



# Unit 11: World War II Causes (1939-1945)

## World War II Reference Timeline

Directions: Examine the timeline below. Respond to the questions.

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1939 | World War II Starts In Europe: Hitler invades Poland on 1 September. Britain and France declare war on Germany.  |
| 1940 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• German 'Blitzkrieg' overwhelms Belgium, Holland, and France.</li><li>• British victory in Battle of Britain forces Hitler to postpone invasion plans.</li></ul>  |
| 1941 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hitler breaks the Nazi-Soviet Pact and invades the USSR. He wants the country's raw materials and the end of Communism in Europe. USSR joins the Allies.</li><li>• Hitler's blitz continues against Britain's major cities.</li><li>• Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, and the US enters the war.</li></ul> |
| 1942 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Germany suffers setbacks at Stalingrad due to harsh Soviet climate.</li><li>• Mass murder of Jewish people at Auschwitz begins.</li></ul>  |
| 1943 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surrender at Stalingrad marks Germany's first major defeat.</li><li>• Italy surrenders, but Germany takes over the battle.</li></ul>   |
| 1944 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Soviet offensive gains momentum in Eastern Europe.</li><li>• D-Day: The Allied invasion of France. Paris is liberated from German control in August.</li></ul>   |
| 1945 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Auschwitz liberated by Soviet troops.</li><li>• Russians reach Berlin: Hitler commits suicide and Germany surrenders on 7 May.</li><li>• After atomic bombs are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan surrenders on 14 August.</li></ul>  |
| 1945 | World War II Ends: On 15 August 1945, Japan surrenders and on 2 September 1945, the war ended.   |

1. What event started World War II?

2. Why did the Soviets switch from the Axis to the Allies in 1941?

3. Why did the United States join World War II in 1941?

4. When did the mass murder of Jewish people at Auschwitz begin?

5. Why was D-Day an important event in World War II history?

6. What event occurred before Germany's surrender in 1945?

7. Why did Japan surrender in August 1945?

8. What event ended World War II?

# Unit 11: World War II Causes (1939-1945)

- WWII, 2<sup>nd</sup> global conflict of 20<sup>th</sup> century, fought mainly in Europe & on islands of Pacific Ocean
- **Events leading up to WWII:**

## A) Japanese Aggression

1) Militaristic Japan took over Korea, Manchuria, & much of SE Asia to gain natural resources/raw materials

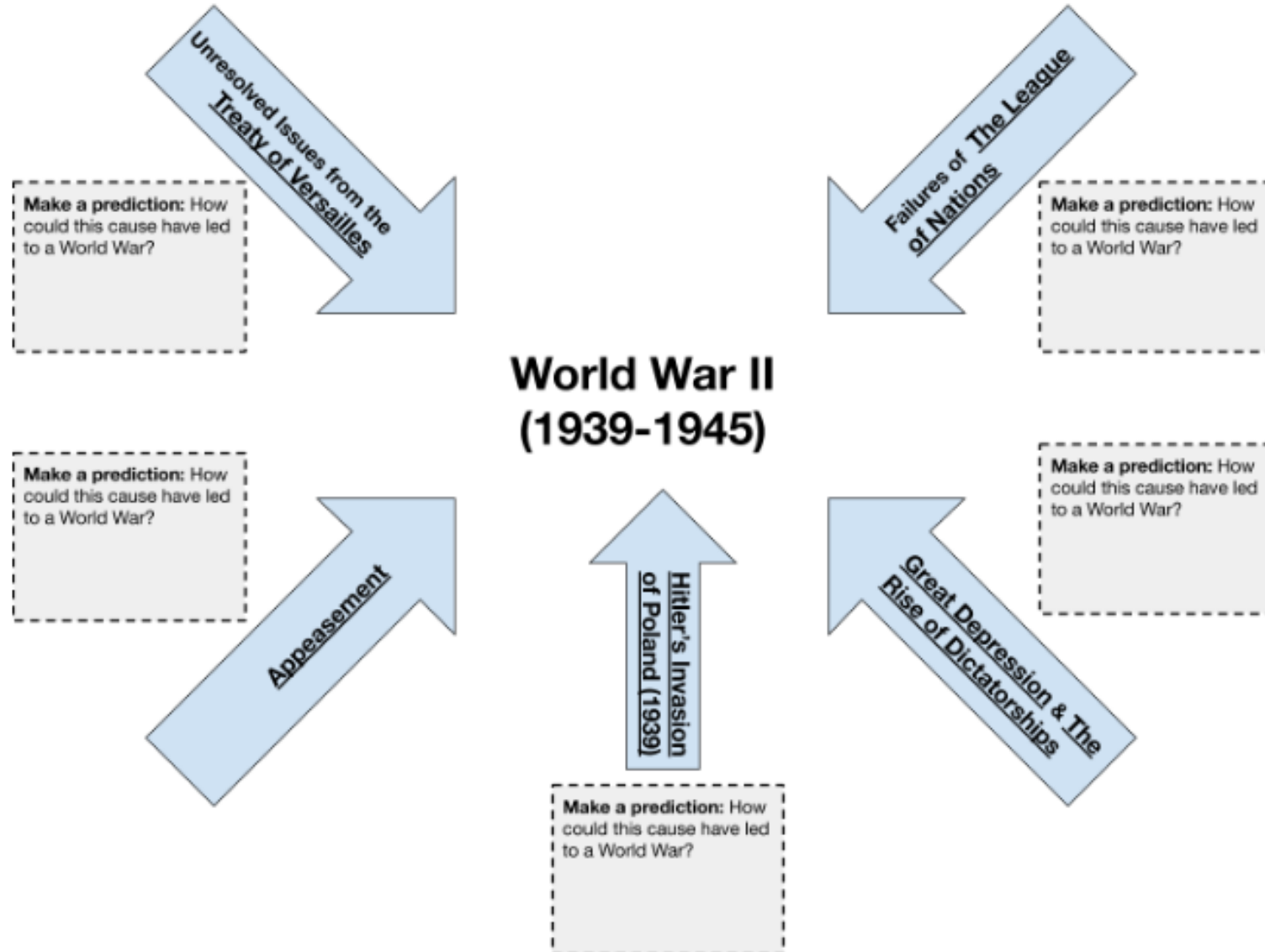
2) **Rape of Nanking 1937**- Brutal event, Japanese raped & killed Chinese civilians in Nanking (major human rights violation)

B) Italian Aggression: Mussolini invaded & took over Ethiopia



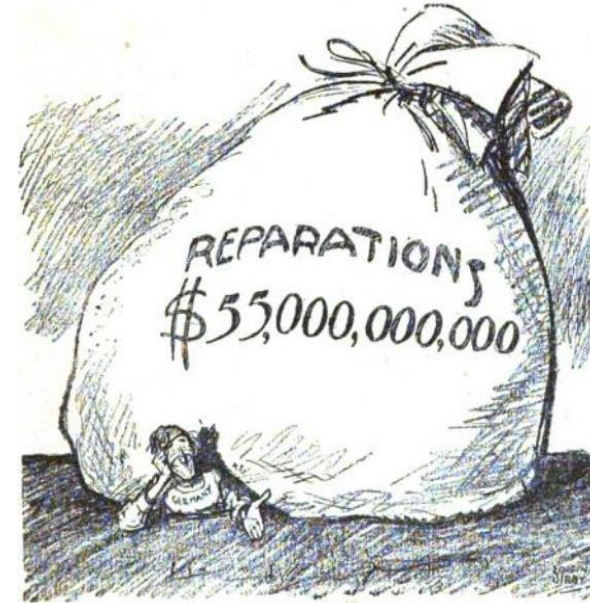
# History Channel Video on WWII

What were the causes of World War II?



## 1919-1939 Unresolved Issues of the Treaty of Versailles

The **Treaty of Versailles** was one of the peace treaties at the end of World War I and it officially ended the war between Germany and the Allied Powers. The terms of the Treaty of Versailles were announced in June 1919. Even though German politicians were not consulted about the terms of the Treaty, they had very little choice but to sign it. This resulted in many unresolved issues. Germany and its allies were the losers in World War I and as such were held responsible for all of the destruction and costs. In the Treaty of Versailles, Germany lost territory, was forced to pay huge reparations (payments by a defeated country for the destruction it caused in a war), was forced to take responsibility for the war through the War Guilt clause, and forced to demilitarize or greatly reduce their military. After World War I, Germany suffered from economic problems like inflation and unemployment and Germany was often unable to meet reparation payments. These problems left many Germans angry at the Treaty of Versailles which they saw as unfair. Germans were bitter and wanted their overseas and European territories back, as well as freedom to operate as they wish.



American contemporary view of German World War I reparations. Political cartoon 1921.

1. What were the unresolved issues of the Treaty of Versailles?

### **Synthesis:**

2. How could the unresolved issues of the Treaty of Versailles have led to the beginning of World War II in 1939?

**One major cause of the global Great Depression was the American Wall Street Crash of October 1929.** America had given the Weimar Republic huge loans in 1924 to help with reparation payments. However, after the Wall Street crash, America needed these loans repaid to assist its troubled economy. Because Germany lost its loans from America, it was unable to make reparation payments. Germany's failure to make reparation payments meant that France and Britain were unable to make their loan payments. Throughout the world, trade began to slow down and production decreased. The Wall Street Crash had a ripple effect throughout the world that resulted in high unemployment throughout Europe. Unemployment forced many Europeans, especially in Germany, to rely on soup kitchens and other government support.

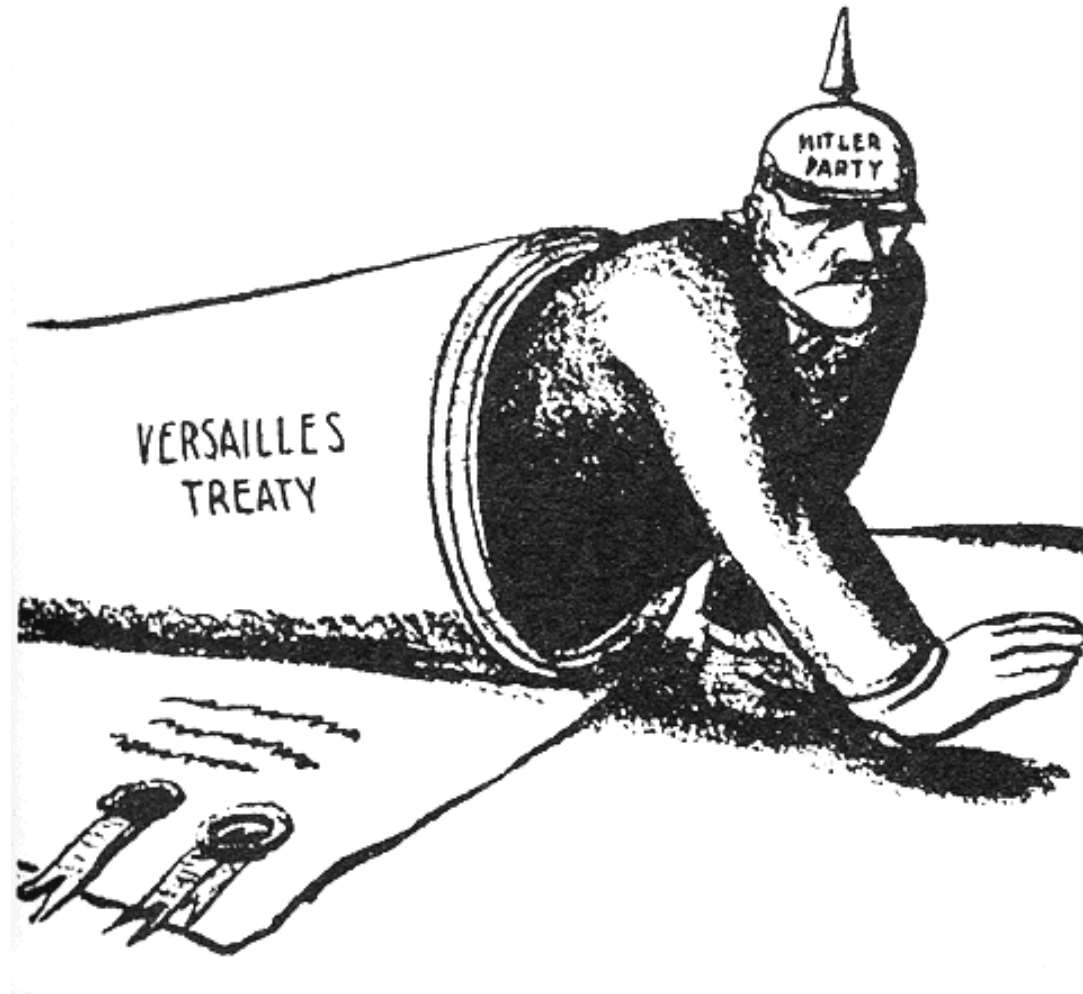
European governments seemed unable to handle the crisis. The traditional approaches to handling economic crises seemed to only cause more problems. With the current governments unable to ease the pain and suffering of unemployment and inflation, Europeans were drawn to **totalitarian** leaders who promised economic recovery. **Totalitarianism** is a system of government in which one party tries to rule with complete control over every aspect of the lives of its citizen. There have been a number of **totalitarian** rulers in history. While they all try to run their **totalitarian states** with complete control over the people that live in them, they often have different **ideologies** [beliefs] that guide their decisions. For example, the first totalitarian ruler you learned about, **Joseph Stalin**, was a **Communist**. He used totalitarianism to make Russia into the first state inspired by Karl Marx's ideas. **Adolf Hitler** and **Benito Mussolini** were other totalitarian rulers influenced by an ideology called **fascism**. Fascists also wanted complete control over their countries. While these totalitarian leaders in Europe were motivated by different ideologies, they were all deeply **nationalist** and **militaristic**, believing that they needed to fight for the survival and superiority of their nations while building up a strong military that could defeat other nations that may have attempted to take away their power. In Japan, **Emperor Hirohito** emerged as a nationalist and militaristic leader fixated on overseas expansion.

Together, Joseph Stalin (Russia), Adolf Hitler (Germany), Benito Mussolini (Italy) and Emperor Hirohito (Japan) were all **dictators** or rulers who have complete control over their countries. These dictators also aggressively sought control over other nations.

1. What caused the rise of dictators during the interwar period? What was the main focus of these dictators?

**Synthesis:** 2. How could these dictators have caused the beginning of World War II in 1939?





October 19, 1930

Reprinted from The St. Louis Post-Dispatch in Zeneman, *Heckling Hitler* (1987)

**What is the message of this political cartoon?**

**1931-  
1939**

## **Aggression & Failures of the League of Nations**

The Treaty of Versailles included the planned formation of the League of Nations, an international forum and an international collective security arrangement. The nations that joined the League of Nations agreed to settle disputes rather than go to war. The **League of Nations** was set up after World War I to keep the peace, however, the U.S. did not join and other nations were too concerned with their own problems to take on global peace. When an issue of global peace did arise, the League of Nations did not have the power to do anything about it.

In the early 1930s, the invasion of Manchuria and Abyssinia (current-day Ethiopia) destroyed people's belief in the ability of the League to stop wars or keep any kind of peace. In both situations, the League acted slowly and made poor decisions about how to suppress aggressive nations. In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria, a Northeastern region of China. The Chinese called on the League of Nations to condemn the act and stop the Japanese, but the League did not act and the Japanese left the League of Nations. In 1935, Italy, under the leadership of fascist leader Benito Mussolini, invaded Abyssinia (current-day Ethiopia) using poison gas. The Ethiopians called on the League of Nations to condemn the invasion. Instead, Britain and France signed a secret pact to give Abyssinia to Italy. By 1936, Italy had conquered Abyssinia and in 1937, Italy left the League.

### **1. How did the League of Nations respond to the crisis in Manchuria (1931) and Abyssinia (1935)?**



**1931-  
1939**

## **Aggression & Failures of the League of Nations**

While Manchuria and Abyssinia were being invaded, Hitler announced that Germany was leaving the League and in 1935, Hitler broke the Treaty of Versailles and started rearming Germany. The League calls a Disarmament Conference but it failed and Germany continued to arm. In 1936, in defiance of the League of Nations, Germany began to recapture territories lost under the Treaty of Versailles including the Rhineland. In 1938, Germany informed the League that in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany and Austria were uniting.

### **2. How did the League of Nations respond to Hitler's violation of the Treaty of Versailles?**

There were many effects of the League of Nations failures. First, small nations soon learned that they could not expect protection from the League of Nations and that aggressive totalitarian states could act without consequence. Second, the League of Nations inability to act and their slowness made the League appear incompetent, scared and ineffective. Third, by the 1930s, the four major powers - Japan, Italy, Britain and France - all betrayed the League's goals. Fourth, because Britain and France knew the League could not stop aggressive nations, they instead followed the policy of **appeasement** or giving Hitler what he wanted to stop Germany from going to war. This policy allowed Hitler to quickly advance with his plans.

3. What was the purpose of the League of Nations after World War I?

4. Did the League of Nations meet its goals? Explain.

### **Synthesis:**

5. How could the failures of the League of Nations have led to the beginning of World War II in 1939?

**1935-  
1939**

## **Appeasement**

### **What is appeasement? Why did leaders take this route?**

In the 1930s, when Britain and France knew the League could not stop aggressive nations, they instead followed the policy of **appeasement** or the policy of giving aggressive or enemy nations what they want in order to avoid conflict. The term is most often applied to the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's actions towards Nazi Germany between 1935 and 1939. There are several reasons why several Western democracies like Britain and France appeased Hitler. First, the British were not prepared to go to war and wanted to avoid war at all costs. Additionally, having remembered the slaughter of World War I, many leaders thought another world war would destroy civilization. Finally, some thought that Hitler's complaints and ideas were reasonable. From 1935 until 1938, Britain and France gave Hitler what he wanted such as land, control over nations, and the freedom to remilitarize because they assumed that if they gave Hitler what he wanted, he'd eventually stop and war could be avoided. Instead, this policy of **appeasement** empowered Hitler to want more and take more. The greatest example of this appeasement policy is the **Munich Agreement**.

**1. What is appeasement?**

**2. Which nations appeased Hitler and Nazi Germany?**

**3. Why did these nations appease Hitler and Nazi Germany?**

**4. What do you predict are the dangers of appeasement? What are the possible benefits?**

**1935-  
1939**

## **Appeasement**

### **The Road to World War II**

Hitler wanted to unite all German-speaking people into the Third Reich [Nazi Germany] and he began on the road to create a “living space” for German in Eastern Europe. To create the “living space” for Germany, Hitler believed that he should do whatever was necessary. One of his first steps in creating this “living space” was the **Anschluss** or union between Austria and Germany in 1938. Even though the Anschluss violated the Treaty of Versailles, Western democracies did nothing to stop Hitler.

**5. What did Hitler want?**

**6. How did he go about getting it?**

**7. What did Western democracies do in response to the Anschluss? What message might this send to Hitler?**

**8. How is this an example of appeasement?**

1935-  
1939

## Appeasement

Having built confidence that he could not be stopped, Hitler turned to Czechoslovakia. In western Czechoslovakia, there was a region called **Sudetenland** where there were German-speaking people he believed needed to be reunited with their German homeland. Britain and France were not willing to go to war so a deal was reached on September 30 between Adolf Hitler, Neville Chamberlain (Britain), Benito Mussolini (Italy), and Édouard Daladier (France) called the **Munich Agreement**. The Munich Agreement permitted German annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland. Czechoslovakia was informed by Britain and France that they could either fight Germany alone or surrender to Germany. The Czechoslovakian government agreed to abide by the agreement because they knew they could not fight Hitler alone since Britain and France were unwilling to help them fight. The settlement gave Germany the Sudetenland and control over the rest of Czechoslovakia as long as Hitler promised to go no further.

5. What did Hitler want?

6. How did he go about getting it?

7. What did Western democracies do in response to the Anschluss (Annexation of Czechoslovakia)? What message might this send to Hitler?

8. How is this an example of appeasement?



British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain cheerfully greeted by Adolf Hitler at the beginning of the Bad Godesberg meeting on 24 September 1938, where Hitler demanded annexation of Czech border areas without delay.

1935-  
1939

## Appeasement



13. Based on the information provided by this map, how did adopting the policy of appeasement at the Munich Conference in September 1938 change Europe?

**1935-  
1939**

## **Appeasement**

After the signing of Munich Agreement, Chamberlain returned to Britain and announced, "My good friends, for the second time in our history, a British Prime Minister has returned from Germany bringing peace with honor. I believe it is peace for our time."

**14. Why do you think Chamberlain was so excited after the Munich Agreement? How might other nations have felt about the Munich Agreement? Why?**

**15. If you were Chamberlain, would you have signed the Munich Agreement? Explain.**

However Winston Churchill, a British statesmen and staunch opponent of Chamberlain's appeasement of Adolf Hitler, delivered a speech to the House of Commons in October 1938 where he stated,

I will, therefore, begin by saying the most unpopular and most unwelcome thing. I will begin by saying what everybody would like to ignore or forget but which must nevertheless be stated, namely, that we have sustained a total and unmitigated defeat, and that France has suffered even more than we have. [...] I venture to think that in the future the Czechoslovak State cannot be maintained as an independent entity. You will find that in a period of time which may be measured by years, but may be measured only by months, Czechoslovakia will be engulfed in the Nazi regime. [...] we are in the presence of a disaster of the first magnitude which has befallen Great Britain and France. Do not let us blind ourselves to that. It must now be accepted that all the countries of Central and Eastern Europe will make the best terms they can with the triumphant Nazi Power. The system of alliances in Central Europe upon which France has relied for her safety has been swept away, and I can see no means by which it can be reconstituted. [...] This is only the beginning of the reckoning. This is only the first sip, the first foretaste of a bitter cup which will be proffered to us year by year unless by a supreme recovery of moral health and martial vigour, we arise again and take our stand for freedom as in the olden time.

**16. What did Winston Churchill fear the impact of the Munich Agreement would be?**

1935-  
1939

Appeasement

### STEPPING STONES TO GLORY



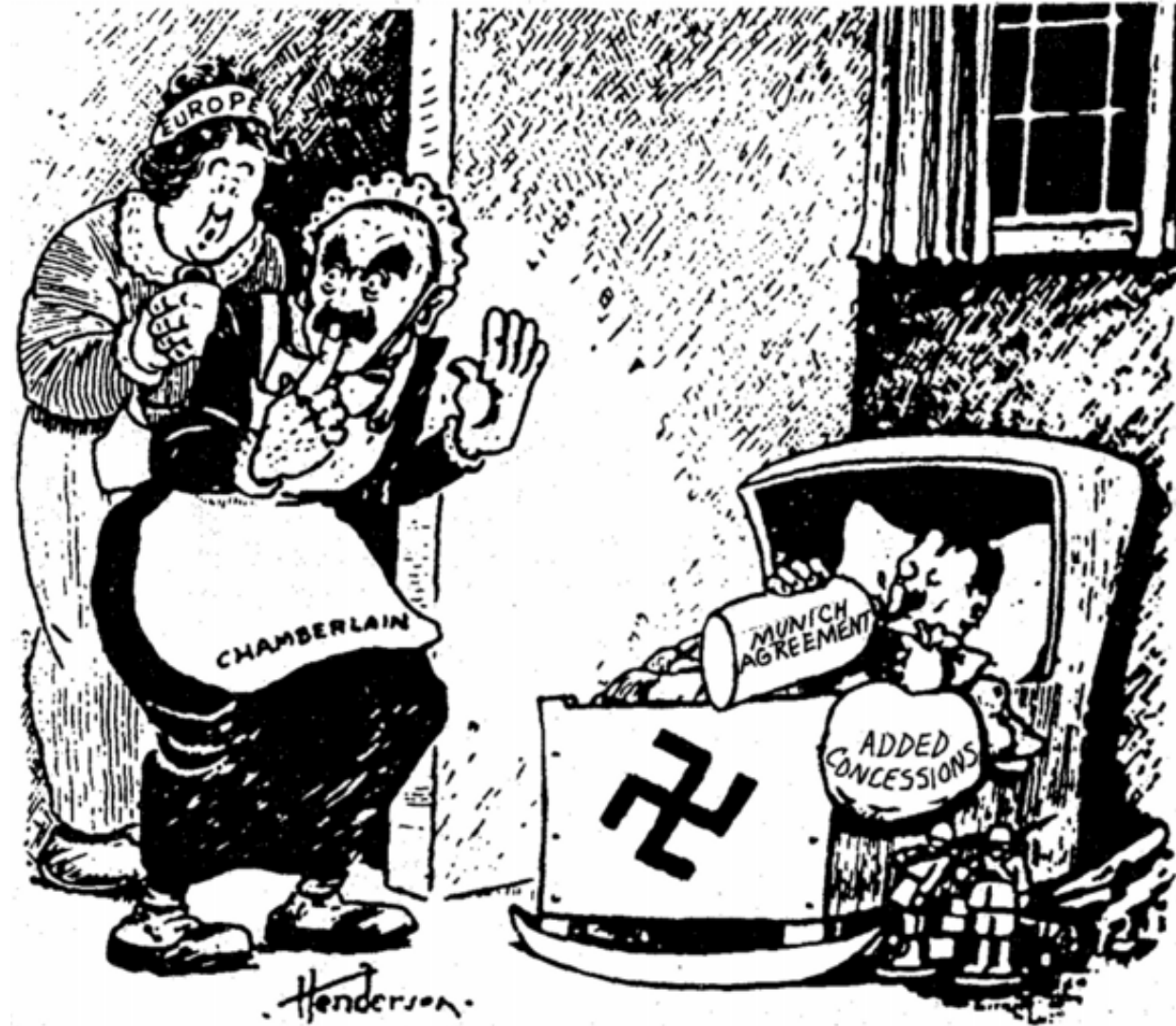
Source: David Low, *Evening Standard*, July 8, 1936 (adapted)

What is the message of this political cartoon?



1935-  
1939

## Appeasement



"SHH-HH! HE'LL BE QUIET NOW—MAYBE!"

What is the message of this political cartoon?

1935-  
1939

Appeasement

*'Remember . . . One More Lollypop, and Then You All Go Home!'*



Remember... one more lollypop,  
and then you all go home, August  
13, 1941, Dr. Seuss Political  
Cartoons.

What is the message of this political cartoon?

**1935-  
1939**

## **Appeasement**

17. What is appeasement? Why did Western democracies like Britain and France chose this policy?

**Synthesis:**

18. How could appeasement have led to beginning of World War II in 1939?

**Sept. 1,  
1939**

## **Hitler invades Poland and World War II Begins**

### **Alliances Form**

Many nations realized that after the annexation of Sudetenland, Poland would be Hitler's next target. In April 1939, Russia, Britain and France met to form an alliance to defend Poland. The Allies thought that Hitler would not invade Poland if it instigated a war with Russia. By August 1939, Russia changed its mind and left the alliance with France and Britain. In August 1939, Hitler and his enemy, Joseph Stalin, the Soviet Russian dictator, signed the **Nazi-Soviet Pact**, a nonaggression pact that publicly stated that the rival nations would maintain peaceful relations. This pact was surprising to the world because Hitler and Stalin had dramatically different ideologies. Even though these dictators did not like one another, they used each other for political ends. Secretly, this pact also said that they would invade Poland and split it between them.



- 1. After Sudetenland, what was Hitler's next target? How did Russia, Britain, and France respond?**
- 2. What was the Nazi-Soviet Pact? Why was the Nazi-Soviet Pact surprising?**
- 3. What was the secret agreement in the Nazi-Soviet pact?**
- 4. What does this secret agreement reveal about appeasement and Chamberlain's argument that the Munich Agreement would bring "peace for our time"?**

**Sept. 1,  
1939**

## **Hitler invades Poland and World War II Begins**

### **World War II Begins**

On September 1, 1939, German forces invaded Poland. Only two days later, Britain and France declared war on Germany and World War II officially began. Nazis stormed Poland with the power of **blitzkrieg**, or lightning war. The theory of the blitzkrieg was to defeat opponents using a series of short military campaigns. These military campaigns made use of tanks, planes and artillery to quickly attack opponents. These quick attacks would disorganize and shock opponents, making them more vulnerable. While Germany attacked Poland from the west, Stalin and the Soviet Union attacked from the east, annexing land promised under the secret parts of the Nazi-Soviet Pact. Within a month, Poland no longer existed as an independent country, and instead became absorbed under Hitler and Stalin's dictatorships.

**5. Which country did Hitler invade on September 1, 1939? How did Britain and France react?**

**6. What is blitzkrieg? Why was it a successful military tactic?**

Sept. 1,  
1939

## Hitler invades Poland and World War II Begins

### Images of the German Invasion of Poland



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-552911  
Foto: Sempka | September 1939

View from the bow pulpit of a plane Heinkel He 111, gunner on machine gun, Poland, 1939



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-E10500  
Foto: o. Ang. | September 1939

Graudenz, Poland, cheering people next to a German Panzer IV, 1939



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-555701

Panzer IV while driving through a trelis of cheering people (currently with "Hitler salute")

Sept. 1,  
1939

## Hitler invades Poland and World War II Begins

### Images of the German Invasion of Poland



A Ju 87 Stuka dive bomber formation flies over Poland.



Warsaw during World War II: Burning grain silos at intersection of Bema and Prądyńskiego Streets.

Bundesarchiv Bild 183-S50770  
Foto: o.Ang. 1. September 1939



Sept. 1,  
1939

## Hitler invades Poland and World War II Begins



7. How did Poland's location make the country particularly vulnerable to attack by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union?

**Sept. 1,  
1939**

**Hitler invades Poland and World War II Begins**

Watch this [Discovery Channel Video on WWII \(0:00-09:00\)](#) then answer the questions below about WWII.

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>8. How did Hitler justify his attack of Poland?</b> | <b>9. Why did Britain and France declare war on Hitler after the invasion of Poland?</b> | <b>10. What advantages did the German military have?</b>                            |
|  |  |   |
| <b>11. What was Poland's military like?</b>            | <b>12. Which other country invaded Poland? Why?</b>                                      | <b>13. After Poland surrendered, what did Germans begin to do to Jewish people?</b> |

Sept. 1,  
1939

## Hitler invades Poland and World War II Begins



German troops parade through Warsaw after the invasion of Poland. Warsaw, Poland, September 28-30, 1939. — National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Md.

### Check for Understanding:

14. What happened on September 1, 1939? Why?

### Synthesis:

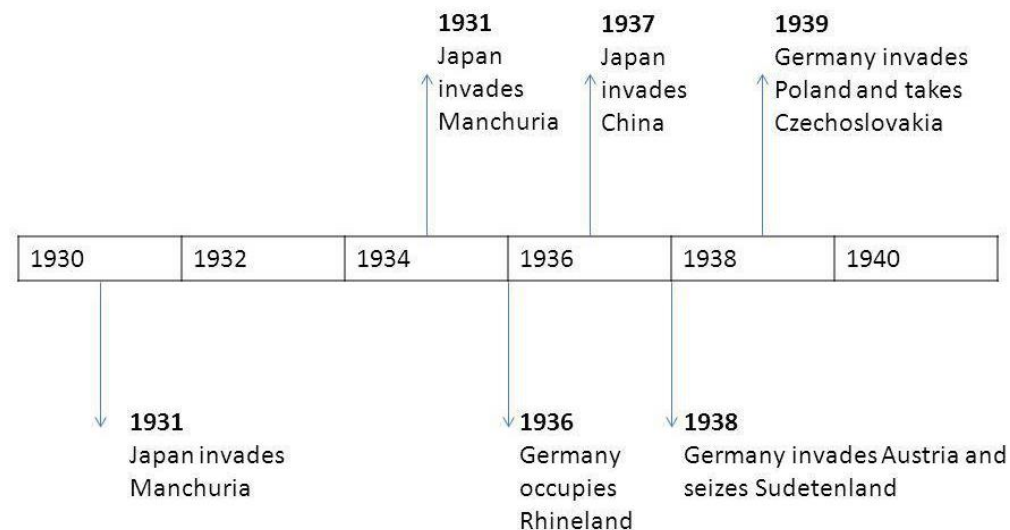
15. How did this event lead to the beginning of World War II in 1939?

# World War II Causes (1939-1945)

C) German Aggression: Hitler violated Treaty of Versailles, to avenge WWI humiliating defeat, in a number of ways:

- 1) Hitler built up German military
- 2) Hitler placed soldiers in the Rhineland (Demilitarized zone, area between Germany & France)
- 3) Hitler (**annexed**) took over the neighboring country of Austria.
- 4) Hitler took over the neighboring country of Czechoslovakia.

## Military Aggression Leading to World War II



# World War II Causes (1939-1945)

D) **NOTE:** WWII took place mainly bec. very little was done early on to stop the aggressors. For ex:

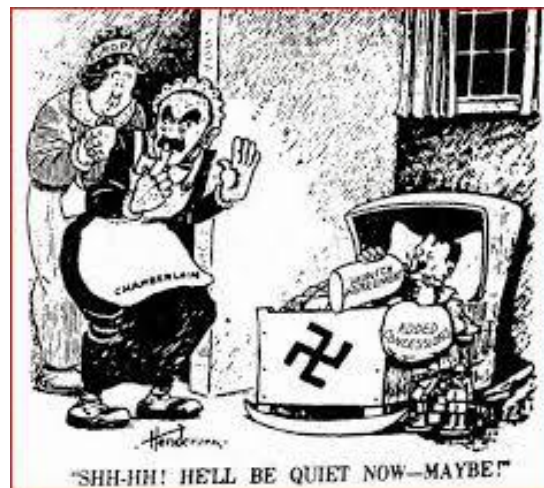
- 1) League of Nations, international organization created after WWI to prevent war failed to stop Hitler, Mussolini, Japan from being aggressive
- 2) **Appeasement**- policy nations give in to aggressive demands to maintain peace. At the **Munich Conference** 1938, Britain appeased Hitler by giving him control over Czechoslovakia. This led Hitler to demand even more land.

September 1938: Hitler meets with Neville Chamberlain, British prime minister, to discuss the future of Czechoslovakia at the Munich Conference.

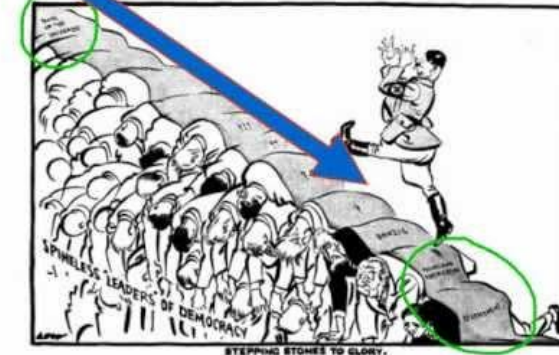


Chamberlain declares "peace in our time."

Munich was the height of appeasement.



What is the message of this cartoon? (6pts)



'Stepping stones to Glory' published in July 1936 by David Low in the London Evening Standard newspaper.

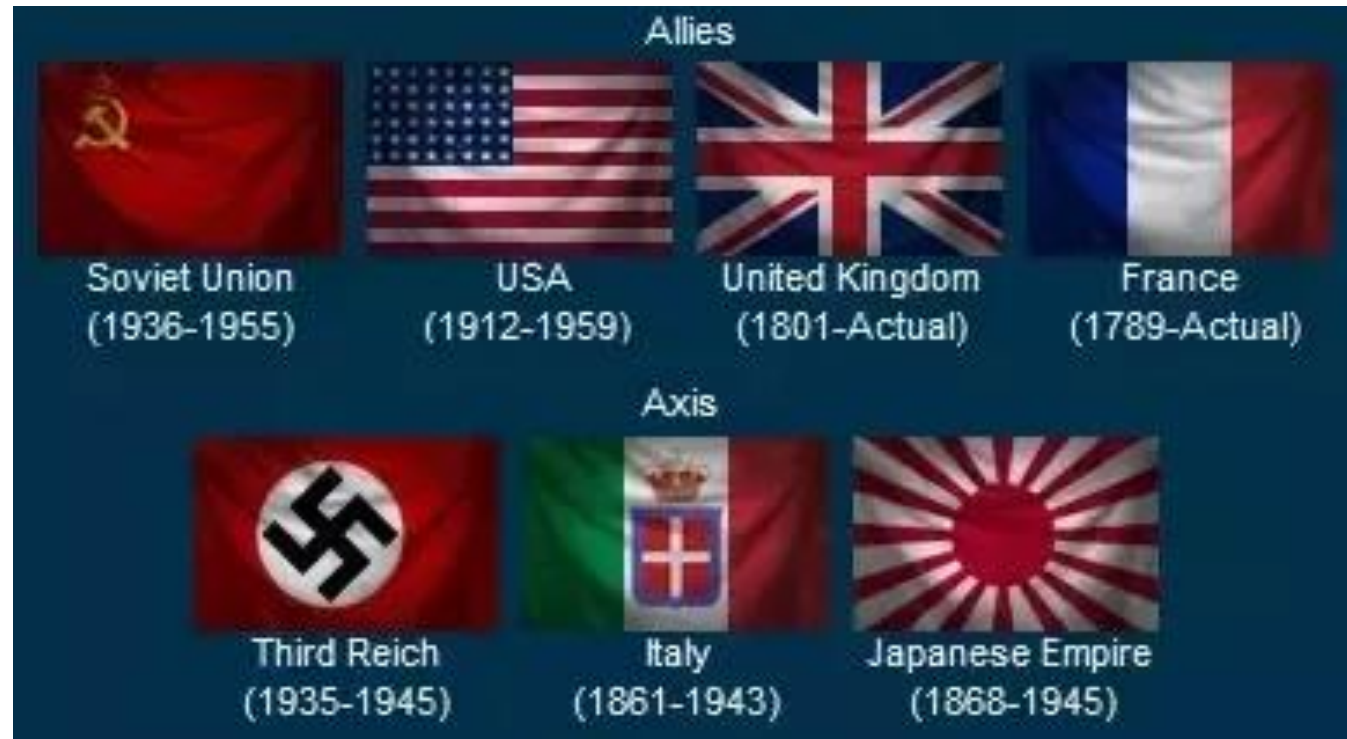


# World War II Causes (1939-1945)

E) **NOTE:** WWII started when Hitler invaded Poland in 9/1/1939. Two days later, Britain & France declared war on Germany.

- In a secret meeting, **Nonaggression Pact** (August 1939), Germany & USSR agreed to split up Poland & not attack each other

## F) Alliances



# Major Causes of World War II





# World War II... Beginning

A) Invasion of Poland 9/1/1939: started WWII. Poland was quickly (1 month) defeated by Germany bec. Poland lacks natural boundaries (very flat plains)

B) By 1942, Germany seemed unstoppable conquering most of Europe (except Britain) bec. of **Blitzkrieg**- “Lightning warfare”



Axis Powers by September of 1942.



WWII Combat Europe

# World War II... Technology

- Portable Machine guns, atom bombs, improved planes, submarines, tanks, rockets, radars, & walkie-talkies
- more power to destroy & kill
- **Total War:** cities were targets to bombs & all effort (women, factories, media) for war purposes



## Technological Advancements of WWII



# Aircraft

Aircraft technology was important in World War II. After World War I, countries were drawn to the concept of mass aerial bombing because they wanted an alternative to trench warfare. Throughout the war, improvements were made to increase speed and altitude limits for aircraft.



**Why did countries begin to invest in aircraft technology after World War I?**

## **British Aircraft**

Five Supermarine Spitfire Mark Is of No. 19 Squadron, Royal Air Force, based at Duxford, Cambridgeshire (UK), flying in starboard echelon formation led by the Commanding Officer, Squadron Leader H.I. Cozens, 1938



# Military Vehicles: Tanks

World War I created a demand for armored weapons which could navigate any kind of terrain, and this led to the development of the tank. By World War II, tank design advanced significantly. Due to the increased need for troop mobility in WWII, tanks became faster and were strapped with even more firepower.

Watch [The History Channel: World War II Tanks](#) and respond to the questions below.

1. Why were tanks important on the battlefield?
2. Why did the United States increase its production of tanks after the German blitzkrieg?



A column of Soviet tanks T34/85 (winter 1943-44)



Combined arms in action: US M4 Sherman, equipped with a 75 mm main gun, with infantry walking alongside

# The Atomic Bomb: Hiroshima and Nagasaki

On the morning of August 6, 1945, the United States Army Air Forces dropped the nuclear weapon "Little Boy" on the city of Hiroshima, Japan. The explosion immediately killed 80,000 people and leveled 90 percent of the city. Later, tens of thousands died of radiation exposure. Three days later, the "Fat Man" bomb was detonated over Nagasaki. "Fat Man" killed over 40,000 people.

## Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Visit: <http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/bombing-of-hiroshima-and-nagasaki> and respond to the questions below.

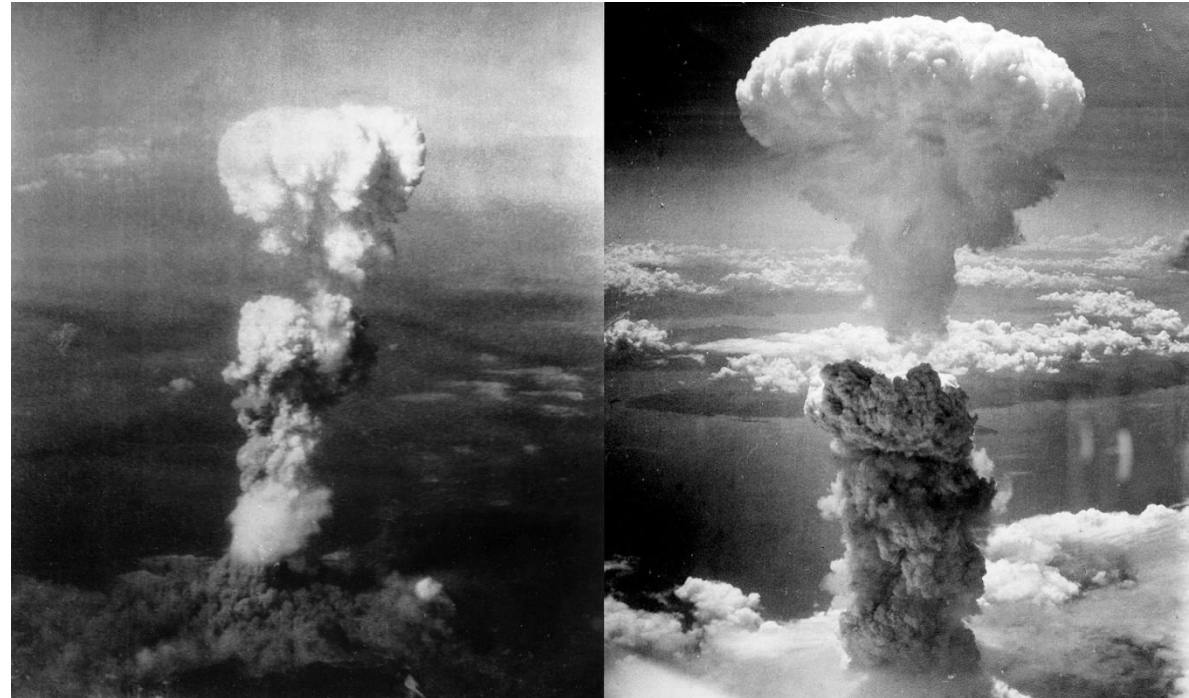
**1. Why did the United States drop atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945?**

**2. What was the Manhattan project? How did this project improve American military technology?**

Watch [The History Channel: Atomic Bomb](#) and respond to the question below.

**1. What were the impacts of the atomic bomb?**

<https://disq.us/url?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.history.com%2Ftopics%2Fworld-war-ii%2Fbombing-of-hiroshima-and-nagasaki%2Fvideos%3Aaws3opga85D4K21a3oHPE41iBhmo&cuid=4916194>



At the time this photo was made, smoke billowed 20,000 feet above Hiroshima while smoke from the burst of the first atomic bomb had spread over 10,000 feet on the target at the base of the rising column



# Electronics and Communication: The Enigma Machine

Equipment designed for communication and the interception of communication became essential during World War II. The Allied and Axis nations relied on different forms of communication technology to send encrypted messages and break into their enemy's messages.

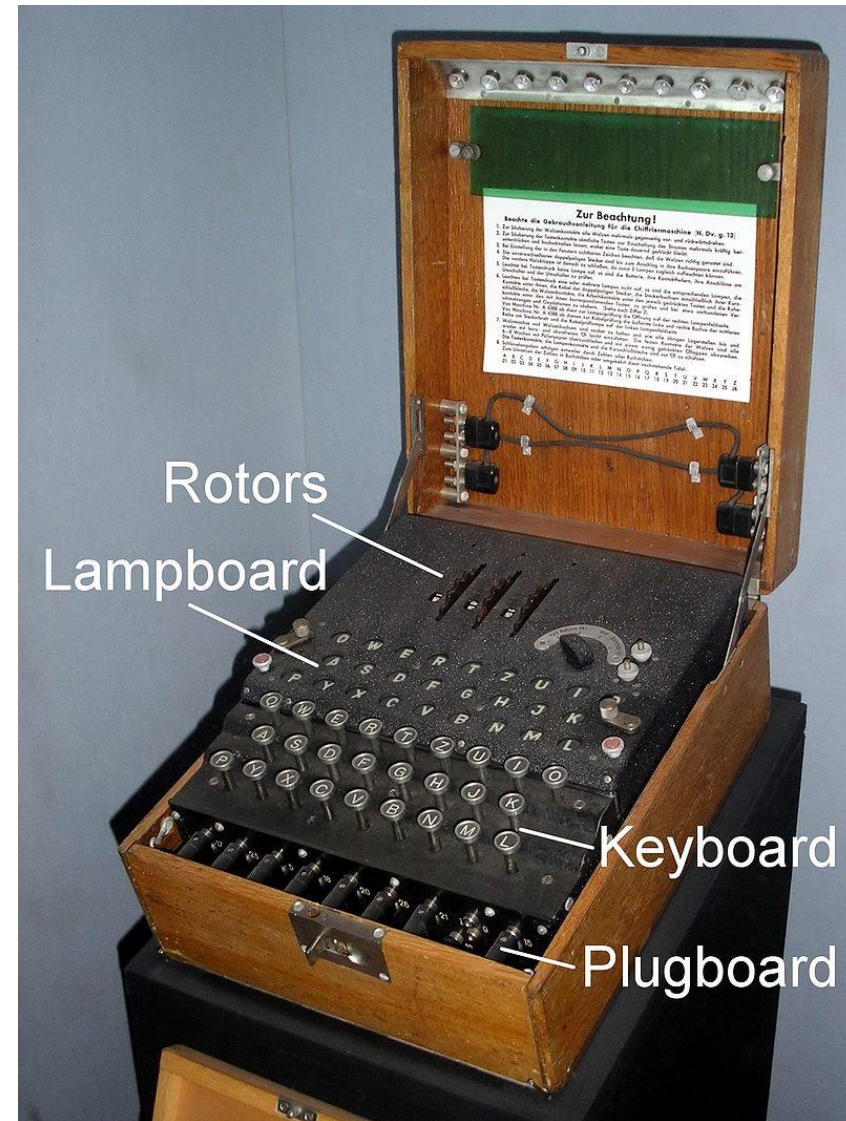
## Breaking the Code

Visit: <http://www.computerhistory.org/revolution/birth-of-the-computer/4/82> and respond to the questions below.

**1. How did Nazi troops use encoded communication during World War II?**

**2. How did Allied forces try to break these codes?**

<http://disq.us/url?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bbc.co.uk%2Fhistory%2Ftopics%2Fenigma%3A-vHYcVmbKa4x0Y47zdiTkx20j7Q&cuid=4916194>



Enigma Machine at the Imperial War Museum, London.

# World War II...Turning Points

A) **Pearl Harbor** Dec. 7 1941- Japan launched a surprise attack against the U.S. which brought U.S. into WWII on Allies side

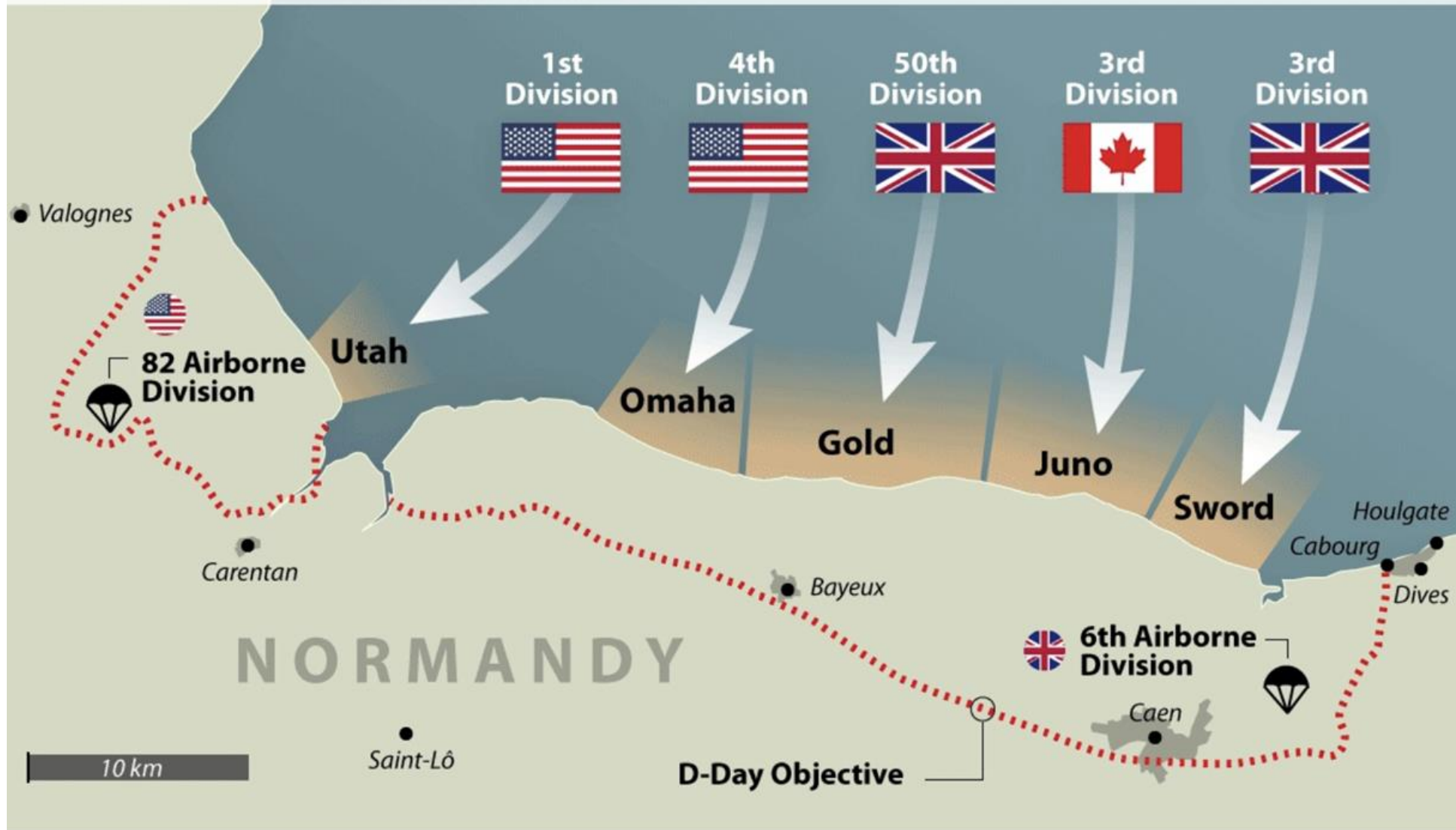
B) **NOTE:** The Regents wants you to know that Hitler failed to conquer Russia at the **Battle of Stalingrad 1942** bec. of the harsh climate & large size of Russia. (same w/ Napoleon). Geography has always been Russia's best defense. Russia turns back Germany & begins to conquer it

C) **D-Day Invasion of Normandy** June 6, 1944- This was the beginning of the final Allied push against Germany. Took over France, Belgium, Holland, & headed for Germany. It resulted in the eventual defeat of Germany.





# Normandy Landings June 6, 1944

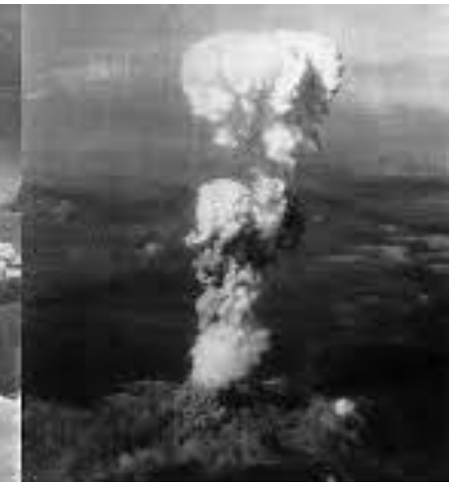


# World War II- The End

- March 1945, Allies moved into Germany & as the Russians entered Berlin, Hitler committed Suicide
- May 7, 1945 Germany surrenders & 5/8 V-E (Victory in Europe) Declared
- **Yalta Conference**, ended war in Europe & divided up Germany
- **Atomic bombing of Hiroshima (8/6) & Nagasaki (8/9)**- final event of WWII. U.S. dropped two atomic bombs on Japan (killing 120k). Japan surrendered soon after on 9/2/1945



Nagasaki



Hiroshima

# World War II- Atrocities

## A) The Holocaust

- Event during WWII in which Hitler & the Nazis tried to kill all Jews in Europe. 6 million Jews and 6 million non-Jews were killed
- Hitler's goal was to create "living space" for superior Aryan Germans & must destroy the inferiors
- Began limiting Jews' rights w/ Nuremberg Laws & encouraged violence- EX: **Kristallnacht**, "Night of Broke Glass" Nov. 8, 1938, organized violence which destroyed thousands of synagogues, business, homes, & schools
- Jews were forced to live in ghettos, concentration & then death camps (beginning in 1942 after the "Final Solution" in Wannsee Conference)
- The Holocaust is an example of **genocide**, the attempt to destroy an entire group of people. All genocides are considered human rights violations

## B) The Rape of Nanking, Japanese killed 250k Chinese

## C) Bataan Death March, Japanese forced American & Filipino prisoners on a death march

# Holocaust- Vocabulary

**atrocious**- an extremely wicked or cruel act, typically one involving physical violence or injury.

**Genocide** is a fairly new word. It was created by Raphael Lemkin who believed that the atrocities of the Holocaust needed a new name to describe them so he combined the prefix *geno-* meaning “race or tribe” with the suffix *-cide* which denotes killing.

After the Holocaust, an organization called the United Nations defined the term in the following way:

*[G]enocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:*

*(a) Killing members of the group;*

*(b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;*

*(c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;*

*(d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;*

*(e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.*

**anti-semitism**- hostility to or prejudice against Jews

# What was the Holocaust?

After reading the text below and the rest of the article from the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's "Introduction to the Holocaust"](#), answer the questions below.

The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jewish people by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. *Holocaust* is a word of Greek origin meaning "sacrifice by fire." The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in January 1933, believed that Germans were "racially superior" and that the Jews, deemed "inferior," were an alien threat to the so-called German racial community.

1. Based on the article, what was the Holocaust?
2. How many Jewish people were killed during the Holocaust?
3. What other groups were targeted during the Holocaust? Why did the German target the Jewish people and these groups?
4. What methods did the Nazis use to separate Jewish people and other targeted groups from the rest of the population?
5. What methods did the Nazis use to carry out the extermination of Jewish people and other targeted groups?
6. What ended the Holocaust?

# What happened during the Holocaust? (Part 1)

Watch the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's video The Path to Nazi Genocide \(16:09-end\)](#) and answer the questions below.

1. What were the goals of the Nuremberg Laws?
2. According to Nazism, what was the “driving force in history?”
3. Based on the video, which groups were identified as “racially inferior” and “unworthy of life” by the Nazis?
4. How did life in Germany change for Jewish people after 1933?
5. Give three examples of actions taken by the Nazis from 1933 to 1939 that were anti-semitic.
6. What was the goal of Nazi propaganda that targeted Jews?
7. What was Kristallnacht (“the night of broken glass”)?
8. What actions taken by the Nazis prevented Jewish people from leaving Germany?
9. After declaring war on Russia and invading Eastern Europe, the Germans segregated Jewish people into ghettos. In this context, what were ghettos?



# What happened during the Holocaust? (Part 2)

Watch the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's video The Path to Nazi Genocide \(16:09-end\)](#) and answer the questions below.

In the video, the narrator reads the following statement from Heinrich Himmler, the Chief of the SS, a military group responsible for surveillance and terror in German occupied territory:

*“This invasion is an ideological battle and a struggle of races. Here in this struggle stands National Socialism [Nazism]—an ideology based on the value of our Germanic, Nordic blood... On the other side stands a population of 180 million, a mixture of races whose very names are unpronounceable, and whose physique is such that one can shoot them down without pity and compassion...”*

**10. Based on this quote, what were Nazis taught about other races? How do you think this affected the way that they interacted with people that were different than them?**

**11. What was the job of the mobile killing squads in Eastern Europe?**

**12. Why were Jewish people in areas of Europe occupied by German “resettled” to Eastern Europe?**

**13. Describe what happened when Jewish people arrived at a concentration camp?**

**14. What was the purposes of “killing centers”?**

**15. How did people outside of Germany react to reports from allied forces who liberated the camps?**

# Who was responsible for the Holocaust?

Directions: Read the poem below, then answer the questions that follow.

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Socialist.  
Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.  
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Jew.  
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.*

Poem by Martin Niemöller (1892–1984), a prominent Protestant pastor who emerged as an outspoken public foe of Adolf Hitler and spent the last seven years of Nazi rule in concentration camps.

- 1. Which historical event is referenced in the poem above? Why do you think that?**
- 2. Who do you think they are in the poem above? Why do you think that?**
- 3. According the author this poem, who is responsible for the historical event that is referenced?**

# The Nuremberg Trials (Part 1)

Watch this [excerpt from PBS Legacy of War: The Nuremberg Trials](#) and answer the questions below.

The Nuremberg Trials were a series of trials most notable for the prosecution of prominent members of the political, military and economic leadership of Nazi Germany. The trials were held in the city of Nuremberg, Germany, from 1945 to 1946, at the Nuremberg Palace of Justice. The first and best known of these trials was the Trial of the Major War Criminals Before the International Military Tribunal (IMT), which tried 24 of the most important captured leaders of Nazi Germany. It was held from November 20, 1945 to October 1, 1946. The Nuremberg Trials were an attempt to bring to justice those leaders of Nazi Germany who were not only responsible for World War II, but also the Holocaust which was perpetrated against millions of people of Central and Eastern Europe.

Some 200 German war crimes defendants were tried at Nuremberg, and 1,600 others were tried under the traditional channels of military justice. Political authority for Germany had been transferred to the Allied Control Council, which having sovereign power over Germany, could choose to punish violations of international law and the laws of war. Because the court was limited to violations of the laws of war, it did not have jurisdiction over crimes that took place before the outbreak of war on September 1, 1939.



German Commander of the Luftwaffe (German Air Force), Hermann Goering (1893 - 1946) during cross examination at his trial for war crimes, Nuremberg, Germany, 1946.

Image is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is in the public domain

# The Nuremberg Trials (Part 2)

Watch this [excerpt from PBS Legacy of War: The Nuremberg Trials](#) and answer the questions below.

Representatives from four Allied countries, Great Britain, the United States of America, France, and Russia served as prosecutors and judges.

The indictments were for:

1. Participation in a common plan or conspiracy for the accomplishment of crime against peace
2. Planning, initiating and waging wars of aggression and other crimes against peace
3. War crimes
4. Crimes against humanity

Death sentences were carried out on Oct 16th 1946, and the prisoners sentenced to incarceration were transferred to Spandau Prison in 1947.

The Nuremberg trials initiated a movement for the establishment of a permanent international criminal court, eventually leading over fifty years later to the adoption of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

- The Conclusions of the Nuremberg trials served to help draft:
  - The Genocide Convention, 1948.
  - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
  - The Convention on the Abolition of the Statute of Limitations on War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, 1968.
  - The Geneva Convention on the Laws and Customs of War, 1949; its supplementary protocols, 1977.

**1. What was the purpose of the Nuremberg Trials?**

**2. What were the defendants on trial for?**

**3. What evidence was brought forth during the trial to support the indictments?**

**4. What were the effects of the Nuremberg Trials?**

# World War II- Effects (Results)

A) 75 million deaths, cities & economies destroyed

## B) Nuremberg Trials

1) court case where the surviving Nazis who helped Hitler carry out the Holocaust were put on trial

2) 19 Nazi leaders were executed or sentenced to imprisonment as a result of "crimes against humanity" (i.e.- genocide).

3) **NOTE:** Nuremberg Trials are important bec. they demonstrated that individuals in government could be held accountable for their actions.

## C) Occupied Nations:

- To prevent another world war, Western nations occupied Japan & Germany & promoted democracy, while Soviets occupied E. Europe w/ communism
- Half of Europe became democratic, other half became communist (Col War coming...)

# World War II- Effects (Results)

## D) Formation of the United Nations (UN)

1) organization created after WWII in order to solve international problems (like poverty & disease) & prevent future wars

2) 191 nations currently belong to the UN

3) main bodies:

a) The Security Council, 15 members keeps world peace

b) General Assembly, each member country w/ 1 rep.= 1 vote

4) **Declaration of Human Rights**: document created by UN that lists the rights that ALL people should have within their nations. This includes the right to freedom of speech, right to life, & right to participate in government.

## E) Cold War