

Chapter 26: The Road to War

Section 1: The Search for Peace

Question 1:

**1. What is better to keep peace?
Having MIGHT or asking everyone to
be peaceful? Why?**

Legacies of World War I

- Over 8 million dead
- "War to end all wars."
 - Few Americans believed it
- Communism grew in Russia
- Americans feared more war
- **Isolationism: US pulled away from foreign affairs as much as possible**
 - Avoid "entangling alliances"
- US Senate refused to join the League of Nations



LEAGUE OF NATIONS



SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS

Promoting Peace



- Desire of many politicians was to promote disarmament
- **Disarmament: reducing the size of a nation's military; "disarm"**
- Washington Conference (1921): plan to destroy 66 battleships
 - 10 year "naval holiday"
 - US, UK, Japan, Italy, France
- Kellogg-Briand Pact: 62 nations agreed to ban war except for self-defense
 - "...as effective to keep down war as a carpet would be to smother an earthquake."



War Debts & Reparations

- European policy to make the loser pay "reparations"
- "Spoils of war" taken from Germany (\$32 billion)
 - Led Germany to print extra money
 - Helped lead to European Depression
- US loaned \$10 billion to European countries during war
- UK, Germany, Italy and France argued the debts should be cancelled...**WHY WOULD THEY ASK US TO DO THAT?**
- Germany brought to brink of economic collapse
- Adolf Hitler came to power; blamed the Jewish people as a **scapegoat**

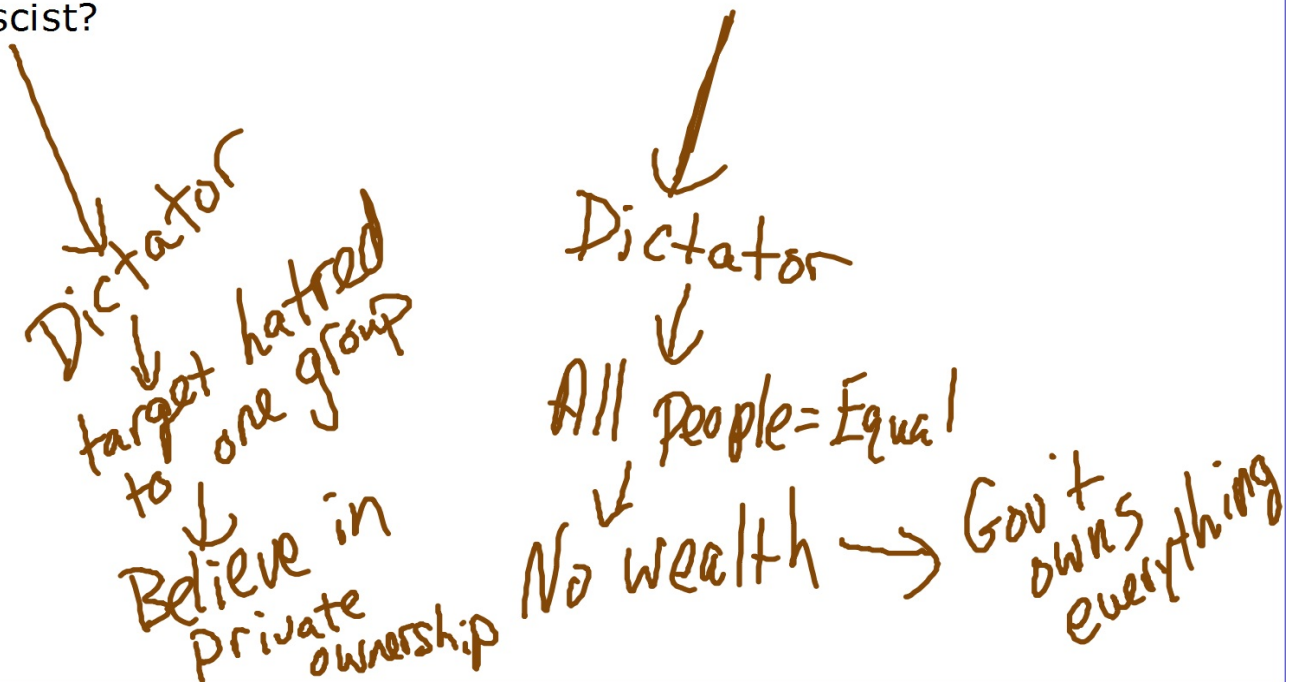
→ we refused to forgive



Section 3: The Rise of Militarism

Question #2

What is the difference between a Communist and a Fascist?



Mussolini in Italy

- Many joined Communist Party b/c of G.D.
- 1921: Benito Mussolini created the **Fascist Party** to destroy Communists
- Wanted military to control everyone/everything
- Fights between Fascists and Communists-- near Civil War
- Oct. 1922: **March on Rome; Blackshirts;** Italian king named Mussolini Prime Minister
- Became dictator; limited personal freedoms and arrested his enemies
- Wanted Italy to become an **empire**; invaded Ethiopia



Stalin in the Soviet Union

- 1924: Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin dies
- Joseph Stalin cheats his way to power (kills his opponents)
- Stalin turned USSR into a totalitarian state
- Gov't took control over all property
- Created large state farms
- Anyone who protested sent to labor camps (15 million by 1933)
- Reorganization led to decreased food and famine
- 1930s: **Great Purge**: 30 million opponents were "purged" from existence



Hitler in Germany

- Hitler spent 1 year in prison early in life; wrote book *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle)
 - Laid out his plans to restore Germany to power
 - Blamed Jews, Communists, and intellectuals
 - His views earned him much support
- 1932: Nazi Party won control in national elections; Hitler named Chancellor
- Third Reich (Third Empire): claimed dictatorial powers
- Created Brownshirts (storm troopers) to crush all opposition
- Banned Jews and non-Nazis from being in gov't
 - **Anti-semitism:** hatred of Jewish people
 - 1935: **Nuremberg Laws:** took all Jewish property & took their citizenship
 - Nov. 9, 1938: **Kristallnacht;** night of violence against Jewish people across German lands
 - Jews fled country (many to US)
- Built up military strength
- 1936: invaded Rhineland
- 1938: invaded Austria & Sudetenland (Czechoslovakia)



Franco in Spain

- 1936: violent civil war between Fascists & Communists
- General Francisco Franco won civil war in 1939 w/ help from Germany & Italy
- US avoided conflict out of fear of getting involved in war



Militarists in Japan

- 1920s: military became more powerful in Japan
- Desire to reduce reliance on foreign countries
- Wanted to control resources like timber, iron, oil
- 1931: invaded Manchuria (China)
- Built up a large navy despite US objections
- 1937: Japan and China go to war
- US & League of Nations condemned attacks but did nothing



Section 4: War Breaks Out

Question:



The Response to Fascism

- US & Soviet Union fixed strained relationship
- USSR was worried about Japan
- 1936: Germany, Italy, and Japan created **Axis Powers**
- 1938: Munich Conference
 - German, Italian, English, and French leaders met to deal with military threats
 - Adopted policy of **appeasement**
 - Promised to give Hitler certain lands to avoid larger war
 - Many warned that Hitler was a bigger threat (Winston Churchill)
- 1935-1939: US passes **Neutrality Laws**
 - US would ban all gun sales, travel, or assistance to warring nations



War!

- Americans changed opinions of Axis powers as they threatened to invade more nations (Albania and Poland)
- 1939: USSR & Germany signed **nonaggression pact**
- UK & France announced they would go to war if Germany invaded Poland
- Sept. 1939: Germany invaded Poland; war is declared by **Allied Powers**
 - USSR invaded Poland from East and took Estonia, Latvia, Finland, and Lithuania
- FDR wanted to amend Neutrality Acts to allow us to sell weapons
- FDR ran for 3rd term in office; promised to keep US out of war if possible
- **Lend-Lease Act**: US lent \$7 billion worth of supplies to Allies b/c they had little money
- May 1940: German **blitzkrieg** (lightning war) against France
 - Attacks around **Maginot Line**
- May 1940: UK elected Winston Churchill as new Prime Minister
- August 1940: Hitler begins bombing of England



Tensions Mount in the Atlantic

- Spring 1941: German submarines were turning Atlantic into graveyard of ships
- FDR orders "shoot-on-sight" for US warships
- Aug. 1941: **Atlantic Charter:** FDR & Churchill agree secretly to refusing territorial expansion; agreed that all nations have right to choose their own gov't



June 1941: Hitler invades USSR; breaks nonaggression pact

Japan Attacks

- July 1941: Japan invades French Indochina
- FDR froze all Japanese assets in US; placed **embargo** on Japan (oil, steel, gas)
- Prime Minister Hideki Tojo sent peace mission to DC while secretly planning invasion
- December 7, 1941: Japanese invasion of Pearl Harbor
 - Destroyed 20 warships and 200 planes
 - Killed 2400 Americans (1100 on USS Arizona)
 - US declares war

