Chapter 27
The Deepening of the European Crisis: World War II

Chapter Timeline

1939
- Germany invades Poland
- Soviet Union invades Poland

1940
- Germany invades France

1941
- Germany occupies the rest of Yugoslavia
- Germany invades the Soviet Union

1942
- German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact
- Germany invade Poland
- Britain and France declare war on Germany
- Soviet Union invade Poland

CHRONOLOGY  Prelude to War, 1913–1939

- Japanese侵占 Manchuria
- Hitler becomes Chancellor
- Japan launches a German air force
- Hitler announces military conscription
- Anglo-German Naval Pact
- Munich Agreement
- Germany occupies Memel
- Munich Agreement
- Anglo-German Naval Pact
- Nazi-German-Italian Axis
- World War II begins

- Japanese invasion of China
- Japanese invasion of Manchuria
- Anti-Comintern Pact (Japan and Germany)
- Germany occupies Austria
- Germany occupies the rest of Czechoslovakia
- German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact
- Germany invade Poland
- Britain and France declare war on Germany
- Soviet Union invade Poland

- Japanese invasion of China
The Rise of the Dictators

Post WWI Europe / chaos
Democracy weak
Catalyst for change are political parties
Parties = elitist groups
Centered around “Cult of the Personality”
Gain control of the military
Secret police organizations
Italy / Germany accept Capitalism – Russia does not

Totalitarianism

Soviet Union (USSR)

First of the Totalitarian States
Russian Civil War
Bolsheviks = Communists
March 1918 = Moscow capital
Lenin dies 1924 = Successor?
Soviet Union (USSR)

- Trotsky vs. Stalin
  - Trotsky exile – Mexico - 1940
- Collectivization
  - Kulaks – Farmers
  - Starvation - Exports
- Five Year Plans
  - Industrialization
  - Agriculture

Fascism

- Extreme -
  - Nationalism
  - Imperialism
  - Militarism

“Fascism” (from the Latin word “fascis,” meaning a bundle of sticks) symbolized the power and control of the fascist government. The fasces, a bundle of sticks with an ax, was a symbol of power and was carried by Roman officials and later by fascist leaders.

Italy

- Fascist movement begins
- Political party 1921 – Mussolini 1922
- Results of Versailles Treaty – Population unrest
  - “Black-shirts” (Squadristi) = Fascist political party – intimidation
  - March on Rome – October 1922
  - King Victor Emmanuel III – Legal appointment of Mussolini – Prime Minister – “Il Duce”
- Hitler?
- Lateran Accords – 1929
  - Catholic Church = “Official Religion”
  - Pope Pius XI – Ends “Prisoner of the Vatican”
  - Vatican City
Adolf Hitler
20 April 1889 – 30 April 1945
The Early Years

• Hitler serves in WWI with a Bavarian Infantry Regiment
• Earns the Iron Cross 1st & 2nd Class
• Wounded twice
• Recovering from gas poisoning in hospital outside Berlin at the end of WWI

Hitler Ordered by his Military Superiors to Join the German Workers Party (Deutsche Arbiterparti / D.A.P.)

- Hitler’s German Workers Party membership card
- Dated 1 January 1920
- Membership Number 555 (Started at 500 to show a higher membership)
**Hitler's Rise to Power**

1930 Reichstag elections
- 107 seats go Nazi
- Unemployment rises

1932 Presidential elections vs. Hindenburg
- 37% of the Vote = Nazi Party
- 230 seats in the Reichstag
- Nazi’s block coalition government
- New elections – Nazi’s get 196 seats!

Deal making = Chancellor of Germany
- 30 January 1933

- Reichstag Fire (27 February 1933)
- “Enabling Act” – rule by “Personal Decree” (23 March 1933)
- Third Reich = “1,000 Years” (12 years!)

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**Prelude to War (1933-1939)**

- **The Role of Hitler**
  - “Lebensraum” - “Mein Kampf” (My Struggle)
    - The proper conditions and strategies of expansion to East
  - The “Diplomatic Revolution” (1933-1936)
    - German rearmament, 1935
      - Repudiation of disarmament clauses of Treaty of Versailles
  - Occupation of the Rhineland, 1936
  - New Alliances
    - Rome-Berlin Axis, October 1936
    - Anti-Comintern Pact between Germany and Japan, November 1936
The Path to War (1937-1939)
- Ongoing rearmament
  - Preparations for Blitzkrieg ("lightning war")
- Union with Austria, 1938 - Anschluss
- Czechoslovakia
  - Demands for the Sudetenland, September 1938
    - Appeasement: the Munich Conference, September 29, 1938
    - Neville Chamberlain (1869 – 1940)
    - German dismemberment of Czechoslovakia
- Poland
  - Nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union, August 1939
  - Hitler's demands and invasion provoke resistance and war, September 1939

The "Anschluss" of Austria

Hitler Arrives in Vienna. By threatening to invade Austria, Hitler forced the Austrian government to capitulate to his wishes.

Austria was annexed to Germany. Shown here is the triumphal arrival of Hitler in Vienna on March 13, 1938.

Sitting in the car beside Hitler is Arthur Seyss-Inquart, Hitler's new handpicked governor of Austria.

Changes in Central Europe, 1936-1939.

Hitler's main objectives in the late 1930s were:
- the reoccupation of the Rhineland
- the incorporation into a greater Germany of lands that contained German people (Austria and the Sudetenland)
- the acquisition of Lebensraum (living space) in eastern Europe for the expansion of the German people.
Adolf Hitler believed that it was necessary for Germany to gain living space through conquest in the east. This policy meant war. Hitler’s nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union on August 23, 1939, paved the way for his invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. On that day, Hitler spoke to the German Reichstag and announced the outbreak of war.

**Imperial Japan**

- Extreme militarism
- Japan cabinet’s role (see handout)
- Increasing power of military
  - Navy premier service
  - Army more “common”
- Expansionist goals
  - Japan leaves League of Nations in March 1933
- Korea (1894-95)
- Russia (1904-05)
- China (1931 & 1937)

Emperor Hirohito’s Grandfather Known as the “Meiji”

**The Path to War in Asia**

- **Rise of the Japan**
  - Imperial strength and weakness
    - Acquisition of Korea, Formosa, Manchuria, and the Marshall, Caroline, and Mariana islands (WWI - Versailles)
    - Internal tensions, economic crises, and right-wing patriotism
  - Japanese goals in East Asia
    - Military strategy targeting China
      - Japanese seizure of Manchuria, 1931
      - Chiang Kai-shek (1887 – 1975)
      - Seizure of Nanjing, 1937
    - Cooperation with Nazi Germany

This photograph shows a Japanese victory march in Shanghai at the beginning of December 1937. By 1939, Japan had conquered most of eastern China.

The Course of World War II

- Victory and Stalemate
  - Dismemberment of Poland within five weeks
  - Hitler’s attack in the west
    - Sitzkrieg – “Phony War”, 1939-1940
    - Germany resumes offensive
      - Attacks on Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Belgium, and France, April-May 1940
    - Evacuation of Dunkirk (Saves 335,000 men)
  - Surrender of France, June 22, 1940 (six weeks – fall)
  - Establishment of the Vichy regime
    - Marshal Henri Pétain (1856 – 1951)

World War II in Europe and North Africa
The Course of World War II

- The Problem of Britain
  - New leadership: Winston Churchill (1874 – 1965)
  - Battle of Britain, August-September 1940
    - Failure of the German Luftwaffe to weaken Britain for invasion – *Operation Sea-Lion*
  - Possibility of a Mediterranean strategy
- Invasion of the Soviet Union
  - Attack launched, June 22, 1941
  - Soviet resistance and counterattacks stalls the German offensive, December 1941

Invasion of the Soviet Union—known as “Operation Barbarossa”

Enormously successful, leading one German general to remark in his diary:

“It is probably no overstatement to say that the Russian campaign has been won in the space of two weeks.”

2M KIA / 2M POW

The War in Asia

- The End of American Isolationism
  - Japan’s assault on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines creates global war
  - Japanese advances, spring 1942
    - Establishment of the Great East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere
  - Attacks galvanized American opinion in support for war
    - MacArthur (Army)
    - Nimitz / Halsey (Navy)
World War II in Asia and the Pacific

Arcadia Conference
- December 1941 – January 1942
- Washington, DC
- Statement of Joint Policy as Allies
- Churchill / Roosevelt (No Stalin!)
- Europe First Strategy Approved
  - Had to Keep England in the War!
  - Pacific War Would get Second Priority
- Not an Immediate Threat to the Survival of Either the United States or Great Britain
- Combine all Assets / Resources Under a Single Command

Battle of Midway (June 1942)
- Turning the tide in Asia
  - American advances across the Pacific
  - “Island Hopping”
Shifts the Balance of Power in the Pacific
End of the Japanese Expansion

4 – 7 June 1942

The Battle of Midway
"Turning Point in the Pacific"

Guadalcanal
• Battle of Stalingrad (Aug. 1942)
• Devastation and deprivation, winter 1942-1943
• German surrender, February 1943

Intensity and Savagery of the Fighting
- Fighting is House to House
- In the Sewers
- In the Factories
- Becomes a Battle of Attrition

- Hitler Wants to Capture the City = Stalin’s name
- Stalin wants to Save City = His name!

- Becomes a Battle of Supply
- Russians reinforcing across the Volga River
- Germans bring in by air – Importance of Airfields!
Approximately 300,000 Germans Entered

- 160,000+ Dead (Axis = 500,000+)
- 130,000 Captured (91,000 at end)
- 1955 – Only 6,000 Returned to Germany
- 22 Generals including von Paulus
- Most catastrophic defeat in German history!

Campaign Cost Axis (Romania, Italy, Spain, Hungary) between 500,000 – 850,000 casualties.

Battle of El Alamein (Nov. 1942)
- Allied victory in Africa, May 1943

Torch
The Battle of El Alamein
General Montgomery and the British 8th Army
• Builds up and Trains Forces
• Restores Morale to 8th Army
• Masses Armor Forces

Montgomery Strikes First:
• Feigns Attack to the South
• Launches Attack up Coastal Road – Breach German Minefields
• Rommel is unable to Halt British Advance – Begins Retreat – Suffers Loss of Nearly 500 Tanks.

Germans Flee to Sicily
• Remainder of German Afrika Korps Captured by Allies
• Nearly 250,000 Axis POWs
• Sent to the United States
• The Defeat Follows Three Months after Stalingrad
• American Soldiers Gain Valuable Experience

Civilians on the Front Line: The Bombing of Cities
• Luftwaffe Attacks
  • The Blitz in Britain
• The Bombing of Germany
  • Allied bombing raids on German cities
    • Targeted American daytime bombing
    • Devastation of Hamburg and Dresden
    • Success and failure of bombing raids
• The Bombing of Japan: the Atomic Bomb
  • Hiroshima, August 6, 1945
  • Nagasaki, August 9, 1945
American WWII Air War Operations
- 2,700,000 tons of bombs dropped
- 1,440,000 bomber sorties flown
- 2,680,000 fighter sorties flown
- 1,300,000 Americans in air combat commands
- 28,000 aircraft at peak of operations
- 79,265 Americans killed in sky over USA/Europe/Pacific (26,000 – Europe)
- 18,000 American aircraft lost (all theaters)
- 35% of American war production devoted to the air-forces
- One-third of all American aviation deaths were due to training accidents in the United States, Europe and the Pacific
- Youngest full Colonel in the Army was aged 24 (started out as 21 year old 2nd Lt.)
  - B-17 Group commander in Europe!

U-boat Statistics
- 1,170 U-boats in the German Navy in WWII
  - 784 were destroyed or sunk (67%)
- U-boats sank a total of 2,828 Allied merchant ships
  - 14 million tons in size
- U-boats sank 257 Allied warships (574,000 tons)
  - Largest was the British battleship HMS Nelson
- 30,000 German sailors served in the U-boats in WWII
  - 22,000 German sailors were lost / died with their U-boats (73%)

U-boats and crew lost
- 1939 - 9 of 57 lost
- 1940 - 24 lost
- 1941 - 35 lost
- 1942 - 86 lost (sign of things to come!)
- (1943 - 243 lost)
- (1944 - 249 lost)
- (1945 - 120 lost)
The Nazi New Order - Holocaust

The Nazi Goals – Rid Europe of “Undesireables”

- Organization
  - Some areas made into German provinces - East
  - Most occupied and administered by Germans
  - Racial considerations for the Nazi New Order

- Plans for an Aryan racial empire
  - Brutality of the plans for the East
    - Evacuation of “inferior peoples,” colonization by ethnic Germans

- Economic exploitation

- Use of foreign workers
  - Forced labor to address German labor shortages
    - Cause of resistance of Nazi occupation forces

- Soviet Offensive in the East
  - Battle of Kursk, July 5-12, 1943 (Largest Tank Battle in History)
  - Advances in eastern Europe, 1944-1945
  - Hitler’s suicide and German surrender

- Defeat of Japan
  - Surrender after atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 1945

- Allied Advances in the West
  - Invasion of Italy, September 1943
    - Fall of Rome, June 4, 1944
  - D-Day invasion of France, June 6, 1944
    - Five assault divisions land on Normandy beaches
  - Advance into Germany

- The Nazi New Order
  - Rid Europe of “Undesireables”
  - Organization
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Crossing the Rhine. After landing at Normandy, Allied forces liberated France and prepared to move into Germany.

Makeshift bridges enabled the Allies to cross the Rhine in some areas and advance deeper into Germany.

Units of the U.S. Seventh Army of General Patch are shown here crossing the Rhine at Worms on a pontoon bridge constructed by battalions of engineers alongside the ruins of the old bridge.
Resistance Movements

- Nazi-Occupied Europe
  - Sabotage, espionage, and anti-Nazi sentiments at home, governments-in-exile abroad
    - Charles de Gaulle’s Free French movement
    - Josip Broz and guerilla warfare in Yugoslavia
    - Communist leadership
  - Germany
    - The White Rose movement
    - Repression by the Gestapo
    - Colonel Count Claus von Stauffenberg’s failed assassination attempt, July 1944

The Holocaust

- Early Nazi Policy
  - First focused on emigration
- The SS and the Einsatzgruppen
  - The Final Solution: annihilation of the Jewish people
  - Leadership under Reinhard Heydrich (1904 – 1942)
    - From concentration in ghettos to death squads; 1 million Jews dead
- Death camps
  - Plans for systematic extermination (in operation by spring 1942)
    - Jews to be shipped to camps in Poland, executed by Zyklon B gas, and burned in crematoria
      - Largest center at Auschwitz-Birkenau
    - Resulted in death of nearly 2 out of 3 European Jews (5 to 6 million)
- The Other Holocaust
  - Death of at least another 9 to 10 million people
    - Targeting European Gypsies, “subhuman” Slavic peoples, Catholic priests, and homosexuals
    - Death through slave labor
    - Prisoners of war - Russians
The activities of the mobile killing units known as the Einsatzgruppen were the first stage in the mass killings of the Holocaust.

This picture shows a soldier of Einsatzgruppe D about to shoot a Jew kneeling in front of a mass grave in Ukraine.

Onlookers include members of the German army, the German Labor Service, and even Hitler Youth.

When it became apparent that this method of killing was inefficient, it was replaced by the death camps.

Hitler used the fiction of the Aryan race, to which Germans supposedly belonged, to help radicalize the German people and justify his hatred of Jews.

Hitler's "Final Solution" to the "Jewish problem" was the mass execution of Europe's Jews in death camps.

- The Holocaust: The Extermination Camp at Auschwitz.
  - After their initial successes in the east, Hitler and the Nazis set in motion the machinery for the physical annihilation of Europe's Jews.
  - Shown here is a group of Jews arriving at Auschwitz.
  - It is estimated that 1.1 million people (90 percent of them Jews) were killed there.
In Summation: The Holocaust

- Impacted every country in Europe
- Refugees / victims
- Jews / Christians
- Major change in population demographics
- Magnitude of issue never fully recognized until after the war

**Jewish Deaths:**
- 5.8 million
  - Poland: 3 million
  - Russia / Ukraine: 1.3 million
  - Eastern Europe: 1 million
  - Germany: 210,000
  - Western Europe: 400,000

**Other Deaths:**
- 5 – 11 million
  - Gypsies
  - Polish / Soviet citizens
  - Religious / Political Opponents
  - Disabled / Infirm / Homosexuals

Aftermath of the War

- The Costs of World War II
  - Loss of human life: 21 million soldiers and 40 million civilians dead
  - Displacement of 30 million people
  - Physical devastation
  - Monetary cost of $4 trillion

- The Allied War Conferences
  - The Conference at Tehran, November 1943
    - Future course of the war, invasion of the continent for 1944
    - Agreement for the partition of postwar Germany

The American president, who died two months later, was already a worn-out man at Yalta. Even before World War II ended, the leaders of the Big Three of the Grand Alliance, Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin (seated, left to right), met in wartime conference to plan the final assault on Germany and negotiate the outlines of the postwar settlement.

At the Yalta meeting (February 5–11, 1945), the three leaders concentrated on postwar issues.
● The Allied War Conferences
  ● The *Yalta* Conference, February 1945
    ● Approval of the “Declaration on Liberated Europe”
    ● American concerns
      ● Soviet military assistance for the war against Japan
      ● Creation of a United Nations
      ● Agreement on German unconditional surrender
      ● Free elections in Eastern Europe
  ● Intensifying differences
    ● Deteriorating relations with the Soviets
  ● The *Potsdam* Conference, July 1945
    ● Growing problems among the Allies

● Emergence of the Cold War