

World War II: 1931-1942**I. The Outbreak of World War II**

A. In the 1930s, events throughout the world led to conditions that started World War II

1. High _____, desperation, & feelings of betrayal led to the rise of _____ dictators
2. Fascist dictators _____ & _____ threatened to conquer new territories for Italy & Germany
3. Extreme _____ & a need for raw materials led to a desire to expand in Japan under _____

B. By the 1930s, the world was moving towards another war but few nations were in a position to _____ war

1. _____ & _____ were the leaders of the League of Nations but both wanted to _____ another war
2. The USA was focused on the _____ & wanted to avoid foreign affairs

C. Japan, Italy, & Germany _____ in Africa, Asia, & Europe...In 1936, Germany, Italy, & Japan formed an alliance called the _____ Coalition

1. Japanese Expansion
 - a. In 1931, Japan invaded _____ in order to seize its iron & _____ mines
 - b. In 1937, Japan conquered northern _____ & killed 300,000 unarmed soldiers & civilians during the "_____ of Nanjing"
2. Italian Expansion
 - a. In 1935, Mussolini began his campaign to create an _____ by invading Ethiopia
 - b. The Italian army easily defeated the _____

Critical Thinking Decision #1: How should the League of Nations respond to aggression by Japan and Italy?

In 1931, the Japanese army seized Manchuria, an area rich in iron and coal. Japanese engineers and technicians built mines and factories. In 1937, a full-scale war began between Japan and China. Japanese forces swept into northern China. Despite having a million soldiers, China's army was no match for the better equipped and trained Japanese. Beijing and other northern cities as well as the capital, Nanjing, fell to the Japanese in 1937. Japanese troops killed tens of thousands of captured soldiers and civilians in Nanjing. Meanwhile in Europe, Italian leader Benito Mussolini dreamed of building a colonial empire in Africa like those of Britain and France. Mussolini ordered a massive invasion of Ethiopia in October 1935. The spears and swords of the Ethiopians were no match for Italian airplanes, tanks, guns, poison gas.

The Japanese and Italian attacks were the first direct challenges to the League of Nations. How should the League respond to these acts of aggression?

- A. Protest the attacks but do not try to stop it due to fear that doing so would bring an end to peace and lead to a war
- B. Cut off all trade with both nations until the Japanese and Italian armies are removed and order is restored
- C. Intervene in Asia to stop Japan because innocent civilians were massacred, but do not intervene in Ethiopia
- D. Send an international military to fight Japan and Italy and forcibly remove them from China and Ethiopia

Explain why:

3. The League of Nations _____ Japanese & Italian aggression but did _____ the attacks in an effort to maintain peace in the world

4. German Expansion

- a. The _____ of the League of Nations to stop Italy or Japan, encouraged Hitler to _____ Germany too
- b. In 1935, Hitler defied the terms of the Treaty of Versailles & expanded the size of the German _____
- c. In 1936, Hitler moved his army to the _____
- d. Both times, the League of Nations _____ Hitler in order to keep _____ in Europe
- e. In 1938, Hitler annexed Austria

f. Next, Hitler demanded that the western border of Czechoslovakia, an area known as the _____, be given to Germany

Critical Thinking Decision #2: How should the League of Nations respond to aggression by Germany?

On November 5, 1937, Hitler announced his plans to absorb Austria and Czechoslovakia into the Third Reich, or German Empire. The Treaty of Versailles outlawed a union between Austria and Germany. However, many Austrians supported unity with Germany. In March 1938, Hitler sent his army into Austria and annexed it. France and Britain ignored their pledge to protect Austrian independence. Hitler next turned to Czechoslovakia. About three million German-speaking people lived in the western border regions of Czechoslovakia called the Sudetenland. This heavily fortified area formed the Czechs' main defense against Germany. The German-Austrian union raised pro-Nazi feelings among Sudeten Germans. In September 1938, Hitler demanded that the Sudetenland be given to Germany. The Czechs refused and asked France for help.

How should the League of Nations respond to these acts of aggression?

- A. Protest Hitler's demand for the Sudetenland but do not try to stop it due to fear that doing so would lead to a war
- B. Have a meeting with Britain, France, Germany, and Italy to negotiate an agreement that would avoid a war
- C. Encourage Britain and France to mobilize their armies and encourage them to attack Germany if the Sudetenland is taken by Germany.
- D. Immediately declare war on Germany to restore Austria and keep the Sudetenland from being taken by Germany

Explain why:

5. The Munich Conference, 1938

- a. In 1938, leaders from England & France _____ with Hitler & Mussolini at the _____ in order work out an agreement to _____ war
- b. Germany was allowed to _____ the Sudetenland if Hitler promised to _____

6. Appeasement

- a. Britain & France used _____ with Hitler: they gave in to his demands in order to _____
- b. Six months after the Munich Conference, Hitler _____ & annexed all of Czechoslovakia

7. The Nazi-Soviet Pact and Invasion of Poland, 1939

- a. In 1939, Hitler demanded that western _____ be returned to Germany but he did not want to provoke a war with the Soviet Union
- b. Stalin & Hitler agreed to the _____ Nonaggression Pact, promising never to _____ each other
- c. Secretly, Germany & the USSR agreed to _____ Poland
- d. On September 1, 1939, Hitler ordered the German military to _____

Critical Thinking Decision #3: How should Britain and France respond to the German invasion of Poland?

Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin signed a nonaggression pact with Hitler who promised Stalin territory. In a secret part of the pact, Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to divide Poland between them. They also agreed that the USSR could take over Finland and the Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. After signing this nonaggression pact, Hitler quickly moved ahead with plans to conquer Poland. His surprise attack took place at dawn on September 1, 1939. German tanks and troop trucks rumbled across the Polish border. At the same time, German aircraft and artillery began a merciless bombing of Poland's capital, Warsaw.

How should Britain and France respond to these acts of aggression?

- A. Protest Hitler's invasion of Poland but do not try to stop it due to fear that doing so would lead to a war
- B. Have another meeting with Germany to negotiate an agreement that would avoid a war
- C. Prepare the British and French militaries for war and demand that Germany withdraw from Poland
- D. Declare war on Germany in order to bring an end to Hitler's aggressive territorial expansion

Explain why:

8. On September 3, 1939, Britain & France _____ on Germany..._____ had begun

II. Fighting World War II from 1939 to 1942

A. Total War

- 1. World War II was a two " _____ " war with fighting taking place in _____ & in the _____
- 2. The Allies & Axis Powers converted to _____ for the second time in 20 years

B. The European Theater

- 1. German Blitzkrieg
 - a. When World War II began, Germany used a " _____ " strategy called _____ that relied on fast, strong attacks using _____, artillery, & tanks
 - b. By 1940, Germany conquered _____, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Belgium, & _____

2. The Battle of Britain

- a. When France fell to the Nazis, _____ was the only nation at war with Germany
- b. In 1940, Germany began a massive _____ campaign using its air force called the _____
- c. The British air force fought German planes aided by _____ & the ability to crack German codes
- d. Prime Minister Winston _____ vowed that the British would " _____ "
- e. After _____, Hitler called off the attacks & focused on Eastern Europe

3. United States

- a. The United States vowed to remain _____ when World War II began
- b. After the fall of France & attack on Britain, the U.S. began _____ to the Allied Powers

4. German Invasion of the Soviet Union, 1941

- a. In 1940, Italian & German troops moved to take control of _____
- b. Meanwhile, Hitler took control of the Balkans
- c. In 1941, Hitler _____ the Nazi-Soviet Pact & _____ the Soviet Union

5. By 1942, the Axis Powers controlled most of _____ & _____ but were unable to defeat Britain & the USSR

C. The Pacific Theater

1. Meanwhile, the Japanese were _____ in throughout the Pacific
 - a. From 1939 to 1941, Japan conquered _____ in Asia including French Indochina
 - b. Japan threatened to take the _____ colonies of Guam & the _____

Critical Thinking Decision #4: How should the United States respond to Japanese aggression in the Pacific?

Like Hitler, Japan's military leaders also had dreams of empire. Japan's expansion had begun in 1931. That year, Japanese troops took over Manchuria in northeastern China. Six years later, Japanese armies swept into the heartland of China. They expected quick victory. Chinese resistance, however, caused the war to drag on. This placed a strain on Japan's economy. To increase their resources, Japanese leaders looked toward the rich European colonies of Southeast Asia. By October 1940, Americans had cracked one of the codes that the Japanese used in sending secret messages. Therefore, they were well aware of Japanese plans for Southeast Asia. If Japan conquered European colonies there, it could also threaten the American-controlled Philippine Islands and Guam. In July 1941, the Japanese overran French Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos).

How should the United States respond to these acts of aggression?

- A. Protest the attacks but do not try to stop it due to fear that doing so would bring an end to peace and lead to a war
- B. Cut off all trade with Japan until they remove their army and restore order in Asia
- C. Hold a meeting with Japan in order to resolve these differences without having to go to war
- D. Send an international military to fight Japan and forcibly remove them from their Asian colonies

Explain why:

2. Pearl Harbor Attack, 1941

- a. In 1941, the United States cut off _____ & _____ with the Japanese
 - b. Japan interpreted the _____ as interfering with their _____ to expand
 - c. On December 7, 1941 Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at _____ in Hawaii
 - i. The _____ attack crippled the U.S. navy & killed _____ Americans
 - ii. After the attack, the USA _____ on the Axis Powers & entered WWII
 - d. After Pearl Harbor, the Japanese took the _____ & threatened to take _____ and Australia
3. By 1942, Japan controlled a large empire in the Pacific, " _____ for the _____ "

D. The War by 1942

1. From 1939 to 1942, the _____ (Germany, Italy, Japan) dominated Europe, North Africa, & Asia
2. But, 1942 was a _____ for the Allies who were able to win the war by 1945