

## UNIT SIX: World War II

### I. Causes:

A. The Treaty of Versailles: "To the victors belong the spoils"

1. Germany was forced to pay Reparations
  - a. \$33 Billion
  - b. Led to Devaluation of German Mark and Inflation.
  - c. Bitterness and Anger. Call for Revenge.

2. Division of Europe
  - a. Created without consideration of nationalities or ethnic groupsCreated Trade Barriers

3. Germany forced to admit war guilt.

- Lost colonies  
Gave up land  
Polish Corridor  
Buffer Zones - Rhineland
- c. German-speaking people divided among new countries
  - d. Attempt to reduce military power of Germany  
Navy was scuttled  
Police force of only 100,000

4. Off-set the balance of power in Europe

5. Failed to address the economic causes of World War I
  - a. Trade Barriers

6. League of Nations was doomed to failure

- Failure of U.S. and U.S.S.R. to Join  
No ability to enforce rulings.

Revenge for the terms of the Treaty of Versailles would become the rally cry of Hitler.

B. Rise of the Totalitarian State

1. What is a Totalitarian State? Fascism
  - a. anti-democracy
  - b. denies basic civil liberties
  - c. rules with absolute power
  - d. controls social, political and economic aspects of society
  - e. used world dominance, glory and revenge to rally people.

2. Japan - Military led by Hideki Tojo

- a. Emperor Hirohito was divine  
Samurai warrior class ruled

Fighting and Dying for the emperor leads to warrior paradise.

- b. Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere  
Japan to be center of economic empire
- c. desire to become an industrial power led to need for raw materials  
Opened by Adm. Perry  
Was an agricultural nation  
No raw materials  
Led to expansion into China, War with Russia  
Ultimately leads to conflict with USA

3. Italy - Benito Mussolini

- a. background  
Journalist  
1919-1922 battled and defeated Communists for power
- b. rise to power  
March on Rome (10/22) of Blackshirts: Military force behind Fascist party.  
Declares himself "Il Duce"
  - c. As "Il Duce" - The Leader:  
Created a stable and healthy economy (Trains on time as well)  
Ended unemployment by placing the unemployed in military  
Used threat of Communism to rally support. (especially wealthy)  
Promised of return of Italy to Glory
    - Revive Holy Roman Empire
    - Fourth Shore Theory - Control Mediterranean Sea thus control trade.
    - Called "Balcony" empire

4. Germany - Adolf Hitler

- a. Background:
  - 1) Born 1889 in Braunau, Austria
  - 2) Moved to Vienna; Failed to become a successful artist.
  - 3) Served in German Army in WWI  
Achieved Rank of Corporal  
Injured in Battle of Somme  
After War he becomes a member of the "Free Corps" (Band of WWI Vets bent on Fighting Socialism)
- b. Rise to Political Power  
Sent to Investigate the German Worker Party for the Army  
Eventually Joined (liked their ideals and commanding officers pressured him)  
Convinced leaders to change name to National Socialist

Worker Party (NAZI)  
Drew Recruits from Free Corps  
By 1923, 70,000 Nazis

- 2) Beer Hall Putsch (1923)  
Attempt to overthrow Bavarian government  
Failed and Hitler was thrown in Jail
- 3) While in Jail, Hitler wrote "Mein Kampf" (My Struggle) (1924)
  - a) Against capitalism and communism
  - b) Three supports of Nazi Fascism  
German race deified  
Sacrifice sanctified  
Heroism made holy.
  - c) Pan-German Movement (Unite all Germans)
  - d) Fear of minorities
  - e) Anti-Christian
  
  - f) Anti-Semitism (Jewish)  
The Final Solution  
Called for master Aryan Race
  - g) Lebensraum - German Living Space  
Spread east through Poland and Russia  
Sought revenge of Treaty of Versailles  
Return Germany to glory (Third Reich)
- 4) German Depression 1929 to 1932  
Led to rise in Nazi Popularity  
By 1932 Nazis accounted for 40% of popular vote
- 5) January 30th, 1933 Pres. Paul von Hindenburg made Hitler Chancellor (to control him)
- 6) Reichstag - German Parliament  
Burned (Feb 1933) - blamed on communists.
- 7) June 30, 1934 - "The Night of the Long Knives"
  - purged his party
  - to gain support of military and industrialists
  - killed leader of S.A., Ernst Roehm
- 8) August 2, 1934 - Hindenburg died; Hitler proclaimed himself "Der Fuhrer," The Leader.  
\*was supported by the down and out, as well as elite due to stand against communism  
\*successfully used "Big Lie" technique to gain support, also used terror - S.A. and S.S. - protection squads

- Storm Troopers, Brown Shirts
- Gestapo - Secret Police

#### C. Axis Aggression - Imperialism

##### 1. Japan

- a. invaded Manchuria, China (1931)  
U.S. responded with "moral condemnation"  
League of Nations protested  
Renamed Manchukuo
- b. invaded China (1937) - "rape of Nanking"  
Beheading of babies and women raped  
no U.S. reaction
- c. Panay Incident (December 12, 1937)  
U.S. gunboat sunk by Japanese  
2 Americans killed  
No U.S. protest, Japan apologizes.

##### 2. Italy

- a. invaded and occupied Ethiopia (1935)  
- half-hearted sanctions and protest
  - b. invaded Albania (1938)
- ##### 3. Germany
- a. violations of the Treaty of Versailles  
- military buildup and creation of Luftwaffe, air force  
- reoccupied the Rhineland (1936)  
- used Spanish Civil War as opportunity to train troops and test weapons
  - b. Anschluss (Annexation of Austria)
    - 1) Austria (1938) - bloodless coup
    - 2) Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia  
policy of Appeasement  
- Britain's PM Neville Chamberline "Peace for our time."  
Gives Sudetenland to Germany; Czechoslovakia fully controlled by March 1939
    - 3) Demand for the Polish Corridor (1939)  
- awarded to Poland in treaty of Versailles  
- gave Poland access to Baltic Sea

#### D. Invasion of Poland (September 1, 1939)

1. Hitler demanded return of the Polish Corridor and Danzig, international port city
2. Nazi-Soviet Pact (August 23, 1939)
  - Non-Aggression Pact
  - a. split Poland in two
  - b. Germany avoided two-front war
  - c. refrain from aggression against each

other

- d. U.S.S.R. claimed Estonia, Latvia, & Lithuania
- 3. France and Great Britain guaranteed independence of Poland, Rumania and Greece
- 4. September 1, 1939 - Germany invaded Poland
- 5. September 3, 1939 - Great Britain and France declared war on Germany
- 6. September 17, 1939 - U.S.S.R. invaded Poland
- 7. September 27, 1939 - Polish resistance ended.

II. War 1939-1941:

- A. German Blitzkrieg - "Lightening War"
  - 1. combined
    - a. air power - Luftwaffe
    - b. tanks - Panzer divisions
    - c. subversive warfare - sabotage and terror
  - 2. Polish Campaign - strategic bombing
    - a. destroyed airfields
    - b. destroyed communications
    - c. caused civilian panic
- \* was effective until invasion in Russia.
- B. German Advances:
  - 1. "Sitzkrieg" - "Phony War"
    - a. six-month lull - no actual fighting
    - b. ended with the invasions of the low countries (April 1940)
  - 2. Denmark and Norway captured due to important air and sub bases.
  - 3. Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg were invaded
    - for the invasion of France.
- C. Russia invaded Finland (November 30, 1939)
  - 1. "self defense"
  - 2. faced stiff resistance by Finns
    - strategic bombing led to strengthening Finnish will
  - 3. by March 12, Finland surrendered.
    - 20,000 Finns died, to 200,000 Russians
- \* showed Hitler that Russia was beatable.
- D. The Fall of France:
  - 1. Causes:
    - a. poor leadership
    - b. belief that the "Maginot Line" would hold
    - c. lack of military arms

- d. population wiped out by World War I
- 2. Highlights:
  - a. May 13, 1940 - Germany attacked through the Ardennes Forest.
  - b. May 20 - German forces cut France in half, reach the English Channel
  - c. "Miracle at Dunkirk" - British, French, Polish and Belgian forces were evacuated.
  - d. June 17 - Marshal Petain surrendered France.
    - France was divided into North (controlled by Germany) and South ("Vichy France").
- E. Battle of Britain (August to October, 1940)
  - 1. Winston Churchill
    - a. succeeded Chamberlain as Prime Minister
    - b. was the inspirational leader of England
  - 2. Hitler's attempt to bomb Great Britain into submission failed - "The Blitz"
    - a. Great Britain used radar to detect incoming attacks.
    - b. RAF (Royal Air Force) fought the Luftwaffe evenly.
      - RAF lost 788, Luftwaffe 1,294.
      - Churchill: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."
    - c. prevented a land invasion - Operation Sea Lion
    - d. Hitler's first setback of the war.
      - moved attention to Russia.
- \* failed due to German indecision and RAF fighting Luftwaffe evenly.
- F. Invasion of Russia (June 1941) - "Great Patriotic

War"

1. Hitler's mistake
  - a. failed to complete the destruction of Britain
  - b. spread his troops too thin
  - c. miscalculations
2. The Battle (Operation Barbarossa)
  - a. went after Leningrad and Stalingrad, not just Moscow
  - b. quick victory was delayed
    - "scorched earth policy"
    - early Russian winter
3. December 6, 1941 - Russia went on the counter offensive.
  - a. Germany was forced to retreat for the first time.
  - b. Hitler failed to listen to his advisors and history.
    - \* failed due to "General Manpower," "General Winter," "General Space" and the failure of Hitler to focus on Moscow.

### III. U.S. Policy of Isolationism and Preparedness

- A. Americans Divided
  1. Isolationists:
    - a. in response to U.S. war legislation, formed America First Committee and Robert A. Taft (Sen. R-Ohio)
      - Leaders: Charles A. Lindbergh
    - b. Nye Committee (1934) "merchants of death" thesis
      - U.S. lured into WWII by financiers and industrialists
      - Sen. Gerald Nye - N.D.
    - c. "Fortress America" - denied Hitler was a threat to U.S. security.
    - d. U.S. had ability to defend itself
    - e. pointed to WWI and Treaty of Versailles
      - U.S. not repaid
      - less of life
      - failure to maintain peace
  2. Interventionists:
    - a. Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies
    - b. favored unlimited assistance to England, short of war

- c. secretly desired the U.S. to enter the war
- d. viewed German aggression as a threat to Western Civilization
  - \* Interventionists gained the majority during the Battle of Britain.
    - B. Neutrality Act of 1939 (Cash and Carry)
      1. repealed parts of the Neutrality Act of 1937
        - a. if war broke out that threatened U.S. security (deemed by the President):
          - automatic U.S. embargo
          - forbid loans and credits to warring nations - belligerents
          - banned U.S. nationals from sailing on ships belonging to belligerents
          - prohibited arming U.S. merchant ships
          - belligerents to pay cash and to carry non-contraband goods
        - b. to prevent mistakes of WWI
          2. allowed purchase of arms on cash-carry basis
          3. forbid loans to belligerents
          4. forbade U.S. ships from war zone
            - later amended
      - C. U.S. reaction to the Fall of France
        1. viewed as a threat to U.S. security
          - support for all aid to Great Britain: "all measures short of war"
        2. Military Preparedness
          - a. defense budget increased from \$2 billion to \$10 billion
            - approved two-ocean navy and huge airforce
          - b. Selective Service Act (1940)
            - registration and draft of men between 21-35
            - first ever peacetime draft
      - D. Aid to Great Britain
        1. Atlantic Ferry Organization
          - a. supplies brought to the border, then push over into Canada
          - b. allowed supplies to be sold to third parties, indirectly to Great Britain
        2. Destroyer-Naval Base Deal (1940)
          - a. U.S. traded 50 "old age" destroyers

for control of British naval bases  
b. avoided Senate ratification,  
executive agreement  
c. Great Britain needed destroyers to  
counter-balance  
losses to U-Boats  
- only received 9 of the 50 by  
end of 1940  
\* Roosevelt elected to third term (1940)  
3. Lend-Lease Act (1941)  
a. U.S. "arsenal of democracy"  
b. President given the power to lend  
or lease goods to any nation he  
deemed necessary to U.S. security  
c. aid to Great Britain and U.S.S.R.  
- \$50 billion  
- transportation protected by  
U.S. warships, led to limited naval war  
E. Roosevelt Forms U.S. Policy  
1. Four Freedoms (January 1941)  
a. modern version of the Fourteen  
Points  
b. freedom of speech, freedom of  
religion (worship), freedom from want, and  
freedom from fear (global arms  
reduction to prevent future aggression)  
2. Atlantic Charter (August 1941)  
a. agreement between Churchill and  
Roosevelt  
b. established goals for post war -  
after defeat of Germany  
- similar to Wilson's Fourteen  
Points  
c. basis of U.N. Charter  
3. Undeclared Naval War (1940-1941)  
a. U.S. convey Great Britain ships  
b. Kearney  
- U.S. destroyer torpedoed by a  
U-Boat  
- U.S. sailors killed  
- repeal of parts of Neutrality  
Acts  
\* first U.S. ship damaged  
c. Reuben James - U.S. destroyer  
- 115 Americans killed  
- last of Neutrality Acts  
repealed

\* first U.S. ship lost  
\* U.S.-Germany at war, just a matter of time before U.S.  
enters.

#### IV U.S. Entrance into World War II:

##### Causes of U.S.-Japanese Conflict

1. Japanese violation of the Open Door Policy:  
a. Invasion of Manchuria  
- Used pretext that Chinese had blown up  
Japanese railroad for invasion  
- China Rich in coal, iron ore and timber  
- encouraged the sale of opium, heroin and  
morphine for profits and to sedate population.  
- in response to protests, Japan withdrew  
from League of Nations.  
b. Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945)  
Japan invades China 1937  
Began in response to Chinese aggression  
Emergence of Chiang Kai-Shek, Chinese nationalist leader  
who led the fight against the Japanese.  
c. Panay Incident (See earlier notes)  
d. U.S Response? (September 1940)  
Embargo of iron and steel scrap  
2. Further Japanese aggression  
a. November 1940 - Tripartite Pact (Split into  
three parts)  
- military and economic alliance with  
Germany  
- Rome, Berlin and Tokyo Axis  
b. Gained access to oil supplies from Netherlands  
East Indies co.  
c. July 1941 - French-Indo China occupation  
- agriculture, coal and rubber  
- cut off railroad to Chiang Kai-Shek  
d. U.S. responded by "freezing" all Japanese  
assets in the U.S. and by embargoing all shipments.  
(oil)  
\* October 1941 Tojo becomes Prime Minister  
3. U.S.-Japanese Negotiation (1941)  
a. Cordell Hull, U.S. Secretary of State, used  
MAGIC, code name for decoding Japanese diplomatic  
messages.  
b. U.S. demanded end to Japanese aggression in  
China and withdrawal from Tripartite Pact.

c. Japan demanded end to embargo, recognition to U.S.'s role in China and end to aid to Chiang Kai-Shek  
\* By December 1941 war was inevitable; when and where was unknown.

## B. Attack on Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941)

### 1. Reasons for attack on U.S. targets

#### a. By 1941, Japan faced two scenarios:

and lose face. (Militarists viewed it as failure)  
with U.S., Great Britain and The Netherlands.

- Withdraw from China and Indo-China
- Continue war with China and risk war

materials. (Worth the risk of war)

#### c. Japan at military advantage:

- Closer to objectives
- enemies defenses weak and easy

targets.

- lack of competition in the Pacific
  - Russia on verge of collapse
  - England too busy with Germany
  - U.S. would focus on Germany

d. Viewed Germany as unbeatable and would protect Japan from brunt of U.S. force.

#### e. Viewed the U.S. as weak

on war issue.  
- Luxury-Loving, self-serving, divided  
- Believed the U.S. had no desire to fight a prolonged war.

## 2. Why Pearl Harbor?

Sunday, December 7th

### a. site of U.S. Pacific Fleet

- 10 warships
- 8 Battleships
- 24 Auxiliaries (Carriers out at sea)

b. destroy U.S. Pacific Fleet and the U.S. would be unable to stop Japanese aggression in the Pacific.

\*Goal of "Operation Z" was to humble and humiliate the United States.

## 3. Damages:

### a. U.S.

Lost 6 battleships, 3 destroyers, 3 light cruisers.  
damaged 2 battleships.  
destroyed 164 airplanes, 128 damaged; grouped together to prevent sabotage.  
2403 servicemen and civilians killed.  
1178 wounded.

### b. Japan:

29 aircraft, 6 subs (5 midgets)

## 4. Results:

- ### a. U.S. Pacific fleet damaged but not destroyed.
- Japanese "incomplete victory"
  - Failed to destroy repair and fueling

stations.

b. opened Pacific territories to Japanese attacks: Philippines, Guam, Thailand, Malaya, Singapore, Hong Kong, Wake. Etc.

c. brought a united industrial giant into the war - "Sleeping tiger"

- December 8th - Roosevelt asks for and receives declaration of war; "date which will live in infamy"

- December 11th - Italy and Germany declare war on U.S.

## 5. News of Attack

- Germany: Hitler happy; military unhappy - Russian front stalled
- Great Britain: thrilled; declared war on Japan
- 35 Latin American allies declared war on Axis

\*Rumors of prior knowledge of attack not proven.