

***Chapter 17***

***World War II: The Road to War  
(1931–1941)***

# ***America: Pathways to the Present***

## ***Chapter 17: World War II: The Road to War***

### ***Section 1: The Rise of Dictators***

### ***Section 2: Europe Goes to War***

### ***Section 3: Japan Builds an Empire***

### ***Section 4: From Isolationism to War***

# ***The Rise of Dictators***

PRENTICE HALL

## **Chapter 17, Section 1**

- **How did Stalin change the government and the economy of the Soviet Union?**
- **What were the origins and goals of Italy's fascist government?**
- **How did Hitler rise to power in Germany and Europe in the 1930s?**
- **What were the causes and results of the Spanish Civil War?**



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# ***Totalitarian Rulers in Europe***

PRENTICE HALL

## Chapter 17, Section 1

- During the 1930s, **totalitarian** governments gained power in Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union. These governments exerted total control over a nation, using terror to suppress individual rights and silence all opposition.
- Adolf Hitler in Germany and Benito Mussolini in Italy ruled their totalitarian states with a philosophy called **fascism**. Fascism emphasizes the importance of the nation or an ethnic group and the supreme authority of a leader.



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# Stalin's Soviet Union

PRENTICE HALL

## Chapter 17, Section 1

### Stalin's Economic Plans

- Stalin's state takeover of farmland resulted in a dramatic fall in agricultural production as well as mass starvation.
- Stalin poured money and labor into industrialization rather than basic necessities such as housing and clothing.
- Due to Stalin's policies, the Soviet Union soon became a modern industrial power, although one with a low standard of living.

### Stalin's Reign of Terror

- To eliminate opposition, Stalin began a series of **purges**, the removal of enemies and undesirable individuals from positions of power.
- Stalin's purges extended to all levels of society. Millions were either executed or sent to forced labor camps.
- Nearly all of those purged by Stalin were innocent. However, these purges successfully eliminated all threats to Stalin's power.



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# ***Fascism in Italy***

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## **Chapter 17, Section 1**

- **Benito Mussolini gained power in Italy both by advocating the popular idea of Italian conquest in East Africa and by terrorizing those who opposed him.**
- **Once appointed prime minister by the king, Mussolini, calling himself Il Duce, suspended elections, outlawed other political parties, and established a dictatorship.**
- **Mussolini's rule improved the ailing Italian economy. Under Mussolini, the Italian army successfully conquered the African nation of Ethiopia in May 1936.**



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# Hitler's Rise to Power

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## Chapter 17, Section 1

### Hitler's Rise to Power 1919–1934

- **Hitler's Background:** Adolf Hitler, an Austrian painter, hated the way the Versailles Treaty humiliated Germany and stripped it of its wealth and land.
- **The Nazi Party:** Hitler joined and soon led the Nazi Party in Germany. **Nazism**, the philosophies and policies of this party, was a form of fascism shaped by Hitler's fanatical ideas about German nationalism and racial superiority.
- **Mein Kampf:** While imprisoned for trying to take over the government in November 1923, Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf* ("My Struggle"). In this book, he proposed that Germany defy the Versailles Treaty by rearming and reclaiming lost land. He also blamed minority groups, especially Jews, for Germany's weaknesses.
- **Hitler Becomes Chancellor:** Between 1930 and 1934, the Nazi Party gained a majority in the *Reichstag*, the lower house of the German parliament. Hitler became first chancellor and then president of Germany. He moved to suppress many German freedoms and gave himself the title *Der Führer*, or "the leader."



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# Germany Rearms and Expands

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## Chapter 17, Section 1

- To boost the German economy and to prepare for territorial expansion, the Nazi Party began spending money on rearming Germany.
- On March 7, 1936, German troops entered the Rhineland, a region in western Germany that the Versailles Treaty explicitly banned them from occupying. However, neither Britain nor France took any action.
- Also in 1936, Hitler and Mussolini signed an agreement, beginning an alliance between the two nations. Germany, Italy, and later Japan, became known as the **Axis Powers**.
- In March 1938, Germany took over Austria. Several months later, Hitler demanded the Sudetenland, a region of Czechoslovakia. Following the policy of **appeasement**, or giving into a competitor's demands in order to keep the peace, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain agreed to allow Hitler to occupy the Sudetenland.



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# ***The Spanish Civil War***

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## **Chapter 17, Section 1**

- **In 1936, military rebels in Spain led by General Francisco Franco attempted to take over the Spanish government. These rebels became known as the Nationalists.**
- **The resulting struggle between the ruling Republicans and the rebelling Nationalists led Spain into a civil war.**
- **Germany and Italy supported the Nationalists, while the Soviet Union supported the Republicans.**
- **In March 1939, the Nationalist army took over the Spanish capital of Madrid and ended the civil war, making Franco the ruler of Spain.**



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# ***The Rise of Dictators—Assessment***

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## **Chapter 17, Section 1**

**Which of the following describes one way in which the policies of Hitler and Mussolini were similar?**

- (A) Both were allies of Britain and France.**
- (B) Both believed in freedom of speech.**
- (C) Both wanted to expand their nations' territory.**
- (D) Both thought the treaty of Versailles humiliated Germany.**

**Which of these best describes appeasement?**

- (A) Rebelling against a government**
- (B) Industrializing a rural economy**
- (C) Giving into a competitor's demands in order to avoid war**
- (D) Rearming a nation in anticipation of expansion**

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# ***The Rise of Dictators—Assessment***

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# ***Europe Goes to War***

PRENTICE HALL

## **Chapter 17, Section 2**

- **How did the German invasion of Poland lead to war with Britain and France?**
- **What wartime victories and setbacks did Germany experience in western Europe?**
- **Why was the Battle of Britain an important victory for Britain?**



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# ***Invasion of Poland***

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## Chapter 17, Section 2

- After Hitler invaded other parts of Czechoslovakia, Britain and France ended their policy of appeasement. They warned Hitler that an invasion of Poland would mean war.
- Hitler, however, had stopped believing Britain and France. On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France declared war on Germany two days later.
- Germany quickly overran Poland using a new military tactic called **blitzkrieg**, or “lightening war.” Blitzkrieg tactics involved a fast, concentrated attack that took the enemy by surprise.
- To avoid war on two fronts, Germany signed a nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union. In a secret addition to this pact, the two nations agreed to divide between them the independent states of Eastern Europe.



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# War in the West

PRENTICE HALL

## Chapter 17, Section 2

### Early Stages of War in the West

- **“Phony War” and the Maginot Line:** After Poland fell, the war entered a quiet period. The American press called this lack of combat a “phony war.” France prepared a massive string of fortifications, known as the Maginot Line, along its border with Germany.
- **Germany Attacks:** In April and May 1940, Germany attacked and quickly conquered Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg.
- **Dunkirk:** When Germany advanced on France, British and French forces retreated to the French coastal city of Dunkirk. From there, hundreds of thousands of soldiers were ferried to Great Britain in one of the greatest rescues in the history of warfare.



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# ***The Fall of France***

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## Chapter 17, Section 2

- On June 22, 1940, France officially surrendered to Germany.
- In accordance with the surrender terms, Germany occupied most of France, while the French government controlled an area known as Vichy France in the south. Vichy France adopted a policy of **collaboration**, or close cooperation, with Germany.
- A French **Resistance** movement, supported by the Free French government in exile in Britain, sought to undermine German occupation.
- By the summer of 1940, Hitler had conquered most of Western Europe and seemed on the verge of conquering the **Allies**, the group of countries that opposed the Axis Powers. Britain alone stood against the Axis.



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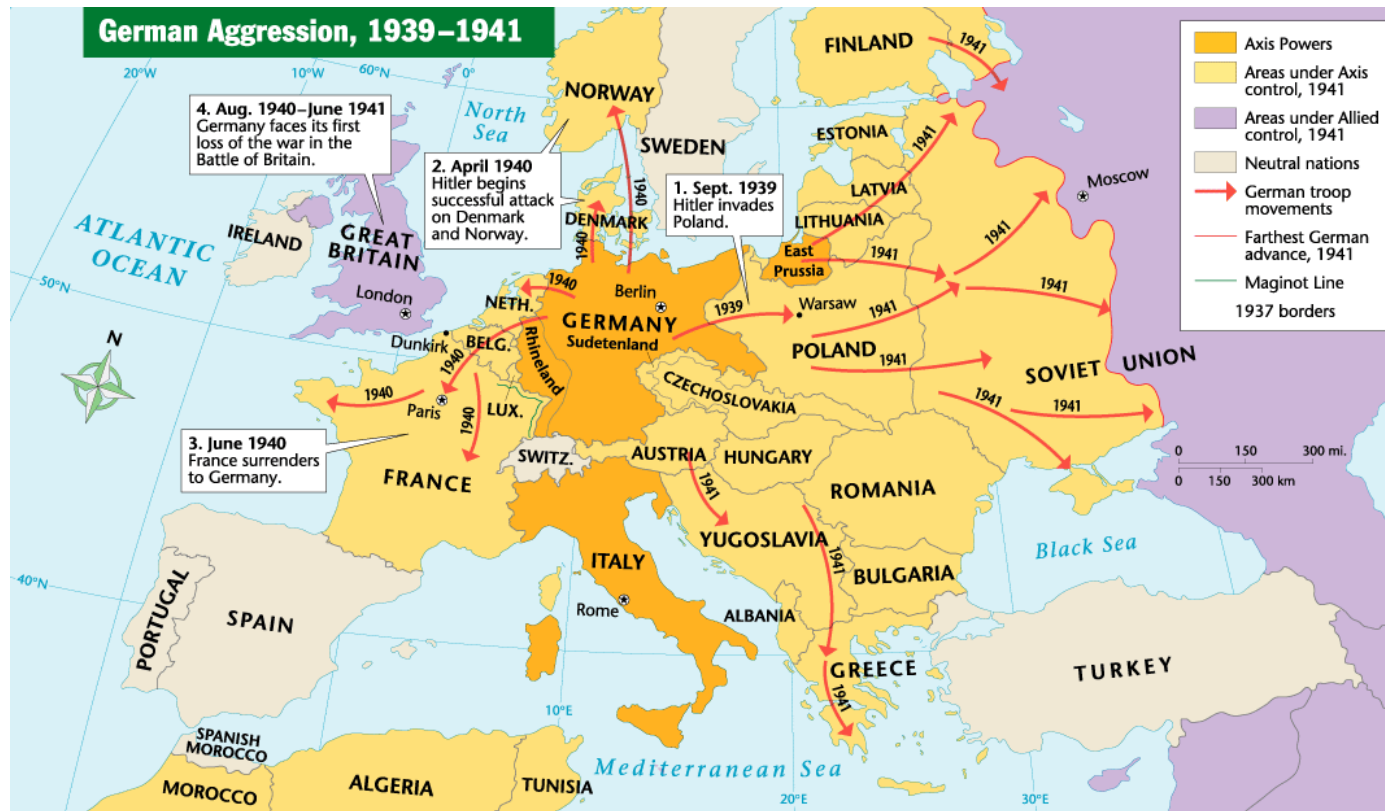


# German Aggression

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## Chapter 17, Section 2

Between 1939 and 1941, Germany invaded and conquered much of Europe.



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# ***The Battle of Britain***

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## **Chapter 17, Section 2**

### **Relentless Attack**

- Before attempting to invade Great Britain, Germany wanted to establish superiority in the air.
- In August 1940, Germany launched an air assault on Britain, called the Battle of Britain, which continued well into September.
- At first, Germany only attacked British military sites. However, it later began bombing London and other cities to decrease British morale.

### **Courageous Defense**

- Although greatly outnumbered, Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) worked to shoot down German bombers.
- Despite massive losses, the British people kept their will to fight.
- By February 1940, British scientists cracked the German secret communication code. This enabled Britain to get a general idea of Hitler's battle plans.



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# ***Europe Goes to War—Assessment***

PRENTICE HALL

## **Chapter 17, Section 2**

**How did Britain and France react to Hitler's invasion of Poland?**

- (A) They declared war on Germany.**
- (B) They continued their policy of appeasement.**
- (C) They signed a nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union.**
- (D) They surrendered to Germany.**

**Why was the Battle of Britain considered a victory for Great Britain?**

- (A) It gave Britain control of Denmark and Norway.**
- (B) It resulted in very little damage to London.**
- (C) It failed to decrease British morale.**
- (D) It helped the French Resistance reconquer France.**

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# Europe Goes to War—Assessment

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## Chapter 17, Section 2

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# ***Japan Builds an Empire***

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## **Chapter 17, Section 3**

- **What were the causes and effects of Japan's growing military power?**
- **Why was the Manchurian Incident a turning point for Japan's civilian government?**
- **What was the initial outcome of Japan's war against China?**
- **Why did Japan look beyond China for future expansion?**



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# ***Growing Military Power***

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## **Chapter 17, Section 3**

### **Democracy in Crisis**

- After World War I, Japan had established a parliamentary government and granted many citizens the right to vote.
- When economic conditions worsened during the 1930s, many Japanese became dissatisfied with multiparty democratic government.

### **Rise of Nationalism**

- Several radical groups formed in response to the government's perceived weaknesses.
- Radicals demanded an end to Western-style institutions and a return to traditional ways.
- These radicals assassinated several business and political leaders, hoping to force the military to take over the government.



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# ***The Manchurian Incident***

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## Chapter 17, Section 3

- By 1930, Japan lacked the land and raw materials to care for its growing population. Many Japanese saw the acquisition of neighboring Manchuria as a solution to these problems.
- In September 1931, a Japanese army stationed in Manchuria captured several cities. By February 1932, the army had seized all of Manchuria. This seizure came to be known as the **Manchurian Incident**.
- Japan set up Manchuria as a **puppet state**, or a supposedly independent country under the control of a powerful neighbor.
- After the Manchurian Incident, the military took a much stronger hand in governing Japan, especially in the area of foreign policy.



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# Looking Beyond China

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## Chapter 17, Section 3

### Greater East Asia

- Co-Prosperity Sphere
- In 1940, Japan announced a **Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere**, to be led by the Japanese, extending from Manchuria to the Dutch East Indies.
- Japan declared that this move would liberate Asia from European colonization. However, the real reason was Japan's additional need for natural resources.

### Alliances and Further Expansion

- In September 1940, Japan allied itself with Germany and Italy through the Tripartite Pact.
- Japan began to expand into French Indonesia and the oil-rich Dutch East Indies.
- In April 1941, Japan signed a neutrality pact with the Soviet Union.



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# ***War Against China***

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## Chapter 17, Section 3

- In July 1937, Japan resumed its invasion of China. Although China had more manpower than Japan, Japan's superior weapons allowed it to win control of major Chinese cities.
- The United States and other nations condemned Japan's actions. The United States remained neutral, but the Soviet Union sent war equipment and military advisors to China. Later, Britain sent supplies to the Chinese over the **Burma Road**, a highway linking Burma to China.
- Battling political groups in China put aside their differences to fight the Japanese. While Japanese troops controlled the cities, Chinese guerrillas dominated the countryside. The war had reached a stalemate by 1939.



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# Japanese Aggression

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## Chapter 17, Section 3

Japan's gradual expansion in Asia led to war with China in 1937.



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# ***Japan Builds an Empire—Assessment***

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## **Chapter 17, Section 3**

**Why did the Japanese military take over Manchuria in 1931?**

- (A) Because Germany and Italy requested that they do so**
- (B) To gain land and raw materials for Japan**
- (C) To expand the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere**
- (D) Because Chinese manpower outnumbered the Japanese forces**

**What was the American response to Japanese expansion?**

- (A) America condemned Japan but remained neutral.**
- (B) America sent supplies to Japan over the Burma Road.**
- (C) America encouraged Japan to gain more territory.**
- (D) America supported Japan's democratic government.**

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# ***Japan Builds an Empire—Assessment***

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# ***From Isolationism to War***

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## **Chapter 17, Section 4**

- **Why did the United States choose neutrality in the 1930s?**
- **How did American involvement in the European conflict grow from 1939 to 1941?**
- **Why did Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor lead the United States to declare war?**



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# ***From Isolationism to War***

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## Chapter 17, Section 4

- Rather than addressing foreign concerns, President Roosevelt focused on domestic issues surrounding the Great Depression during the 1930s.
- Congress further prevented international involvement by passing a series of **Neutrality Acts**.
  - The first Neutrality Act prevented the United States from providing weapons to nations at war.
  - The second act banned loans to nations at war.
  - The third act permitted trade of nonmilitary goods with fighting nations, as long as those nations paid cash and transported the cargo themselves. This policy became known as **cash and carry**.
- The Neutrality Acts prevented the United States from selling arms even to those nations that were trying to defend themselves from aggression.



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# American Involvement Grows

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## Chapter 17, Section 4

### Debating the American Role

- After the German invasion of Poland, many Americans began to feel that the United States shared the Allies' interests.
- Roosevelt asked Congress to revise the Neutrality Acts to make them more flexible.
- Isolationists formed the **America First Committee** to protest increasing American aid to Britain.

### The Lend-Lease Act

- In December 1940, Britain confessed its inability to pay cash for supplies.
- In response, Roosevelt announced a new plan to provide war supplies to Britain without any payment in return.
- Despite protest from the America First Committee, Congress passed the **Lend-Lease Act** in March 1941. This act authorized the President to aid any nation whose defense he believed was vital to American security.



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# ***Japan Attacks Pearl Harbor***

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Chapter 17, Section 4

## **Final Months of Peace**

- In July 1940, Roosevelt began limiting what Japan could buy from the United States.
- General Tojo Hideki, a militant army officer who supported war against the United States, became prime minister of Japan in October 1941.
- Because they had cracked a top-secret Japanese code, American military leaders knew by November 27 to expect a Japanese attack in the Pacific. However, they did not know where.

## **The Attack**

- On the morning of December 7, 1941, Japanese warplanes attacked the American naval base at Pearl Harbor on the Hawaiian island of Oahu.
- In less than two hours, thousands of Americans were killed and wounded, and hundreds of American ships and planes were destroyed.



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# ***United States Declares War***

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## **Chapter 17, Section 4**

- **The attack on Pearl Harbor stunned Americans. Roosevelt declared December 7, 1941 as “a date which will live in infamy.”**
- **On December 8, Congress passed a war resolution, and Roosevelt signed a declaration of war on Japan.**
- **On December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. America was once again involved in a world war.**



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# ***From Isolationism to War—Assessment***

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## **Chapter 17, Section 4**

**Which of the following did the Lend-Lease Act provide?**

- (A) Trade in nonmilitary goods to fighting nations**
- (B) An end to loans to nations at war**
- (C) Aid to nations deemed vital to American security**
- (D) Sale of weapons to nations at war**

**What did the America First Committee advocate?**

- (A) More American aid to Britain**
- (B) Less American aid to Britain**
- (C) More American spending on the military**
- (D) Less American spending on the military**

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# ***From Isolationism to War—Assessment***

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