

World War II

Immediate and Long term Causes



Overview

- Global conflict from 1939-1945
- Killed more people, involved more nations, and cost more \$\$\$ than any other war in history.
 - 70 million served in armed forces and 17 million died
 - Large number of civilian deaths
 - 6 million Jews
 - Total Deaths= 50-70 million people
- Global war
 - 70 nations took part
 - Fought on continents of Africa, Asia, Europe, and seas.
- Cost the U.S. a million casualties
 - 400,000 deaths
 - Ended the Depression
 - Brought married women into the workforce



American Isolationism

- Anti-war sentiment because of WW1 experiences
 - America tried to stay out of conflict
 - Congress passed 3 neutrality laws
 - Pearl Harbor attack will cause U.S. to enter war (Dec. 7, 1941)



Depression Abroad



- **Wall Street took toll on Latin America**
 - coffee dropped in value
- **Europe**
 - rebuilding war-torn countries after WW1
 - some countries in debt because of WW1
- **Totalitarianism**
 - govt. controls every part of citizens lives

Joseph Stalin

- **Soviet leader**
 - **Forced farmers and peasants to give up their land and work on large govt.-owned farms**
 - **Several million Soviets die**



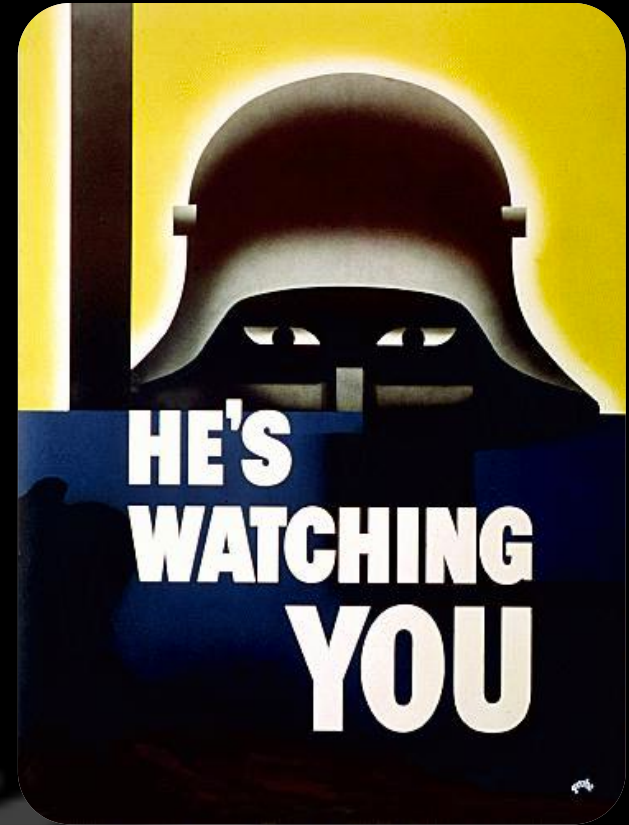
HOW IT ALL BEGAN

- Started 20 years after WWI

W WWI and the Treaty of Versailles

Appeasement

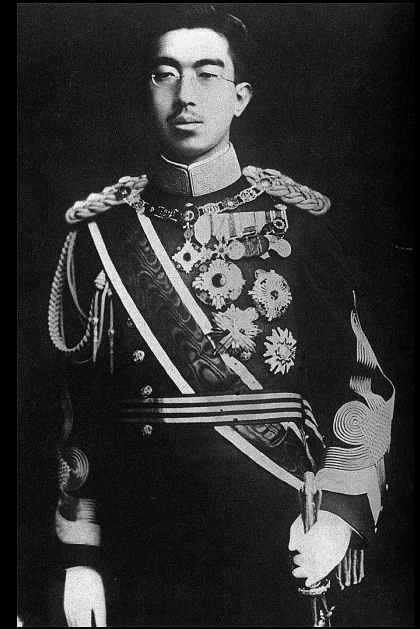
Rise of Totalitarianism



Friends in Low Places

The Axis Powers

- Germany (Adolf Hitler)
- Italy (Benito Mussolini)
- Japan (Emperor Hirohito)
 - Tripartite Pact



Benito Mussolini



- **Italy: bitter they didn't receive land in return for help in WW1**
 - suffering economic difficulty
- **Looking for a strong leader**
 - Mussolini: former journalist and soldier
- **Threatened to march on Rome w/followers, The Blackshirts, 1922**
 - Italians gave Mussolini temporary power
 - Ruled as a dictator for more than 20 years

Mussolini's Government



- **Fascism: strong govt. led by 1 person**
 - government more important than the people
 - will limit/destroy opposition
- **Mussolini wanted to expand territory**
 - invaded Ethiopia; 1935

Bitter Germany



- Germans were embarrassed
- **The main terms of the Treaty of Versailles were:**
 - **War Guilt Clause** - Germany should accept the blame for starting World War One
 - **Reparations** – Pay 63 billion for the damage caused by the war (about 768 billion today)
 - **Disarmament** - Germany was only allowed to have a small army (100,000) and six naval ships. No tanks, no air force and no submarines were allowed. The Rhineland area was to be de-militarized.
 - **Territorial Clauses** - Land was taken away from Germany and given to other countries. http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/media_nm.php?MediaId=1620
- People were dissatisfied with the government
 - Not many jobs
 - Price of food and goods were very high
 - In response voted for Adolf Hitler who promised to rip up the Treaty of Versailles

Rise of Evil

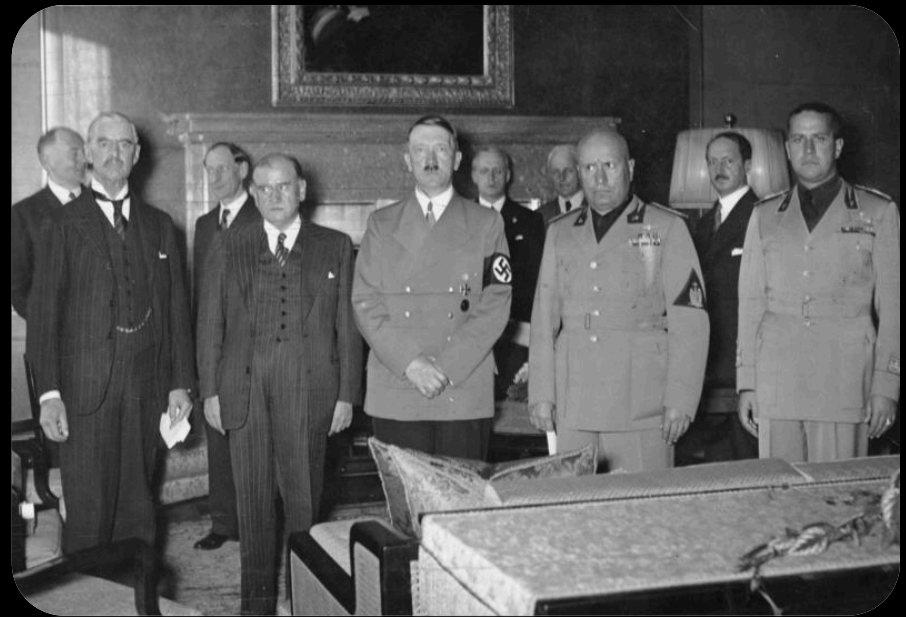
- Hitler became Chancellor (head of government) of Germany in Jan 1933
 - Began secretly building up Germany's army and weapons
 - Invaded the Rhineland: area between Germany and France
 - Stopped paying war reparations
- **Enter Adolf Hitler**
 - **war vet/politician**
 - **outlined his plan for Germany's rise to world power: Mein Kampf (My Struggle)**
 - **created scapegoats to blame for economic problems: Jews for defeat in WW1**
 - **gained large following in 1932; member of his political party, National Socialist Party (Nazis)**
- Appealed to peoples emotions
 - Promised jobs
 - Promised to rebuild a new German empire
 - Get rid of corrupt politicians, communists, Jews



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuzf1aZyAag>

Appeasement

- League of Nations crumbled
 - Appeasement was meant to keep peace
 - Britain and France believed in giving Hitler what he wanted it would prevent war
- Munich Agreement
 - September 1938, European leaders met at the Munich Conference in Germany.
 - The Sudetenland and part of Czechoslovakia was given to Germany if Hitler promised to not go after anymore territory.
 - In March 1939, the Nazis proceeded to take over the rest of Czech lands



Broken Promises



- Broke the Munich Agreement
 - Invaded Austria on March 12, 1938
 - Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia handed over to Germany (1939)
 - Germany invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia (March 15, 1939)
 - Signed a non-aggression pact with Soviet Union (August 1939)
 - Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939 which caused Britain and France to declare war on Germany



Campaign Against the Jews

- The Holocaust refers to the period from January 30, 1933-May 8, 1945 when Hitler was chancellor
 - Blamed Jews for the many of Germany and Europe's problems—saw them as foreign; corrupting pure German culture
 - The Nazis portrayed Jews as weak and evil
 - During this time Jews in Europe were subjected to progressively harsher persecution that ultimately led to the murder of around 6 million Jews
 - 1.5 were children
 - Led to the destruction of about 5,000 Jewish communities
 - Plan to eliminate the Jews= The Final Solution

“The Jews Are Our Misfortune”

- Over time:
 - banned Jews from govt./political positions
 - destroyed/seized their property
 - 1935: assigned Jews a lower class of citizenship
 - made Jews leave all professions and kept from studying at Universities
 - after 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany the treatment of Jews grew worse: Jewish ghettos and concentration camps utilized