



# The Road to World War II

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# The WWI Peace Settlement (The Treaty of Versailles)

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- War guilt clause placed total blame for the war on Germany
- Germany was assigned reparations payments of \$33 billion.
- Germany lost its colonies.
- Alsace and Lorraine were returned to France.
- Germany's military power was severely limited.
- The coal-rich Rhineland was demilitarized.
- A League of Nations was established to work for international peace (weakened because the U.S. did not join)



## Other Outcomes of WWI

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- An entire generation of young European men was almost wiped out.
- Italy and Japan were angered at not receiving additional territory.
- The Ottoman empire was reduced to the area of present-day Turkey.
- China lost territory to Japan and became a virtual Japanese protectorate.
- The Austro-Hungarian Empire was dissolved.



# Other Outcomes of WWI

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- The new nations of Yugoslavia, Hungary and Czechoslovakia were formed from Austria-Hungary. All had a variety of ethnic groups with nationalistic ambitions.
- Russia lost territory to Romania and Poland. Finland, Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania gained their independence.



# Other Outcomes of WWI

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- Poland was restored to the European map. A Polish Corridor was created to give Poland an outlet to the Baltic Sea.
- The Ottoman Empire was divided into mandates with Great Britain controlling Iraq and Pakistan, and France acquiring Syria and Lebanon.



# The Great Depression

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- The cost of the war had devastated the economies of Europe.
  - Germany couldn't pay its debt to France and Britain
  - France and Britain couldn't pay their debts to the U.S.



# The Great Depression

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- Overproduction during the war
  - Leads to a drop in agricultural prices in Europe, the U.S., Africa and Latin America



# The Great Depression

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- Banking systems collapse
  - U.S. was unable to make loans to European nations
  - Global trade diminished
  - Massive unemployment





# The Great Depression

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- Political results
  - New social welfare programs increased the role of the government in people's lives
  - Rise of fascist governments in Italy and Germany
  - Japan increased its imperial expansion in the search for new markets

# Prelude to War

- The Rise of Fascist Dictators
  - Nationalist, one-party authoritarian regimes
  - Destroy the will of the individual in favor of "the people"
  - Hitler and the Nazi (National Socialist Party)
  - Mussolini in Italy: wanted to restore the glory of Italy
  - Japan came under military rule
  - Fascist does NOT equal communist





# Prelude to War

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- Hitler's philosophies
  - Based on Social Darwinism
  - The Aryan race was the most highly evolved
  - Inferior races, such as Slavs and Jews, had "corrupted" the German race
  - Jews should be eliminated and Germans should take over Europe

# The Third Reich



- By 1932, Nazis dominated German government
- In 1933, Hitler becomes chancellor and sets his eyes on conquering Europe
- Begins rebuilding the military in violation of the Treaty of Versailles

# Spanish Civil War

- 1936 – army officers under General Francisco Franco took control of much of Spain
- Brutal civil war between Franco's "nationalists" and the democratic loyalists
- Hitler and Mussolini support Franco and use it as a training ground of military equipment
- However, Spain would remain neutral throughout WWII





# The Road to War

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- 1931 – Japan invades Manchuria
- 1935 – Mussolini invades Ethiopia
- 1936-1937 – Spanish Civil War
- 1937 – Japan invades China (beginning of the war in Asia)
- 1938 – Hitler proclaims Anschluss (the unification of Austria and Germany)
- 1938 – Munich Conference (Britain and France accept Hitler's pledge to not take more territory)



# The Road to War

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- 1938 – Munich Conference
  - Hitler is given the Sudetenland (part of Czechoslovakia) without the consent of Czechoslovakia
  - Britain and France accept Hitler's pledge to not take more territory
  - **APPEASEMENT POLICY**
- March 1939 – Nonaggression Pact
  - Britain, France, Greece, Turkey, Romania, and Poland agree that if one is attacked, they would all go to war

# The Road to War

- August 1939 – Hitler signs a nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union (Nazi-Soviet Pact)
  - Stalin and Hitler figure out how they will divide Eastern Europe after Hitler invades
  - Stalin agrees to stay out of the fight
- September 1, 1939 – Hitler invades Poland (beginning of the war in Europe)





# Back in Japan

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- As Japan invaded China in 1937, they pillaged towns and cities in brutal fashion
  - The Rape of Nanjing – 250,000 Chinese were slaughtered in a few weeks
  - Japan continued to advance along the eastern shores of China

