

## From Isolation to War (1939-1945)

## I. International Cooperation

- A. U.S. and the League of Nations -- notes from class
- B. Naval Agreements
  - 1. Washington Conference -- (1921) U.S., G.B, Japan, France and Italy agreed to stop building capital ships for years, ratio 5:5:3:1.67:1.67 respectively.
  - 2. London Conference -- U.S., G.B., and Japan agreed to 10:10:7
  - 3. Failure of Naval Agreements -- Japan asked for parity and was denied
- C. International Pacts
  - 1. Nine-Power Treaty -- the major powers agreed to support equal trading rights in China and to respect China's independence
  - 2. Kellogg-Briand Pact -- also known as the Pact of Paris designed to settle all disputes peacefully and "outlaw war".
  - 3. Failure of International Pacts -- almost all of the nations who signed these pacts broke them because there were no stipulations to compel them to comply.
- D. America Becomes More Isolated From World Affairs
  - 1. World Court -- many nations refused to join and those that did would not abide by the decision of international law
  - 2. Immigration Restrictions -- Congress turned more isolationistic and tightened the restrictions related to our "open house" policy of immigration
  - 3. High Tariff Policy -- Congress turn from isolationism to protectionism.
  - 4. Insistence upon Repayment of War Debts
    - a. Allies Want Cancellation -- Allies borrowed \$10 billion dollars and want us to cancel based on the following:
      - 1. Secured victory for U.S. as well as the European nations
      - 2. European could not repay debts as long as high tariffs prevented them from securing dollars.
      - 3. They could not repay unless they received reparations from Germany
    - b. Dawes Plan -- (1924) provided for orderly payment by Germany
    - c. Young Plan -- (1929) reduced the debt substantially
    - d. Johnson Debt Default Act -- prohibited public or private loans to any foreign government that defaulted on their debts
  - 5. American Neutrality Acts -- (1935-1937) prohibited:
    - a. The sale of war implements to belligerents
    - b. Loans to belligerents
    - c. Americans from sailing on ships of belligerents
    - d. Restricted American merchant ships into war zones
  - 6. "Quarantine" Speech
    - a. Roosevelt Warns America -- reaffirmed our isolationism, but Roosevelt was also alerting the public to the fact that we may not be able to escape world events and that the Western Hemisphere.
    - b. The Panay Incident -- gunboat "Panay" was attacked by Japanese warplanes, the Japanese issued an apology.

## II. The Axis Nations

- A. Germany -- a Fascist State led by Adolph Hitler
- B. Italy -- a Fascist State led by Benito Mussolini
- C. Japan -- an absolute monarchy led by Hirohito
- D. Agreements broken
  - 1. The Treaty of Versailles
  - 2. The Covenant of the League of Nations
  - 3. Nine-Power Agreement and the Kellogg-Briand Pact
- E. Alliances -- they all withdrew from the League of Nations and joined into a military alliance known as the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis.

## III. Record of Axis Aggression

- A. Manchuria -- 1931-32 Japan invaded and conquered the northern province of Manchuria -- marking the weakness of the League of Nations and beginning of War
- B. Ethiopia -- 1935 Italy invaded the African nation of Ethiopia, the League voted for minor economic sanctions but no embargo, Mussolini annexed Ethiopia (oil, strategic)
- C. German Remilitarization
  - 1. Conscription -- violated L of N by reintroducing the draft
  - 2. Rhineland -- 1936 remilitarized the Rhineland, Hitler was appeased
- D. Spain
  - 1. Francisco Franco -- 1936, led a revolt against the legally elected leftist Gov't
  - 2. Loyalist -- supported the existing gov't received limited aid from Russia
  - 3. Three-Year Civil War -- Franco received troops and military equipment from Italy and Germany, Franco won complete control and establish a military dictatorship.
  - 4. Testing Ground -- the Nazi's tested their new weapons and battle tactics.
- E. China -- 1937, Japanese forces from the province of Manchuria invaded China proper, the Japanese would control the coastal areas but never the interior
- F. Austria
  - 1. German-Speaking People -- he invades Austria based on this Doctrine
  - 2. Anschluss -- a word meaning union, violated the Treaty of Versailles.
- G. Czechoslovakia
  - 1. Hitler Demands the Sudetenland -- a region in Czechoslovakia bordering Germany and inhabited by Germany-Speaking people
    - a. Propaganda -- manufactured stories of un-truths or half-truths generally about "atrocities" about one group to another
    - b. Appeasement -- what the allies did with Hitler, it is given in on minor occasion or incidences in hopes that the person will be satisfied and won't take more

2. Munich Conference
  - a. The Meeting of Four -- Chamberlain, Daladier, Hitler and Mussolini
  - b. "Peace in our Time" -- Hitler annexes the Sudetenland with a promise that he has no more demands and the Allies sell out Czech., for what they thought was peace
3. Hitler Seizes the Rest of Czechoslovakia
  - a. Allied Reaction -- six month later, Hitler breaks the Munich pledge and the allies realize he cannot be trusted
  - b. Alliances Made -- G.B., and France join a military alliance and pledge their support to Poland, Hitler's next target
- H. Albania -- in 1939 Mussolini invaded and annexed the Balkan country, giving him control over the Adriatic Sea
- I. Poland
  1. Hitler's Demands -- Danzig and the Polish Corridor
  2. Russo-German Non-Aggression Pact
    - a. Who and How Long -- Stalin and Hitler for 10 years
    - b. Russia Receives -- avoid war, gave Stalin a free hand over eastern Poland, and the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
    - c. Hitler Receives -- prevented a two front war and gave Hitler foodstuffs and war supplies from Russia (oil)
- J. World War II Starts -- Sept. 1 1939 German troops invade Poland, 2 days later Britain and France honor their agreement to Poland and declared war on Germany.

#### IV. Basic Causes of World War II

- A. Totalitarianism -- the Axis powers, scorned democratic ideals and civil liberties and dignity of the individual, they openly declared their intent to destroy democracy.
- B. Militarism -- vast sums of money spent on armaments, new weapons, and battle techniques -- war was proclaimed as a glorious adventure.
- C. Nationalism (notes)
  1. Shinto Teachings
  2. Roman Empire
  3. "Master Race" Doctrine
- D. Imperialism (notes)
  1. Have-not Nations
  2. "New Order"
  3. "Italian Lake"
  4. Domination of Europe

#### V. Subsidiary Causes of World War II

- A. Failure of Appeasement
  1. Definition -- making concessions to the dictator's in the hope that they would eventually be satisfied and stop their aggression.
  2. Examples of Allied Concessions -- Chamberlain and the Munich conference
- B. Lack of Collective Security
  1. France and Britain -- never acted collectively to protect each other too much isolationistic attitudes (no alliance till 1939)
  2. United States -- determined to remain neutral

3. Soviet Union -- wanted collective security pacts but the allied nations feared: Russian sincerity; feared communist plans of world revolution; and were not eager to protect the Soviet Union.

C. American Neutrality Legislation

1. Lack of Equipment -- prohibiting loans and the sale of war implements to belligerents
2. Non-intervention -- laws told the Axis that we would intervene to check their aggression.

VI. Second World War (1939-1945)

A. Initial German Successes (1939-1940)

1. Conquest of Poland
  - a. "Blitzkrieg -- "lightning war"-- massive bombing attacks and tank assaults and then the armies came in to mop-up any resistance
  - b. Non-Aggression Pact -- gave Hitler a free hand
2. Conquest of Denmark and Norway
  - a. Neutrality -- they declare the pacifism, which told Hitler there would be no resistance and he would take control of the Baltic Sea
  - b. "Fifth Columnist" -- led by Vidkun Quisling, they were traitors who sided with the Nazi's and aided them in their attack
3. Conquest of France
  - a. Neutral Holland and Belgium -- gave Hitler a free path and hand into France
  - b. Maginot Line -- the most advance line of fortification in history but was unfinished and stopped at the Belgium border (refer to film)
  - c. Dunkirk Evacuation -- after the initial successes of the German forces the British and a number of French were able to flee to Great Britain, leaving France ripe for the picking, the French people were unwilling to fight and watch their cities be destroyed.
  - d. Italy Declares War -- after Germany take control them Mussolini comes into the conflict to grab land -- France surrenders
  - e. Germany Fortifications -- heavy gun strong-holds along the English Channel coast to protect their newly acquired territory from an English invasion.
  - f. Vichy -- the Germans established military rule over the Northern half of France and established a puppet government in the South ruled by Henri Petain, with the capital at Vichy
  - g. Charles de Gaulle -- who fled to France after the Fall of Dunkirk, led the Free France Movement from England - largely through underground activities

B. Great Britain Stands Alone (1940-1941)

1. Leadership of Churchill
  - a. Royal Navy -- was still the best navy in the world and kept the sea lanes open on the Atlantic so that badly needed supplies could be shipped from the U.S.
  - b. British Fortitude -- prepared themselves for an invasion by the Huns (film)

2. Battle of Britain
  - a. Luftwaffe -- German air force, Hitler thought he could bomb them into surrendering
  - b. Royal Air Force -- through sheer heroics prevent the Germans from a land invasion.
  - c. Nazi's Turn Southward -- Hitler's plan to conquer England failed he turned his attention to the Balkans and Greece
- C. America Prepares for War and Aids the Allied Cause
  1. Neutrality Act of 1939
    - a. Belligerents -- allowed nations at war to purchase equipment and supplies on a "cash and carry" basis
    - b. Cash and Carry -- help Britain and France from being completely defeated by the Axis powers, it was also America's first real admission that they would not be able to stay out of war
    - c. Sea Powers - notes
  2. Change in Public Opinion
    - a. American Propaganda -- after the Fall of France Americans change their thought and became more aware that we, at least, needed to defend ourselves
    - b. Fall of France 1940 -- notes
    - c. "all measures short of war" -- began to supplies the allies with whatever they needed
  3. Selective Service Act 1940 -- America's first peacetime draft
  4. Destroyer-Naval Base Deal (1940)
    - a. The Deal -- traded 50 older destroyers for strategic military bases
    - b. Presidential Powers -- Roosevelt proceeded via executive agreement rather than by treaty, which only needs Senate approval
  5. Lend-Lease Act
    - a. "Arsenal of Democracy" -- Allies no longer needed to pay with cash
    - b. Who and How Much -- most went to England \$40 billion, but about \$10 billion went to Russia
    - c. An American Escort -- our navy began to convoy supplies to Great Britain
  6. Strategic Materials
    - a. Open Door Policy -- force our neighbors from supplying any enemies of the Allies
    - b. Embargo and Frozen Assets -- froze all Japanese assets in the U.S. and stop the flow of strategic metal and other materials to Japan