The World at War
1914 – 1945

The World at War 1914 – 1945
1. World War I, 1914 – 1918
2. The Interwar Years, 1919 – 1939
3. World War II, 1930 – 1945

World War One
- 1. The Great War Begins
- 2. A New Kind of War
- 3. Revolution in Russia
- 4. The War Ends
- Main Idea
  - A variety of powerful forces – including growing nationalism, a tangle of alliances, and decades of rivalry and competition-created conditions that transformed a single assassination into a world wide war.
  - After years of unprecedented bloodshed and political upheaval, the warring nations finally reached an uneasy peace.

The Great War Begins
- Europe in 1914 was on the brink of the war.
- After an assassination, the nations of Europe were drawn one by one into what would be called the Great War, or WWI.

Europe on the Brink of War
- In 1914, rising tensions in Europe had the continent on the brink of war.
- These tensions were the result of four factors:
  - Militarism, alliances, imperialism, and nationalism

Militarism
- 1900’s – European countries had undertaken massive military buildup.
- This created a very nervous environment in Europe.

Alliances
- Seeking to protect themselves from opposing forces, the nations of Europe formed alliances, or partnerships.
  - Triple Alliance – united Germany, Austria-Hungary. And Italy
  - Triple Entente – France, Russia, and Great Britain

Imperialism
- The quest to build empires in the late 1800s had created bitter rivalry and ill will among nations of Europe.

Nationalism
- Important part of the rising tensions in Europe was an increase in nationalism.
A strong devotion to one’s group or culture.
Some of the strongest nationalist tensions existed in the Balkans, particularly Serbia. “A Stronger Serbia” – resulting in taking away land from Austria Hungary

War Break Out
- In the midst of the tensions and resentment the Serbs felt toward Austria-Hungary, the archduke Franz Ferdinand decided to visit the Bosnian city of Sarajevo.
- Gavrilo Princip, a young Serbian man, assassinated the archduke of Austria-Hungary.

The Impact
- Austria – Hungary decided to use the murder of the king as an excuse to punish Serbia.
- Austria Hungary made a series of demands upon Serbia and declared war on July 28, 1914.
- Russia, who allied herself with Serbia, promised to protect Serbia if Austria-Hungary attacked. Therefore Germany declared war on Russia and her ally, France.
- Thus, the action of a single man and his assassination on the king of Austria – Hungary resulted in war.

Fighting Begins
- Located in central Europe, Germany faced war on two sides – Russia and France.
- Schlieffen Plan – called for German troops to quickly defeat France in the west and then turn to Russia.
- Germany invaded the neutral country, Belgium.
- Germany’s invasion of Belgium led Great Britain to declare war on Germany.

Two Opposing Forces
- Central Powers – Germany, Austria-Hungary
- Allied Powers – France, Great Britain, Russia, Serbia (later the United States)

Fighting in 1914
- Germany’s plan of quickly taking France failed.
- By the end of 1914, the Great War had become a bloody stalemate.

Early Battles
- The Battle of the Frontiers – series of clashes between the French and the Germans. Germans were victorious, although both countries loss many soldiers.
- Battle of Tannenberg – German forces crushed the Russian army in the west.
- Although the Germans were victorious, the Russians distracted the Germans, allowing the French to reorganize.

Trench Warfare Begins
- Battle of the Marne – Allies succeeded in driving the Germans back.
- After retreating the Germans dug a series of trenches, or deep ditches, along the Aisne River and awaited an Allied attack.
- The Allies, in response, built trenches of their own.
- As a result, a series of major trench battles were fought between the French and the Germans in northern France.

**A New Kind of War**
- With the introduction of new types of warfare and new technologies, WWI resulted in destruction on scale never before imagined.

**The WWI Battlefield**
- End of 1914, two systems of trenches stretched for hundreds of miles over Western Europe.

**Trench Warfare**
- The ideas of trench warfare, or fighting from trenches, were often miserable. Lice, Rats, and other unpleasant creatures were always present. Sanitation was a constant problem.
- Occasionally soldiers were ordered “over the top” to no-mans-land to engage the enemy.
- The area that lay between the French trenches and the German trenches, no-man’s-land was filled with thousands of dead soldiers on both sides.

**New Weapons**
- Both sides turn to new weapons and technology to win the war.
- Poison gas – blind, choke, or burn victims (gas masks)
- Rapid fire machine guns as well as high explosive shells with enormous destructive power were also used.

**Tanks and Aircrafts**
- Both tanks and aircraft were first used in WWI.
- Tanks – pioneered by the British – not used to later in war
- Aircraft was useful from the beginning. At first to observe enemy positions. Later, they were equipped with machine guns and bombs.
- Still, neither side could win, and trench warfare dragged on.

**War on the Home Front**
- New type of warfare increased industrialization throughout the world, particularly the United States.
- Total War – requiring the use of all society’s resources
- Factories began to produce military equipment. Civilians conserved goods for military use.

**Government Actions**
- Propaganda – government created information designed to influence public opinion
- Posters, pamphlets, and articles urged people to join in on the war effort

**Women and the War**
- Much of the work done at home women tended to while the men were at war.
- Some worked in factories while others worked as nurses to wounded soldiers.
- This would later transform women’s traditional role in society. (right to vote)

**Battles on the Western Front**
- By 1915, a series of battles resulted in many casualties, particularly for the Allied Powers.

**The Italian Front**
- 1915 – Italy joined the Allied powers
- Italy strategy – attack Austria Hungary from the south
- Series of back-and-forth battles with little progress for Italy.

**The Battle of Verdun**
- Meanwhile the Germans planned to attack Verdun
- Verdun was an important city to France
- The Germans intended to “bleed France white” by killing as many French as possible.
- Began Feb, 1916 – to its end in December – some 400,000 French casualties; however Germany suffered 400,000 as well and the stalemate continued

**The Battle of the Somme**
- June 1916, the British planned an attack to drive the Germans out of Verdun
- Took place in the Somme River area of France
- Main allied assault during 1916
- British nearly suffered 60,000 soldiers and there was no major breakthroughs

**Third Battle of Ypres**
- 1917 – even worse for the Allies
- Lack of success led to rebellion among the French troops
- Battle of Ypres - July – British offensive who ended in grave disaster.
- After three years of battle in western Europe, the front lines were virtually unchanged

**War around the World**
- By 1917, over 30 nations officially took sides in the war and war spread throughout the globe.

**The Gallipoli Campaign**
A new power entered on the eastern front in 1914 – the Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers. Ottomans controlled the Dardanelles – water route between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. Allies used the Dardanelles to ship supplies to the Russians and in the spring of 1915, after months of fighting the Allies surrendered. The Gallipoli Campaign was an allied failure. Significance – the campaign did lead to the weakening of the Ottoman Empire and Arabs overthrew the Ottoman’s control of Arabian Peninsula.

The Armenian Massacre
- 1914 – Russia launched an attack in the Caucasus, a mountain region that lay between the Black and Caspian seas and borders northeastern Turkey.
- Home to many Armenians, Christians who formed a minority in the Ottoman Empire
- Ottomans, fearing the Armenians aiding Russians, forcibly removed Armenians from the Caucasus
- Genocide – the deliberate destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group (some 600,000 Armenians died from violence and starvation)

Other Fighting
- Battles were also fought in Asia and Africa.
- Japan declared war on Germany as part of a military agreement with Great Britain.
- Japanese captured German colonies throughout China and the Pacific. The British and the French attacked German colonies in Africa as well.

Revolutions in Russia
- The war and social unrest combined to push Russia to the edge of a revolution.
- The events that followed led to Russia’s exit from the war and became a major turning point in world history.

Russia and WWI
- Russia was a troubled nation on the eve of the WWI.
- Czar Nicholas II promised reform, but did not live up to his word. Revolutions spread throughout Russia.

The Years before the War
- Marxists – Bolsheviks – Vladimir Lenin – wanted to overthrow the czar so that the proletariat – the industrial workers – could gain the power to rule Russia as a socialist country.
- The Russian czar hoped that the world war would side track the revolutionaries.

Russia in WWI
Beginning of the war – Russia had 6 million soldiers – the czars planned worked; people from all across Russia rushed to join the military.

However, Russians were ill-prepared for the war. Initially, they saw some earlier success, but the loses soon outnumbered the victories.

Lost millions during the war’s early battles.

**Conditions grow Worse**

- Czar Nicholas II took personal command of the troops.
- As for one top Russian commander said, the “czar understood literally nothing about military matters.”
- Nevertheless, it was now clear that the czar’s fate was linked to the fate of Russian’s armed forces. If they failed so did he.
- Soon after he took command, the Central Powers stopped a major Russian offensive which led to a strong Russian resentment toward the czar.
- Gregory Rasputin – self proclaimed holy man and healer advised Nicholas’s wife, Alexandra while the czar went off with his troops.

**The Russian Revolution**

- By the end of 1916, Russia was once again on the edge of a revolution. Russians wanted change!

**Revolution Begins**

- March 8, 1917 – Petrograd, the Russian capital – citizens protested the lack of food and fuel.
- Nicholas ordered the disbandment of the Duma, but the representatives refused. The police officers in the streets refused to attack the protestors as well.
- On March 15, Czar Nicholas abdicated his throne. The Russian monarchy had come to its end.

**The Provisional Government**

- Temporary government led by Aleksandra Kerensky – planned to continue the fight in Europe.
- Strong opposition to the government Russians Marxists wanted change in government and society immediately.
- Plan – abolish private property and enforce social equality.
- Bolshevism – Marxist-Leninism – Lenin – forced out of Russia due to revolutionary ideas, but he returned in 1917.

**The Bolshevik Revolution**

- Kerensky government ordered a final military offensive against Germany and failed. This led to widespread rebellion throughout Russia.
- Red Guard- under Lenin – attacked the provisional government in the October Revolution – Lenin became the nation’s leader.
- Lenin – “private ownership is abolished immediately without compensation”
- Seized Russia’s factories and gave control to the workers, gave peasants land...
After the Revolution
- Lenin sent Leon Trotsky, a top Bolshevik official to negotiate peace with the Central Powers
- Russia was forced to concede because Russia’s army was virtually powerless

Civil War
- Bolshevik acceptance of the treaty upset many Russians
- White Army – included some army leaders and wealthy Russians who opposed Lenin’s Communist system
- Three year Civil War between Red Army and the White Army ended up in the Bolshevik’s triumph.

New Economic Policy
- The civil war pushed Russia’s collapsed economy to the edge of total ruins
- New Economic Policy - a plan that provided for some capitalist activity
- Russian peasants could sell own food to stimulate food production

The Soviet Union
- 1922 – Russia reunited with several neighboring lands that had been part of the Russian Empire before 1917 – called the Union of Socialist Republics
- Russian Communist leaders dominated the Soviet Union
- Lenin’s health was failing an there was no clear successor, which led to struggle for control of the Soviet Union

The War Ends
- After several years of bloody stalemate – and the entry of the United States into the conflict – the Allied Powers finally prevailed.
- The peace, however, proved difficult to establish.

The United States Enter
- German attacks on ships carrying American passengers upset and Angered the American people.
- Germany also tried to make a secret alliance with Mexico that angered many Americans.

American Neutrality
- In the early years of the war, the United States was neutral, although America generally supported the Allies.
- President Woodrow Wilson, in 1916 used the slogan “He kept us out of war” to help win reelection.

Trouble on the Seas
- German U-Boats, or submarines practiced unrestricted submarine warfare with any ship traveling in the waters around Great Britain.
- American merchant’s ships were also attacked to hurt British trade.
The Lusitania – passenger ship – was sunk by a German U-Boat – 1,200 people, including 120 Americans died.

Germany finally agreed to stop attacking passenger ships, but soon realized that they would not defeat Great Britain without practicing unrestricted warfare.

The Zimmerman Note
- The repeated attacks on shipping moved the United States closer to declaring war against Germany.
- Zimmerman note – final draw
- German diplomat Arthur Zimmerman sent a secret message to officials in Mexico to attack the United States and Germany would help them get land that they lost in the Mexican War.
- Americans began calling for WAR against Germany!
- April 1917, the United States entered the war on the Allied side – major turning point

The End of the Fighting
- Since the United States entered the war, the Central Powers knew that they needed to deliver a decisive blow against the Allies Powers before the United States reached the front lines.

A New German Offensive
- Germany’s opportunity came with the surrender of Russia on the Eastern Front
- Full throttle of Western Front
- For awhile Germany made great progress advancing 40 miles outside Paris, France, but the arrival of Americans under General John Pershing stopped the German advancement.

German Collapse
- Slowly the tide turned.
- Second Battle of the Marne – Allies stopped the German assault; Allies went on the offensive
- In October 1918, with combining effective use of tanks and aircrafts, the Allied forces broke through the heavily fortified Hindenburg Line.
- Germans end was near.
- November 11, 1918 on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month (Armistice Day – Veteran’s Day), the Central Powers surrendered and there was peace in Europe (temporarily . . . )

A difficult Peace
- The leaders had to work out a formal peace agreement.
- This task would prove to be difficult.
Differing Allied Goals
- President Wilson, while fighting was nearing an end, had announced a vision of world peace.
- Fourteen Points – included the reduction of weapons and the right of people to choose their own government.
- Also proposed forming an organization in which the world’s nations would join to protect one another from aggression.
- Not everyone shared Wilson’s views. The leaders of the four major Allies – Great Britain, France, the United States, and Italy – had very different views of peace treaty.

The Big Four
- America – Woodrow Wilson
- Great Britain – David Lloyd George
- France – Georges Clemenceau
- Italy – Vittorio Orlando
- Great Britain and the United States shared Wilson’s view of peace. France wanted to punish Germany by charging war reparations (France paid them in Franco-Prussian war REVENGE). Italy, what did she want, well she wanted LAND. Italy largely ignored!

The Treaty of Versailles
- Signed in Versailles, French palace (France’s vision)
- Germany was forced to pay war reparations
- Germany was forced to limit its military and return all of its land it conquered
- German lands were taken and Poland was formed.
- The treaty crippled the Germans and would haunt France in the years to come.
- Treaty included a League of Nations – main goal to encourage international cooperation and to keep peace among nations.
- However, the United States did not approve the treaty with the League of Nations.

Other Treaties
- Other treaties with the other Central Powers
- The vast lands of Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire were broken apart.
- Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Turkey were formed.
- Ottoman lands in the Middle East – ruled by European powers
- France – Syria and Lebanon
- Great Britain – Palestine and Iraq
- Balfour declaration – caused by Zionist movement – form a Jewish state in the Middle East – created Transjordan

The Costs of War
- Most devastating war the world had seen.
- Years to recover
Human Costs
- Nearly 9 million soldiers died in battle.
- Millions more were wounded or taken prisoner.
- 1918 influenza swept across the globe
- Worldwide 50 million people died from the flu.

Economic Costs
- The war destroyed national economies.
- France, Belgium, Russia were in ruins.
- Countries like the United States and Japan became the economic powers of the world.

Political Changes
- Communist revolution in Russia and political unrest
- After the war, the monarchies in Austria-Hungary, Germany and the Ottoman Empire were all overthrown.
- This widespread political and social turmoil would lead to the rise of new leaders in Europe.

Unrest in Colonies
- Colonies after hearing the Allies world speeches of freedom and democracy wanted change and freedom as well.
- However, independence would have to wait.

Interwar Years
- 1. Unrest in Asia and Africa
- 2. The Great Depression
- 3. Japanese Imperialism
- 4. Dictators in Europe
Main Idea
- World War I left millions of people dead and the map of Europe transformed.
- With Europe in chaos, nationalism spread to other parts of the world that had long been under imperialist control, and a new generation of strong leaders promised power and glory.
- By the end of the 1930’s, these leaders’ aggressive actions had the world on the brink of another devastating global war.

Unrest in Asia and Africa
- During the chaotic years following WWI, nationalist feeling increased in Asia and Africa.
- The resulting unrest continued into the 1930s.

China after WWI
- Although China’s role in WWI was small, it faced unrest during the interwar period.
The May Fourth Movement
- 1917 – China declared war on Germany, hoping to gain their lost territories however the land was granted to Japan, which insulted China
- May 4, 1919 – thousands of angry students in Beijing demanded change.

An Uneasy Partnership
- Many believed that the best way to strengthen China’s government was through communism.
- Kuomintang nationalists and the Communist Party of China formed a partnership to fight the warlords who controlled many areas of China.
- Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-Shek) , nationalist took control of much of China – turned against Communist allies and attacked Communist cities killing thousands of people.
- These actions sparked the Chinese Civil War

The Long March
- Mao ZeDong – Long March – he and 100,000 Communists took a 6,000 mile trek through China to find a place beyond the rule of Guomindang control.
- Only 8,000 survived the terrible conditions of the march

Changes in India
- 1900’s – there was also a rise of nationalism in India
- Increased tensions between Great Britain and India

India and WWI
- Some 800,000 Indians served with the British in WWI, fighting on the Western Front and in the Middle East.
- It became clear to many Indians that their wartime sacrifices had not won them independence at home.
- The British passed the Rowlatt Acts, which allowed the British to deal harshly with the growing opposition in India.
- Amritsar Massacre – British soldiers – April 1919 – opened fire on a large crowd killing nearing 400 peaceful demonstrators

Gandhi’s Protest
- Indian lawyer, Mohandas Gandhi, in response to the massacre started to organize protests against the British.
- Principles – ahimsa – nonviolence towards non living things
- Civil disobedience – refusal to obey unjust laws
- 1920 – encouraged Indians to boycott British goods – Gandhi’s spinning wheel
- Protest against British monopoly on salt

Gandhi’s Progress
- Inspired millions of Indians to resist British rule.
- Gandhi’s efforts did lead to some changes:
British Parliament gave Indians a limited degree of self rule, but this was from full independence would be achieved later.

The Middle East
- Nationalist movements sparked throughout the Middle East as well; some were successful and some were not

Turkey and Ataturk
- Treaty of Sevres – the Ottoman Empire gave up control of the territory of the Turks to the Allied Powers (Greece)
- However, Kemal Mustafa – WWI hero defeated the Greeks and established the Republic of Turkey
- Father of the Turks
- Sought to modernize Turkey
- Required ending Muslim influence in government (separation of church and state – secularism)
- Advances in industry, education

Persia
- 1921 – Reza Khan – planned to overthrow Persia’s shah, or emperor – became shah in 1925 and changed the name to Iran – reformed education and industry

French and British Mandates
- Roots of the Arab – Israeli Conflict
- Arab nationalists supported by the British, rebelled against the Ottoman Empire in 1916
- Husayn bin Ali – wanted to create an independent Arab state stretching from Syria to Yemen.
- Meanwhile, the Jewish nationalist movement was growing stronger due to Zionism (Balfour Declaration – Palestine)
- Palestine Arab anger expanded greatly as tens of thousands of Jews immigrated to the land – led to conflict.

Nationalism in Africa
- During WWI, Africa almost entirely under European control
- Hundreds of thousands of Africans fought in the war and this led to growing nationalist feelings in Africa.

Nationalism Feeling Grows
- Many Africans believed they had earned independence from European control through their wartime sacrifices.
• Africans were not allowed in the negotiations at Versailles and German controlled land was handed over to other European countries.

Working for Independence
• Pan African Congresses – 1919 – led to a series of demands for African independence
• Egypt fought for independence against Great Britain and by 1922, the British formally declared that Egypt was an independent nation.
• Major victory for nationalism in Africa, however it would take another world war before most of Africa would achieve independence from Europe

The Great Depression
• In the late 1920s and economic depression started in the United States and quickly spread around the globe, causing great hardship and creating ideal conditions for political unrest.

U.S. Economy in the 1920s
• At the end of the Great War, the United States emerged as the leading economic power in the world.
• This led to an economic boom in the 1920s followed by economic disaster in the 1930s.

Economic Growth
• Economic growth increased during the war, slowed down a little bit after the war, and by the 1920’s growth was steady.
• Occurred in industry – automobile, American manufacturing from radios to vacuums to washing machines
• Success reflected the stock market; increased investments in stock drove stock prices higher

Hidden Problems
• Credit – arrangement in which a purchaser borrows money from a bank or other lender and agrees to pay it back over time
• Richest one percent of the nation earned most of the income
• By the end of the decade many people reached their limits on credit and could not afford to pay

The Stock Market Crash
• Fall of 1929, consumer spending slowed, and sales of products had suffered.
• October 29, 1929 – Black Tuesday – investors sold 16 million shares of stock
• Ruined many investors and banks and American industry and the great crash would soon impact the rest of the world

The Depression Spreads
• Following the crash, the American economy took a severe downturn known as the Great Depression

Industry Slows
• As industry slowed, workers lost their jobs
• One out of every four was unemployed.
• Banks also suffered so anxious people began withdrawing all their money, driving the banks out of business

Government Response
• United States throughout American history viewed that the American government should not intervene in the nation’s economy (laissez – faire) even in times of economic hardship
• Republican Herbert Hoover felt that this was an adjustment to an overheated economy; eventually took some action, but Americans felt that something needed to be done.

Roosevelt Elected
• 1932 – U.S. voters elected Franklin D. Roosevelt, democrat from New York, as president of the United States.
• Under President Roosevelt, the federal government’s role in the lives of the Americans greatly increased.
• New Deal - government spending to boost the economy – led to a recession later in his administration, however much of his legislation is still in effect today.

New Economic Theories
• Adam Smith – capitalism – laissez – faire – old
• John Maynard Keynes – British economist – government could limit economic downturns through government spending
• Who is right?

The Worldwide Depression
• 1929 – American businesses were responsible for much of the world’s industrial output.
• Thus, when the Great Depression occurred in America it impacted countries throughout the world.

Before the Crash
• Europe was already in ruins due to WWI battles
• Many of the countries were also in debt and could not afford to pay their debts
• Germany’s economy was crippled due to war reparations and inflation – dollar was worthless

A Slowdown in Trade
• Smoot-Hawley Tariff act – placed heavy taxes on imported goods in an attempt to encourage Americans to buy American goods.
Backfired – other nations responded in increase in their tariff rates and as a result world trade suffered and the loss of foreign trade crippled nations

Political Impact
- The postwar era had a tremendous impact on Europe.
- Political instability continued in Great Britain and France.
- Other countries experienced extreme political activism
- Germany – the National Socialist (Nazi) Party unfairly blamed Jews for the country’s problems
- Italy fell to the dictator Benito Mussolini
- Widespread misery led to the rise of powerful leaders who promised to restore their nations to glory.

Japanese Imperialism
- A modernized Japan emerged from WWI as one of the world’s leading powers.
- Dreams of an empire, however, led the country in a dangerous direction.

Japan in the 1920’s
- Japan in the 1920s emerged as one of the world’s foremost powers.

Economic Challenges
- Meiji restoration – start of Japanese modernization
- However, the small island country did not have the natural resources needed to supply modern industry and had to import most of these materials.
- In order to get these materials, Japan decided it needed to expand its empire.

Social Change
- The change from an agricultural society to an industrialized society, combined with education and new ideas from the West, led to many changes in Japanese society.
- Democracy emerged and political parties developed. Young liberals questioned traditional Japanese values, and conservative Japanese resented the change and looked to keep the power.

Growing Military Influence
- The Great Depression affected Japan and many Japanese lost their faith in government.
- They began to look towards the military for guidance.

The Military Vision
- A unified Japan – a society ruled by the emperor and to the glory of the nation ruled by the military leadership.

Foreign Relations
- Military’s influence in Japan grew in part because of public opposition to the Japanese government’s foreign policy.
Japan, under several treaties signed with the West, had to limit their Japanese navy, which seemed to put an end to their overseas expansion.

1924-the United States put a quota on Japanese immigration that deeply affected Japanese pride and therefore the Japanese began to question their cooperation with the West.

Started to build up its navy to led to a stronger nation

**Japanese Aggression**

- The Japanese military gained power, widening the gap between the military and the civilian government.
- This led to Japanese aggression towards other countries

**Building a Fighting Spirit**

- To make up for their nation’s industrial limitations, the Japanese focused on a different kind of weapon: the Japanese soldiers.
- Began to promote the fighting spirit of Japanese soldiers – the words surrender, retreat, and defense were taken out of the soldier’s handbook – not an option

**Taking over the Government**

- In the 1930’s, a group of military leaders plotted to replace the nation’s government with a military dictatorship
- 1930’s – Japanese military leaders carried out a series of assassinations of government officials, including prime ministers and cabinet members.
- Slowly, the Japanese government grew more dominated by the military

**Conquering Manchuria**

- Manchurian incident – decided to conquer Manchuria, region of northeastern China – rich to coal and iron
- A secret plot developed where Japanese soldiers planted a bomb in their own railway-line and blamed it one the Chinese.
- Eventually, Japanese troops set up a government in the region.
- Manchuria – a new state under Japanese control called Manchukuo

**Forming New Alliances**

- League of Nations strongly condemned Japan’s aggression in Manchuria so Japan left League and announced it would no longer limit the size of its navy.
- As Japan broke away from the West, it befriended Germany – Anti-Comintern Pact – Japan and Germany agreed to work together to oppose the spread of communism (Soviet Union), a year later – Italy joined the pact

**War in China**

- Japan also continued to conquer more territory in China, which infuriated the Chinese and led to war.
The Second Sino-Japanese War – with tensions rising, a series of violent incidents in the summer of 1937 between Chinese and Japanese forces, which led to open warfare between the two nations

The Nanjing Massacre – Japanese soldiers went on a murderous rampage killing at least 100,000 Chinese men, women, and children

A Move Toward Wider War
- Japan also looked towards southeast Asia in search of natural resources – rich in rubber, oil, and other key resources
- Japan foreign minister proposed the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere – to limit Western control in the area

Dictators in Europe
- The political and social unrest that followed WWI, helped totalitarian dictator’s rise to power in Europe.

Mussolini’s Italy
- At the end of WWI, new ideas about government emerged in Italy
- Promoted by Benito Mussolini – drastic change in Italy

Fascist Ideology
- IL Duce – “the leader” wanted to build a great and glorious Italian Empire
- 1919 –National Fascist Party – Fascism – authoritarian form of government that places the good of the nation above all else, including individual rights and freedoms
- Dictator makes all decisions

Mussolini in Power
- October 1922 – he led the so-called March on Rome – forced Italy’s king to put Mussolini at the head of the government
- Once in power he eliminated all opposition and formed his dictator

Fascist Italy
- Totalitarianism – government control of all aspects of life
- Mussolini tried to influence all aspects of society

The Invasion of Ethiopia
- Mussolini set out to make Italy a strong military power.
- He looked for an easy target – Ethiopia
- Haile Selassie – appealed to the League of Nations to take action and the league placed some economic sanctions on Italy but no real action.

Stalin’s Soviet Union
- Soviet Leader Vladimir Lenin had died in 1924, shortly after the Communist Soviet Union was formed.
- After a struggle – Joseph Stalin – became new Soviet leader
Communism under Joseph Stalin

- In order to strengthen the Soviet Union and communism, Stalin created a totalitarian state and took control of every aspect of society.

The Five-Year Plans

- Each factory and mine had production goals set by the state
- Reflected centralized planning, in which the government made the decisions about the production of goods
- The Five Year Plans worked, but it worked at the expense of the workers

Collectivization and Famine

- Collectivization – merging of smaller farms to form bigger farms
- Lenin gave land to peasants and Stalin took it right back
- Stalin’s forces responded violently when peasants resisted, killing thousands and sending many to Siberia to work on labor camps called the Gulag

Political Purges

- The Great Purge – Stalin attacked thousands of Communist leaders, military officers, and ordinary citizens – execution or the Gulag

Totalitarian Rule

- Stalin dominated Soviet life.
- Children were encouraged to join youth organizations, religion was discouraged and churches closed.
- Stalin gained a stronghold on society.

Hitler’s Germany

- Germany underwent changes as well. Like Mussolini and Stalin, Germany’s Adolf Hitler rose to power during a time of conflict and political instability.

Post War Germany

- After WWI, Germany formed the republic of Weimar.
- Government was extremely unpopular with Germans
- Many Germans experienced economic hardship and the country was hit with severe depression in the 1930s.

Hitler’s Early Career

- Adolf Hitler – born in Austria in 1889 served in the German Army in WWI
- Joined the Nazi Party – right-wing conservative extremist group
- Tried to overthrow Germany’s government, but was temporarily imprisoned – Mein Kumpf – My Struggle – racial superiority Aryans

Hitler Gains Power

- During the 1930’s, Hitler promised to build Germany’s military and improve the lives of Germans “master race”
• Nazis party became the most popular and in 1933, Hitler became chancellor, the most powerful post in the German government.

**Hitler Controls Germany**
• Gradually, Hitler eliminated his opposition and became dictator of Germany – the Fuhrer (leader)
• Hitler began to rebuild Germany – strict wages and massive government spending helped reduce unemployment, new public buildings and roads and increased military production

**Nazi Anti-Semitism**
• Anti-Semitism – hostility towards Jewish; Hitler blamed Jews for the depression and Germany’s defeat in WWI.
• Anti-Semitism existed since the middle ages.
• Nuremberg Laws – separate legal status for German Jews, eliminating their citizenship and many civil and property rights, such as the right to vote
• Kristallnacht – the Night of Broken Glass – Nov 9 and 10, 1938 – Nazi’s encouraged anti-Jewish riots across Germany and Austria – 100 Jews killed and thousands of buildings destroyed
• Hitler’s Germany was about to lead the world into the bloodiest war in world history

**World War Two**
• 1. Axis Aggression
• 2. the Allied Response
• 3. The Holocaust
• 4. the End of the War
• **Main Idea**
  • The aggression of tyrants in Europe and Asia exploded in another world war in 1939.
  • At first, the Axis armies of Germany, Japan, and Italy gained territory and inflicted great suffering.
  • But after years of conflict, the Allies, led by Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, prevailed.

**Axis Aggression**
• In the late 1930s, Germany and Japan used military forces to build empires.
• Their aggressive actions led to the outbreak of WWII.

**Germany Expands**
• The treaty of Versailles seriously wounded and damaged the German economy and moral.
• Adolf Hitler came to power and promised to restore Germany’s greatness. In other words, he wanted to expand Germany – Lebensraum – living space

**Rebuilding the German Military**
1933 – Hitler secretly began rebuilding the military.
Soon afterwards, he publically announced his plans and claimed that it was to protect Germany from expansion of communism.

Militarizing the Rhineland
1936 – he sent a small armed force into the Rhineland – German territory that bordered France.
France and Great Britain complained about the treaty of Versailles violations, but they took no direct action.

Annexing Austria
1938 – turned to his homeland – dream of making one German-speaking empire – began to demand German annexation of Austria (Anschluss) and by march German forces marched into Austria without opposition.
Austria was no longer an independent country.

A Growing Crisis
After the takeover of Austria, Hitler felt untouchable.
He turned to Czechoslovakia – large German speaking population in the Sudetenland eager to join Germany
The Czechoslovakia government asked Great Britain and France for help. However, the two countries agreed not to get in Hitler’s way.
Appeasement – giving in to aggressive demands in order to maintain peace
Everyone is in favor of appeasement, all but one British citizen, Winston Churchill – “Why not make a stand [against Hitler] while there is still a good company of united, very powerful countries?”

Alliances and Civil War
At the same time Hitler was expanding his empire, he was also building alliances with other totalitarian governments.

The Axis Forms
Aggressive and totalitarian governments formed in Italy and Japan as well.
Axis Powers – Germany, Italy, and Japan

The Spanish Civil War
The Axis also worked to form an alliance with Spain.
However, in 1936, civil war between Nationalists (Fascists) and Republicans. Nationalists – Germany and Italy and Republicans – Soviet Union
Nationalist Francisco Franco defeated the Republicans and Spain came under control of a Fascist dictator

A Secret Deal with Stalin
Joseph Stalin was working both sides, Great Britain and France, and Germany.
• Stalin, after losing confidence that Great Britain and France would help protect the Soviet Union from a German invasion, decided to sign a peace treaty with Hitler.
• Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact – each side agreed not to attack the other; also recognized each side’s right to take territory in Eastern Europe
• This alarmed Great Britain and France

The War Begins
• September 1, 1939 – Germany launched an attack on Poland – marked the beginning of WWII.

Lighting Attacks
• Blitzkrieg – “lightning war” – speed and close coordination between planes in the air and fast-moving forces on the ground
• Poland was quickly devastated.
• September 3, 1939, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany and formed the Allied Powers.
• At the same time that Hitler conquered Poland, he mobilized troops on the western border near France.

The Attack of France
• spring of 1940 – German invasion of France
• First came invasion of Demark and Norway, followed by Netherlands and Belgium
• Then came the Ardennes – a dense forest between France and Belgium border
• Finally – disaster at Dunkirk – Allied retreat of 300,000 forces – and on June 22, 1940, France surrendered to Germany.
• Next Hitler step – Great Britain

The Battle for Britain
• Great Britain stood alone against the unstoppable German war machine.
• However, the task of taking Great Britain would not be easy for Hitler – Prime Minister Winston Churchill
• Battle of Britain – Aug – Oct 1940, Germany sent thousands of aircraft over the English Channel to attack British – known as the Battle of Britain
• Germany failed due to new technology used by Great Britain – RADAR
• German led to London Blitz – German bombing of London killed thousands of civilians.
• Still, Great Britain did not surrender.

The Invasion of the Soviet Union
• He quickly turned his attention to the east.
• 1941 – Hitler broke the non aggression pact and sent 3 million German troops into the Soviet Union.
At first, the German invasion of the Soviet Union was highly effective, but by the autumn of 1941, Germany had not reached Moscow and Leningrad and the extreme harsh winter slowed down their advancement.

This gave time for the Soviet Union to rebuild and recover and eventually the Soviet Red Army began to fight back.

Japan Attacks
- While war spread throughout Europe, Japan by 1941 had moved its forces into French Indo-China, and the West decided to ban the sale of oil to Japan to hurt their military war machine.
- The Japanese planned for war.

Pearl Harbor
- General Hideki Tojo – Japanese – secret plans to bomb Pearl Harbor, American naval base
- December 7, 1941 – Sunday – surprise attack on Pearl Harbor – “A day that will live in infamy.” (FDR)
- Some 2,400 Americans were dead; 200 aircraft were destroyed, and all eight battleships

The American Response
- Isolationism – desire to avoid involvement of world affairs
- On December 8, 1941, the U.S. Congress declared war on Japan.
- Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.

The Allied Response
- The early years of WWII went poorly for the Allies.
- But after the United States joined the war, the Allies soon recovered and began making gains against the Axis.

Early American Involvement
- Even before Pearl Harbor, the United States had been helping the Allied Powers - violating isolationism – called Lend Lease – aid to Great Britain

The Battle of the Atlantic
- Control of the Atlantic Ocean was a critical factor in WWII.
- If Germany controlled the Atlantic Ocean, she would cut off the American aid to Europe.
- Germany turned to submarine warfare- U Boats
- USS Reuben James – first U.S. Navy ship sunk by Germany in WWII

The American Home Front
- Millions of Americans volunteered to fight for their country.
- Many factories converted to war-time materials and gave new job opportunities to African Americans and women.
- Japanese Internment Camps – 100,000 Japanese Americans on the west coast of the United States

**Winning the Atlantic**
- By 1943, the United States began producing ships and planes in large numbers to battle the German U Boats in the Atlantic Ocean.
- The Allies also broke the enigma machine, a key code used to transmit information about German plans.

**War in North Africa and Italy**
- While fighting continued in the Atlantic Ocean, Italians and British fought for the control of North Africa.

**Back and Forth Fighting**
- The new German and Italian forces in Africa – Erwin Rommel – Desert Fox – pushed the British out of Libya and back into Egypt.
- Back and Forth fighting between the Africa Korps and the British throughout 1941 and 1942.

**The Americans Join the Battle**
- November 1942, a combined American and British force landed in North Africa.
- Led by American General Dwight D. Eisenhower
- May 1943, the African Korps surrendered – nearly 250,000 soldiers were taken prisoner. North Africa in Allied hands – next Italy.

**Fighting In Italy**
- July 1943 – Allied soldiers moved north from Africa to Sicily and captured the island within a few weeks.
- However, it would take months for the Allies to capture Italy.

**A Turning Point in the Soviet Union**
- 1941 – German invasion of Soviet Union had come to a halt in the fall/winter. Hitler’s poorly equipped troops suffered greatly.
- Siege of Leningrad – After Hitler did not conquer Leningrad he blockaded the city and in the winter Soviet civilians starved to death at a rate of 3,000 to 4,000 a day. As many as 1 million total

**Battle of Stalingrad**
- In the spring of 1942, Hitler ordered a renewed assault of the Soviet Union.
- By the end of the summer, the combined German, Italian, Romanian, and Hungarian troops had done well and had neared the city of Stalingrad – industrial
city near the Volga River
- most important city to Soviet Union industry
- The Battle of Stalingrad was one of the more brutal battles of the war.
- Bitter fighting between the Soviets and the Germans left the Nazis trapped within
  the city refusing to surrender.
- Within days, 90,000 half-dead troops surrendered; many died later in Soviet
  prisons.
- Over one million Soviet soldiers died in the battle for Stalingrad.

A Turning Point in the Pacific
- In the beginning of the war, the United States chose to focus on the fighting in
  Europe and with the successes in Africa, Italy, and the Soviet Union, America
  turned to Japan.

The Allies Fight Back
- The early months of the Pacific were difficult for the Allies – Pearl Harbor – lost
  most of the American fleet, all but three stationed elsewhere
- Japanese – taking control of all islands in Pacific (Singapore, Hong Kong, Burma
  – strategic islands)
- Philippines – Douglas MacArthur – surrendered the Philippines “I shall return”
- Bataan Death March – Following the American surrender, 70,000 prisoners were
  forced on a brutal march up the Bataan Peninsula (600 Americans and up to
  10,000 Filipinos died) those who survived died later in prison camps

The Battle of Coral Sea
- Japan reached its height in power – May 1942
- Battle of Coral Sea – body of water off the northeast coast of Australia
- The battle hurt the American forces more than the Japanese, but it was the first
  time that the Allies stopped the Japanese advancement of the Pacific.

The Battle of Midway
- A month later, Japanese and American forces met at Midway in the middle of the
  Atlantic Ocean – key military base for Americans
- Japanese had more ships and air craft carriers, but the United States broke the
  secret Japanese code used to submit messages.
- The Allies, under General Chester Nimitz defeated the Japanese; major Allied
  victory in the Pacific

Island Hopping
- American strategy to regain Japanese territory in the Pacific by skipping over the
  strongholds and capturing the weaker targets – not an easy task
- Battle of Guadalcanal – series of brutal battles – 6 months – Japanese finally fled
  in Feb 1943
- From 1942 to 1944, the Allies captured locations in Solomon, Gilbert, Marshall,
  Caroline, and Mariana islands.
Next step – Philippines – MacArthur – “I have returned” – Battle of Leyte – largest naval battle ever fought
Kamikazes – Japanese pilots who loaded their planes with bombs and deliberately crashed into Allies ships
Allied victory in the Philippines

The Holocaust
During WWII, Germany Nazi government deliberately murdered some 6 million Jews and 5 million others in Europe.
These actions became known as the Holocaust.

Nazi Anti – Semitism
At the time of Hitler’s rise to power, there were about 9 million Jews in Europe.
Most lived outside of Germany, but Hitler still blamed Jews for problems in Germany.
Anti – Semitism was not new and Jews had been persecuted throughout history
Nazi Anti – Semitism – turned to hatred based on race -many who could afford it were deported.
However, emigration was not an option to many.
250,000 Jews lived in Germany and could not escape

The Final Solution
As Germany conquered Europe, millions of Jews came under Nazi control – Final Solution – deliberate mass extermination of Jews

The Killing Begins
Jews were forced into ghettos, or confined areas within the city limits – most famous Warsaw – 400,000 Jews
Others sent to concentration camps – meant to hold enemies of the state (housed in Poland)
Auschwitz- special gas chambers in which thousands were killed everyday

The Victims
Jews were not the only victims – Poles, Slavs, homosexuals, people with disabilities
6 million Jews died as a result of concentration camps –Holocaust – 2 out of every 3 Jews

The World Reacts
1942, the United States and Great Britain began to hear the disturbing news of German killing of Jews.
1944 – after millions of Jews already died, War Refuge Board to help rescue Jews – helped some 200,000 Jews
The scenes of horror at the death camps gave the world a clear picture of what life would look like under Hitler.
Nazi hope of world domination would soon come to an end.
The End of the War
- In the 1945, the Allies finally triumphed over the Axis Powers in Europe and the Pacific, but the war left many nations in ruin.

War Ends in Europe
- While Americans and British military leaders began planning their invasion of France, the Red Army in the Soviet Union was able to push back the Germans back into Europe.

Soviet Victories
- In early 1944, the Soviets finally ended the siege of Leningrad.
- A major offensive in the summer, pushed the Axis powers within 40 miles of Berlin.
- Once the Allies began their invasion of France, the Allies and Russia would race to get to Berlin to conquer the defeated Germans.

D-Day
- Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces – Dwight D. Eisenhower
- On June 6, 1944 – D-Day – Allied forces invaded France
- Over 150,000 troops landed that day and losses were high, but this was a tremendous victory for the Allies.
- By the end of August, the Allies captured France and had forced the Germans back into their homeland.

The Battle of the Bulge
- Hitler, in 1944, ordered one last major German offensive in Belgium, producing a bulge in the Allied Battle Lines – became known as the Battle of the Bulge
- By January 1945, Allied troops crushed the last German offensive, marking the end of German resistance.
- Within two months, the Allied reached the Rhine River and were racing the Soviet Union towards Berlin. Why?

The Germans Surrender
- The Soviets were the first to reach Berlin.
- May 2, 1945, they found Adolf Hitler’s dead body
- V-E Day – Victory in Europe Day – the war in Europe was over.

War ends in the Pacific
- Although war was over in Europe, it still raged in the Pacific.
- Island hopping was effective, but there were still major islands under Japanese control.

Final Battles
- Battle of Iwo Jima – during the month long battle, 7,000 Americans died to capture the tiny island; over 20,000 Japanese forces – 1,000 remained
Battle of Okinawa – 100,000 Japanese forces (almost all died) against 12,000 troops (FIGHT UNTIL DEATH)

The Atomic Bomb
- After the victories of Okinawa and Iwo Jima, the Allies planned to attack Japan.
- President Truman, after careful consideration about the number of American lives it would cost to invade Japan, decided on the atomic bomb. (Manhattan Project)
- July 26, 1945 – President asked for unconditional surrender and Japan refused
- August 6 – Hiroshima – Enola Gay – killed more than 700,000 Japanese instantly – still no surrender
- August 9, 1945 – Nagasaki – 75,000 people died
- Finally, Japan surrendered August 15, 1945 V-J Day – victory in Japan
- World War II was finally over!!!

The Postwar World
- At the end of the Second World War, much of Europe and Asia lay in ruins. Tens of millions of people had died in the war, many being civilians.
- The war also uprooted millions of peoples in Europe and Asia.

Planning for the Future
- President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill - Atlantic Charter - proclaimed that they sought no political gain, and they looked forward to a peaceful world in which all nations chose their own governments and worked together for mutual prosperity

Yalta and Potsdam
- Yalta Conference - held in Soviet territory - what to do with postwar Europe
- Stalin kept territory that had formerly be owned by Poland, promised to respect democratic ideals in Eastern Europe
- In exchange he agreed to join the United Nations - designed to encourage international cooperation and prevention of war
- The United States, Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and China - United Nations Security Council
- Member Nations
- Potsdam Conference - Germany 1945 - ill will between the Allies and the Soviet Union

Soviet Plans
- Stalin, following the closing months of the war, broke his promises about respecting democracy in Eastern Europe.
- World War II had ended, but another struggle was about to begin - THE COLD WAR