World War II (1931-1945)

Lesson 1 Rise of Aggressive Dictators
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Learning Objectives

• Explain the rise of dictatorships in the Soviet Union, Italy, Germany, and Japan in the 1930s.
• Summarize acts of aggression by Italy, Germany, and Japan.
• Analyze the responses of Britain, France, and the United States to the aggressive regimes.

Key Terms

• aggression
• totalitarianism
• Joseph Stalin
• Benito Mussolini
• Fascism
• Adolf Hitler
• anti-Semitic
• Spanish Civil War
• General Francisco Franco
• appeasement
• Franklin D. Roosevelt
• Anschluss
• Neville Chamberlain
• Munich Pact
Europe after WWI

• Europe was in ruins
  – Economic Depression
    • Buildings destroyed
    • Millions lost their lives

• Treaty of Versailles
  – Germany blamed for the war
  – Italy lost territory
    • Winning side of the war...

• When people get desperate they are more willing to believe that a single person can solve their problems
Treaty of Versailles

• **Strengths**
  – League of Nations
  – Self Determination
    • Nations can form their own country
      – Do not have to controlled by an Empire
        » Poland, Hungry, Czechoslovakia
  – Demilitarized zones
    • Countries around Germany felt safer

• **Weakness**
  1. League of Nations was weak
     No Military
     Had no authority
     USA didn’t join
  2. Italy and Japan did not like the treaty
  3. Germany blamed for the war
Rise of Dictators

- Europe and Asia were struggling and dissatisfied.

- **Totalitarian state.**
  - led by absolute dictators, leaders
  - use acts of aggression
  - Use spies, Intimidation, secret police – to keep power
    - No individual rights
    - Gov’t controls Media
    - School teach state ideology
      » (Mein Kompf)

- Looked for a leader
  - Express their **bitterness**
    - Great motivational speaker
    - Iconic Image
  - Return greatness to their country
    - Willing to give up freedoms
The Paris Peace Conference met at the Palace of Versailles and lasted a year. The crowds of delegates from participating nations wrote a series of treaties.
Joseph Stalin – “Man of Steel”

• Russian Revolution – 1917, First Totalitarian State
  – Vladimir Lenin

• Communism
  – a political and economic ideology that calls for a classless, government-controlled society
  – everything is shared equally
  – each person works and is paid according to their abilities and needs
  – State ownership

• Joseph Stalin – takes over after Lenin (1924)
  – Great Terror
    • Purged rivals+ Traitors
    • Killed Millions
    • Media portrayed Stalin as an idol

• Transformed Soviet Union to an industrial power
  – USSR
  – United Soviet Socialist Republic
  – Many estimated that Stalin was responsible for the deaths of 8 to 13 million people
Mussolini in Italy

• Rise of Mussolini
  – Direct Result of Treaty of Versailles
    • Winning side
      – Lost land
      – Economic Depression – Hard to find Jobs
    • Communist movement grew

• In 1919 Benito Mussolini started the Fascist Party in Italy.
  • “Make Italy Great Again”

  – Fascism believes that the country is more important than the person.
    • Mussolini pledged to take Italy back to the glory days of the Roman Empire.

  – His nickname was il Duce which means “the leader.”
    • Outlawed political parties
    • Controlled Media + Organized Youth Groups

    – The fascist militia (soldiers) were known as Blackshirts.
    – Fought against socialists + Communists
German Outrage

- Germany Post WWI
  - Weimar Republic — Democracy
    - Failed to establish a functional Government
      - Economic Depression
- Economy and people effected
- People lost their nationalism
  - Treaty wasn’t fair
    - Germany blamed for the war
      » War Guilt Cause
    - Pay Reparations
      » Inflation = rapid increase in prices
    - Limited Military
- Political trouble
  - Communists and socialists
    - National Socialist German Workers’ Party - NAZI
      » German Ethnic Solidarity
The Nazis take over Germany

- **Adolf Hitler** was a powerful public speaker that became the leader of the Nazi party.
  - Born in Austria, he believed in reuniting all German-speaking people of the world.
    - Most Austrians felt a connection to Germany.
      - Spoke German.
  - Purification - Germans formed a “**master race**” that was destined to rule the world.
    - Purify the World for German race.

- **Mein *Kampf* – “My Struggle”**
  - Identified problems German faced.
    - Blamed people, political parties.
    - Communists, Jews.
Hitler Takes Control

• In 1933 Hitler was appointed chancellor and immediately dismantled Germany’s government
  – Great Depression had some 6 million Germans unemployed, Hitler rose to power vowing to combat this

• “Scapegoat” - blame someone else for one's own problems, a process that often results in feelings of prejudice toward the person or group that one is blaming.
  – Blame Jews for Economic problems
    • Jewish citizens still wealthy
    • Jewish Citizens did not fight in WWI
    • Threaten National Security
    • The government was telling the people to represent and preserve national interest first and foremost

• “The Holocaust happened in large part because an over-powering government took advantage of a weak people who just wanted to be provided with direction during a time of disparity. The people followed their government whole-heartedly because their faith in their previous government, the government where they had lost their possessions and valuables, had been compromised.”

Julie Ghostlaw, Mount Holyoke College.
Militarists Gain Control

- Japan Post WWI
  - Reduce military power, Legalize Unions, All men allowed to vote, several political parties formed

- Military leaders were taking over the imperial government of Japan
  - Solve Economic problems
  - Expand Asia + Pacific Islands
    - Natural Resources
      - Continued to have a constitutional Monarchy

- Hideki Tojo

- Japan lacks many resources
  - Relied on Imports
    - Oil from USA
  - The military and the people blamed the political system and corrupt politicians

- More living space for a growing people
  - Invades Manchuria (1931)
  - Invade China – 1937
    - Nanjing – Massacre of Najing – Killed Hundred of thousands of Chinese to take over the city
### Dictators Move to Gain Territory

#### Aggression and Appeasement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aggressive Action</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>World Reaction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan invades Manchuria.</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>League of Nations condemns the action; Japan withdraws from League.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy invades Ethiopia.</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td>League of Nations endorses sanctions against Italy but does not enforce them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany sends troops into Rhineland.</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>League of Nations denounces the move as a violation of the Treaty of Versailles, but takes no action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany and Italy support fascists in Spanish Civil War.</td>
<td>1936–1939</td>
<td>France, Great Britain, and United States refuse to get involved or to provide weapons to democratic Republican forces. League of Nations remains neutral.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan invades China.</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Japan is criticized for violating peace treaty, but no action taken to stop aggression.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany annexes Austria.</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>World powers take no action to stop violation of the Treaty of Versailles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany demands Sudetenland.</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Munich Pact is signed and Germany gains the Czech territory.</td>
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**Analyze Charts**

What was the world reaction to these aggressive actions? What was the effect of this reaction on the aggressors?
Dictators Move to Gain Territory

- Dictators Aggressive Acts
  - Germany + Italy
  - League + Democratic nations fail to act
    - America did not join the League
    - Could not enforce policy – No military

- Hitler Challenges Treaty of Versailles
  - Built Military
    - Sent troops to the Rhineland
- Mussolini Challenges Treaty of Versailles
  - Invade Ethiopia

- War in Spain
  - Spanish Civil War
    - Nationalists rebel against democratic government
      - Hitler and Mussolini send troops to help rebellion
  - Francisco Franco – Nationalists Leader in the Spanish Civil War
Appeasement— or giving in to aggressive demands to maintain peace, had prevented the outbreak of a needless war

- British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain
  - Prevent war
- Others did not trust Hitler
  - Hitler wouldn’t stop after taking the Sudetenland

Winston Churchill (P.M 1940-45)

- Appeasement was a cowardly act
  - Hitler wouldn’t stop
AUSTRIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA FALL

• Austria and Czechoslovakia were to be absorbed into the Third Reich

• Most Austrians were Germans. Hitler marched in unopposed
  – Anschluss - Union between Austria and Germany

• Sudetenland
  – More land for the Germans (Important Nat. Res.)
    • People of Czech
    • Language
      – 3 million Czech’s
  – Hitler plans his annexation (take over/ absorption)
    • Newspapers blame the Czech’s

• Great Britain Prime Minister Neville Chamberlin
  – “I believe its peace in our time”
Analyze Political Cartoon Who do the small men represent? What point do you think the cartoon was making with this image?