The Causes of World War II

“World War I broke out largely because of an arms race, and World War II because of the lack of an arms race.”
What Caused World War II?

- The Rise of Totalitarianism
- Differing views
- The Treaty of Versailles
- Appeasement
Totalitarianism

• **Totalitarianism**: A form of government where the government holds total control over every aspect of society
  - Specific set of beliefs
  - A single political party led by a *dictator* (ruler with complete control)
  - System of terror that uses violence and secret police
  - Monopoly on weapons
  - Government control of the economy

• **Cause**: With most countries in the world in debt due to World War I, many European countries turned to new leaders
TOTALITARIANISM

- **Ideology**
  - sets goals of the state
  - glorifies aims of the state
  - justifies government actions

- **State Control of Individuals**
  - demands loyalty
  - denies basic liberties
  - expects personal sacrifice for the good of the state

- **Methods of Enforcement**
  - police terror
  - indoctrination
  - censorship
  - persecution

- **Dynamic Leader**
  - unites people
  - symbolizes government
  - encourages popular support through force of will

- **Dictatorship and One-Party Rule**
  - exercises absolute authority
  - dominates the government

- **State Control of Society**
  - business
  - labor
  - housing
  - education
  - religion
  - the arts
  - personal life
  - youth groups

- **Modern Technology**
  - mass communication to spread propaganda
  - advanced military weapons
The Rise of Totalitarianism

- Italy
- Germany
- Japan
- The Soviet Union
• Benito Mussolini
  o 1922 - 1945
  o **Fascism**: A governmental system led by a dictator who eliminates all opposition, controls business, and focuses on an extreme, racist form of patriotism
  o “Thirst for military glory”
  o Wanted to recreate the Roman Empire
  o Conquered Libya, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Albania
  o He overspent and left the military in shambles
  o Allied with Adolf Hitler to keep power in Italy
    • Rome-Berlin Axis (The Axis Powers)
  o Lost most power in 1943 and after Germany’s surrender in 1945, Mussolini was captured and murdered by his own people
Germany

• Adolf Hitler
  o 1932 – 1945
  o Leader of the National Socialist German Workers Party (Nazis) (believed in strong nationalism, pro-military, anti-Semitism)
    • Anti-Semitism: An intense dislike and prejudice against the Jewish people
    o Fascist leader who believed Jewish people threatened the Aryan race (blond hair, blue eyes, German born)
    o Took control of Germany through manipulation and deceit
    o Led Germany out of debt
    o Conquered Austria and Czechoslovakia
    o Made a peace treaty with the Soviet Union
    o Began World War II on September 1, 1939 by invading Poland
Japan

- Prime Minister Hideki Tojo
  - 1941-1944
  - Worked his way up in the Japanese military due to his “strict, uncompromising attention to detail”
  - Encouraged the 1937 attack on China
  - Encouraged alliances with Germany and Italy
  - Encouraged an aggressive search for resources
  - Approved attacks on the United States (Pearl Harbor) and Great Britain
  - Never had complete control like Hitler and Mussolini and was forced from office in 1944
  - Put on trial and hanged in 1948 as a war criminal
The Soviet Union

• Joseph Stalin
  o 1929 – 1953
  o Transformed the Soviet Union (modern day Russia) from a peasant society into a military and economic world power
  o Ruled by terror
  o Sent anyone who opposed him to labor camps
  o Millions of his own people died during his reign
  o Conquered parts of Poland, Romania, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania
  o After Hitler betrayed their “nonaggression pact”, he allied with the Allies (the United States and Great Britain)
  o Used “scorched earth” tactics (destroying any of his country’s own supplies/buildings that might benefit the enemy)
Mussolini
Hitler
Tojo
Stalin
Activity: Totalitarianism

Small groups will research one of the four countries ruled by dictators and create a visual/written display of the following information:

- Who was the ruler?
- How did he come into power?
- What were his political/societal/religious beliefs?
- What military acts did he lead?
- How did he treat his own people?
- What successes did he have?
- What failures did he have?
- Who were his closest supporters/allies?
- What led to his downfall?
Today...

For every answer to a question or high quality question asked, you will earn a piece of candy.

Do not eat the candy until I give you permission; the goal is to earn as MANY pieces as possible.
Differing Views

Dictatorship
A form of government where political authority is controlled by a single person

Democracy
A form of government where political authority is controlled by the people through elections
## Differing Views

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capitalism</th>
<th>Socialism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An economic system in which a country’s industry/trade is controlled by private owners for profit (free market!)</td>
<td>An economic system in which a country’s industry/trade is controlled by “social ownership”, typically by the state (the government)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In other words: People earn their own money, keep their own money, and spend their own money. In other words: The government determines what jobs exist and how much money each job pays.
Socialism

Goods go back to workers
Goods are owned by gov.

Government

workers

Factory (means of production)

dictates

determines

wants, needs, resources, people, competition
Capitalism

Support
“A free market system allows all parties to compete, which ensures the best and most competitive project emerges and ensures a fair, democratic process.”

Opposition
“Capitalism is an organized system to guarantee that greed becomes the primary force of our economic system and allows the few at the top to get very wealthy and has the rest of us riding around thinking we can be that way, too - if we just work hard enough, sell enough Tupperware and Amway products, we can get a pink Cadillac.”
Socialism

Support
“More socialism means more democracy, openness and collectivism in everyday life.”

Opposition
“The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other peoples' money.”
<table>
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<th>Socialism</th>
<th>Communism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The government controls all business and determines where all money goes</td>
<td>An extreme form of socialism where everyone receives the same amount of everything regardless of his/her contributions to society</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Difference

• Capitalism: The government doesn’t collect taxes and has no control over businesses; everyone keeps what they earn; the poor, lazy, uneducated, elderly, etc. are left to fend for themselves
  o No redistribution of wealth

• Socialism: The government collects a high amount of taxes and controls every business; the wealthier you are, the more you pay in taxes; the government uses that money to continue to control businesses and gives some of that tax money to those in need
  o Some redistribution of wealth

• Communism: The government collects a high amount of taxes and controls every business; the government uses that money to continue to control businesses and equally gives money to its people; every person receives the same amount
  o Equal redistribution of wealth
Activity: Capitalism, Socialism, and Communism

• Students will read about capitalism, socialism, and communism and determine the pros/cons of each
The Treaty of Versailles

- The Treaty of Versailles ended World War I
- It said:
  - Germany must take 100% blame for the war
  - Germany must agree to the treaty or face continued war
  - Germany would lose 25,000 square miles of land (7 million people!)
  - Germany would lose ALL of its colonies
  - Germany was limited to 100,000 men in the military, had to hand over much of its naval forces, and could not have an air force
  - Germany had to pay $55 billion to the Allied Powers
WE GIVE YOU UNTIL MONDAY MARCH 7 TO DECIDE ON OUR TERMS.

P.S. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE WON THE WAR!
Activity: The Impact of the Treaty of Versailles

• For each part of the Treaty of Versailles, discuss and brainstorm the potential outcome

1. Germany must take 100% blame for the war
2. Germany must agree to the treaty or face continued war
3. Germany would lose 25,000 square miles of land (7 million people!)
4. Germany would lose ALL of its colonies
5. Germany was limited to 100,000 men in the military, had to hand over much of its naval forces, and could not have an air force
6. Germany had to pay $5 billion to the Allied Powers
# The Decline of Germany

## Cause

1. Germany must take 100% blame for the war
2. Germany must agree to the treaty or face continued war
3. Germany would lose 25,000 square miles of land (7 million people!)
4. Germany would lose ALL of its colonies
5. Germany was limited to 100,000 men in the military, had to hand over much of its naval forces, and could not have an air force
6. Germany had to pay $5 billion to the Allied Powers

## Effect

1. German resentment for Allied Powers (France, Great Britain, United States)
2. German resentment for Allied Powers (France, Great Britain, United States)
3. Loss of power, people, and money
4. Loss of power, people, and money
5. Loss of military power and national pride
6. Debt, depression, hyperinflation
Main Effect

The treaty became a rallying cry for the German people

“So long as this Treaty stands there can be no resurrection of the German people; no social reform of any kind is possible! The Treaty was made in order to bring 20 million Germans to their deaths and to ruin the German nation.” – Adolf Hitler
Appeasement

Because the major European powers wanted to avoid another major war, they did everything they could to appease Hitler

- Appease: to keep someone happy by accepting their demands
- France and Britain allowed Hitler to take over part of Czechoslovakia if he promised not to expand his territory
- France and Britain did nothing when Hitler broke their agreement by taking over Austria and the rest of Czechoslovakia
- This allowed Hitler to expand the German empire with almost no resistance

“My good friends, for the second time in our history, a British Prime Minister has returned from Germany bringing peace with honor. I believe it is peace for our time. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Go home and get a nice quiet sleep.” – British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, less than one year before World War II began
World War II Begins

- On September 1, 1939, the Nazis invaded Poland
- Great Britain and France declared war on Germany
- World War II began