

## Ch. 24 Sec. 1: Aggression Leads to War

**Why It Matters** The early decades of the twentieth century saw a series of major world crises. World War I and the Russian Revolution destroyed millions of lives and altered the political map of Europe. The Great Depression of the 1930s caused worldwide economic hardship. These conditions set the stage for a new and more destructive world war.

### **The Rise of Dictators**

In the \_\_\_\_\_, people in several nations came to believe that democratic governments were too weak to solve their problems. They turned instead to dictators.

**Soviet Communism** By 1929, \_\_\_\_\_ was sole dictator of the \_\_\_\_\_. Stalin turned the Soviet Union into a \_\_\_\_\_. A totalitarian state is a nation in which a single party controls the government and every aspect of people's lives.

Stalin took brutal measures to control and modernize industry and agriculture. He ordered peasants to give crops, animals, and land to government-run farms. Millions of peasants who resisted were executed or sent to labor camps. In addition, an estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Soviets, including many of Stalin's rivals in the \_\_\_\_\_, were killed or imprisoned on false charges of \_\_\_\_\_ to the state.

**Fascism in Italy** After \_\_\_\_\_, economic and social problems in \_\_\_\_\_ had led to unrest. \_\_\_\_\_ promised to restore prosperity and order through strong leadership. In \_\_\_\_\_, Mussolini and his followers threatened to overthrow Italy's elected government. In response, the king appointed Mussolini \_\_\_\_\_.

Mussolini turned Italy into the world's first Fascist state. \_\_\_\_\_ is a political system based on militarism, extreme nationalism, and blind loyalty to the state and its leader. Italy, he said, was a \_\_\_\_\_ nation with a glorious destiny. He spoke of reviving the days when the Roman Empire dominated Europe. He also argued that a superior nation had a right and duty to conquer \_\_\_\_\_ nations.

Mussolini ended freedom of the press and banned all political parties except his own. Critics were jailed or murdered. In schools, children recited the motto " \_\_\_\_\_ "

**Nazi Germany** Many \_\_\_\_\_ were angry over their defeat in World War I and the heavy reparation payments forced on them by the \_\_\_\_\_. Among them was an extreme nationalist, \_\_\_\_\_. By 1921, Hitler had become leader of a small group known as the \_\_\_\_\_, or Nazi, Party. \_\_\_\_\_ was a form of fascism.

Racism lay at the core of Nazi beliefs. Hitler told Germans that they were a " \_\_\_\_\_," destined to rule over Slavs, Gypsies, and others they considered inferior. The cornerstone of Hitler's racial theories was \_\_\_\_\_, or hatred of

Jews. Hitler falsely claimed that Germany had not lost World War I but had been betrayed by Jews and other "traitors." This idea appealed to Germans eager to find a scapegoat, someone on whom to blame their problems.

The \_\_\_\_\_ increased Hitler's popularity. In 1933, he was named chancellor, or leader of the German parliament. Once in power, Hitler quickly created a \_\_\_\_\_. All other parties were outlawed. Hitler's secret police enforced strict loyalty.

Germany also passed \_\_\_\_\_. Jews were banned from public schools and from professions such as medicine and law. Jewish communities were attacked. In 1938, troops began rounding up Jews and sending them to slave labor camps. But even worse was to come, as you will see.

**Militarism in Japan** In \_\_\_\_\_, too, the Great Depression undermined faith in democratic rule. Military leaders pressured the civilian government to take control of nearby countries. \_\_\_\_\_ argued that their island nation needed more space, as well as raw materials for its booming industries.

By 1936, militarists were in complete control of the Japanese government. Like the Nazis in Germany, Japanese militarists preached \_\_\_\_\_. The Japanese, they said, were superior to other Asians as well as non-Asians.

### **Military Aggression**

Italy, Germany, and Japan each followed policies of ruthless \_\_\_\_\_. Aggression is a warlike act by one country against another without cause.

**Japan Attacks China** In 1931, acting without the approval of Japan's elected government, the Japanese army seized \_\_\_\_\_ in northeastern China. The \_\_\_\_\_, which had been founded to halt aggression, protested but took no action.

After 1937, Japan stepped up its aggression in China. Japanese armies treated the Chinese brutally. For six weeks, Japanese forces pillaged the Chinese city of \_\_\_\_\_. In the assault, more than a quarter of a million civilians and prisoners of war were massacred.

**Italy Invades Ethiopia** In 1935, Mussolini's armies invaded the African country of \_\_\_\_\_. Though the Ethiopians fought bravely, their cavalry and outdated rifles were no match for Italy's modern \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Ethiopia's emperor, \_\_\_\_\_, appealed to the League of Nations for aid. However, the League responded weakly. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were weary of war and caught up in their own \_\_\_\_\_ crises. Without help, Ethiopia fell to the invaders.

**German Aggression** Hitler vowed to create an empire that united all German-speaking people, including those outside Germany. In defiance of the \_\_\_\_\_, he began to rebuild Germany's armed forces. He further defied the treaty by sending troops into the

\_\_\_\_\_ region of western Germany in 1936. Two years later, German armies occupied \_\_\_\_\_. As Hitler predicted, the \_\_\_\_\_ democracies did nothing to stop him.

Still, France and Britain protested when Hitler threatened to invade \_\_\_\_\_. In September 1938, European leaders met in the German city of Munich to ease the crisis. The leaders of France and Britain hoped to appease Hitler.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a policy of giving in to aggression in order to avoid war.

In the \_\_\_\_\_, Britain and France agreed to let the German leader occupy the \_\_\_\_\_, a portion of Czechoslovakia populated largely by people who spoke German. In return, Hitler promised he would seek no further territory.

The British prime minister, \_\_\_\_\_, returned from the Munich meeting announcing that he had won "\_\_\_\_\_." But only a few months later, in March 1939, Hitler occupied the remainder of Czechoslovakia.

### **American Neutrality**

As you have seen, after World War I, the United States returned to a policy of \_\_\_\_\_. As aggression threatened to bring the world to war again, Americans were determined to avoid getting involved.

**Neutrality Act** In 1935, Congress passed the \_\_\_\_\_. It was the first of several laws designed to keep the United States at peace. The Neutrality Act forbade the President from selling arms, making loans, or giving any other kind of assistance to any nation involved in war.

**Good Neighbor Policy** At the same time, the United States sought to strengthen ties to Latin America. In 1930, President \_\_\_\_\_ rejected the \_\_\_\_\_ to the Monroe Doctrine. The United States, he declared, no longer claimed the right to intervene in Latin American affairs.

Franklin Roosevelt went even further. Under what he called the \_\_\_\_\_, he withdrew American troops from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. He also cancelled the \_\_\_\_\_, which had limited the independence of Cuba.

### **War Begins in Europe**

Meanwhile, in Europe, \_\_\_\_\_ loomed as Hitler's next target. France and Britain now realized that the policy of appeasement had failed. They promised to come to Poland's aid if \_\_\_\_\_ invaded Poland.

**Invasion of Poland** In late August 1939, the world was shocked to learn that Hitler and Stalin—two sworn and bitter enemies—had signed a \_\_\_\_\_. In the \_\_\_\_\_, the two dictators promised not to attack one another's countries. Secretly, they agreed to divide up Poland.

On \_\_\_\_\_, Nazi troops invaded Poland. Sixteen days later, the Soviet Union seized eastern Poland. Stalin's forces also invaded \_\_\_\_\_ and later annexed Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia.

Two days after Hitler's invasion of Poland, Britain and France \_\_\_\_\_ on Germany. World War II had begun.

In the early days of the war, Hitler's armies seemed \_\_\_\_\_. In April 1940, they moved north, seizing Denmark and Norway. In May, they marched west to conquer the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Belgium. They then moved into \_\_\_\_\_.

**Fall of France** Britain sent troops to help France resist the assault. The British and French, however, were quickly overpowered. By May, the Germans had forced them to retreat to \_\_\_\_\_, a French port on the English Channel. In a bold action, the British sent every available ship and boat across the channel to rescue the trapped soldiers.

Unhindered, German armies entered France and marched on to \_\_\_\_\_, the French capital. On June 22, 1940, barely six weeks later, Hitler gleefully accepted the surrender of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Battle of Britain** Now, \_\_\_\_\_ stood alone against the \_\_\_\_\_ war machine. Few thought the island nation stood a chance. Still, \_\_\_\_\_, the British prime minister, expressed confidence:

“We shall defend our island whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches... we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender.”

—Winston Churchill, speech, June 4, 1940

Hitler ordered an air assault on Britain. Day after day, German planes attacked British cities. The raids took tens of thousands of lives, yet the British spirit never broke. By night, Londoners slept in subway stations. By day, they cleared the wreckage, buried the dead, and tried to carry on. Overhead, the British air force fought invading planes. The Battle of Britain continued through the summer and into the fall. By then, Hitler had abandoned all plans to invade \_\_\_\_\_.

**Invasion of the Soviet Union** On June 22, 1941, Hitler broke his pact with \_\_\_\_\_. A huge German force crossed into the \_\_\_\_\_. The Soviet Union, which had remained out of the early days of the war, now joined Britain in fighting the Germans. Although \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ deeply mistrusted each other, they were now forced to work together to defeat their common enemy.