

## Unit 9 Overview: Interwar Europe and WWII

### Essential Question

12. Evaluate the role the Treaty of Versailles played in creating the economic, social and political environment that culminated in WWII?

**Possible Essays on the test: If I don't make this clear during our lessons you speak up! By the way, ALL of these were actual FRQs on the AP Exam**

1. Why did Germany's experiment with parliamentary democracy between 1919 and 1933 fail?
2. Compare the rise to power of the fascists in Italy with the Nazis in Germany.
3. Support or refute: "Dictators in 20th century Europe have had much greater control over culture and society than the divine right monarchs of earlier centuries."
4. How and in what ways did European painting or literature reflect the disillusionment in society between 1919 and 1939? Support your answer with specific artistic or literary examples.
5. Compare and contrast the French Jacobins' use of state power to achieve revolutionary goals during the Terror (1793-1794) with Stalin's use of state power to achieve revolutionary goals in the Soviet Union during the period 1928-1939.

### Chapter 27

#### Political Experiments of the 1920's

<u>People</u>	<u>Places</u>	<u>Terms</u>
Stresemann Hindenburg Adolf Hitler Gustav Witte Ernst Rohm Benito Mussolini Leon Trotsky Joseph Stalin	Alsace-Lorraine Polish Corridor Rhineland Yugoslavia Rhine India Ireland	"Little Entente" Reparations General Strike of 1926 Sinn Fein Weimar Republic <i>Mein Kampf</i> Beer Hall putsch (1923, Munich) Locarno Treaty Dawes Plan Fascism Cheka War Communism New Economic Policy

Chapter 28  
Europe and the Great Depression of the 1930's

People	Terms	Significant Events Groups, Parties
Benito Mussolini	capitalism	Kristalnacht Depression Reichstag fire collectivization of agriculture Nazi party Social Democrats Comintern
Adolf Hitler	socialism	
Leon Blum	mixed economy	
Hindenburg	Nuremberg Laws	
Himmler	Kulaks	
Sergei Kirov	Dawes Plan	
John Maynard Keynes	Young Plan	
Ramsay MacDonald	Five Year Plans	
Hermann Göring	Enabling Act	
Ernst Roehm	purge	
Joseph Stalin		

→ WORLD WAR II

- • *Failure of collective security*
- • **Treaty of Versailles** did not create an enduring peace by severely punishing Germany and triggering future resentment against the "dictated peace."
  - • **League of Nations**, without (US & USSR) didn't have will nor support to maintain peace.
- • **Washington Naval Conference**, 1921-22: did not stop naval arms race
  - • Five Power Treaty: created a 5-5-3 battleship ratio between U.S., Britain and Japan
  - • Four Power Treaty replaced Anglo-Japanese Alliance of 1902: Bound Br., Japan, France, and U.S. to preserve status quo in the Pacific, a concession to Japan's favor.
  - • Nine Power Treaty agreed to uphold the Open Door in China
- • **Locarno Pact**, 1925: "spirit of Locarno" no longer relevant once Hitler took power
- • **Kellogg-Briand Pact**, 1928: "war is illegal"; not enforceable
- • Great Depression resulted in the rise of fascism in Japan and Germany
- • **Japanese invasion of Manchuria**, 1931: League did little; Japan pulled out of League
- • Hitler withdrew from League of Nations, 1933: secretly begins rearmament
- • **Stresa Front**, 1935: Mussolini and others concerned Hitler withdrew from Versailles Treaty
  - • Italy, France, and Britain protested strongly, understanding the danger; agreed to use force to maintain status quo.
  - • However only a year later, Mussolini allied with Hitler to help fascists win in Spain
- • **Italian invasion of Ethiopia**, 1935: League of Nations ineffective in its actions and protests
- • **Spanish Civil War**, 1936: Mussolini and Hitler use conflict as a testing ground for their military forces: Italy's army; Germany's airforce -- *Luftwaffe*
  - • Fascism prevails under **Francisco Franco**; also known as **Falangists** (or Royalists)
  - • League ineffective in helping republicans (Loyalists) against Franco.
  - • **Rome-Berlin Axis** formed ("Fascintern"): an alliance between fascist Italy and Germany
- • **German reoccupation of the Rhineland**, 1936: violated Versailles Treaty and Locarno Pact
  - • France unwilling to enforce the treaty without British aid; British didn't want another war

- • **Anti-Comintern Pact**, 1937: Italy signed with Germany to oppose communism in Europe.
- • Japan invades China, 1937: world watches the "rape of Shanghai" but does little

## Road to World War II

- • Hitler repudiates Versailles Treaty and begins massive rearmament in mid-1930s
- • **Anschluss**: Germany annexes Austria, 1938
- • **Sudetenland**: Hitler demanded the German-speaking province in Czechoslovakia or else there would be war
  - • **Munich Conference**, 1938 arranged by British Prime Minister **Neville Chamberlain**
    - • Attended by Britain, France, Italy & Germany; Czechoslovakia or Russia not invited!
  - • British Prime Minister **Neville Chamberlain** adopted a policy of **appeasement**
    - • **Appeasement**: making concessions to an aggressor in order to achieve peace
  - • **Pacifism** is prevalent in Britain and France: memories of horrors of WWI; don't want war
  - • Agreement: Czechoslovakia forced to give away Sudetenland
  - • Chamberlain returns to Britain a hero: "**peace in our time**"
- • **German invasion of Czechoslovakia**, spring 1939: Hitler double-crosses Chamberlain
  - • Hitler makes demands on port city of Danzig in the Polish Corridor
  - • Chamberlain says if Germany attacks Poland there will be war
  - • Hitler does not want a two-front war against France & Britain in west and Russia in east
- • **Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact**, Aug. 1939
  - • World shocked that archenemies Hitler and Stalin would make such an agreement
  - • Hitler sought assurances USSR would not attack Germany if Germany invaded Poland
  - • Public agreement: nonaggression treaty
  - • Private agreement: Germany and USSR would invade Poland and split the country in half.
- • **Germany invades Poland**, Sept. 1, 1939: marks beginning of World War II
  - • September 3, Britain & France declare war on Germany

## World War II

- • **Blitzkrieg** ("lightning war"): new form of warfare used by Germany to quickly defeat an enemy by poking a hole in enemy line and cutting off front lines from the rear thus surrounding enemy.
  - • Used coordinated attack on one part of enemy line with airforce, tanks, and artillery
  - • Poland defeated in about a month; partition occurred when USSR attacked from east
    - • Stalin invades Finland (1939) and annexes Estonia, Latvia, & Lithuania (1940) to create a buffer zone, believing Hitler will one day invade Soviet Union
- • **sitzkrieg** ("phony war"): After Poland, a 7-month lull ensued, causing some to say WWII was a myth. The world waited to see where Hitler might strike next.
- • Spring 1940: Hitler invaded Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Belgium & Luxembourg
- • **Fall of France**, June 1940 occurred in less than six weeks
  - • **Dunkirk**: thousands of French and British soldiers trapped on beaches of France
    - • Before Germans came in for the kill, thousands were rescued by armada of British vessels
  - • **Vichy France**: Hitler did not wish to waste time subduing all of France
    - • Puppet gov't created in southern France
  - • "Free French" led by **General Charles De Gaulle**, who fled to Britain
- • **Battle of Britain**: one of most critical battles of the war

- • Hitler sought to soften Britain up for an invasion ("Operation Sealion")
- • **Luftwaffe** (led by **Herman Goring**, one of Hitler's inner circle) sent to destroy **Royal Air Force (RAF)**
- • **Winston Churchill** emerged as inspirational war leader of Britain
- • After almost defeating RAF, Hitler ordered bombing of London: fatal error
- • RAF recovered and ultimately defeated *Luftwaffe*: Hitler forced to call off invasion of Britain
- • Significance: Hitler had to guard against a future two-front war; D-Day launched from Britain
- • **Tripartite Pact, 1940**: Japan added to Rome-Berlin axis for mutual defense and military support.
- • **German invasion of Soviet Union, June 1941**: Hitler's attempt at "**lebensraum**"
- • "**Scorched Earth**": Soviets destroyed anything of value as they withdrew to deprive German army of resources; 1,000's of towns disappeared!
- • By winter, Germans at the gates of Moscow; lay siege to Leningrad (lasted two years)
- • In Soviet Union, WWII became known as "**Great Patriotic War of the Fatherland**"
- • **Atlantic Charter**: Churchill and FDR meet secretly after invasion of Soviet Union
- • Decide once Axis Powers defeated, there would be no territorial changes contrary to the wishes inhabitants (self-determination)
- • Called for "a permanent system of general security": later became the United Nations
- • Stalin endorsed the agreement soon thereafter
- • U.S. neutrality
- • Neutrality Acts in 1930s prevented FDR from drawing U.S. into the conflict earlier
- • **Lend-Lease Act** (1941) gave large amounts of money and supplies to help Britain and Soviets; effectively ended U.S. neutrality
- • Japanese attack on **Pearl Harbor**, Dec. 7, 1941, resulted in U.S. entry into the war
- • Hitler declared war on U.S.: another fatal blunder! Instead of focusing on Japan, U.S. (along with Britain) would instead focus on defeating Germany first.
- • **The Grand Alliance** formed in 1942: Britain, Soviet Union and U.S. and 2 dozen other countries
- • Turning points in the war
- • **Stalingrad**, Dec. 1942: first Nazi defeat on land; Soviets began the 2.5 year campaign of pushing the German army back to Berlin
- • "**Operation Torch**", 1943: U.S. and British forces landed on North Africa
- • **El Alamein**: British drove the Germans out of Egypt
- • Germany eventually defeated and suffered mass casualties and surrenders.
- • Invasion of Sicily and Italy, 1943
- • **D-Day**, Operation Overlord, June 6, 1944: invasion of Normandy (northern French coast)
- • Western front established; spelled end of Nazi domination of Europe; Paris liberated 1 month later
- • Hitler now fighting on three fronts: east against Russians, west against U.S. and Britain (& France) and Italy against U.S. and Britain
- • **Battle of the Bulge**, Dec. 1944: Hitler's last gasp offensive to drive Allies away from western German border; after it failed, Allies quickly penetrated deep into Germany in 1945.
- • **V-E Day**, May 8, 1945: Germany surrenders (Hitler committed suicide a few days earlier)
- • Diplomacy during the war
- • **Casablanca Conference**, 1943:
  - • FDR and Churchill declared a policy of unconditional surrender for "all enemies"
  - • Italy would be invaded first before opening 2nd Front in France (to Stalin's dismay)

- • **Moscow Conference:** 1943: US obtained Soviet agreement to enter the war against Japan after Germany was defeated and to participate in a world organization after the war was over.
- • **Tehran Conference,** 1943: First meeting of the “**Big Three**”: Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin
  - • Allies agreed to an invasion of the Western Europe in 1944.
  - • Stalin reaffirmed the Soviet commitment to enter the war against Japan
  - • Stalin insisted on Soviet control of Eastern Europe and the carving up of Germany
  - • Churchill demanded free governments in Eastern Europe and a strong Germany after the war to preserve a balance of power in Europe.
  - • Roosevelt acted as a mediator and believed he could work with Stalin to achieve a post-world peace within the construct of the United Nations.
- • **Yalta Conference,** 1945: "Big Three" met again
  - • Stalin agreed to enter Pacific war within 3 months after Germany surrendered
  - • Stalin agreed to a “Declaration of Liberated Europe” which called for free elections.
  - • Called for United Nations to meet in U.S. beginning in April 1945
    - • Soviets would have 3 votes in General Assembly
    - • U.S., Britain, USSR, France & China to be permanent members of Security Council.
  - • Germany to be divided into occupied zones and a coalition government of communists and non-communists was agreed to for Poland.
  - • U.S.S.R. allowed to keep its pre-1939 territory.
  - • FDR accepted Soviet control of Outer Mongolia, the Kurile Islands, the southern half of Sakhalin Island, Port Arthur (Darien), and partial operation of the Manchurian railroads.
- • **Potsdam Conference,** July 1945: Stalin, Harry Truman and Clement Atlee
  - • Issued warning to Japan of unconditional surrender or face utter devastation
  - • Stalin reversed his position on eastern Europe stating there would be no free elections
  - • Approvals given to concept of war-crimes trials and the demilitarization and denazification of Germany.
    - • Reparations from Germany could be taken from each respective zone.
  - • During conference Truman ordered dropping of atomic bomb on Japan
- • End of the war against Japan: U.S. dropped atomic bombs on **Hiroshima** and **Nagasaki**

#### Results of the war

- • About 55 million dead (including missing); 22 million in USSR alone
- • **Holocaust** resulted in deaths of 6 million Jews and 6 million others
  - • Hitler's "**Final Solution**" to the Jewish problem
    - • Formal plan came at **Wanasee Conference** in 1942
    - • Six death camps built in Poland in addition to hundreds of concentration camps
      - • **Auschwitz** was most notorious
- • Millions homeless and millions relocated (especially Germans living outside Germany)
- • Much of Europe lay in ruins: would take years to rebuild economy
- • Women played even larger role in the war economy than in WWI (gained more rights after war)
- • The U.S. and Soviet Union emerged as the two dominant powers in the postwar world.