Interwar Years

End of WWI to Start of WWII
Problems in Europe

- Only Japan and USA in better shape after WWI
- New democracies formed after WWI not in good shape
- France has 40 government changes between 1919 - 1939
- People dissatisfied with their governments
- People are suffering
- People are ready for a change
Economic Problems In Germany

- Weimar Republic formed in Germany
- Blamed for defeat in WWI (Jews) and signing of ToV
- Germany owes $33 Billion in war reparations
- To pay for it Germany didn’t raise taxes, they printed more $
- Too much supply = money with little value
- Causes hyperinflation - the extreme devaluation of money
- 1918 - A loaf of bread costs 1 Mark
- 1922 - 160 Marks
- 1923 - 200 Billion Marks (200,000,000,000)
- People’s life savings are now worthless
- US bails Germany out with the Dawes Plan - US loans to Germany
- Problem --- when US $ goes away??????
The Ineffectiveness of the League of Nations

- No control of major conflicts.
- No progress in disarmament.
- No effective military force.
1920s Booming Economy in USA

• Wages up 40% after WWI, but wealth is not evenly distributed
• Richest 5% get 33% of income in 1929
• 60% of families make less than $2,000 a year
• Factories used to producing large amounts of goods
• People have little income, so they can’t buy goods
• Factories don’t need to produce as much so they lay off workers
• Now even fewer have money
• Cycling downward
• Stock Market was soaring
  – Many people investing – get rich quick schemes
  – 1920s fad – get into the market
• 80% of population has no savings
Black Thursday  Black Tuesday

Oct. 24th, 1929
Stocks fall drastically
Brokers panic
GE falls from $400 a share to $283 a share
Brokers make margin calls – no one can pay

- October 29th, 1929
- Stocks plunge again
- Value of market falls
- People sell what’s left to get some $ 
- By the end of Oct. – over $30 billion has been lost
- Thousands lose everything
Immediate Effects of the Crash

• Many lost life savings in the market crash
• Banks and Brokers call in loans – American people have no $
• Hundreds of banks close
  – No $ to pay back loans = empty savings accounts
  – Banks not prepared for people to withdraw $ at the same time
  – No bank insurance
  – 9 million savings accounts vanish
Democracy in Crisis!!!!!!

• A Worldwide Depression creates a breeding ground for dictators
• Germany hit the hardest because of dependence on US Loans
• Germany had already been through this in 1923, but were bailed out by US loans
  – Germany doesn’t want to do this again.
• People of foreign countries looking for anyone to help
• Democracy is not providing the immediate needs of the people
• People lose faith in their governments
• Totalitarian and Militaristic Dictatorships take over
Benito Mussolini

- Why fascism? - bad economy, fear of communism, disappointed over lack of territory gained at ToV.
- Benito Mussolini takes power
- Il Duce - The Leader
- Abolished all parties except his
- Used police to jail opponents
- Mussolini and Hitler form an alliance (Japan Later)
Fascism

- Fascism - A political movement that promotes an extreme form of nationalism, a denial of individual rights, and a dictatorial one party rule.
- Promised to revive the economy, punish those responsible for the hard times (JEWs), and restore national pride.
- Attracted those who felt angered and betrayed by the results of WWI treaties and the Depression

- Ultranationalism, belief in struggle (the weak should be conquered, loyalty to a single, strong leader (uniforms, salutes, etc)
- Loyalty to the state and obedience to a single dictator
- Opposite of Communism
- Takes power in Italy, Germany, and Spain
Japan was suffering during Depression

Military takes over

Hirohito has no real power

Leaders felt they could solve problems by conquest

Military General Hideki Tojo controls Japan
Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party establish a Totalitarian Dictatorship in the 1930s Brings Germany out of the depression Rules with an Iron Fist
Humble Beginnings

• Born April 20, 1889 to Alois and Klara Hitler in Austria

• Alois was illegitimate and changed name from Schicklgruber

• Father strict, but dies in 1903
“In Vienna I learned to hate the Jews…”

• Around 1907-1908 Hitler moves to Vienna, but fails to get into Academy of Fine Arts.
• December 1909-moved into a poor house
• Made $ selling paintings and postcards, mainly copies of other people’s work
• 1913-Hitler moves to Munich-the happiest time of his life
The Great War

- 1914-Hitler joins German Army after avoiding Austrian Army
- Decorated five times during the war
- Courier
- Gassed-In hosp. when war ends
The “Stab-In-The-Back” Theory

German soldiers are dissatisfied.
Nazi Party

- Hitler remains in Army and is sent to spy on meetings of German Workers Party
- Became 55\textsuperscript{th} member
- 1920- quits Army
- Party changes name to National Socialist German Workers Party
- July 1921- Hitler named president of Nazis
- Called “Fuehrer” and introduced “Heil Hitler,” Nazi salute, Flag, and Swastika
Beer Hall Putsch - Nov. 8, 1923

• Nazis try to take control of Munich gov.
• 16 Nazis and 3 police die in fighting
• Hitler arrested, sent to prison
• In prison he wrote *Mein Kampf*
Mein Kampf

• All Germans, especially those with blond hair and blue eyes, were perfect Aryans, the master race
• All Non-Aryans were inferior and need to be exterminated
• Treaty of Versailles- Outrage, would get back all lands that were taken and restore national pride.
• Germany needed Lebensraum- living space, Would get that space by conquering Eastern Europe and Russia
Depression in Germany

- Late 1924- Hitler released
- 1930- depression hits economy collapses, Nazis gain power
- Nazi party vote increases
  - 1928: 809,000
  - 1930: 6,400,000
- 1932- Nazis are largest political party in Germany
- 1932- Hitler runs for President, defeated by Hindenburg
- 1933- Hitler becomes Chancellor (Try to tame him)
- Hitler gained power legally
Hitler gains power.

- Hitler’s opponents arrested and killed
- March 1933- Reichstag votes Hitler full power (W/O Communists)
- Hitler makes deal w/ Army’s top Generals
- Hitler eliminates SA, Army supports Hitler
- June 30, 1934- Night of the Long Knives- SS kills SA leaders and many others who opposed him

Ernst Roehm
Death of Hindenburg

- August 2, 1934- Hindenburg dies.
- Hitler in absolute control of Germany
- Puts people to work rearming the country. Massive Public works- Autobahn and Volkswagen
- Unemployment down from 6 Million to 1.5 Million by ’36
- Hitler takes control of all aspects of German life
- Hitler Youth and League of German Girls
- Democracy only survives in Great Britain, France and Scandinavia
- Fascists willing to use aggression to get what they want
How were the Nazi’s able to achieve this so quickly?

1. The economic situation was very bad
2. Hitler was a great public speaker
3. The SA and SS disrupted the work of political opponents
4. The Nazi’s were funded by industrialists such as Alfred Hugenberg
5. The other political parties wouldn’t work together
6. Chancellor’s in the period 1928-33 weren’t widely supported within the Reichstag
7. Goebbels’s propaganda was effective
8. People were fed up of ineffective coalition governments and the current situation
9. The Nazi’s targeted certain groups of the electorate
10. People didn’t want a return to the hyperinflation of 1923-24
What’s Japan’s Problem?

- Japan lacks raw materials and farmland to support its growing population.
- No room to grow.
- Japan began an aggressive empire building in the early 1930’s.
  - 1931- Manchuria invaded
  - 1940- Allies with Germany and Italy
  - 1941- Neutrality with Soviet Union.
  - 1941- Start to push into SE Asia and Indonesia.
- Raw Materials
- They want total control of the Pacific. Guess who is in their way?
Japan Draws 1st Blood

By the 30’s Hirohito is nothing more than a figurehead

1931 – Japan Invades Manchuria, a mineral rich region in China

Japan needs raw materials to build its war machine and room to grow

The World Just Watches
Mussolini Invades Ethiopia

- Mussolini inspired by Japan’s attack on Manchuria b/c LON has no power
- 1935 Italy invades Ethiopia
- LON condemned the attack but does nothing
- Britain and France try to keep the peace by appeasing the Italians
- The World Just Watches
Hitler is inspired

- 1935-Hitler announces that Germany will no longer abide by the ToV
- He secretly has been building an army
- LON condemns Hitler, but does nothing
- March 7, 1936- German troops reoccupy the Rhineland, a border area w/ France that Germany has lost in the ToV
- Allies resort to appeasement-policy of giving in to an aggressor to maintain peace
- Balance of power has shifted to Germany.
- Now Belgium and France are open to attack
- Hitler will now speed up his plans for world domination
The AXIS

• Hitler and Mussolini form an alliance
• Japan joins a month later
Spanish Civil War

- Fascist leader Francisco Franco revolts against the Democratic government.
- Millions of Italian and German “volunteers” went to Spain with tanks, guns, subs, planes, etc. to help Franco
- Western Democracies stay neutral
- Practice for WWII
What is America Doing?

- Minding our own business.
- We have too many of our own problems to worry about Japan, Germany, or Italy.
- “America First”
- **Isolationism** – Non-interventionism - Political rulers should avoid entangling alliances with other nations and avoid all wars
- This was America’s foreign policy from the end of WWI, 1918, to December 7th, 1941
The German Reich Expands

- 1937- Hitler announces that he wants to add Austria and parts of Czechoslovakia to the German Empire
- This anschluss- or union, was part of Hitler’s plans to form the 3rd Reich
- 1938- Hitler “invades” Austria
- France and Great Britain do nothing
- He then turned to Czech.

- 3 million ethnic Germans living in a part of Western Czech. called the Sudetenland
- Czech. refuses and asks for help
- Sep 29, 1938- Munich Conference- Germany, GB, France, and Italy meet to decide the fate of Czech.
- Hitler gets Sudetenland as long as he promises not to ask for anything else. He agrees
The Austrian Anschluss, 1936
The “Problem” of the Sudetenland
Appeasement: The Munich Agreement, 1938

"I believe we will have peace in our time!"

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain
Czechoslovakia Becomes Part of the Third Reich: 1939

- 6 months after the Munich Conference, Hitler takes over the rest of Czech. and threatens Poland.
Hitler Continues to Add Territory

- German Empire at 31 December 1937
- "Anschluss" of Austria
- German Empire at 13 March 1938
- German Empire at 21 September 1938
- After the Munich Agreement
- Annexation of Bohemia and Moravia
Russo-German Non-Aggression Pact

• France and GB look to Russia for help
• Russia not interested
  – Russia feels betrayed after ToV
  – Russia can get a better deal
• Stalin and Hitler sign a non-aggression pact stating that they would never attack each other.
• Poland is secretly divided into a buffer zone
• Hitler now has all of his ducks in a row.
The Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact, 1939

Foreign Ministers von Ribbentrop & Molotov
WONDER HOW LONG THE HONEYMOON WILL LAST?
WWII Begins

- September 1st 1939, Germany Invades Poland
- Hitler unleashes the Blitzkrieg
- Britain and France declare war on Germany
- Russia Remains Neutral

- **America Just Watches**