WORLD WAR LOOMS
SECTION 1: DICTATORS THREATEN WORLD

For many European countries the end of World War I was the beginning of revolutions at home, economic depression and the rise of powerful dictators driven by nationalism and territorial expansion.

Two powerful 20th Century dictators were Stalin & Hitler.
The peace settlement that ended World War I (Versailles Treaty) failed to provide a “just and secure peace” as promised.

Instead, Germany grew more and more resentful of the treaty that they felt was too harsh and too punitive.
WEIMAR REPUBLIC RULES GERMANY

-The victors installed many new democratic governments in Europe after World War I including the Weimar Republic in Germany

-Most were overwhelmed from the start and struggled economically

A German woman is seen here in 1923 feeding bundles of money into the furnace. . .why?
### Exchange rates, US Dollar to Mark, 1918-1923


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This Konstanz 50 Milliarden (million) Mark overprinted on 5 Mark illustrates the extend of the inflation in Weimar Germany
JOSEPH STALIN TRANSFORMS THE USSR

After V.I. Lenin died in 1924, Joseph Stalin took control of the Soviet Union.

His goals included both agricultural and industrial growth.

Stalin hoped to transform the USSR from a backward rural nation to a major industrial power.

Stalin (right), shown here with Lenin, ruled Russia with an iron fist for nearly 30 years.
STALIN’S PLANS

- In the first year of his “5-year plan” Stalin placed all economic activity under strict state control.

- By 1937, Stalin had achieved his goal—USSR was the world’s 2nd largest industrial power.

This 1932 poster championed the Soviet Defense industry.
STALIN MURDERS MILLIONS OF SOVIETS

In his desire to purge (eliminate) anyone who threatened his power, Stalin was responsible for the deaths of 8 – 13 million of his own Soviet citizens.

 Millions more died of famine caused by his economic policies.

Labor camp workers in Siberia -- Stalin sent millions of political prisoners to labor camps.
TOTALITARIAN STATE

- By 1939, Stalin firmly established a **totalitarian government** in the USSR.
- In a totalitarian state, the government suppresses all opposition and has strict control over the citizens who have no civil rights.

In totalitarian states citizens are expected to treat the dictator with adoration.
While Stalin was consolidating his power in the Soviet Union, Benito Mussolini was establishing a totalitarian regime in Italy.

Mussolini seized power, taking advantage of high unemployment, inflation and a middle-class fear of Communism.
Mussolini was a strong public speaker who appealed to Italian national pride.

By 1921, Mussolini had established the Fascist Party. Fascism stressed nationalism and militarism and placed the interest of the state above the interests of the individual.
Despite the fact that King Emmanuel II had already agreed to turn power over to Mussolini (IL DUCE), he staged a mock takeover by marching his black shirts through the streets of Rome in October, 1922.
Nazism (National Socialism) a political ideology promoting Germanic racial superiority. Held that the German nation and the purported "Aryan" race were superior to other races.
Meanwhile in Germany, Adolf Hitler followed a similar path to Mussolini.

At the end of WWI he was a jobless soldier drifting around Germany.

In 1919, he joined a struggling group called the National Socialist German Workers’ Party (Nazis).

(Despite its name the party had no ties to socialism.)
HITLER GAINS FOLLOWING

► Hitler’s ability as a public speaker and organizer drew many followers

► He quickly became the Nazi Party leader

► Calling himself “Der Fuhrer” (the leader) he promised to return Germany to its old glory
Hitler rose to power in part by criticizing the Versailles Treaty as unfair and humiliating to the proud German nation.
HITLER’S BELIEFS

Hitler explained his beliefs in his book, *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle)

He wanted to unite all German-speaking people under one grand Empire

He wanted racial purity – “inferior” races such as Jews, Slavs and all non-whites were to form a workforce for the “master race” – blond, blue-eyed “Aryans”

He alone, who owns the youth, gains the Future!
-- Adolf Hitler, speech at the Reichsparteitag, 1935
Another element of Hitler’s grand design was national expansion.

Hitler called it “Lebensraum” or living space.

Hitler believed that for Germany to thrive it needed more land at the expense of her neighbors.

Hitler posed an immediate threat to Czechoslovakia, Poland, Austria, France, Belgium and the Netherlands.
By mid-1932, the Nazis had become the strongest political party in Germany

In January of 1933, Hitler was appointed Chancellor (Prime Minister)

Once in office he quickly dismantled Germany’s democratic Weimar Republic and replaced it with a totalitarian government
Once in power, Hitler established the **Third Reich**, or Third German Empire.

The first was during the Middle Ages and the Second came with the Unification of Germany in 1871.

According to Hitler, the Third Reich would last 1,000 years.
MILITANTS GAIN CONTROL OF JAPAN

- Halfway around the world, nationalistic leaders were seizing control of the Imperial government of Japan.
- Like Hitler, they desired living space for their growing population.
The 1930s were years of fear in Japan, characterized by the resurgence of right-wing patriotism, the weakening of democratic forces, domestic terrorist violence (including an assassination attempt on the emperor in 1932), and stepped-up military aggression abroad.
Democratic Crisis

- Like the rest of the world, Japan experienced a series of recessions in the 20's.
- During the 30's, Japan experienced industrial decline.
- Resulted in layoffs, strikes, and political discontent.
- The Japanese people blamed the new government.
- The Japanese military was also dissatisfied.
- Radical nationalist groups demanded reform.
- The radicals received support from some members of the military.
Emperor Hirohito’s reign lasted from 1926-1989
Hirohito followed tradition and chose a name for his reign
His reign was called "Showa", or "Radiating Peace"
However, he began a military buildup with several attacks on China and a dream of Pacific domination
In 1931, Japan attacked the Chinese province of Manchuria.

Swiftly Japan captured the province which is roughly twice the size of Texas.
Manchurian Incident

- By 1930, due to population growth, Japan lacked the land and resources to support its population.
- Many saw the acquisition of Manchuria as an answer to their problems.
- In 1931 the Japanese army acted on its own.
- By Feb of 1932 the Japanese military had seized all of Manchuria.
- Japan declared that Manchuria was now an independent state called "Manchukuo, under Japanese protection.
- Manchukuo was a puppet state.
Manchurian Incident (Continued)

The takeover was protested by the U.S., Great Britain and the League of Nations.

The Incident increased the Japanese army’s power over the government. From 1932-1936 the military carries out a series of assassinations of high government officials.

The military never actually seized control of the government but they took a much stronger hand in governing the nation and setting policy.
Japan vs China

- In 1937 Japan continued its invasion of China.
- The Chinese Nationalist Army led by General Jiang Jieshi attempted to halt their advance.
- The Chinese had superior numbers but the Japanese were better equipped.
- In battle after battle the Japanese prevailed and gained control of much of northern China.
- Mao Zedong
- Nanjing is looked to as an example
- The U.S. protested but did nothing.
- The Soviet Union acted
- Britain – Burma Road
AGGRESSION BEGINS IN EUROPE

In the early 1930s both Japan and Germany quit the League of Nations.

Hitler then began a huge military build-up (in direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles).

By 1936 Hitler sent troops into the Rhineland, a German region bordering France and Belgium that was demilitarized by the Versailles Treaty.
In 1936, a group of Spanish army officers led by General Francisco Franco rebelled against the Spanish Republic. A Civil War ensued as Hitler and Mussolini supported Franco’s fascists while the western democracies remained neutral.
Franco’s victory in 1939 established him as fascist leader of a totalitarian Spain.

The Spanish Civil War led to a closer relationship between the German and Italian dictators.

Hitler and Mussolini signed an alliance known as the Rome-Berlin Axis.

Franco admires a military parade in Madrid – 500,000 died in the Spanish Civil War.
Picasso’s *Guernica* captured the brutality of the Spanish Civil War and the Fascist government.
U.S. REMAINS NEUTRAL . . . FOR NOW

With memories still fresh from WWI, most Americans believed the U.S. should not get involved in the increasing aggression in Europe.

Some critics believed banks and manufacturers were pushing for war solely for their own profit.

Critics called them “merchants of death.”

Some critics felt the U.S. might get involved solely to make a profit.
FDR: WE ARE NEUTRAL AND FRIENDLY

- FDR’s policies in the early to mid 1930s reflected a desire to remain out of the growing conflict in Europe
- He recognized the USSR diplomatically in 1933 (exchanged ambassadors)
- He lowered tariffs
- He withdrew armed forces from Latin America

FDR and his secretary of State Cordell Hull study European political affairs very carefully
Congress stays neutral

- Congress, too, pushed neutrality

- Congress passed a series of Neutrality Acts

- The first two acts outlawed arms sales or loans to nations at war

- The third act outlawed arms sales or loans to nations fighting civil wars
When the President proclaimed the existence of a foreign war, certain restrictions would automatically go into effect:

- Prohibited sales of arms to belligerent nations.
- Prohibited loans and credits to belligerent nations.
- Forbade Americans to travel on vessels of nations at war [in contrast to WW I].
- Non-military goods must be purchased on a “cash-and-carry” basis — pay when goods are picked up.
- Banned involvement in the Spanish Civil War.
- This limited the options of the President in a crisis.
- America in the 1930s declined to build up its forces!
US Neutrality
After Japan renewed attacks China in 1937, FDR sent arms and supplies to China.

He got around the Neutrality Acts because Japan had not actually declared war on China.

FDR promised in a speech in Chicago to "take a stand against aggression"
SECTION 2: WAR IN EUROPE

- Late in 1937, Hitler was anxious to start his assault on Europe.
- Austria was the first target.
- The majority of Austria’s 6 million people favored unification with Germany.
- On March 12, 1938, German troops marched into Austria unopposed.
- A day later, Germany announced its union with Austria.
Hitler then turned to Czechoslovakia

About 3 million German-speaking people lived in the western border regions of Czechoslovakia called the Sudetenland

Hitler built up troops on the border . . .
Then, just as an attack on Czechoslovakia seemed imminent, Hitler invited French leader Edouard Daladier and British leader Neville Chamberlain to meet with him in Munich (Italy was there too).

In Munich he promised that the annexation of the Sudetenland would be his “last territorial demand.”
Munich Conference, 1938

From left to right; British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, French Prime Minister Eduard Deladier, German Fuehrer Adolf Hitler, Italian leader Benito Mussolini and Italian Foreign Minister Count Ciano at the Munich Conference, September 1938
“Peace in our times!!?”

- Chamberlain and Daladier believed Hitler and signed the Munich Agreement in September of 1938

- This agreement turned over the Sudetenland to Germany without a single shot fired

- Chamberlain returned to England and announced,

  "I have come back from Germany with peace with honor. I believe it is peace in our time.”
Critics of Chamberlain included English politician and future Prime Minister Winston Churchill who said Europe had adopted a dangerous policy of appeasement – or giving up principles to pacify an aggressor.
GERMAN OFFENSIVE BEGINS

- Despite the Munich Agreement, Hitler was not finished expanding the German Empire
- March 15, 1939: German troops poured into what remained of Czechoslovakia
- At nightfall Hitler declared, “Czechoslovakia has ceased to exist”
Hitler next turned toward Germany’s eastern neighbor – Poland.

Many thought Hitler was bluffing because an attack on Poland surely would bring USSR, Britain and France into war.

As tensions rose over Poland, Stalin shocked everyone by signing a Non-Aggression Pact with Hitler.

Once bitter enemies now Communist Russia and Fascist Germany vowed to never attack each other.

Partners: Hitler & Stalin
As day broke on September 1, 1939, the German Luftwaffe (air force) roared over Poland raining bombs on airfields, military bases, railroads and cities.

German tanks raced across Polish countryside.

BRUTE FORCE: Germans marched through the streets of Polish towns and adorned buildings with swastikas.
WAR II BEGINS

- After the Polish invasion, Britain and France declared war on Germany

- Too late to save Poland, the Allies focused on getting troops to the front in time to stop Germany’s Blitzkrieg strategy (Lightning War – fast moving tanks and powerful aircraft)
STALIN ATTACKS EASTERN POLAND

- While Hitler was blitzing western Poland, Stalin was attacking the east
- Stalin and Hitler had secretly agreed to divide Poland
- Later in 1939, Stalin attacked and defeated Finland while Hitler conquered Norway and Denmark
THE SCUM OF THE EARTH, I BELIEVE

THE BLOODY ASSASSIN OF THE WORKERS I PRESUME?
STALIN & HITLER ROLL

- After occupying Poland, Stalin annexed the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- Hitler, meanwhile successfully attacked the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxemburg.

Time was running out on the Allies.
The Maginot Line (a series of trenches and fortifications built along the eastern France) proved ineffective as Hitler’s troops and tanks detoured through the “impassable” Ardennes wooded ravines in NE France.
Italy, allied with Germany, invaded France from the south as the Germans closed in on Paris from the north.

France surrendered in June of 1940.

After France fell, a French General named Charles de Gaulle fled to England and set up a French government in exile.
EUROPE 1940 - BRITAIN GOES IT ALONE

KEY

Red - Nazi occupied and controlled

Purple - Nazi controlled under Mussolini

Blue - Free country, supported by the United States

Green - Under the control of Josef Stalin of Russia who sided with the Nazis in 1939

Yellow - Neutral, but greatly influenced by Nazis, for example, Spain was under the dictatorship of General Franco who was controlled by Hitler
In the summer of 1940, Germany launched an air attack on England. The goal was to bomb England into submission. Every night for two solid months, bombers pounded British targets: airfields, military bases and then cities.
RAF FIGHTS BACK

- The Royal Air Force fought back bravely with the help of a new device called radar
- With radar, British pilots could spot German planes even in darkness
- The British *Spitfire Plane* was instrumental in downing 175 Nazi planes on September 15, 1940
- Six weeks later, Hitler called off the attack on England

A Spitfire dogs a German Domier Do-17 as it crosses the Tower of London.
On April 7, 1933 Hitler ordered all non-Aryans removed from government jobs. Thus began the systematic campaign of racial purification that eventually led to the Holocaust – the murder of 11 million people across Europe (more than half of whom were Jews).

Title: “Away with him”
The long arm of the Ministry of Education pulls a Jewish teacher from his classroom.
April 1933 (Der Sturmer Issue #12)
Jews were the central target of the Holocaust.

Anti-Semitism had a long history in many European countries.

For decades Germany looked for a scapegoat for their problems.

Many Germans blamed Jews for their difficulties.

(Placard reads, "Germans, defend yourselves, do not buy from Jews")
JEWS LOSE RIGHTS

- Jews in Germany were subject to increasingly restrictive rights
- In 1935 – Nuremberg Laws stripped Jews of their citizenship, jobs and property
- Also in 1935 Jews forced to wear bright yellow stars to identify themselves
KRISTALLNACHT (NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS)

- On November 9-10, 1938 Nazi Storm Troopers attacked Jewish homes, businesses and synagogues across Germany
- Over 100 Jews were killed, hundreds more were injured, and 30,000 Jews arrested
- Afterward, the Nazis blamed the Jews for the destruction
Hundreds of Jewish homes and businesses were torched during Kristallnacht.
As a result of increasing violence, many German Jews fled the country.

However, few countries were willing to take in Jewish refugees.

The U.S. accepted 100,000 refugees including Albert Einstein, author Thomas Mann, architect Walter Gropius and Theologian Paul Tillich.
The Plight of the St. Louis

Many Americans feared Jews would take jobs at a time when unemployment was already high. One example of the indifference to the plight of the German Jews can be seen in the case of the St. Louis.
This German ocean liner passed Miami in 1939.
The U.S. coast guard followed the ship to prevent anyone from disembarking in America.
The ship returned to Europe – more than ½ of the 943 passengers were later killed in the Holocaust.
HITLER’S FINAL SOLUTION

► In 1939 only about 250,000 Jews remained in Germany

► But other nations that Hitler occupied had millions more

► Obsessed with his desire to “rid Europe of Jews,” Hitler imposed what he called the Final Solution
The Final Solution – a policy of genocide that involved the deliberate and systematic killing of an entire population – rested on the belief that Aryans were superior people and that the purity of the “Master Race” must be preserved.

Hitler was responsible for the murder of more than half of the world’s Jewish population.
HITLER’S HATRED WENT BEYOND JEWS

- Hitler condemned to death and slavery not only Jews but other groups that he viewed as inferior, unworthy or as “enemies of the state”
- This list included Gypsies, Slavs, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Africans, Chinese, homosexuals, handicapped, mentally ill and mentally deficient
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<td>Soviet prisoners of war</td>
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<td>Serbians</td>
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<td>12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jehovah’s Witnesses</td>
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JEWISH GHETTOS IN POLAND

- Jews were also ordered into dismal, overcrowded ghettos in various Polish cities.
- Factories were built alongside the ghettos where people were forced to work for German industry.
- Many of these Jews were then transferred to concentration camps (labor camps) deep within Poland.
THE FINAL STAGE

- Hitler’s program of genocide against Jews took place primarily in 6 Nazi death camps located in Poland.
- The final stage began in early 1942.
- The Germans used poison gas to more quickly exterminate the Jewish population.
- Each camp had huge gas chambers that could kill as many as 12,000 per day.
IMAGES FROM A NIGHTMARE

WARNING!

Some of these images are disturbing
The main entrance of Auschwitz Extermination Camp, with its infamous motto "Work Makes One Free"
Buchenwald prisoners in nearby woods just before their execution. (1942)
Jewish women from the Mizocz Ghetto in the Ukraine, which held roughly 1,700 Jews. Some are holding infants as they are forced to wait in a line before their execution by Germans and Ukrainian collaborators.
Over 2 million children were killed during the Holocaust
A German policeman shoots individual Jewish women who remain alive in the ravine after the mass execution. (1942)
Children subjected to medical experiments in Auschwitz
A truckload of bodies at Buchenwald concentration camp
At Dachau concentration camp, two U.S. soldiers gaze at Jews who died on board a death train.
A Nazi about to shoot the last Jew left alive in Vinica, Ukraine.
Dachau survivors on the day of liberation
"They came for the Communists, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Communist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Catholic.

Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out for me."

- Pastor Martin Niemoller
“Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust . . . never.”

Elie Wiesel, a camp survivor
In September of 1939 (invasion of Poland), Roosevelt persuaded Congress to pass a “cash & carry” provision that allowed nations to buy U.S. arms and transport them in their own ships.
THE AXIS THREAT RISES, BRITAIN GETS SUPPORT

- Axis powers were making great progress across Europe – France fell to Germany in 1940
- The Axis powers were formidable – Germany, Italy and Japan
- Hoping to avoid a two-ocean war, FDR scrambled to support Britain
- He provided 500,000 rifles and 80,000 machine guns and numerous ships
Meanwhile, Roosevelt got Congress to increase spending for national defenses and reinstitute the draft.

FDR ran for and won an unprecedented third term in 1940.

The majority of voters were unwilling to switch presidents during such a volatile time in history.
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Defeated Wendell Willkie in the 1940 Presidential Election
THE GREAT ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY

To support Britain, FDR established a “Lend-Lease Plan” which meant the U.S. would lend or lease arms to nations whose defense was vital to America.

America was becoming the “Great Arsenal of Democracy” supplying weapons to fighting democracies.
In June of 1941, Hitler broke the agreement he made with Stalin in 1939.

FDR began sending lend-lease supplies to the USSR.

German U-boats traveled in “wolf packs” at night torpedoing weapon shipments headed for the Britain and the USSR.

FDR OK’ed U.S. warships to attack German U-boats in self-defense.
Late in 1941, FDR and Churchill met secretly and agreed on a series of goals for the war.

Among their goals were collective security, disarmament, self-determination, economic cooperation and freedom of the seas.

This “Declaration of the United Nations” was signed by 26 nations.

FDR, left, and Churchill met aboard the battleship U.S.S. Augusta in Newfoundland waters.
While tensions with Germany mounted, Japan launched an attack on an American naval base.

Japan had been expanding in Asia since the late 1930s.

Early on the morning of December 7, 1941, Japan bombed the largest American naval base – Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
The surprise raid on Pearl Harbor by 180 Japanese planes sank or damaged 21 ships and 300 planes.

The losses constituted more than the U.S. Navy had suffered in all of WWI.

The next day, FDR addressed Congress, “Yesterday, December 7, 1941, (is) a date which will live in infamy.”

The United States declared war on Japan and three days later Germany and Italy.