolini seized power “legally”
- He was immediately granted dictatorial power for one year.
- To “make the nation Fascist” he imposed very repressive measures:
 - a) freedom of the press was abolished.
 - b) elections were rigged.
 - c) government ruled by decree.
 - d) political opponents were arrested.
 - e) labor unions were disbanded.
 - f) Schools were controlled by other Fascists.
- Mussolini’s famous slogan of 1926 was “Everything in the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state”
- Italy had become a one-party dictatorship.
- But the Fascists never became all-powerful, he never destroyed the old power structure as in the Soviet Union.
- Membership in the party was simply a sign of respectability.
- He never tried to purge the classes or radically move against any class.
- There were no land reforms.
- Mussolini drew more and more support from the Catholic Church.
- The Lateran Agreement of 1929 recognized the Vatican as an independent state and he gave the church heavy financial support.
- The pope advised people to support Mussolini.
- He abolished divorce and told women to stay at home and produce babies.
- In 1934 he taxed bachelors.
- In 1938 women were limited to only 10% of the better paying jobs in industry.
- The Italians never persecuted Jews until late in the war when under Nazi control.
- Undemocratic Italy never became totalitarian.
- Hitler and Nazism:
 - Nazism grew out of extreme nationalism and racism.
 - Hitler (1889-1945) was born in Austria.
 - Poor student, dropped out of school at 14.
 - Inspired by ex-monk Lanz von Liebenfels who preached crude Darwinism, anti-Semitism, and racism.
 - Hitler believed the Jew directed an international conspiracy of finance capitalism and Marxist socialism against Germany.
 - 1913 moved to Munich to avoid Austrian military service.
 - Saw W.W.I as salvation - the struggle and discipline gave his life meaning.
 - He was awarded the Iron Cross and other medals but never rose above the rank of corporal.
 - Defeat shattered Hitler.
 - 1919 joined extremist German Worker’s Party.
 - 1921 Hitler gained control.
 - At mass rallies he criticized:
 - a) Versailles Treaty.
 - b) Jews.
 - c) war profiteers.
 - d) Germany’s Weimer Republic.
 - 1923 Hitler staged an armed uprising in Munich, inspired by Mussolini, and supported by General Ludendorff.
 - The Beer Hall Putsch was a failed attempt at revolution that occurred when Nazi Party leader Adolf Hitler unsuccessfully tried to seize power in Munich, Bavaria, and Germany.
 - Putsch is the German word for a military coup d’état.
 - The uprising was crushed by police.
 - Hitler was arrested and sentenced to 5 years in prison.
 - Hitler gained enormous publicity and support.

- Wrote Mein Kampf.
- By 1929 he had over 100,000 dedicated followers.
- 1929 the Great Depression hit Germany.
- 1932 , 43% unemployment.
- Economic crisis only helped Hitler.
- Hitler began promising economic, military, and political salvation.
- He appealed to two major groups:
 - i) Big business - promised to break the unions.
 - ii) Army leaders - promising to overturn the Versailles Treaty.
- The Nazis also appealed to the youth.
- Gregor Strasser “make way, you old ones”
- In the 1930 elections Nazis came second to the Social Democrats.
- 1932 the Nazis lead the Reichstag.
- Majority leader of the democrats in the Reichstag, Chancellor Heinrich Bruning convinced the president General Hindenburg to authorize rule by decree.
- Bruning tried to cut spending and drive down wages.
- Bruning’s policies only intensified the economic crisis.
- Also the communists refused to work with the democrats to outnumber the Nazis.
- Hitler was a great politician.
- Business and military leaders thought they could use Hitler.
- Hitler demanded to be made chancellor.
- With only 2 Nazis and 9 Socialists many believed Hitler could be controlled.
- January 30, 1933 Hitler was made chancellor.
- Hitler called for new elections and restricted his opponents.
- Blaming the communists for burning the Reichstag building, he convinced Hindenburg to sign a dictatorial emergency act.
- In the elections the Nazis only got 44% of the vote.
- Hitler outlawed the Communist Party.
- March 23, 1933 Hitler pushes the Enabling Act, giving Hitler dictatorial power for 4 years.
- Germany became a one-party state.
- Strikes were outlawed, unions banned and replaced with the Nazi Labour Front.
- Publishing houses were under Nazi control.
- Universities were brought into line.
- Only the army retained independence.
- Hitler’s personal guards, the SS rounded up thousands of opponents and the Nazi SA (storm troopers) to appease his supporters.
- The army swore an oath of allegiance of “unquestioning obedience . . . to the leader of the German State and People, Adolf Hitler”
- By 1932, Hitler was selected as Chancellor of Germany who promised a German Reich and who delivered on that promise.
- Under the cover of a national emergency, Hitler and his Nazi party used all available means to destroy the Weimar Republic and establish a one-party democracy.
- Purged the judicial and civil service of any non-Nazis.
- Firmly established a highly centralized state leaving little local or regional autonomy.
- They outlawed all civil and constitutional rights, suppressed, terrorized, and eventually outlawed all competing political parties and factions.
- Once firmly in power, it was relatively simple to translate their racist ideology into effective practice.
- The Nazis effectively touted the science of eugenics to improve the quantity and quality of the “German race”
- They launched a campaign to increase the births of “racially valuable” children through
 - tax credits.
 - special child allowances.
 - marriage loans.
 - laws allowing for divorce only on the grounds of sterility.
 - successfully regulated women to the sole role of wife and mother.

- Access to information regarding family planning, birth-control devices, and abortions became almost impossible to find.
- Further, the Nazis instituted a pro-natalist propaganda campaign.
- “Cult of motherhood” which included medals for particularly prolific child-producing women.
- However, not all people in Germany were encouraged to have children.
- Indeed there was a parallel campaign to prevent births from people who had been identified as having “hereditary determined” illnesses.
- Soon people who were seen as “racial aliens” were added to that effort.
- Nazi eugenic measures included sterilization, abortion, and soon state-sponsored euthanasia in the mania clothed as “racial health”
- Anti-Semitism became the hallmark of Nazi rule.
- Based on 19th-century biological race theories, the Nazis skillfully built on deeper underlying religious hatreds to identify who was a Jew.
- Under Heinrich Himmler the SS grew quickly and with the Gestapo (political police) it expanded special courts and concentration camps.
- Jews were the main object of persecution.
- By 1935 most professional Jews had lost their jobs.
- In 1935 the infamous Nuremberg Laws classified any person with at least one Jewish grandparent and deprived Jews of citizenship.
- Kristallnacht - Nov 9, 1938.
- Hitler’s Popularity:
 - Hitler delivered on his promises of “work and bread”
 - Hitler launched a massive public works program.
 - 1936 Germany began rearming and spending on the military increased.
 - 1938 there was a shortage of workers, women began working in the factories.
 - Between 1932-38 the standard of living slowly improved while profits rose sharply.
 - Most people believed Hitler was the savior.
 - The Nazi elite were often poorly uneducated dropouts, like Hitler.
 - Few historians believe Hitler created a real social revolution.
 - Many opposed Hitler but they were arrested and often killed or locked in concentration camps.
 - Initially Communists and Social Democrats resisted, then the Catholics and Protestant churches.
 - But as he gained more power dissent decreased.
- 1933-39:
 - By the Treaty of Versailles the army was limited to 100,000.
 - Hitler withdrew from the League of Nations in 1933.
 - He also incorporated Austria into a Greater Germany.
 - Lebensraum - room to expand.
 - March 1935 Hitler implements a general military draft and declared disarmament “null and void”
 - Britain adopted appeasement to stop Hitler from causing a war.
 - June 1935 Anglo-German naval agreement ends German isolation.
 - March 1936 Germans march into the demilitarized Rhineland violating Versailles and Locarno treaties.
 - France decided not to act without British support.
 - British appeasement lasted until 1939.
 - a) British people were still sick of war.
 - b) Britain felt guilty toward Germany.
 - c) Believed Russian communism was greater danger.
- Hitler supported Italy’s occupation of Ethiopia (had supplied the Ethiopians with arms).
- Mussolini becomes Hitler’s ally.
- 1936 Rome-Berlin Axis created.
- Japan, occupied Manchuria since 1931, also joined the alliance.
- Germany and Italy intervened in the Spanish Civil War and helped fascist Franco win.
- The Spanish Civil War was a major conflict that devastated Spain from 1936 to 1939.
- It began after an attempted coup d’état by a group of Spanish Army generals against the government of the Second Spanish Republic, then under the leadership of president Manuel Azaña.
- The nationalist coup was supported by the conservative Spanish Confederation of the Autonomous Right and monarchists.

- The war ended with the victory of the rebel forces, the overthrow of the Republican government, and the founding of a dictatorship led by General Francisco Franco.
- In the aftermath of the civil war, all right-wing parties were fused into the state party of the Franco regime.
- Republicans were supported by the Soviet Union and Mexico, while the followers of the rebellion, Nationalists received the support of Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, as well as neighboring Portugal.
- Although the United States was officially neutral during the conflict, major American corporations such as Texaco, General Motors, Ford Motors, and The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company greatly assisted the Nationalist rebels with their constant supply of trucks, tires, machine tools, and fuel.
- The war increased international tensions in Europe in the lead-up to World War II, and was largely seen as a proxy war between the Communist Soviet Union and Fascist states Italy and Germany.
- In particular, new tank warfare tactics and the terror bombing of cities from the air were features of the Spanish Civil War which played a significant part in the later general European war.
- The Spanish Civil War has been dubbed as "the first media war", with several writers and journalists covering it wanting their work "to support the cause".
- Foreign correspondents and writers covering it included Ernest Hemingway, Martha Gellhorn, George Orwell and Robert Capa.
- Like most civil wars, it became notable for the passion and political division it inspired, and for atrocities committed on both sides of the conflict.
- The Spanish Civil War often pitted family members, neighbors, and friends against each other.
- Apart from the combatants, many civilians were killed for their political or religious views by both sides, and after the war ended in 1939, Republicans were persecuted by the victorious Nationalists.
- An estimated total of 300,000+ people lost their lives as a consequence of the war.
- Out of them probably 120,000+ were civilians executed by either side.
- 1937 Hitler told his generals his real plans for *lebensraum* by invading Austria and Czechoslovakia.
- Hitler demanded German-speaking, pro-Nazi Sudetenland be handed over to Germany.
- Democratic Czechoslovakia was prepared to defend itself.
- France had been a Czech ally since 1924, Russia promised to help France in the event of war.
- France and Britain agreed with Hitler.
- Chamberlain, "peace with honour . . . peace for our time"
- Sold out, the Czechs gave in.
- March 1939 Germans occupied the Czech lands.
- Hitler then looked at Poland.
- Britain and France said they would declare war if the Germans acted against Poland.
- Hitler and Stalin signed a 10 year non-aggression pact in August 1939, each dictator would remain neutral in the event of a war.
- Britain and France had been negotiating with Stalin and felt betrayed.

World War II

- Sept 1, 1939 Hitler invaded Poland.
- Sept 3, Britain and France declare war on Germany.
- 1939-42:
- Blitzkrieg 'lightning war' - Hitler crushed Poland in 4 weeks.
- The Soviet Union took Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.
- Spring 1940 Germans occupied Denmark, Norway, Holland, and invaded France.
- Marshall Petain of France accepted defeat and formed Vichy France.
- Only Britain remained free.
- During the Battle of Britain Hitler continually bombed key locations in Britain.
- In September Hitler started bombing cities to break morale.
- British morale and determination increased and with the help of radar, Britain held out.
- The logical approach would have been to cut off British oil supplies.
- Germany quickly took Greece and Yugoslavia.
- April 1941 Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria joined the Germans.
- June 1941 Hitler suddenly attacked Russia.
- By October 1941 Leningrad was surrounded, Moscow besieged, and most of Ukraine occupied.
- Fighting China since 1937 Japan came into conflict with American interests.
- Japan occupied French-Indochina in 1941.

- America cut off sales of oil, scrap iron, and rubber.
- December 7, 1941 Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.
- Hitler immediately declared war on America.
- In Europe Hitler faced a war on two fronts but did not face defeat until 1942.
- Hitler's New Order was based on racial imperialism.
- The Nordic people received preferential treatment.
- The French were 'inferior' Latin people.
- The Slavs were treated as 'subhuman'
- Polish and Soviet prisoners were forced to work in Germany - 4 out of 5 died.
- Jews, Gypsies, Jehovah Witnesses, and communists were ruthlessly exterminated.
- After the fall of Warsaw, Jews were shipped to Poland.
- In 1941, Himmler's SS began the 'final solution of the Jewish question' the murder of every Jew.
- Auschwitz-Birkenau murdered 12,000 a day.
- By 1945 6 million Jews had been killed.
- The Grand Alliance:
- Roosevelt agreed to focus on helping Britain defeat Germany.
- Tough political questions were often ignored.
- The Allies all demanded 'unconditional surrender by Germany and Japan.
- Before Pearl Harbor America had been the 'arsenal of democracy'
- Equality of rationing and heavy taxes on war profits kept the British happy.
- In Russia whole factories were relocated to Siberia and eastern Russia.
- To Russians the war became the "Great Patriotic War of the Fatherland"
- Communists throughout Europe took the lead with underground resistance.
- Anti-Nazi leaders formed governments-in-exile in London, like Charles de Gaulle of France.
- July 1942 the Germans renewed their offensive against the Soviet Union.
- They turned south to Stalingrad and the huge oil reserves at Baku.
- November 1942 the Soviets counter-attacked trapping over 300,000 Germans.
- By January 1943 only 123,000 were left to surrender.
- The British defeat of Rommel at the Battle of El Alamein (1942) helped drive the Axis powers from North Africa in 1943.
- By Spring 1943 the Allies had freed North Africa and planned an invasion of Italy.
- Mussolini was deposed by war-weary Italians, the Italian government surrendered Sept. 1943.
- German army forced to invade Italy.
- Germans seized Rome and northern Italy.
- Bombing of Germany and Hitler's brutal elimination of opposition caused the Germans to fight on.
- June 6 1944 British and American forces under Gen. Eisenhower landed at Normandy (D-Day).
- The British and Americans invaded German-held France in June 1944 but did not cross into Germany until March 1945.
- German resistance began to crumble.
- By 1944 Soviets reached Warsaw.
- January 1945 Russians met Americans at the Elbe River.
- March 1945 Americans crossed the Rhine.
- May 7 Hitler committed suicide.
- Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945.
- The United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan in August 1945, and it too surrendered.