

INTRODUCTION TO WORLD WAR II

- 1) What was the state of Germany after WWI?
crippling inflation, economic depression and political unrest / national humiliation
- 2) Why were people considering new forms of government?
current political systems seemed to only bring economic dispare, ...
- 3) Who was Benito Mussolini?
Fascist Italy
leader of fascist revolution in Italy "Il Duce" (the leader) weakened the state by placing too much emphasis on the individual
- 4) What is fascism?
revolt against democratic values, including equality & individual freedom → democ.
- 5) Identify and state the significance of Blackshirts.
the Italian fascists (wore black shirts - authoritative uniform) marched on Rome in 1922 and overthrew the democratic government
- 6) What is a totalitarian dictatorship?
all aspects of life were now dictated/controlled and monitored by government
- 7) What did Germany do in order to meet the financial obligation imposed by the treaty? Printed large sums of money / currency to meet obligations ... in turn devalued the German mark ... led to rampant inflation

BELIEF IN THE STATE ABOVE ALL ELSE
→ human lives only had value and meaning insofar as they served the needs of the state.

- 4 Characteristics**
- police state
 - propaganda
 - censorship of expression
 - surveillance

- 8) What was the reaction of the German people?
By early 1920s Ger. economy in tatters and ballooning inflation - destroyed wealth of Ger. middle class
↳ loaf of bread 1918 = 2
↳ " " 1924 = 2 mil.
- 9) What did Hitler promise? = SOLUTIONS
to lift Germany from ruin ↳ tear up the hated Treaty of Versailles
- 10) What was the "Beer Hall Putsch"?
↳ I.E. BUILD A MIGHTY GERMAN EMPIRE
↳ control of the gov't in the Ger. province of Bavaria... the first step in taking over the German demo. republ. Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland
- 11) What is an Aryan?
↳ Cautions of pure German descent
- 12) Define anti-semitism.
hatred of Jews

failed and sentenced to prison BUT gained nationwide attention

wrote Mein Kampf

- 13) How were the Jews persecuted? 1933
① Jews removed from gov't jobs ② teaching ③ media ④ banned entry to many shops and public venues
- 14) What would happen to Germans if they associated with the Jews?
subject to violence ... ⑤ forced into separate Jewish schools
- 15) Why were Canadians attracted to fascism?
seemed to offer a way out of depression - economic prosperity and work ⑥ restrictive curfews

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION & PROMISE IN DESPERATE TIMES

- 16) What discrimination did Jews face in Canada?
① hiring restrictions in business ② civil service & other professions ③ forbidden to marry non-Jews ④ attacked on streets by Nazi supporters, homes, businesses vandalized
- 17) Identify and state the significance of the *St. Louis*.
907 Jews fled Ger. in 1939 on ship rejected by Cuba, S. America, U.S. and Canada - forced to return to Europe where they were killed in Nazi death camps ⑤ forced into Ghettos ⑥ systematically rounded up and taken to concentration camps

only 4000 Jews allowed to immigrate to Canada by 1945
↳ a n embarrassment.

- 18) Who was Joseph Stalin?
Leader of the Soviet Union / communist gov't
- 19) What is Communism?
economic ideology aimed at classless society
- 20) Why did Communism occur in Russia?
old Empire of czars / monarchs could not survive the pressures of WWI ... food shortages plagued Russia / widening gap betw rich / ruling class and poor
- 21) Describe Stalin's leadership.
↳ where all members own/share equally in the distribution of resources - eliminating private property and placing the means of production in the hands of government was to eliminate the gap betw rich and poor which characterized modern industrial societies

focused on world conquest LIKE fascism.

- rapidly industrialize Soviet Union
- "a policy of liquidating the Kulaks as a class" - no tolerance for resistance
- "terror famine" - 7 m. died
- totalitarian state that tolerated little opposition to the ruling gov't
- "Great Terror" 1935-38 eliminated those suspected of opposition

- post WWI most European nations ruled by democratic governments/elected parliamentary
- ↳ as a condition of the Treaty of Versailles (to keep Ger. from rising up again)
- ↳ for most Germans democratic government was accompanied by a crippling economic depression and a sense of national humiliation resulting from the terms of the peace agreement
- ↳ across Europe, as people struggled to recover from the devastation of war, many began to question traditional political and economic systems
- ↳ fascist and communist parties
- ↳ by the 1930s - Germany, Italy, Spain and Soviet Union were ruled by ruthless dictators.

↳ fascism - no division betw public and private life - "For the fascist, the state is all embracing; outside it no human or spiritual values exist."

↳ Fascist Party Reforms (world's first totalitarian dictatorship)

- ↳ immediate ban on opposing political parties & workers' unions
- ↳ censored newspapers to stop freedom of expression (individual rights)
- ↳ spread propogandz through a controlled media glorifying the Fascist Party, Italian state, and Il Duce
- ↳ a secret police force set up to terrorize people into obeying/supporting Mussolini

Hitler = SOLUTIONS

- ↳ a master public speaker
- ↳ said out loud what many Germans secretly thought and wanted
- ↳ Aryans - master race destined to rule over other races - Jews
- ↳ demanded necessity of more LEBENSRAUM or living space to support a growing Ger. population
- ↳ demanded Anschluss - the unification of Austria and Germany
- ↳ 1933 - Hitler elected leader / chancellor and took the title "der Führer" (the leader)
- ↳ shortly, after being elected - Hitler disbanded the Reichstag (Ger. Parliament) - Nazi Reich

Extreme Politics Collide

- ↳ by mid 1930s the communist govt of Soviet Union on a collision course with fascist Germany
- ↳ underlying principles of fascism - insisted on surrender of individual rights and freedoms for the good of the state
- ↳ WERE TO COLLIDE w those of communism - ensure the welfare of all workers
- ↳ both focused on world conquest and viewed each other with tremendous suspicion
- ↳ eventually became arch-rivals

↳ were these leaders really that different in approach?

WW11- QUESTIONS ON ARTICLE

1. For what reasons did Hitler hate the Jews?

Jews were different from Germans. Their ancestors had come to Europe from Palestine. Some of them became successful businessmen, doctors, scientists, politicians. Before the war, when Hitler was still a nobody, he envied these rich Jews and his twisted mind blamed them for his problems.

2. What was Hitler's private army called? What did they do?

Hitler's private army was called the "SA" (Sturmabteilung). They had spies everywhere and made sure that nobody said a word against Hitler. And when they did criticize him, it meant instant arrest.

3. What happened as a result of the Ruhr occupation?

When the French troops marched into the Ruhr, they took over its mines to collect coal for reparations. The Ruhr workers went on strike and the Weimar government backed them by paying their wages. It had to print millions of banknotes, and because Germany didn't have the real wealth to back them, a dramatic inflation was caused.

4. What does Munich Putsch mean? What was the significance of this?

Munich Putsch was a German word for an armed rising. Hitler's attempt to overthrow the Weimar government failed, but for this he was known all over Germany. The time in prison also gave him a chance to write a book called "Mein Kampf" (My struggle) to set out his ideas.

5. Why is Mein Kampf important?

"Mein Kampf" was important because it helped to convey Hitler's ideas and theories through means of literacy. In a way it was a kind of "promotion" for Hitler. The book became a sort of bible to loyal Nazis.

6. What is the Reichstag? Why did Hitler want the Nazis party to join it?

The Reichstag was the German parliament. Hitler wanted the Nazi party to join to gain power in the government. Each Nazi joined would mean a bit more control in the government to Hitler.

7. Why was the Reichstag fire an important event for Hitler?

The Reichstag fire was an important event for Hitler because it gave him an excuse to arrest the communists who were opposing his ideas. Hitler told the people that the fire was an act of revolution by the communists, and the only way to stop them was to give Hitler to power to do whatever he thought was necessary.

8. What was the Enabling Act?

The Enabling Act was the law which gave Hitler the power to do what he desired. It was voted in by the Parliament. After that was when the Nazi rule of terror began.

9. Explain what happened on the 'Night of the Long Knives'.

On the Night of the Long Knives, Hitler got rid of Roehm and many other leaders of the SA. He had them dragged from their beds and murdered. Hitler did this because he thought they were growing too powerful. He was afraid that Roehm's plan for an SA takeover of the army would turn its officers against him. So on that night, he turned against his own men.

10. Who were the Gestapo?

The Gestapo was Hitler's secret police force. They were to make sure that nobody would oppose Hitler's ideas. Many spies were set up everywhere, and they watched closely for words that criticized Hitler. Those who had shown signs of opposition for Hitler were immediately arrested.

11. What were the Nuremberg laws?

The Nuremberg laws took away all of the Jews' rights. It stated that Jews could not hold government jobs or work as lawyers, doctors, or teachers. These laws were very unjust.

12. Who was Josef Goebbels?

Josef Goebbels was a supporter of Hitler. He promoted propaganda that Hitler was a good leader. He used the media to hammer in the idea that Hitler was the saviour of Germany, that he was a superman who could do no wrong. His acts were convincing and moved the people of Germany. The majority believed him.

13. Why did the German people support Hitler?

Hitler was supported by the German people because he cut the number of people out of work from 6 million to under one million in 4 years by establishing armies, making military weapons, and building roads. It seemed as if he was bringing back the glory and power to Germany.

Hitler's Actions - The Road to War

- ① March 1936 - Hitler sends troops into the Rhineland (area that Treaty of Versailles stated to stay as demilitarized). Allies do nothing (France & Britain want to avoid war).
- ② March 1938 - Hitler sends troops into Austria; achieves Anschluss; allies do nothing.
↳ uniting AUS & GER
- ③ September 1938 - Hitler demands the "German part" of Czechoslovakia (called Sudetenland).
- Munich Agreement - Britain agrees to German takeover of Sudetenland in return for a written promise from Hitler that he will make no more territorial demands. This was a policy of **APPEASEMENT**.
- ④ March 1939 - Hitler sends troops to occupy the rest of Czechoslovakia; Allies do nothing.
- ⑤ August 23, 1939 - Hitler brokers the "Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact" with the USSR; Hitler agrees not to attack the USSR and vice-versa.
- Why? ... Hitler wants to avoid an Eastern & Western front
Poland, if invaded, would be split betw G and USSR
- ⑥ September 1, 1939 - Hitler invades Poland; Britain and France declare war on Germany on Sept. 3rd; Canada on Sept. 9th.

Key Fronts in WWII

- The Atlantic (September 1939 to May 1945)
- The Western Front and German Advance (May 1940 to September 1940)
- The Western Front (September 1940 to January 1945)
- The Mediterranean and Africa (April 1940 to March 1945)
- The Eastern Front (April 1941 to January 1945)
- The Pacific (April 1941 to July 1945)
- China and South East Asia (September 1941 to June 1945)

Hitler's Two Policies

- ① the building of a powerful and formidable military state → OUTCOME WWII
- ② the total, state sponsored elimination of the Jews of Europe → OUTCOME HOLOCAUST

Nazi Germany's Military Strategy

- ① Reclaim what the Treaty of Versailles took from Germany
 - ② March 1936 - German forces reoccupy Rhineland (diplomatic test of will to stop Hitler's military policy)
 - ③ March 1938 - Anschluss - annexation of Austria
 - ④ Sept. to Oct. 1938 - invasion/occupation of Sudetenland
 - ⑤ March 1939 - remaining parts of Czechoslovakia invaded and annexed

[August 1939 - Nazi-Soviet non-aggression Pact (eastern Europe divided into spheres of influence)]

 - ⑥ September 1939 - invasion and occupation of Poland - sets off WWII
- Poland fell in less than 1 month

② Blitzkrieg Europe

- ① "phony war" or Sitzkrieg - preparation
 - allies mobilized forces
 - Germany moved forces to staging areas for next invasion
- ② April 1940 - Denmark invaded
- fell in 1 day
 - Hitler's second policy progresses
- ③ April 1940 - Norway invaded - fell in 2 days
- ④ May 1940 - Benelux / Low Countries invaded
 - Netherlands fell in 5 days
 - Belgium / Luxembourg fell in 18 days
- ⑤ June 1940 - France invaded - fell in 6 weeks

[Hitler master of Europe - Italy enters war and allies with Germany]

③ Major Battles

- a) May - June 1940 - Battle of Dunkirk
- b) July to October 1940 - Britain staves of invasion (Operation Sea Lion)
- c) April 1941 - Hitler felt strong enough to fight on another front - invaded Balkans (notably Yugoslavia) and Greece
- d) June 1941 - Operation Barbarossa
 - Hitler's downfall as Germany now had to fight on two major fronts
 - drawn out due to fiercely cold/harsh Russian winter unanticipated by Germany Army Leaders
- e) December 1941 - Japan launched a war against U.S. - causing WWII to become a true global war

*** Although hostilities lasted another 3 years, the Nazi Empire had been at its largest when Japan entered the war. This period was marked by a slow German decline as the Soviet armies pushed back the Nazis from the east and the British-American forces, after an invasion in Normandy, from the west.