Lesson 4: World War II

Guiding Question – What were the causes of the Great Depression?
Lesson 5: Causes of World War II

Guiding Question – What were the causes of the World War II?
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” – but it 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
Why? Causes of World War II

#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
Lesson 6: Events of World War II

Guiding Question – What were the causes of the Great Depression?
Italy Attacks Ethiopia

- 1935 Ethiopia was Africa’s only independent country
- L.O.N knew about the attack but only verbally threatened
- 1936 Ethiopia fell
- Haile Selassie warned: “It is us today, it’ll be you tomorrow”
January 1933: Hitler became Chancellor of Germany
Hitler soon ordered a program of rearming Germany

Hitler visits a factory and is enthusiastically greeted. Many Germans were grateful for jobs after the misery of the depression years.
What was Hitler Asking For?

- Return of German Speaking Lands - “Lebensraum”
March 1936: German troops *marched into the Rhineland*

- **The Rhineland** = region of Germany that was ‘demilitarized’ after the Treaty of Versailles.
- **Germany** - not allowed to have troops in the region.

**Hitler’s actions** = direct challenge to the treaty

![German Troops Parade in Streets of Czechoslovakian Town, ca. 1939](image)
March 1938: Nazi Germany annexed Austria

- Also against the terms of the *Treaty of Versailles* which banned Germany from uniting with Austria.
- Arrival of German troops met with great *enthusiasm* by many Austrian people.
March 1939 - Germany invaded Czechoslovakia

- Occupation of the Sudetenland (Chez.) began in Oct. 1938
- In March Hitler ordered the takeover of rest of Czechoslovakia

**This was the first aggressive step that shows that a war in Europe would soon begin.**
August 1939: Germany and Russia signed a non-aggression pact

- Hitler and Stalin (Russia) signed a ‘non-aggression pact’.
- Agreed neither country would attack the other in the event of war.
- Hitler promised Stalin part of Poland

September 1939: Germany invaded Poland w/o fear of Russian attack

This photo shows the Russian foreign minister signing the pact, whilst Stalin stands smiling in the background.
The non-aggression pact was surprising. Hitler and Stalin were seen as natural enemies.

When Hitler talked of taking over new land for Germany, many thought that he meant Russia.

Hitler also hated Communism, the form of government in Russia.
Great Britain and France Declare War

- September 3, 1939 GB & FR declare war on Germany due to military agreement (alliance) they had with Poland
  - Germany declares that Germans living in Poland are mistreated
How did Hitler Make War?

- **Blitzkrieg** = “Lightning War”

- In the next year, Hitler invades:
  - Denmark
  - Norway
  - The Netherlands
  - France

END OF DAY 1
Aggression in Europe to 1939
Early Axis Gains

By 1941, the Axis powers or their allies controlled most of Western Europe.

- Germany and Russia conquered and divided Poland.
- Stalin’s armies pushed into Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
- Soviet forces seized Finland.
- Hitler conquered Norway and Denmark.
- Hitler took the Netherlands and Belgium.
- France surrendered to Hitler.
- Axis armies pushed into North Africa and the Balkans.
  - Led by Nazi General Erwin Rommel the “Desert Fox”
- Axis armies defeated Greece and Yugoslavia.
- Bulgaria and Hungary joined the Axis alliance.
German leaders worked to accomplish the “final solution of the Jewish problem” — the **genocide**, or deliberate murder, of all European Jews.

Became known as the **Holocaust**

Jews, political prisoners, and other undesirables were sent to labor camps to starve and work to death or sent to death camps to be exterminated.

About **6 million Jews** died
US Involvement - Background

- 1928 US signs Kellogg-Briand Pact (pledged never to make war again)

- Nye Committee found out that WWI was caused by greedy bankers and arms dealers (Merchants of Death)

- After WWI, US had a growing sense of isolationism

Neutrality Acts (1935) – Meant to keep US out of future wars
- Cant sell arms or loans to nations at war or civil war

1937 US supplies arms to China after Japan attacks it
US Assistance

- Roosevelt provided aid to the Allies:
  
  “Cash-and-Carry Provision”
  nations at war can buy US arms as long as they paid cash and transported them

  **MADE US A TARGET**

  **Lend-Lease – 1939**
  US “lent” war materials to cash-strapped Great Britain

  **Atlantic Charter – US**
  secretly meets with England to commit to defeating Germany
Meanwhile….in the Pacific

Dec. 7, 1941 - Pearl Harbor: “a date which will live in infamy”

What?
Surprise attack by the Japanese on American forces in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

Effect?
US declares war on Japan & other Axis powers

USS Arizona Sinking in Pearl Harbor
Pearl Harbor
Pearl Harbor

- Because of the United States’ trade embargoes Japan sees no option but attack.
- General Tojo ordered the surprise attack
- **Dec. 7, 1941** Japanese planes destroy or damage 19 ships, many planes, and kill over 2400 people.
- It was “a day that will live in infamy.”
US Declares War

- Dec. 8, 1941, President Roosevelt asks for declaration of war.
- Germany and Italy as allies of Japan declare war on the US Dec. 11.
- In the beginning it’s not looking good for the Allies
**Turning Points**

During 1942 and 1943, the Allies won several victories that would turn the tide of battle and push back the Axis powers.

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<tr>
<th>EL ALAMEIN</th>
<th>INVASION OF ITALY</th>
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<td>The British stopped Rommel’s advance and drove the Axis forces back across Libya into Tunisia.</td>
<td>From North Africa, the Allies invaded Italy. The invasion weakened Hitler by forcing him to fight on another front.</td>
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<td>(late 1942)</td>
<td>(mid-1943)</td>
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<th>STALINGRAD</th>
<th>D-Day Operation Overlord</th>
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<td>The Red Army took the offensive and drove the Germans out of the Soviet Union entirely. Hitler’s forces suffered irreplaceable losses of troops and equipment.</td>
<td>The Allies opened a second front in Europe with the invasion of France. They freed France and were then able to focus on defeating Germany and Japan.</td>
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<td>(late 1942)</td>
<td>(June 6, 1944)</td>
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VE Day

• VE Day = Victory in Europe Day, generally

• marks the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces.

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Defeat of Japan

- After victory in Europe, full attention was given to the Pacific.
- **US was winning** battles and destroying Japanese air force and navy but the Japanese kept fighting.
- Invasion vs. Bomb?
  - Estimated an invasion would cost 1 million casualties
  - Japan had been using **Kamikaze** since 1944—pilots who undertook suicide missions.
  - They would not surrender easily
The Atomic Bomb

- Military leaders planned for an invasion while scientists developed the new “atomic bomb”.
- The Manhattan Project = development of the atomic bomb
- President Truman (FDR died while in office) meets with advisers and decides to use the bomb instead of an invasion.
- They issued a warning to Japan to surrender or face “utter and complete destruction.”
- Japan ignores the deadline
Hiroshima and Nagasaki

- August 6, 1945, US plane the Enola Gay drops an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima.
  - Four square miles flattened
  - Over 70,000 people killed instantly
- August 8 - Soviets declare war on Japan.
- August 9 - a second bomb is dropped on Nagasaki.
  - Over 40,000 people die.
- August 10 - the emperor of Japan forces the government to surrender
- September 2, 1945 - Treaty is signed aboard the USS Missouri on. The war is over.
The Atomic Bomb

Dropping the atomic bomb brought a quick end to the war. It also unleashed terrifying destruction.

Why did President Truman use the bomb?

Truman was convinced that Japan would not surrender without an invasion that would result in enormous losses of both American and Japanese lives.

Truman also may have hoped that the bomb would impress the Soviet Union with American power.
New Technology

- **Better:**
  - Planes
  - Medicine
  - Submarines
  - Ships-destroyers and carriers
  - Jet engines
  - Bombs and artillery
- **Radar and Sonar** developed to detect planes and submarines
Review

Answer the following questions:

1) In what ways did Hitler ignore the Treaty of Versailles?

2) At what stage do you think other countries should have attempted to stop Hitler by using force? Why do you think they did not?

3) How was Hitler able to take over Western Europe so quickly?

4) Why did he create problems for the German army by deciding to invade Russia?
Lesson 7: Twentieth Century Genocide

Guiding Question – What were the causes of the Great Depression?
Lesson 8: Consequences of World War II

Guiding Question – What were the effects of the World War II?