

Dictators & Appeasement



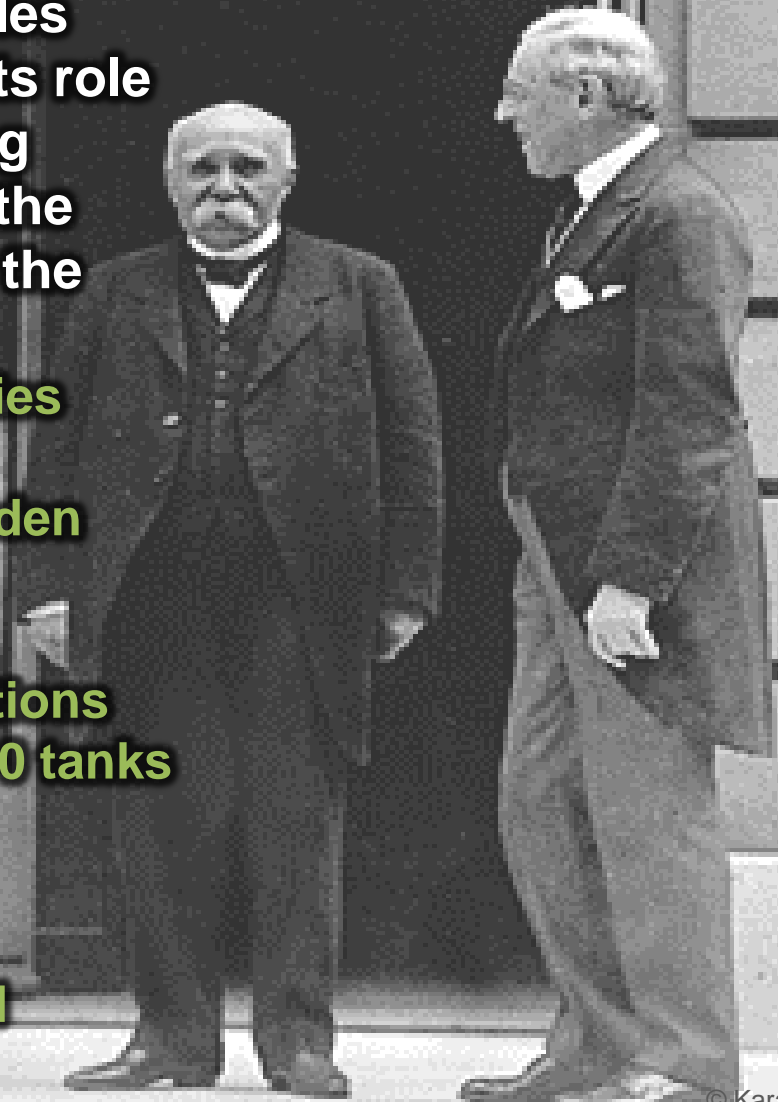
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World War III

The peace that came after World War I was very unstable. The Treaty of Versailles had heavily punished Germany for its role in the Great War. In addition to being forced to take full responsibility for the war, Germany was forced to endure the following punishments:

- League of Nations took over colonies
- Alsace-Lorraine given to France
- Unification with Austria was forbidden
- Land taken to create Poland and Czechoslovakia
- Forced to pay \$33 Billion in reparations
- Army reduced to 100,000 men and 0 tanks
- Navy reduced to 6 ships and 0 submarines
- Air Force reduced to nothing
- Military banned from the Rhineland



World

War III

Europe Before World War I, 1914



Europe After World War I, 1919



World War II

RISE OF DICTATORS

Rulers with absolute power took control in parts of Europe and Asia.

During the Great Depression, the United States turned to Franklin D. Roosevelt because he was a new type of leader who promised to change the way the government worked to help citizens. The Depression of the 1930's had also ruined the economies of other nations in Europe and around the world. These countries also looked to new leaders to solve their problems.

In the 1930's, dictators, leaders who rule with absolute power, had gained control in several countries. European countries such as Germany, Italy, the Soviet Union (formerly Russia), and Spain had leaders who ruled with absolute power and authority. In Asia, a dictator had come to power in Japan.



World War III



Adolf Hitler
Leader of the Nazi Party,
Became the dictator of
Germany in 1933

Germany was hit hard by the economic depression. By 1933, a third of Germans were unemployed. Farmers lost their land and there were food shortages. Germany was crushed by the Treaty of Versailles.

Adolf Hitler was the leader of the Nationalist Socialist German Worker's (Nazi) Party. He was charismatic and inspired Germans to be proud of their country. He gave Germans a group of people to blame for their circumstances and promised to return Germany to a powerful country.

Hitler was Austrian by birth and wanted Germany and Austria to unify. He celebrated "Aryan" nationalism and racial purity. He became the dictator of Germany in 1933 after being elected chancellor.



World War III



Benito Mussolini

Fascist dictator of Italy who formed an alliance with Hitler.



In post WWI Italy, the country was very unsettled. In 1919, Benito Mussolini formed the Fascist Party- a political party that believed in a one-party government that had total power over the people. Fascism encouraged intense nationalism- pride in Italian ethnicity and heritage.

Mussolini promised a violent government overthrow and took power in 1925 making himself Italy's dictator. In spite of his strict method of ruling, Mussolini was popular among many Italians because he started a number of social projects to reduce unemployment.

In 1939, Mussolini and Adolf Hitler formed an alliance they called the "Pact of Steel". Mussolini began to expand Italy's territory by invading Greece and North Africa.



World War III

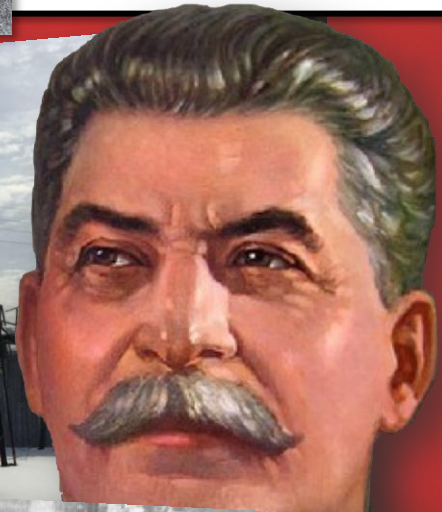
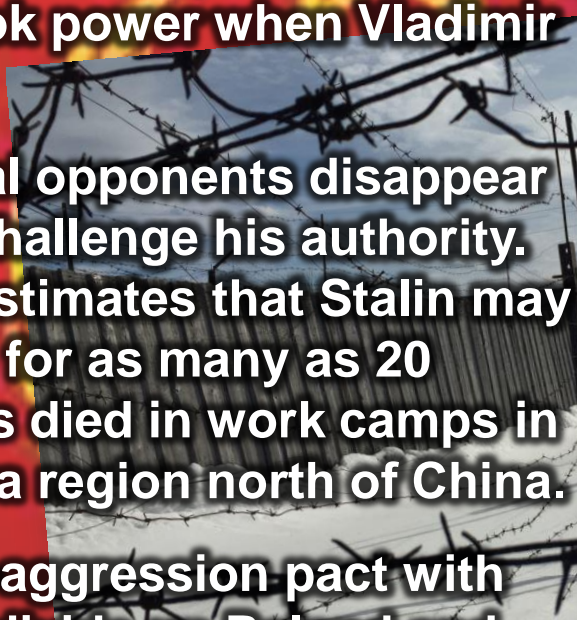


Joseph Stalin
Communist dictator of the Soviet Union, controlled all aspects of the government and economy.

During WWI, Russia had gone through a revolution. Under communism, the Soviet Union's government controlled all of the country's resources, land, and production. In 1922, Joseph Stalin took power when Vladimir Lenin died.

Stalin made his political opponents disappear so that no one would challenge his authority. Post-Soviet research estimates that Stalin may have been responsible for as many as 20 million deaths. Millions died in work camps in Siberia- Russia's tundra region north of China.

Stalin had made a non-aggression pact with Hitler. They agreed to divide up Poland and leave one another alone. Stalin was shocked when Hitler broke that agreement in 1941. Hitler was a threat to Stalin's plan to expand the Soviet Union and take over Eastern Europe.



Soviet prisoners doing forced labor in one of Stalin's Gulag prisons.

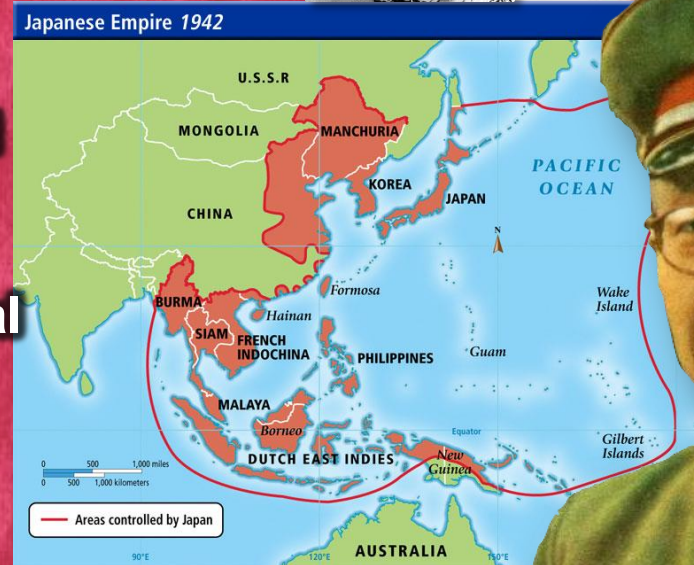
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World War III

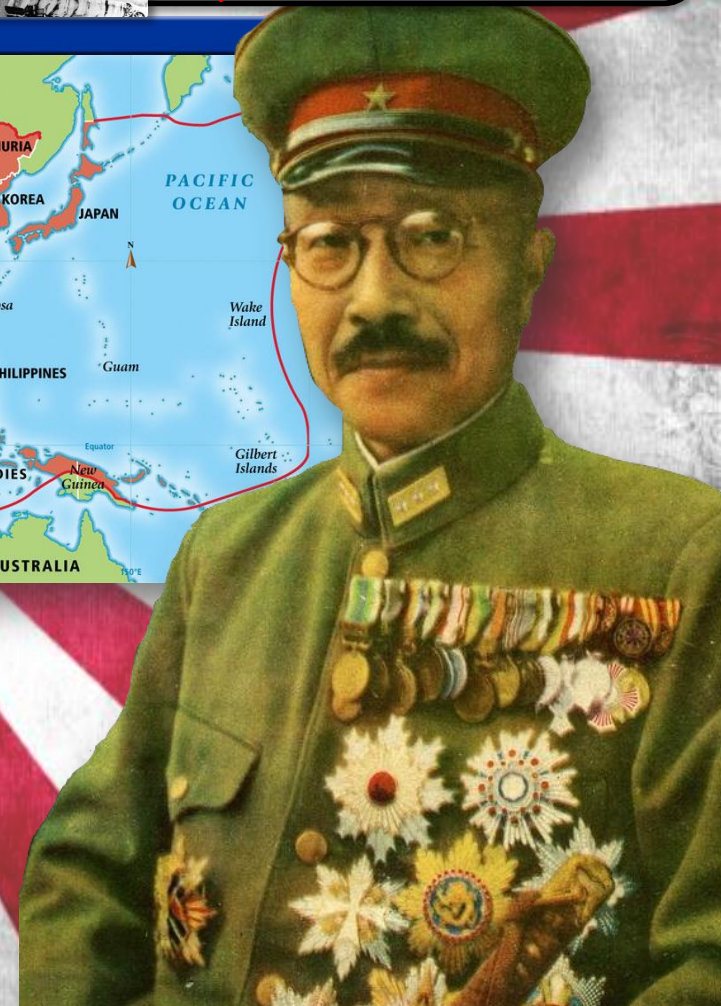
In the 1930's Japan's military leaders, under the command of General Hideki Tojo, set out to expand their nation's territory. Tojo began to play a large role in the government and became the Prime Minister in 1941. Tojo used aggressive military power to conquer the Chinese regions of Manchuria and the Chinese capital of Beijing, the Korean peninsula, and many nations in the pacific region.



Hideki Tojo
Totalitarian Prime Minister
and General of Imperial
Japan from 1941 to 1944



In 1940, Japan formed an alliance with Germany and Italy and called themselves the Axis Powers. The Japanese military was especially brutal and trained to fight to the death rather than live in humiliation having been defeated.



World War II

RISE OF DICTATORS

Rulers with absolute power took control in parts of Europe and Asia. Hitler annexed Austria and invaded two more countries. Japan invaded parts of China.



British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain met with Hitler in 1938.

APPEASEMENT

Afraid of another World War, British leaders tried to keep peace with Hitler even though he violated the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. War was declared in 1939.



German "Blitzkrieg" (lightning war) was a massive invasion of Poland.

Hitler called himself "Der Furher" (the leader) and promised to avenge Germany's defeat in WWI and expand Germany's territory. Hitler began to defy the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. He built up Germany's military and sent troops to the Rhineland. In March of 1938, Germany annexed Austria. Later that year Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia.

European leaders were afraid of another World War. Instead of enforcing the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, they made compromises with Germany to avoid war. Britain maintained a policy of appeasement, meeting Hitler's demands to keep from war. That ended in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France declared war on Germany.