

United States History

Chapter 19 – Day 1

A World in Flames 1931-1941

Section 1 America and the World

- Rise of Dictators—Benito Mussolini founded Italy's Fascist Party
- Mid 1920s Mussolini backed by Fascist Militia and with the support of landowners, industrialists, and the Catholic Church became the dictator of Italy
- 1926 Joseph Stalin became the new Soviet dictator and began a massive effort to industrialize his country killed 8-10 million who resisted Communist Policies
- Adolf Hitler angry at the way Germany was treated joined the Nazi Party. After a failed attempt in 1923 to take Berlin he was imprisoned. He wrote *Mein Kampf* calling for unification of all Germans under one gov't. He believed Slavic Eastern Europeans were inferior but he blamed the Jews for the world's problems.
- Many believed if they helped Hitler get power legally they could control him. 1933 they appointed Hitler as Prime Minister. He called for a new election and with intimidation was given dictatorial power.
- Japan was struggling economically. Japan's military blamed their problems on corrupt politicians. Military invaded Manchuria, China. When Japanese Prime Minister began negotiations to end the war he was assassinated and military took control.
- 1936 General Francisco Franco started a civil war in Spain. He was backed by Fascists and got help from Soviet Union, Germany, & Italy. Hitler, Mussolini and Japan signed alliance becoming the Axis Powers.

Section 2 World War II Begins

- 1940 Germany rebuilt army, Hitler was bent on conquest.
- European leaders did not try to stop him, but tried to buy peace (appeasement).
- Hitler attacked Rhineland 1936, annexed Austria 1938, and wanted Sudentland from Czech. To prevent war Great Britain, France, Italy and Germany met in Munich Sept. 1938 and gave him Sudentland. 6 months later he took all of Czech. Hitler demanded access through the Polish Corridor to unite with East Prussia. Britain and France realize appeasement will not work promise to help Poland. Aug 23, 1939 Germany & USSR sign a non-aggression pact and agree to split Poland
- Sept. 1, 1939 Germany & Soviets invade Poland. Sept. 3, Great Britain, France declare war on Germany and WWII begins.
- Germans use blitzkrieg warfare (lighting war)
- Oct. 5, 1939 Poland falls
- After WWI, France fortified the Maginot Line to prevent Germany invasion