

World War II

- I. Germany
 - a. Aftermath of World War I
 - i. Resented the Treaty of Versailles
 - ii. Inflation
 - iii. Unemployment
 - b. Nazis
 - i. National Socialist German Workers' Party
 - 1. **N**ational**s**o**z**ialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei
 - 2. Adolf Hitler became chairman in 1921
 - a. *Mein Kampf* (1925)
 - ii. Anti-Semitism
 - 1. Hated and blamed Jews for Germany's problems
 - c. Totalitarianism in Germany
 - i. Strict control of a country and its people by a single political party and its leader
 - ii. Hitler became chancellor of Germany in 1933
 - iii. Night of the Long Knives in 1934
 - 1. Silenced political opposition
 - iv. German military
 - 1. Hitler wanted to regain lost territory and expand Germany
 - 2. Rebuilt military (violation of Versailles Treaty)
 - 3. Alliance with Italy in 1936
 - d. Olympics in 1936
 - i. Winter and summer games in Germany
 - ii. Hitler hoped to highlight German superiority
 - iii. American Jesse Owens won four gold medals
 - e. Holocaust
 - i. Kristallnacht in 1938
 - 1. Pogrom against Jewish businesses in Germany
 - ii. Final Solution
 - 1. Plan to exterminate Jews and other groups
 - iii. Josef Mengele
 - 1. Auschwitz doctor who infamously experimented on twins
 - f. German Aggression
 - i. Rhineland
 - 1. Occupied by German troops in March, 1936
 - ii. Anschluss
 - 1. March, 1938

2. Germany annexed Austria
- iii. Munich Agreement
 1. September, 1938
 2. German control of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia
 3. European policy of appeasement favored by British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain
 4. Germans seized the remainder of Czechoslovakia in March, 1939
- iv. Germans in Poland
 1. Soviet-German Non-Aggression Pact (August, 1939)
 - a. Hitler free to invade western Poland
 2. Germany invades Poland on September 1, 1939
 - a. September 3, 1939—France and Great Britain (the Allies) declared war on Germany in response
 - b. Blitzkrieg—lightning war
 - c. Soviets invaded and occupied eastern Poland
- v. Northern and Western Europe
 1. April, 1940—Germans attacked Denmark and Norway
 2. May, 1940—Germans attacked Belgium and the Netherlands
 3. Dunkirk
 - a. Allies evacuated over 300,000 British and French troops
 4. June 14, 1940—German troops in Paris
- vi. Battle of Britain
 1. August-October, 1940
 2. Massive German aerial bombing of Britain
 3. Royal Air Force (RAF) defended the U.K.

II. Soviet Union

- a. Led by Joseph Stalin
 - i. Totalitarian ruler responsible for deaths of millions during collectivization of farms
- b. Expansion
 - i. Took control of eastern Poland after Nazi invasion
 - ii. Military bases imposed on Baltic republics—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania
 - iii. War with Finland until March, 1940 (Finns lost)
- c. Soviets attacked by Germany

- i. Hitler violated the non-aggression treaty and attacked the U.S.S.R. in June, 1941
 - ii. Stalin joined the Allies
 - d. Approximately 20,000,000 military and civilian casualties
 - i. Starvation killed millions
 - ii. Major battles, such as the Battle of Stalingrad (city now called Volgograd)
 - iii. Holocaust killed many – sometimes with local collaboration, such as at Babi Yar
 - e. Battle of Berlin
 - i. April 20-May 2, 1945
 - ii. Soviet troops made it to Berlin
 - 1. Found corpses of Hitler and others (suicide)
 - 2. Unconditional surrender of the capital city

III. France

- a. Maginot Line
 - i. Bunkers from Belgium to Switzerland along the German border
 - ii. World War I defensive strategy no match for modern aerial warfare
 - iii. June 14, 1940—German troops occupy Paris
- b. Occupied France, Vichy France, and Free France
 - i. Vichy France
 - 1. Southern areas of France, headquartered in Vichy
 - 2. Led by Marshal Philippe Pétain from 1940–1944
 - 3. Puppet state of the Germans
 - ii. Occupied France
 - 1. Controlled by German forces, headquartered in Paris
 - iii. Free France
 - 1. Free French government in exile
 - 2. Led by Charles de Gaulle from London
 - 3. Worked with French partisans and others
- c. Liberation
 - i. D-Day – June 6, 1944
 - 1. Normandy landings, a.k.a. Operation Neptune
 - 2. Largest seaborne invasion in the history of the world
 - 3. Allies landed in Normandy and fought across France
 - ii. Liberation of Paris (Battle for Paris) – August 19-25, 1944

1. French Republic restored
2. Public shaming of Nazi collaborators and sympathizers

IV. Italy

a. Benito Mussolini

- i. Resented Treaty of Versailles (World War I)
- ii. Came to power with Fascist Party in 1922
 1. Known as *Il Duce*
 2. Militarization of Italy
- iii. Wanted to restore glory of ancient Roman empire
- iv. Lateran Treaty (1929) – Vatican City made a sovereign nation under control of Catholic Church

b. Ethiopia

- i. Italian forces invade Ethiopia in 1935
- ii. Deposed Emperor Haile Selassie and annexed country
- iii. League of Nations enacted trade restrictions against Italy, but not enforced
 1. Italy withdrew from the League of Nations

c. Albania

- i. Attacked and annexed in 1939

d. Italy in World War II

- i. Officially joined German in the war in June of 1940
- ii. Italy met a lot of defeats in Africa and Europe
- iii. By mid-1943, Allies were invading across Italy itself
- iv. Mussolini eventually adopted many of Hitler's racist views
 1. *Manifesto of Race* – placed severe restrictions on Jews

V. American Neutrality

a. Neutrality Acts, 1937-1939

- i. U.S. would not sell weaponry to warring nations
- ii. Must pay cash for goods
- iii. Must transport goods in their own ships

b. America First Committee

- i. Promoted neutrality
 - ii. Leaders included Charles Lindbergh and Henry Ford
- c. Neutral but making preparations for war
 - i. 1938—navy strengthened
 - ii. 1939—“cash and carry” sale of weapons
 - iii. 1940—Selective Training and Service Act, America’s first peacetime draft (men aged 21-35)
 - iv. 1941
 - 1. March: Lend-Lease Act allowed lease, lending, or sale of weapons to countries “vital to the defense of the United States”
 - 2. Summer: “Shoot-on-Sight” order for American vessels against the Germans and Italians in specified areas
 - 3. August: Atlantic Charter signed by Roosevelt and Churchill (new leader of Great Britain) setting up goals for a peaceful world free of Nazi aggression

VI. Japan

- a. Japanese military leaders sought to expand Japan’s power and holdings in Asia
- b. Japanese in Manchuria
 - i. Japan invades Manchuria, 1931 (northeastern China)
 - ii. Changed name to Manchukuo, 1932
 - iii. Puppet leader was Puyi, deposed Chinese emperor
- c. Japanese in mainland China
 - i. Marco Polo Bridge Incident, 1937
 - 1. Predicate for starting the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945, part of World War II)
 - ii. Japanese moved south
 - 1. Controlled most of the country
 - 2. Rape of Nanking
 - a. December 1937-January 1938
 - b. 300,000 dead
 - c. Approximately 20,000 females raped, from infants to elderly
 - i. Many women killed immediately afterward, often mutilated
- d. Japanese elsewhere in Asia
 - i. Primary goal was to acquire oil and rubber

- ii. Indochina—taken over after France fell to the Nazis in 1940
- e. Japan against the United States
 - i. U.S. economic response to Japanese aggression
 - 1. Seizure of Japanese assets in American banks
 - 2. Embargo against sale of gasoline, oil, etc.
 - ii. October, 1941—General Hideki Tojo new prime minister, not really willing to negotiate with the U.S.
 - iii. Attack on naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941
 - 1. Crippled the American fleet
 - 2. Over 2,300 killed
 - 3. Americans eager to join the war
 - 4. December 8, 1941—war declared
 - 5. December 11, 1941—Germany and Italy, the other two Axis powers, declared war on the United States
 - 6. United States part of the Allies along with China, France, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union

VII. Africa

- a. Allied strategy to attack Germans in northern Africa first
 - i. General Erwin Rommel
 - 1. Leader of German troops in Africa, known as the “desert fox”
 - 2. 1942—British defeated him at El Alamein (in present-day Egypt), preventing German seizure of the Suez Canal
 - 3. Later implicated in a plot against Hitler, and forced to take his life with a cyanide pill in 1944
 - ii. General Dwight D. Eisenhower
 - 1. Landed Allied troops in Algeria and Morocco
 - iii. General George Patton
 - 1. Helped drive Rommel’s *Afrika Korps* out of northern Africa (May, 1943)
- b. Africa became base for attacking Italy

VIII. Liberation of Italy

- a. Italian Campaign
 - i. July 10, 1943-May 2, 1945
 - ii. Fighting largely between Allied (60,000 casualties) and German forces (50,000 casualties) in Italy
- b. July, 1943—Mussolini voted out of office and arrested
- c. September, 1943—Allied troops in mainland Italy
- d. Winter, 1943—Allied advance faltered in Monte Cassino (central Italy)
- e. January, 1944—Allies at Anzio, near Rome, but held back by German troops
- f. June, 1944—Allies liberated Rome
- g. April, 1945—Mussolini, his mistress, and others killed by Italian partisans as they attempted to escape to Germany
 - i. Bodies hung upside down in Milan for people to see
- h. Liberation Day – April 25, 1945, when Turin and Milan were liberated

IX. 1942

- a. Revenue Act raises taxes to finance the war
- b. Office of War Information promotes patriotism
- c. U.S. joins allies
- d. Allies surrender Bataan
 - i. Bataan Death March
 - 1. Started April 9, 1942
 - 2. Thousands of Filipino and U.S. POWs died on force march
- e. Manhattan Project
 - i. Begins operations to develop a nuclear bomb
 - ii. Major project sites at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Richland, Washington
- f. Japanese internment
 - i. Japanese Americans along Pacific coast sent to internment camps
 - ii. Not released until after the war
- g. Island hopping
 - i. U.S. strategy of strategically crossing the Pacific while capturing Japanese-held islands

- X. 1943
 - a. January – Casablanca Conference
 - i. Roosevelt, Churchill, and de Gaulle
 - ii. Pledged to demand “unconditional surrender”
 - b. November/December – Tehran Conference
 - i. Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin
 - c. Native American soldiers used unbreakable radio code
 - i. Had been done in WWI
 - ii. Created code using words from Native languages
 - 1. E.g., Comanche words for “crazy white man” used for “Hitler”

- XI. 1944
 - a. Allied ships land at Normandy (D-Day)
 - b. Battle of the Bulge

- XII. 1945
 - a. February – Yalta Conference
 - i. Planned Germany’s defeat
 - ii. Plans for United Nations
 - iii. Plans for postwar Europe
 - b. Germany surrenders
 - c. Atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima
 - d. Japan surrenders
 - e. Concentration camps found where Nazis killed millions
 - f. World War II ends
 - g. July/August – Potsdam Conference
 - i. Unconditional surrender of Japan required
 - ii. Policy for postwar Germany