Costs of War

- **Economic Costs**
  - US Debt 1940 - $9 billion
  - US Debt 1945 - $98 billion
  - The war cost $330 billion -- **10 times** the cost of WWI & as much as *all* previous federal spending since 1776

- **Human Costs**
  - **50 million** people died (compared to 15 million in WWI)
  - 21.3 million Russians (7.7 million civilians)
  - 11 million died as a result of the HOLOCAUST (6 million Jews + 5 million others)
Who’s Who???

**Allied Powers**
- Major Powers
  - Great Britain
  - Russia
  - United States
  - France

**Axis Powers**
- Major Powers
  - Germany
  - Italy
  - Japan

*Note:* France surrendered to Germany in 1940 (after 6 weeks of fighting)
Major Leaders – Axis Powers

Benito Mussolini
Italy

Adolf Hitler
Nazi Germany

Hideki Tojo
Japanese Prime Minister
Major Leaders – Allied Powers

- **Winston Churchill**
  British Prime Minister

- **Joseph Stalin**
  Russian Leader

- **Franklin Delano Roosevelt**
  US President
Why? Causes of World War II

#1 Treaty of Versailles

- The Treaty of Versailles was meant to bring peace and to make the world “safe for democracy” – wrecked Germany
- Germany lost land to surrounding nations
- War Reparations
  
  Allies collect $ to pay back war debts to U.S.
  
  Germany must pay $57 trillion (modern equivalent)
  
  Bankrupted the German economy & embarrassed Germans

Lloyd George, Georges Clemenceau, and Woodrow Wilson during negotiations for the Treaty
#2 Worldwide Depression

- The Depression made Germany’s debt even worse.
- Desperate people turn to desperate leaders.
  - Hitler seemed to provide solutions to Germany’s problems.
  - Hitler provided scapegoats for Germany’s problems (foreigners, Jews, communists, Gypsies, mentally ill, homosexuals).
- Kristallnacht - vandalism & destruction of Jewish property & synagogues.
Why? Causes of World War II

#3 Rise of totalitarian regimes

- In a Totalitarian country, individual rights are not viewed as important as the needs of the nation.

**Totalitarianism**

- **Fascist Dictatorships** (Germany, Italy)
- **Communist Dictatorship** (USSR)
- **Military Dictatorship** (Japan)
Why? Causes of World War II

#4 Isolationism of Major Powers

- US isolationist because of Great Depression and Perceptions of WWI
- Opposition to war (Pacifism)
  - Washington Conference - Limits on size of country's navies
  - Kellogg-Briand pact - condemned war as a way to solving conflicts
- This led to policies of “Appeasement”
  - Appeasement: give dictators what they want and hope that they won’t want anything else
  - Begins with Japanese invasion of Manchuria, Italian invasion of Ethiopia, and continues with Hitler . . .
Why? Causes of World War II

#5 Failure of the League of Nations

- 1933 Hitler, after seeing L.O.N do nothing to Japan, pulls Germany out of LON in 1935
- 1935 Germany builds up military, puts troops in the Rhineland (direct disobedience against Treaty of Versailles)
- He signs the Rome-Berlin Axis Pact (alliance between Germany & Italy)
- League of Nations does nothing to stop him
What does the cartoonist suggest Hitler is doing? Who are the other people in this picture and what does the cartoonist think of them?