

World War 2

The Defining Event of the 20th Century
& the Greatest Conflict the World has
ever known



Chapter 14- Section 1

The Road to World War II

Problems Around the World

- ◆ Throughout the 1930's the Depression led to personal hardships and political upheaval in America, but conditions in other countries were even worse.
- ◆ Dictators in Europe and Asia sought to solve their nations' problems by extending their power at the expense of others nations.

Totalitarian Governments



- ✔ **Controlled every aspect of daily life using terror to take away individual rights and to silence anyone who spoke up against them**
- ✔ **Germany, Italy, and Soviet Union**

Fascism



- ◆ The leaders of Germany and Italy focused on the need to rebuild their countries.
- ◆ They based their governments on a philosophy called fascism, **the belief that the needs of the nation are above the needs of the individual**
- ◆ Therefore citizens' rights and freedoms are lost for the benefit of the nation

Communism vs Fascism

- ◆ Unlike communism, which calls for all of society to jointly own the nation's means of production, fascism allows private business.
- ◆ Conflict will not exist between workers and owners in a communist society because the workers *are* the owners.
- ◆ In a fascist system, conflict is resolved by the *government's* power

You have No Rights or Freedoms

- Under both systems, however, the result is the same; **individuals rights and freedoms are lost** as everyone works for the benefit of society and the nation.

FASCISM
IS NOT TO BE
DEBATED



Benito Mussolini

Il Duce (“the leader”)



- ◆ **Fascist leader of Italy** who used terror to bring anyone who opposed him under control
- ◆ Having fought and been wounded in WWI, he was left feeling resentful and **pledged to restore the nation's greatness.**
- ◆ Helped organize the revolutionary Fascist party.

Blackshirts



- Named this because of the way they dressed, Mussolini had these **gangs of Fascist thugs** terrorize and bring under control anyone who opposed him.
- When he threatened to march on Rome, the king of Italy panicked and appointed him prime minister.

Need for Order



- ◆ Mussolini claimed that order was necessary to restore the nation's greatness and...
- ◆ **Suspended elections**
- ◆ **Made himself dictator**
- ◆ **Outlawed all other political parties**

“The Country is Nothing Without Conquest”



- 🟢 In October, 1935 Mussolini put those words into practice by **invading** the African country of **Ethiopia**
- 🟢 The Ethiopians resisted fiercely, but were defeated and under the control of Italy by the following March.

Adolf Hitler



- While Mussolini was gaining control in Italy, a discontented Austrian painter was rising to power in Germany.
- Like Mussolini, Hitler had been wounded while serving in WWI. He, too, was enraged by the outcome of the war and by the terms of the peace settlement.

Hitler

- ✔ Like Mussolini, Hitler believed **conquest was the way to power.**
- ✔ Hitler was a **powerful public speaker** that spoke with a charismatic passion that electrified audiences in Germany.



Nazi Party

- ◆ National Socialist German Workers Party
- ◆ Hitler joined and his powerful public-speaking abilities quickly made him **the leader of the party**



Failed Uprising



- ◆ In 1923, with some 3,000 followers, Hitler tried to overthrow the German government.
- ◆ This uprising was quickly crushed and he was sentenced to 5 years in prison, but only served 9 months.



Mein Kampf

- ◆ While in prison, Hitler wrote an autobiography called **Mein Kampf**
- ◆ Means “My Struggle”
- ◆ Book outlined the Nazi philosophy, his views of Germany’s problems, and his plans for the nation

Ideas in his book



- ◆ **Certain groups within Germany were weakening the country (particularly Jews)**
- ◆ **Need to strengthen military and expand Germany's borders to include Germans living in other countries**
- ◆ **Need to purify the Aryan "race" (blond, blue-eyed Germans) by removing undesirable groups from Germany (which would become the Holocaust)**

Hitler's promise



- ◆ Because the Depression was worse in Germany than it was in America, he promised **to rebuild the economy and restore the greatness of the German empire**
- ◆ Won a large following and soon Hitler became head of the German state

Total power

- Like Mussolini, Hitler silenced his opposition
- Took away civil liberties (freedoms)
- Declared himself “Der Fuhrer” (“the leader”)



Versailles Treaty



- ❖ **Violated this treaty signed after WWI by moving German troops into the Rhineland (area of Germany on the border of France and Belgium where the treaty said they could not have forces)**
- ❖ **Was a huge gamble for Hitler, but neither France nor Britain threatened to attack (which would have stopped him because the German army was not yet ready to fight)**

The Axis Powers

- ◆ Alliance signed between Hitler & Mussolini (and later Japan)
- ◆ Created “axis” between Italy and Germany



Bold Moves in 1938



- ◆ Encouraged by his success in the Rhineland, **Hitler invades Austria**
- ◆ Britain and France protest, but still do nothing
- ◆ Several months later **Hitler demands the Sudetenland** (a region of Czechoslovakia with a heavily Germany population)

Appeasement

- ✔ **Policy of France and England to give in to Germany's demands in order to keep the peace**
- ✔ Neither was prepared for war and both remembered the awful costs of WWI
- ✔ **Hoped to satisfy Hitler's appetite by letting him have the Sudetenland**

BROOKINGS RICHARD THOMAS DODD
3/09



"GOOD BOY! ... SEE, I GIVE NICE DOGGIE A BONE AND HE GOES AWAY!...OK?!"

- Winston Churchill (the future leader of Britain) said that “Britain and France had to choose between war and dishonor. They chose dishonor. They will have war.”

6 months later...

March 1939



- ◆ Churchill's prophecy came true
- ◆ **Hitler took over rest of Czechoslovakia**
- ◆ **Britain and France threaten Hitler with war and pledge to support Poland if they are invaded**

September 1, 1939



- ▶ **Hitler invades Poland** after signing a treaty with the Soviet Union agreeing not to invade them (and give eastern Poland to the Soviets)
- ▶ **Britain and France declare war on Germany** 2 days later

Blitzkrieg

- ◆ Means “lightning war”
- ◆ **Moving tanks, weapons, and soldiers quickly into enemy territory by truck instead of on foot to quickly overwhelm your foe before they have time to react**
- ◆ **Used by Germany against Poland and then rest of Europe (including Belgium, Netherlands, and France)**

France prepares and waits...

- After Poland fell, the war entered a quiet period
- Germans call this lull the *sitzkrieg* (“sit-down war”)
- For the next several months German troops sat and watched French forces on the *Maginot Line*, a massive system of defenses that France had built along its border with Germany
- The American press called this “the phony war”.

End of the “phony war”



- 🟢 In April of 1940, Hitler launches an attack on Denmark and Norway.
- 🟢 Then on May 10, German troops move around the Maginot Line and **launch a blitzkrieg on Belgium, the Netherlands, and France.**
- 🟢 All 3 countries are quickly overwhelmed.

Dunkirk



- ◆ In the face of this savage German attack, British forces in France retreated to the coastal city of Dunkirk.
- ◆ There, over a 9-day period in late May and early June, one of the greatest rescues in the history of warfare took place.

“The Miracle at Dunkirk”



- While other troops fought to slow the advancing Germans, 900 small British boats evacuated 340,000 soldiers across the English Channel using mainly tugboats, sailboats, and other small private craft.
- This daring rescue occurred while under constant attack from the German *Luftwaffe* (air force)

June 14, 1940



- ◆ **German troops enter Paris and a few days later France surrenders**
- ◆ **In less than 3 months Hitler has conquered most of Western Europe.**
- ◆ **Great Britain is the only Ally left (until the U.S. and Soviets join)**

Winston Churchill



- As Hitler masses troops on the French coast just 20 miles across the English Channel, Winston Churchill, now Britain's prime minister, pledges that the British will defend their island at all costs:
- “We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.”

Battle of Britain



- Hitler turns to the *Luftwaffe* to destroy Britain's ability and will to resist.
- With only England left to conquer, Hitler launches the greatest air assault the world has ever seen
- Up to **1,000 planes a day bomb England (London)**

British Royal Air Force (RAF)

Although they were greatly outnumbered, brave British pilots each flew 6 or 7 missions a day to defend the country.

Over 1,500 Allied aircraft were lost during the Battle of Britain, but they caused heavy damage to the Luftwaffe.



After months of poundings...



- ◆ The British people were equally brave.
- ◆ The bombings set **1,500 fires across London** and **killed 30,000** (another 120,000 injured)
- ◆ **Yet the British people remained defiant!**



Meanwhile...

on the other side of the world



- ◆ **Japan – “The land of the rising sun”**
- ◆ **Sitting on a small chain of islands, Japan wants more land**
- ◆ **Lacked enough raw materials to support growing population**
- ◆ **Economic problems from the Great Depression**

Manchuria



- 🟢 Japan shocked the world by invading and taking over much of China, including the mineral rich region of Manchuria
- 🟢 Signed a neutrality pact with the Soviets

Pearl Harbor



- 🟢 **Japan starts to conquer much of SE Asia and islands in the Pacific**
- 🟢 **FDR begins a naval buildup in the Pacific and moves the Pacific fleet from CA to Pearl Harbor in Hawaii**

Tripartite Pact

- 🟢 Alliance between Germany, Italy, & Japan
- 🟢 They all were trying to expand their land and power



In September 1940, Japan, Italy, and Germany sign the Tripartite Pact.

Photo: AP/Wide World



Why did America stay neutral?



- Memory of WWI still fresh and didn't feel like it had made the world safe for democracy
- We had enough problems at home with the Depression

Dr. Seuss?

... and the Wolf chewed up the children and spit out their bones ...
But those were Foreign Children and it really didn't matter."



Isolationism

- 💧 The belief that America should stay out of other nations' issues or fights
- 💧 We won't give loans or weapons to any nations



“Cash and Carry”

- Our policy that said **that all non-military goods sold to nations at war had to be paid in cash and transported by the purchaser**



Increased U.S. involvement

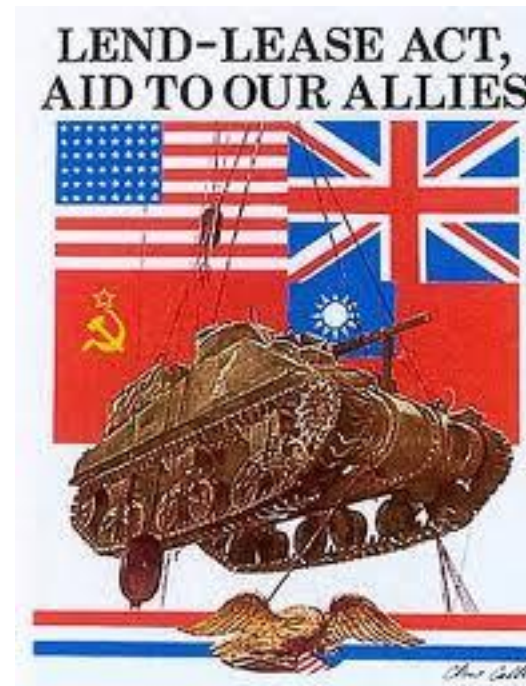


- ▶ **Began to provide war supplies to Great Britain**
- ▶ “If your neighbor’s house is on fire, you don’t sell him a hose. You lend it to him and take it back after the fire is out” – FDR
- ▶ Also, **authorized a draft** for all males ages 21 – 36
- ▶ 1st peacetime draft in history



Lend-Lease Act

- ◆ Allowed the President to aid any nation whose defense he believed was vital to American security



American response to Japan's aggression



- ◆ **Cut off all trade with Japan and froze their assets in the U.S.**
- ◆ **didn't do more because we wanted to avoid war with them**

Why did Japan attack?

- ◆ They couldn't achieve their goals in Asia so long as the U.S. fleet was in Hawaii
- ◆ The threat had to be destroyed



Sunday - December 7th, 1941

- ◆ **7am Japanese planes mistaken for American**



- Less than an hour later **180 Japanese warplanes bombed the Pacific fleet**, most of which was anchored in a 3 sq. mile area



9:45am

💧 **Less than 2 hours later it was over**



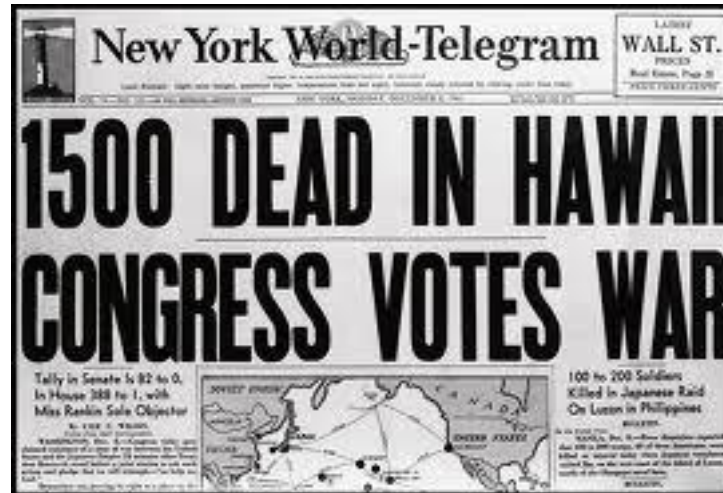
Pearl Harbor



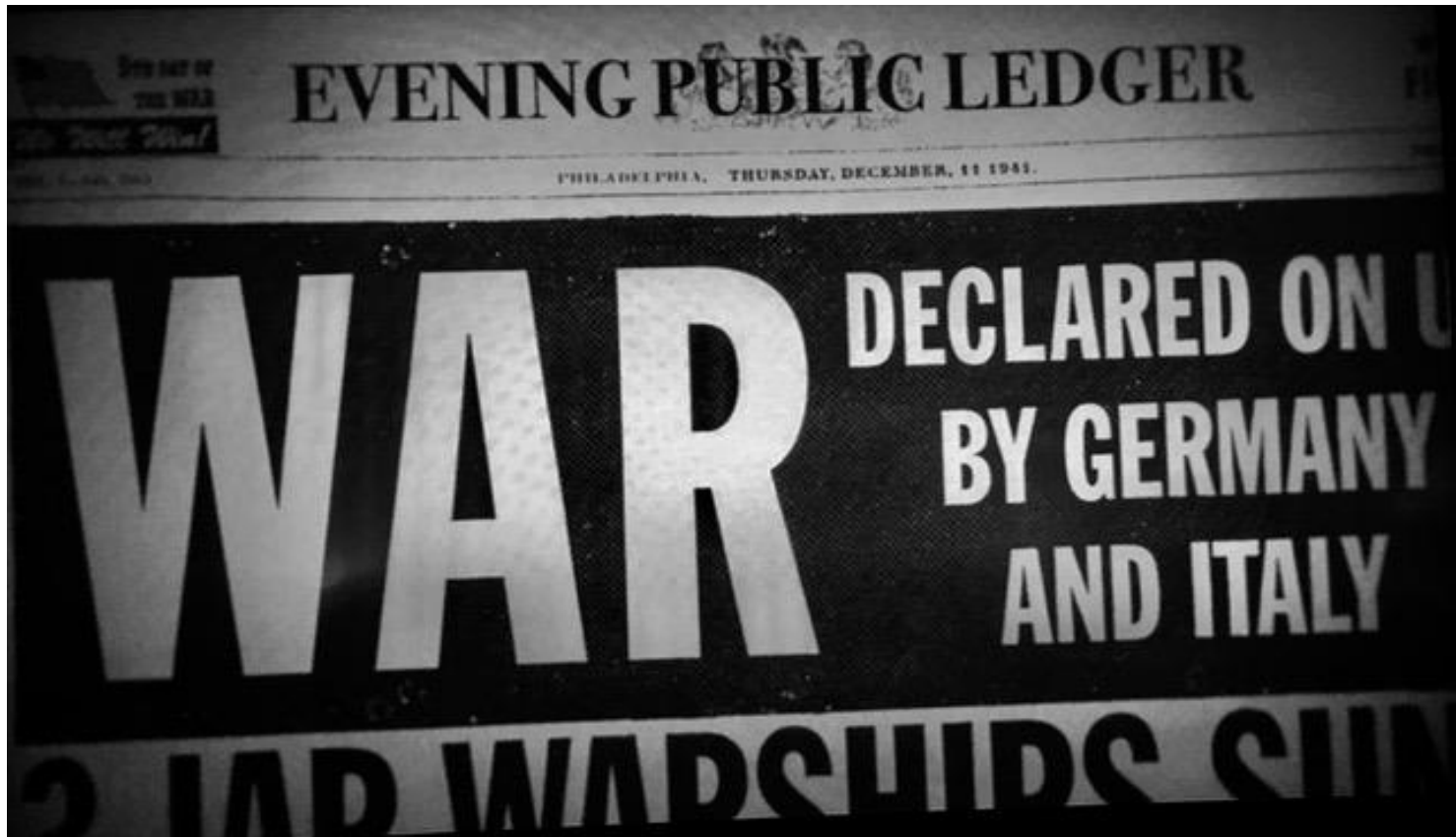
- 2,400 Americans killed
- 1,200 wounded
- 300 American planes damaged or destroyed
- 18 warships sunk or severely damaged
- Japan lost just 29 planes

December 8th

- 🟢 FDR asks Congress to declare war on Japan, calling December 7th, 1941 “a date which will live in infamy”



What happens after we declare war on Japan?



3 Days Later

- Germany and Italy declare war on America
- We are officially part of a world war for the 2nd time



Assignment

Using your notes and/or textbook, create a timeline showing at least 10 events and/or responses to those events leading up to U.S. involvement in WWII.

