

# WWII Day 1: The Start of the War

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# Underlying causes of WWII



## 1. Treaty of Versailles

A. Germany lost land to surrounding nations

B. War Reparations

1) Allies collect \$ to pay back war debts to U.S.

2) Germany must pay \$57 trillion (modern equivalent)

3) Bankrupted the German economy & embarrassed Germans

Lloyd George, Georges Clemenceau, and Woodrow Wilson during negotiations for the Treaty

# Underlying causes of WWII



1923 - Wallpapering with German  
Deutschmarks

## 2. World-wide Depression

A. The Depression made Germany's debt even worse

B. Desperate people turn to desperate leaders

1) Hitler seemed to provide solutions to Germany's problems

# Underlying causes of WWII



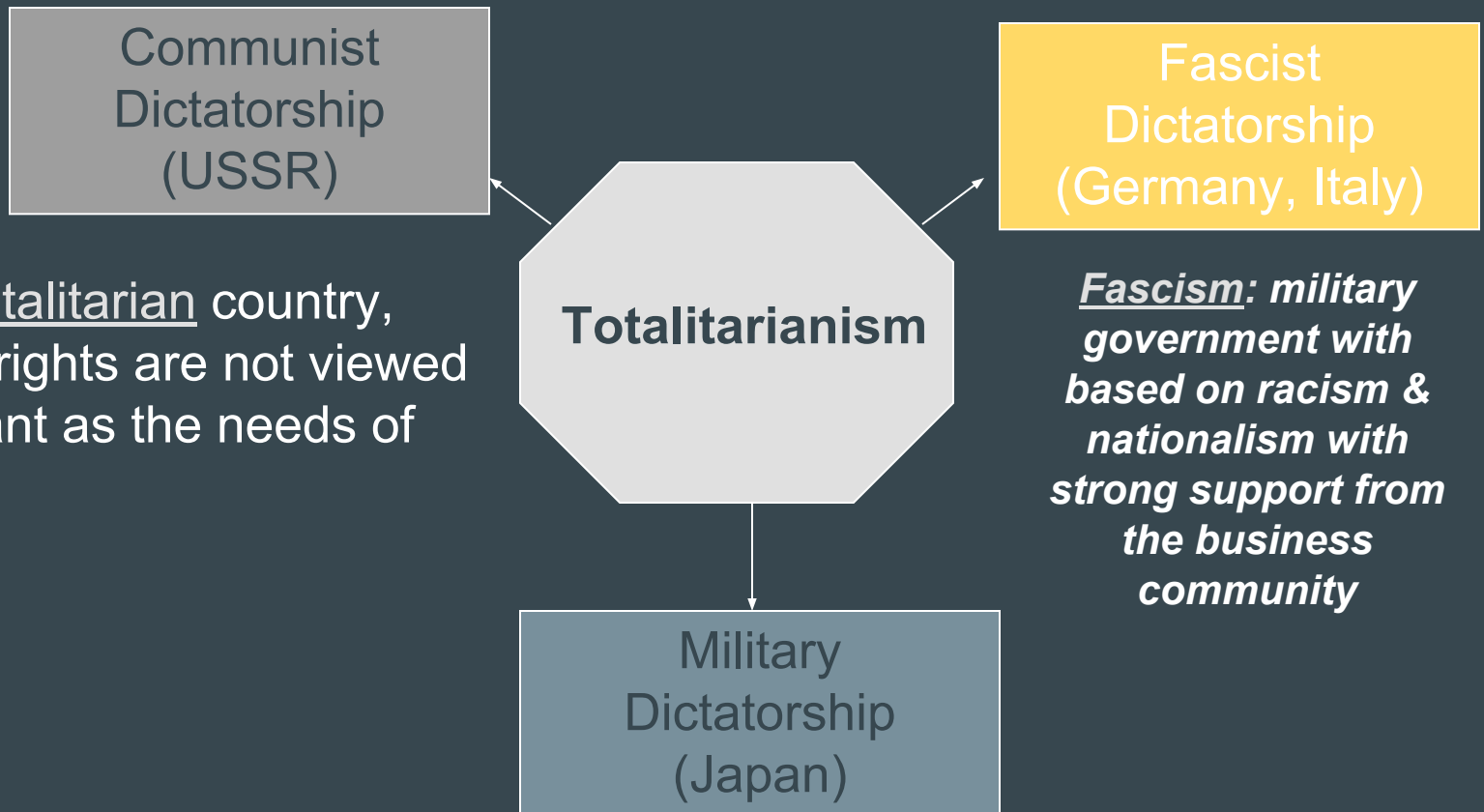
## 2. World-wide Depression

2) Hitler provided **scapegoats** for Germany's problems (foreigners, Jews, communists, Roma (Gypsies), mentally ill, homosexuals)

3) **Kristallnacht** - vandalism & destruction of Jewish property & synagogues

# Underlying causes of WWII

## 3. Rise of Totalitarian Regimes



A. In a Totalitarian country, individual rights are not viewed as important as the needs of the nation

# Underlying causes of WWII

## 4. Isolationism of Major Powers

### A. Why was the U.S. Isolationist?

1. Great Depression (problems at home)

2. Perceptions of WWI

a. WWI did not seem to solve much

b. People began to think that we'd got into WWI for the wrong reasons (greedy American businessmen!)

# Underlying causes of WWII

## 4. Isolationism of Major Powers

### 3. Opposition to war (Pacifism)

a. **Washington Conference** -  
Limits on size of country's navies

b. **Kellogg-Briand pact** -  
condemned war as a way to solving  
conflicts

# Underlying causes of WWII

## 4. Isolationism of Major Powers

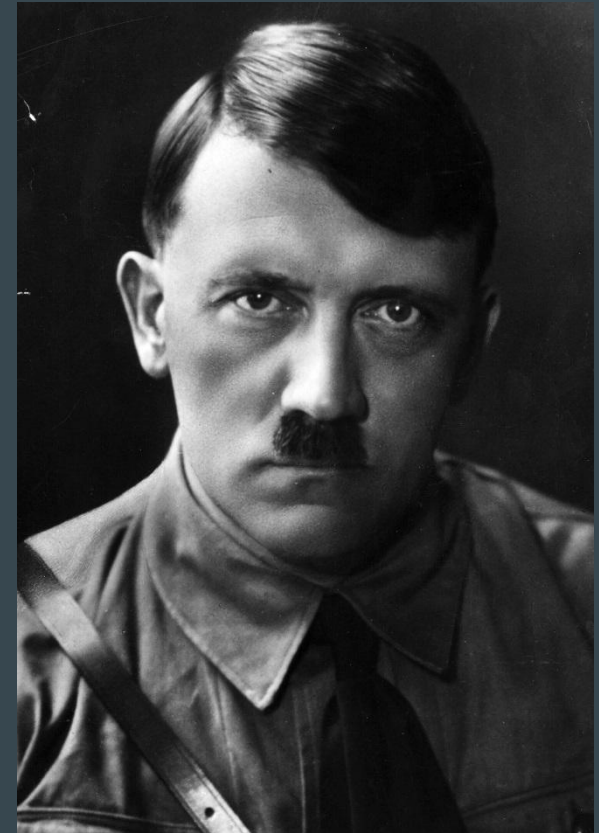
B. This led to policies of “Appeasement”

1. Appeasement: give dictators what they want and hope that they won't want anything else

2. Begins with Japanese invasion of Manchuria, Italian invasion of Ethiopia, and continues with Hitler . . .



# How Hitler Came to Power Video Response



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFICRFKtAc4>

# 14 Characteristics of a Fascist

1. Powerful and Continuing Nationalism
2. Disdain for the Recognition of Human Rights
3. Identification of Enemies/Scapegoats as a Unifying Cause
4. Supremacy of the Military
5. Rampant Sexism
6. Controlled Mass Media
  - a. Gaslighting, propaganda
7. Obsession with National Security
  - a. Fear is used as a motivational tool by the government over the masses.
8. Religion and Government are Intertwined

# 14 Characteristics of a Fascist

9. Corporate Power is Protected
10. Labor Power is Suppressed
11. Disdain for Intellectuals and the Arts
  - a. Nazis burn thousands of books written by Jews, nonwhites and women
12. Obsession with Crime and Punishment
  - a. Holocaust
13. Rampant Corruption
14. Fraudulent Elections

# So What Was Hitler Asking For?



Return of German Speaking  
Lands - “Lebensraum”

German Troops Parade in Streets of  
Czechoslovakian Town, ca. 1939

# Aggression in Europe

- Germany remilitarizes and sends troops to the Rhineland
  - French territory between France and Germany that belong to Germany before WWI

# Aggression in Europe

- 1938 -Germans march into Austria
- Wanted to invade because the “master race” needed more lebensraum or “living space”
- Austria and Czechoslovakia had German speaking population because of lines drawn in the Treaty of Versailles

# Rhineland



# Bargaining for the Sudetenland

- At the end of WWI, the Sudetenland (a region between Germany and Czechoslovakia that German speakers inhabited) became a part of Czechoslovakia.
- France and Britain promise to protect Sudetenland from German invasion
  - Treaty of Versailles set up the League of Nations to police international aggression



# Sudetenland



Sudetenland

# Munich Pact

- British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain and the French Premier agree to turn the Sudetenland over to Germany as long as Hitler promises that it is his last act of aggression
- This is appeasement- giving up principles to please an aggressor.
- Winston Churchill opposed the Munich Pact because he believed it encouraged Hitler's aggression
- *“Britain and France had to choose between war and dishonor. They chose dishonor. They will have war.”- Winston Churchill*

# The German Offensive Begins

- Contrary to his promise, Hitler was not finished expanding Germany's territory.
- Like Czechoslovakia, Poland had a large German speaking population.
- Hitler claims German's are being mistreated by Poles to justify invading Poland
- Hitler is worried about a Soviet counterattack

# Non-aggression Pact

- Stalin decides he has more to lose than gain in going to war with Germany
- On August 23, 1939 the Soviet Union and Germany sign a non-aggression pact agreeing not to fight with each other
- They also sign a second secret pact to divide Poland between them after Germany invades

# Invasion of Poland

- Germans use the war tactic of Blitzkrieg, or “lightning war” that takes enemy by surprise
- Invasion of Poland started WWII
- Allied Powers: Great Britain and France (later the Soviet Union and USA will join)
- Axis Powers: Germany, Italy and Japan

# France Falls

- June 1940- France falls to Hitler
- Germans would occupy the northern part of France and a Nazi-controlled puppet government would be set up in Vichy in southern France
- After France falls, a French general named Charles de Gaulle fled to England to set up a “government-in-exile”