

# What events led to America's involvement in World War II?

---

After completing each factor on your graphic organizer, write down these details in your notebook.

# Factor 1: Worldwide economic slowdown

---

- ❑ Just as the U.S. had been in a depression, most other countries in Europe had also.
- ❑ Germany acquired a lot of debt because it had to pay for much of the damage from World War I.
- ❑ This economic depression was one of the many factors that allowed Hitler to rise to power.

## Factor 2: Rise of nationalism and dictators

---

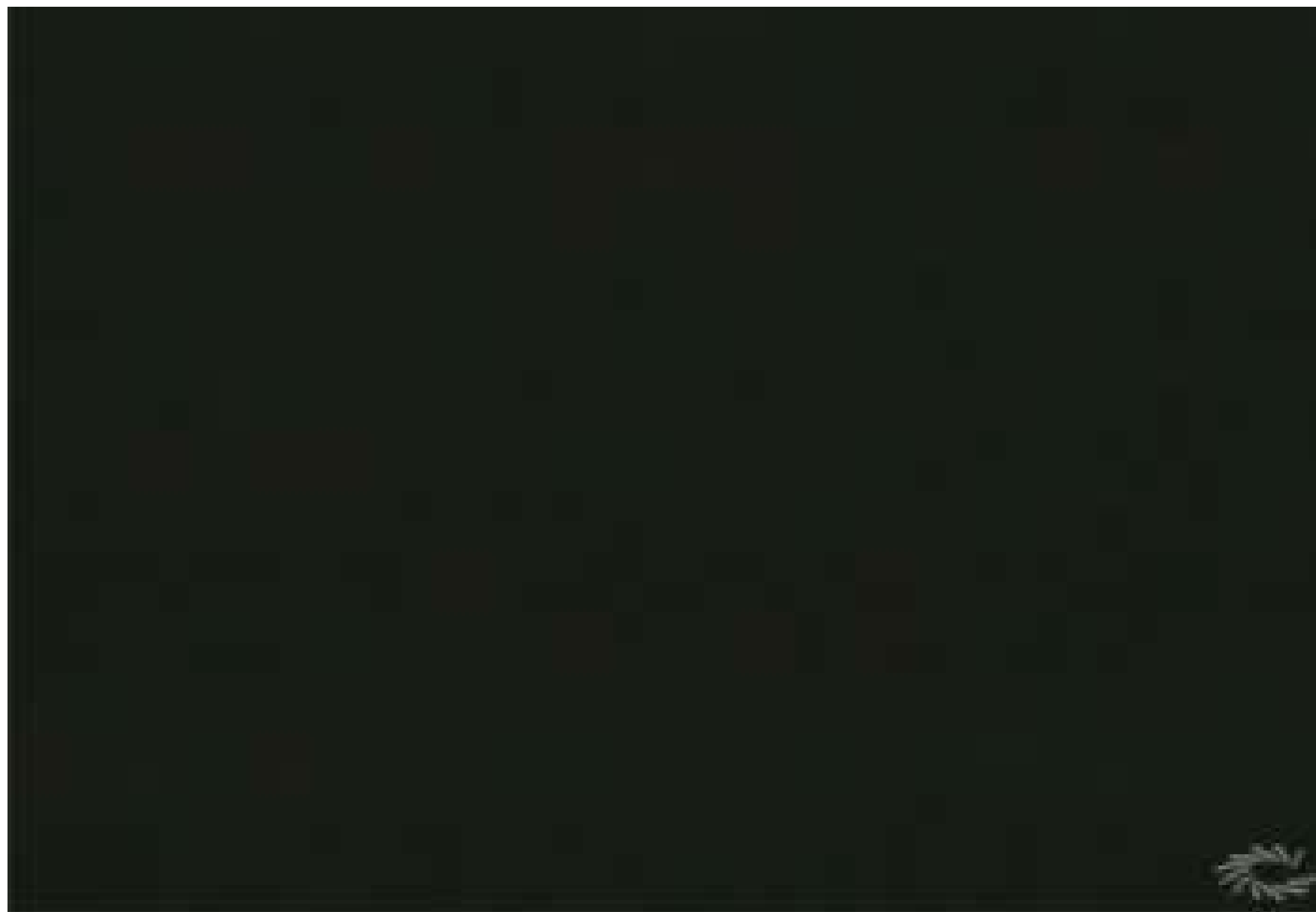
- ❑ Japan – taken over by military rule in 1931 and invaded China. Ruled by Emperor Hirohito.
- ❑ Italy – Invaded Ethiopia in Africa in 1935. Mussolini was dictator.
- ❑ Soviet Union – Russian Revolution had occurred in 1917 under Lenin. Soviet Union had become totalitarian state when Joseph Stalin became dictator.

# Factor 2: Rise of nationalism and dictators

---

## □ Germany

- Had been forced to pay for World War I and decrease size of army and navy
- Adolf Hitler became chancellor in 1933 as leader of Nationalist Socialist Workers Party (Nazis)
- Openly blamed Jews and other traitors for Germany's loss in World War I

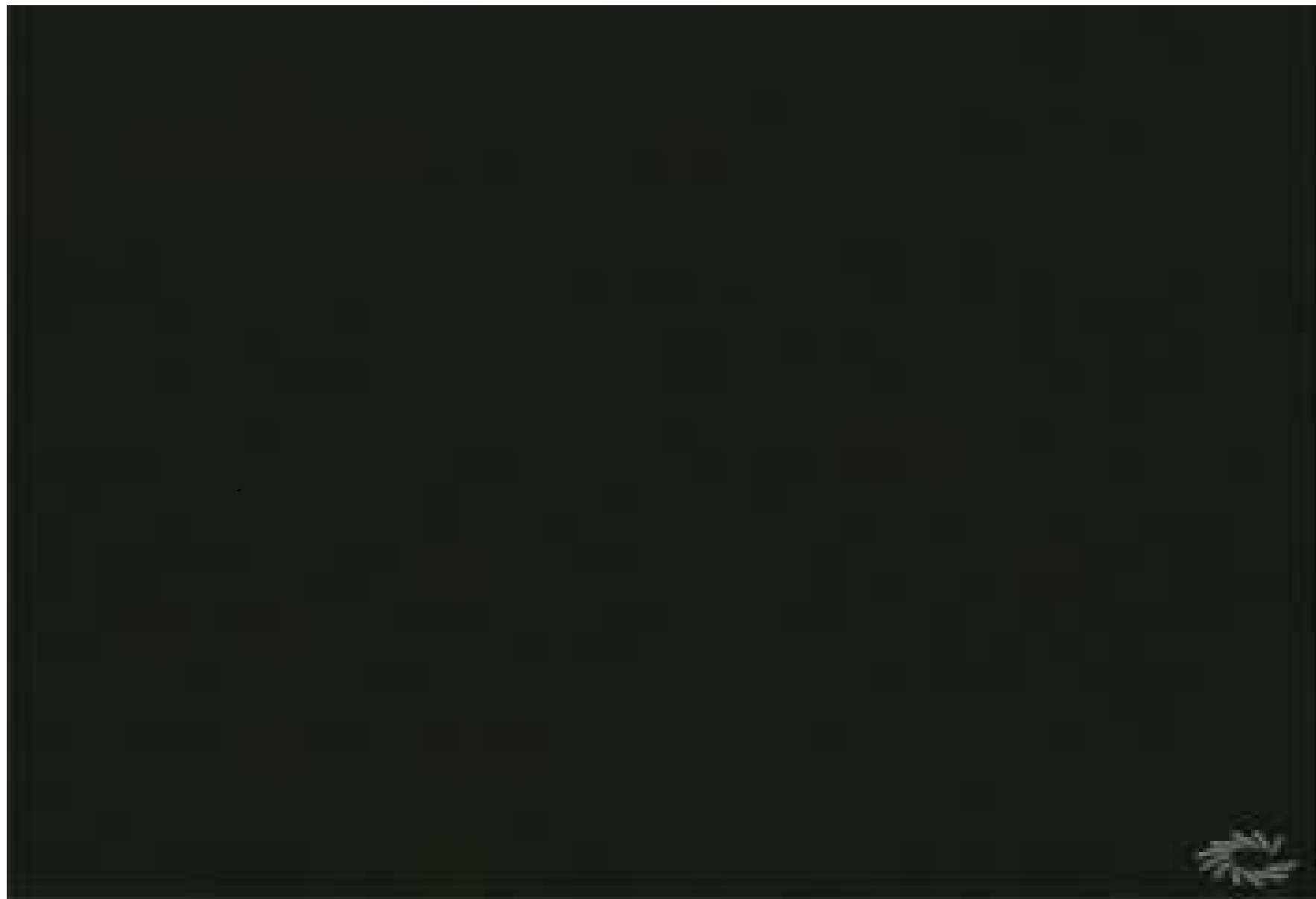




## Factor 3: Hitler ignores agreements with other countries

---

- ❑ Hitler defied Treaty of Versailles by increasing the size of the army and building warships
- ❑ Entered into alliances with Italy and Japan
- ❑ Began taking over land that Germany had lost at the end of WWI





## Factor 4: Germany invades Poland

---

- ❑ Sept 1, 1939 – World War II (WWII) begins in Europe when Germany invades Poland.
- ❑ Britain and France declare war on Germany on Sept. 3.
- ❑ 3 month long blitzkrieg – lightning war – begins. Germany takes over Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and finally France.





## Factor 4: Germany invades Poland

---

- ❑ After Britain and France declared war, the U.S. tried to remain neutral.
- ❑ By 1940, the U.S. had done 2 things:
  - Authorized a military draft
  - Approved the Lend-Lease Act – this allowed Britain and the Soviet Union to borrow or lease U.S. ships, arms, supplies and food to defend themselves against Germany



## Factor 5: Japan bombs Pearl Harbor

---

- ❑ Japan bombed U.S. ships at the naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941.
- ❑ FDR called this a “day that will live in infamy”
- ❑ Congress declared war on Japan on Dec. 8, 1941.
- ❑ Germany and Italy declared war on US three days later.





FDR delivers Pearl Harbor Speech - December 8, 1941.

