Problems Lead to World War II

Events in Europe

Germany and reparations

Germany couldn’t make reparation payments because its economy was in bad shape.

Great Britain and France could not pay the United States because Germany could not pay them.

Hitler’s promises

Adolph Hitler was head of the Nazi Party.

Hitler promised to cancel reparation payments and make Germany rich and powerful if his party controlled the government.

Italian fascism

Benito Mussolini led the Italian government.

The black shirts were the Fascist Party

Totalitarianism: system which limits a person’s rights and freedoms

Dictator: controls all sections of a country’s political and economic life.

Mussolini invaded and defeated Ethiopia to help the Italian people.

Hitler gains control

After taking control of Germany, the Nazis reduced unemployment by 50% and arrested members of the Communist Party.

Hitler sent his opponents to work camps.

Nazi racism

Nazis believed that Aryans were destined to rule.

Hitler thought Germany’s most important enemies were the Jews.

Nuremberg Laws deprived Jews of German citizenship and required Jews to identify themselves by posting signs and wearing yellow stars.
Most Jews left Germany out of fear for their lives.

**Hitler’s expansionism**

Hitler thought European countries would not stop Germany’s expansion because they were led by cowards.

**Appeasement**

*Appeasement*: tolerating illegal actions by a person/group out of fear that punishing them might lead to even larger problems.

**Great Britain did nothing** when Germany occupied Austria and Czechoslovakia.

Germany made an alliance with **Italy, called the Axis**.

**Hitler and Stalin sign a treaty**

*Non-aggression pact*: two countries agree not to attack each other

Soviet Union signed a non-aggression pact. Stalin was afraid that his country was not ready to fight Germany

Germany signed a non-aggression pact to keep the country friendly until he was ready to fight them.

**The Spanish Civil War**

**Italy and Germany** supported Franco during the Spanish Civil War

The Soviet Union and the Communist Party in the United States supported the democratic government of Spain.

**Events in Asia**

Japan was like Great Britain. It depended on foreign trade to modernize economy

built a strong modern navy

Japan’s government in 1930s was like a democracy but the country was controlled by heads of important families who controlled all the major industries.

**Japan’s expansion**

Japan conquered territory in 1930s in its struggle for freedom against European imperialist countries.
The Beginning of World War II

France and Great Britain would fight Germany if Germany invaded Poland.

Invasion of Poland

German invasion of Poland started World War II.

The United States stays neutral

Two reasons United States wanted to stay out of war:
1) Problems with America’s own depression
2) Fought in WWI to protect businesses, not to fight for democracy

Neutrality Acts prohibited
1) Military equipment to be shipped to countries at war
2) American citizens from traveling on a ship belonging to a country at war

World War II in Europe

Germany Conquers the European Continent

Great Britain’s and France’s plan of attack: Use forts called Maginot Lines to stop Germany and then use the navy to block German ports.

Germany’s reaction: attacked north of the Maginot Line, taking Norway, Denmark, and Holland in weeks.

Germany attacked France which quickly split French and Great Britain forces.

General Charles DeGaulle was the leader of the Free French.

Partisans were underground groups resisting the Germans by engaging in acts of sabotage.

Germany Tries to Conquer Great Britain

Germany’s 3-step plan to conquer Great Britain:
1) stopping supply ships from reaching Great Britain
2) destroying the British Air Force
3) sending armies across the English Channel to invade Great Britain

The Battle of Britain

The Battle of Britain was fought for control of the air.

Radar helped the British win.
Germany began bombing Great Britain at night when the Royal Air Force could not see the German planes.

The Battle of Britain was a turning point in the war because it stopped Germany from completely dominating Europe and forced Hitler to change his plans.

Code Breaking

Breaking the German code helped the Allies during the war by allowing them to intercept and decode German war plans and alert British troops.

North Africa

Great Britain needed to keep control of the Suez Canal because it provided the shortest route for its ships carrying oil and natural resources.

General Erwin Rommel was nicknamed Desert Fox.

Germany Tries to Conquer the Soviet Union

German advance into the Soviet Union was stopped by the Soviet Winter.

The consequence of Germany not quickly defeating the Soviets was that Germany would have to continue to fight on two fronts—in the east against Soviets and the west against British.

U.S. Aid to the Allies

Two things the U.S. did to support the Allies:
1) Roosevelt ordered the sale of old military equipment to Great Britain and France
2) Roosevelt traded 52 older American warships to Great Britain

Lend-Lease Act

Lend-Lease Act helped Allies by allowing the President to lend rather than sell weapons.

To ensure supplies would make it to Great Britain Roosevelt ordered American warships to escort British ships as far as Iceland.

Japan and the United States on a Collision Course

In 1940–41, Japan signed treaties with Hitler and Mussolini, and the Soviet Union.
Japan made these treaties in hopes that they would appear more powerful and to make the U.S. agree to Japanese control of Southeast Asia.

Japanese military leaders began planning an attack on the American naval fleet in order to stop the U.S. from challenging their control of Eastern Asia.

**Attack on Pearl Harbor**

Attack on Pearl Harbor occurred on **December 7, 1941**.

The USS Arizona was **bombed, killing nearly half of those who were on it**.

The three navy aircraft carriers that the United States had escaped unharmed.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was a turning point in WWII because it **brought the U.S. into the war**.

**U.S. Military in 1941**

The Board of Defense began drafting men into the military.

The United States also began to **increase its production of weapons and military supplies**.

The war in Europe was different from that in the Pacific. **The war in the Pacific would have to be fought mostly by the Navy and the Marines**.

**Winning the War in Europe**

Stalin wanted the United States and Great Britain to attack Europe to force Germany to fight on two fronts.

Churchill did not want to fight Europe:

1) Americans and British were not prepared to fight against German troops.
2) Churchill didn’t want to help the Soviets and allow them to become too strong.

**North Africa**

**The Battle of Stalingrad**

The Battle of Stalingrad was a turning point in the war because the German eastern advance had been stopped.

**Invasion of Italy**
The Allies invaded Italy instead of France because there were fewer German troops in Italy.

Mussolini was forced to resign after the Allies invaded Italy.

The air war in Europe

The final assault

On April 30, 1945, Hitler committed suicide.

World War II in the Pacific

The Allied war strategy in the Pacific was to destroy as much of the Japanese forces as possible and the slowly regain possession of the Japanese occupied islands.

In 1942-43, the U.S. did not send many soldiers to the Pacific because the overall war strategy was to first win the battle against Germany.

The Doolittle Raid

Two effects of the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo:
   1) America demonstrated they could fight back
   2) Made Americans feel that something was being done to stop the Japanese

Battle of the Coral Sea

Japanese wanted Port Moresby because the city could be used as a place from which to attack Australia.

Neither side could claim victory at the Battle of the Coral Sea

Battle of Midway Island

Japanese wanted to conquer Midway Island to use as a base to prevent any bombing raids on Tokyo.

United States had advantage. They knew when the attack was going to happen

Japanese lost four of nine aircraft carriers and many of their best pilots.

Battles of Midway and Coral Sea were turning points in the war because Japan’s naval forces had been severely beaten and they no longer gained territory in the Pacific.
Allied Offensive in the Pacific

The Pacific Theater

Allied strategy for Pacific Theater was to sink as much of the Japanese fleet as possible.

Guadalcanal

The first island retaken from the Japanese was the Guadalcanal. Allies learned it was a disgrace for a Japanese soldier to surrender.

Battle for the Philippines

Result of Battle of Leyte Gulf = Japan’s navy so badly defeated it was no longer a threat to the Allies.

Kamikaze = slow, cheaply built airplane filled with explosives

Japan used kamikazes because they had few good pilots or airplanes left.

The China-Burma-India Theater

Allies had more success after 1944. The U.S. had destroyed a large part of the Japanese fleet.

The Final Assault on Japan

Allies were fearful of invading Japan, it would cost over a million Allied lives.

The atomic bomb

The Manhattan Project

Manhattan Project: American effort to build an atomic bomb

The decision to use the bomb

Three factors Truman considered in deciding to use atomic bomb:
1) Invading Japan might cause the lives of maybe a million American soldiers.
2) Scientists were not absolutely sure that the bombs would explode as they planned.
3) Afraid Soviet Union would attack Japan and then want to control more Asian territory.
Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Four Factors Affect the Outcome of World War II

Capability in 1941 After the Attack on Pearl Harbor

Axis Powers

Axis Powers’ capability in December, 1941: Japan had well-equipped army/navy
Germany had modern submarines able to destroy British ships

Allies’ capability in December, 1941: British army capable of fighting against

Germans

Capability Advantage

Resources in 1941

Axis Powers

Axis Powers’ resources in December, 1941: huge amounts of war supplies, control
over industries in the territories they had invaded, natural resources.

Allies

Allies’ resources in December, 1941: fewer war supplies

Resource advantage in 1941.

Leadership in 1941

Axis Powers

Axis’ Powers leadership in December, 1941: Axis countries had very good,
experienced, military leaders

Allies

Allies’ leadership in December, 1941: Allies had fewer military leaders

Leadership advantage in 1941.
Motivation in 1941

Axis powers

Axis Powers’ motivation in December, 1941: **fighting for economic growth and access to raw materials.**

Allies

Allies’ motivation in December, 1941: **Attack on Pearl Harbor motivated U.S to unite**

Motivation advantage in 1941

Capability in 1944 After D-Day

Axis Powers

Axis Powers’ capability in June, 1944: **very low capability—trouble keeping supplies ready**

Allies

Allies’ capability in June, 1944: **modern equipment, armies and navies gained fighting experience.**

Wartime Inventions

**Five inventions from World War II:**
1) Bazooka
2) Silicon lubricants
3) Nylon
4) New plastics
5) Antibiotics

Capability Advantage in 1944

Resources in 1944

Axis Powers

Axis Powers’ resources in June, 1944: **loss of fuel to run planes, tanks, and trucks; no longer protect natural resources.**

Allies

Allies’ resources in June, 1944: **huge military personnel, enormous amounts of food.***
Greatest single advantage: enormous amounts of weapons.

Resource Advantage in 1944

Leadership in 1944

Axis Powers

Axis Powers’ leadership in June, 1944: Lost many of their good military leaders.

Allies

Allies’ leadership in June, 1944: Excellent leadership abilities.

Leadership advantage in 1944

Motivation in 1944

Axis Powers

Axis Powers’ motivation in June, 1944: tired of bombing and many believed that defeat was inevitable.

Allies

Allies’ motivation in June, 1944: more motivated from winning battles.

Motivation advantage in 1944

The Effects of World War II

Peace Treaty

United Nations: Roosevelt’s suggestion at the Teheran Conference

Yalta

Roosevelt agreed that the Soviet troops would continue occupying the Eastern European countries after the war and then allow free elections.

Potsdam

Surrender terms of Germany: Germany and its capital occupied by armies from France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States.
Government of Japan was to be changed to a democracy modeled after the United States.

Cost of the War

Germany and USSR had most soldiers killed during the war.

United Nations

Decision about sending troops made when all five permanent members of the Security Council agreed.

Genocide During World War II

Genocide is systematic killing of people based on their race or religion.

Concentration camps: places where Jews were rounded up as slaves; those capable would work, those who weren’t were killed.

Nuremberg and Tokyo war crimes trials

War Crime Trials: 19 Nazi leaders and several Japanese leaders were found guilty for murder and were executed or imprisoned.

United States and the Soviet Union Compete

United States was a superpower. It was the only major country that had not been damaged by war. It had the most advanced military and the world’s largest economy. Soviet Union was a superpower. It’s military was the largest in the world.

Distrust

Stalin causes distrust by using veto power to benefit Soviet expansion to ensure Communist governments.

The Effects on the United States

Economy

War helped end depression. Unemployment disappeared and women entered the labor force for first time.

Government helped business during the war. It suspended antitrust efforts and ensured companies would make profit using cost-plus contracts.
**People’s Rights Problems During the War**

**Japanese Americans**

West Coast Japanese Americans during the war were made to report and taken to isolated camps.

**Mexican Americans**

Mexicans came to United States during the war because employment opportunities had increased greatly.

**African Americans**

Three ways African Americans were discriminated against in the military:

1) placed in separate units
2) blood for injured white soldiers was kept separate from that for African Americans
3) not given the same opportunities for advancement available to whites

African Americans faced discrimination in both North and West. They lived in segregated neighborhoods and attended segregated schools. Riots broke out when they were given the same jobs as whites.

**Fair Employment Practices Committee**: investigate, hold hearings, and provide solution to the problem.