

Events Leading to United States Involvement in World War II

After World War I... (Between the world wars is known as the "Interwar Period")

• Why did the United States return to a policy of isolationism?

• What were the Neutrality Acts?

The Great Depression spread worldwide... difficult times allowed for the growth of **totalitarian** governments based on the philosophy of **fascism** in Europe.

Characteristics of Totalitarian Governments

- _____ political party with _____ over the government
- Use _____ to suppress of individual rights
- _____ the opposition
- **Totalitarian governments are the opposite of that the United States considers its tradition of political freedom and liberty.**

Fascism: places the importance of the _____ above all else, and individual rights and freedoms are _____ as everyone works for the benefit of the _____.

- Nazi Germany led by _____
- Fascist Italy led by _____
- Both fascist governments were characterized by _____ nationalism, racism, and militarism.
- Both Hitler and Mussolini provided military assistance to the Fascist leader of Spain, Francisco Franco who established a fascist government in 1939.

The Munich Agreement (1938):

• Great Britain and France allowed Germany to _____ the Sudetenland, a region of Czechoslovakia with a large German-speaking population. _____ convinced British Prime Minister Neville _____ and the French that he would make no further territorial demands. Six months later, Hitler _____ the agreement and _____ the rest of Czechoslovakia. This agreeing to the demands of a potential enemy in order to keep the peace is known as _____.

- **Hitler invaded Poland - September 1, 1939 (official start of WWII in Europe)**
- **By the summer of 1940, Germany controlled most of Europe**

• Rise of _____ in the Pacific

• **Rulers:** Emperor Hirohito and Tojo Hideki, Prime Minister.

• Japan suffered from severe economic _____. Because it lacked resources, it looked elsewhere to satisfy its needs. Desire for Empire: invades Manchuria (1930), seizes Shanghai (1932), withdrew from League of Nations, and invaded China in (1937). Expansion concerned the Allies. The U.S. tried to limit Japanese expansion by refusing to sell them war supplies.

• Meanwhile in Europe, Hitler was planning against the possibility of a two front war. Since fighting a two front war in World War I split Germany's forces, it weakened and undermined their offensive and played a large role in Germany losing World War I. Hitler was determined not to repeat the same mistakes. So, he planned ahead and made a **pact with the Soviets** - _____

_____. This agreement stated that the two countries- **Germany & the Soviet Union** - would not attack each other. If there were ever a problem between the two countries, it was to be handled amicably. The agreement lasted for two years.

• Although the U.S. was officially committed to a policy of _____, President Franklin D. Roosevelt found a way around the Neutrality Acts to provide aid and warships to Great Britain.

• FDR convinced Congress to pass the _____, which allowed the U.S. to sell or lend war materials to "any country whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the United States". FDR intended to keep the U.S. out of the war, but said the nation would become the "_____ of _____", supplying arms to those fighting for freedom.

• Before the U.S. got involved in World War II, **President Roosevelt** and **British Prime Minister Winston Churchill** met on battleships in the North Atlantic Ocean to agree on certain principles for building a lasting peace and establishing free governments in the world. The document containing these agreements was called the _____.

• The _____ attacked the U.S. Navy Fleet at _____, HI.

Major Allied Powers During World War II	Major Axis Powers During World War II
	
	
	