

World War II

Causes of WWII

The Crash of '29

nine year bull market (1921-29) all time record at the time

aftereffects of WWI

overproduction and underconsumption

as Europe recovers, supply rises, demand falls

farming is hardest hit industry

Thursday, October 24, 1929 "Black Thursday"

Market begins freefall after up and down summer

loses 50% in a day, 90% within two years

Banks fail

massive investments in market

even good banks destroyed by rumors

Cycle of Depression

consumers lose money

consumers spend less money

businesses see profits reduced

businesses lay off employees

consumers lose money

unemployment rises dramatically

1931

United States at 25%

Germany at 40%

defaults on war reparations

government close to collapse

Smoot-Hawley tariff act

US tries to protect markets through heavy tariffs

isolationism makes matters worse

Roosevelt responds with New Deal

Many democracies in Europe fail

Rise of Fascism

Fascism - autocratic, nationalistic, totalitarian, class stratified state

Benito Mussolini

newspaper editor

Italian leaders feared communism

Mussolini promised renewed glory

Mediterranean an "Italian lake"

recalls Roman empire

Blackshirts

Mussolini's gang beat up communists and socialists

Mussolini wants to be included in government

King Victor Emmanuel II chooses the lesser of two evils

Oct 24, 1922 - Mussolini named Prime Minister

outlawed all political parties except fascists

- secret police jailed dissidents
- censored media
- state corporations ran the economy
 - “made Italian trains run on time”
- takes title of “IL Duce”

Adolf Hitler

- Born in Vienna, Austria
- failed to get into Vienna Academy of Fine Arts
- served as a corporal in WWI
- angered by Treaty of Versailles
 - blames Jews and Weimar Republic
- joins National Socialist German Workers Party
 - later known as Nazi party
 - quickly rose to leadership role
 - powerful orator and motivator
 - Stormtroopers
 - Hitler’s version of the Blackshirts
- 1922- Munich Beer Hall Putsch
 - Nazi’s failed attempt to overthrow government
 - Hitler jailed for six months
 - reaches million with showcase trial
 - uses jail time to write Mein Kampf - “My Struggle”
 - when released Germany had stabilized
- Great Depression gives Nazi’s opportunity
- make large gains in 1932 Reichstag elections
 - Junkers support Nazis
 - fear communists
 - believe they can control Hitler
- Jan 30, 1933 - Von Hindenberg names Hitler chancellor
 - Hindenberg is in very poor health
 - forces Hindenberg’s resignation
 - Holds elections for the Reichstag
 - Reichstag fire
 - Nazi’s give Hitler total control
- June 30, 1934 - Night of the Long knives
 - SS - elite military unit
 - Gestapo - secret police
 - over one thousand political enemies assassinated
- Hitler solves unemployment through military production
 - carefully uses loopholes in Treaty of Versailles
- Nazi Propaganda
 - Joseph Goebbels
 - controls all mass media, promotes Nazi’s
 - reinforces myths about German nationalism, enemies
 - “if you repeat a lie often enough, people will believe it”
- Nazi’s begin to persecute Jews

Nuremberg laws - 1935

- eliminates Jew's right to citizenship
- limits job occupations
- anti-Semitism
- some Jews flee to America/Middle East
 - Albert Einstein
 - most are stuck in Germany

Kristallnacht

- Nov 9-10, 1938 Nazi's destroy Jewish temples, business', homes
- Hitler uses excuses to move Jews into concentration camps

Japan

1931 - Japan seizes Manchuria

- cult of the emperor
 - Japanese blindly worship their emperor
- allows for military takeover
 - to give honor to the emperor
 - civilian government still exists

League of Nations fails to respond

- armed aggression
 - take something because they want to and can

1933 - Japan withdraws from League

1937 - Japan invades mainland China

Appeasement

1935 - Mussolini invades Ethiopia

- League of Nations again fails to act

March, 1935 - Hitler announces Germany will no longer obey Treaty

- Britain feels sympathetic and doesn't support France
- Germany begins to massively rearm military

March 7, 1936 - Germany reoccupies the Rhineland

July, 1936 - Spain breaks into civil war

Francisco Franco

- Fascist general opposes Spain's legitimate government

Germany and Italy send forces

- Britain and France fail to respond

October 1936 - Germany and Italy sign Axis agreement

March, 1938 - Germany annexes Austria

Munich Conference - Sept 1938

Hitler demands Czechoslovakia

Neville Chamberlain meets with Hitler

- gives Sudetenland to Germany for pledge of peace

Hitler seizes remainder of Czechoslovakia six months later

Poland

Britain and France guarantee security after Czechoslovakia

August, 1939 - German and Soviet non-aggression pact signed

Sept 1, 1939 - Germany invades Poland

- blitzkrieg - "lightning war"

Britain and France declare war on Germany
mid September - Soviets invade Poland

USSR takes Finland

Germany occupies Denmark, Norway

May, 1940 - Germany invades France

Maginot Line - France's attempt at trench warfare defense

Germany once again invades through Belgium

Paris falls in two weeks

Winston Churchill replaces Chamberlain as British Prime Minister

Dunkirk - 338,000 troops evacuated

Hitler's first mistake

Luftwaffe - Herman Goering's air force fails to finish off Allies

Italy declares war on France and Great Britain

June 22 - France surrenders to Germany

Vichy France

Battle of Britain

Luftwaffe vs. Royal Air Force (RAF)

Winston Churchill rallies British people

Britain wins by the spring of 1941

radar key difference maker

Hitler and Goering make mistake of switching to civilian targets

"Never was so much owed by so many to so few"

American aid to Allies

FDR wants into war to oppose fascists

Lend - Lease Policy

American supplies traded for British bases

Operation Barbarossa

June 1941 - Germany invades USSR

three prong thrust

Stalingrad, Moscow, Leningrad

Germany stopped barely short by Russian winter

Russian front swings back and forth for next three years

December 7, 1941 - Pearl Harbor

US enters war

Japan conquers wide area in Pacific

threatens India, Austria, Hawaii

Allies decide on Germany first strategy

play defense in Pacific while focusing on defeating Germany

North Africa

Germany wants access to Mideastern Oil and Suez Canal

Erwin Rommel - Desert Fox

Afrika Corps sent to reinforce the Italians

Bernard Montgomery takes over as British commander

1942 - US invades Algeria

George Patton

American commander after Battle of Kasserine Pass

French Resistance

Charles de Gaulle

leader of the Free French

combined American and British forces win in North Africa

Fortress Europe

Invasion of Italy

Allied forces land in Sicily and work their way up peninsula

July, 1943 - Mussolini placed under arrest

Hitler engineers rescue operation

German troops move into Italy and stop Allies

Mussolini hanged by mob in 1945

June 6, 1944 - D-day

Allies invade Normandy, France

Dwight Eisenhower

supreme Allied commander

group attempts to assassinate Hitler

fail and Rommel is forced to commit suicide

Paris is liberated

Battle of the Bulge

last German offensive

Allied forces converge on Germany

April 12, 1945 - FDR dies

Harry Truman becomes President

April 30, 1945 - Hitler commits suicide

War in Europe ends (V-E day)

Pacific War

Douglas MacArthur and Chester Nimitz command American forces

1942 - Battle of Midway

turning point of Pacific naval war

Island hopping

strategy of skipping over Japanese strongholds

Caroline and Philippine islands retaken

American casualties mount

kamikaze's

Japanese pilots committed suicide by crashing into ships

Manhattan Project

US developed world's first atomic bomb

Aug 6, 1945 - Little Boy dropped on Hiroshima

Aug 9, 1945 - Fat Man dropped on Nagasaki

Aug 14, 1945 - Japan surrenders

Post-War

40 million dead

400,000 Americans

US emerges victorious

becomes world's first superpower

Nuremberg Trials

trials for war crimes and crimes against humanity

Holocaust

Heinrich Himmler in command

Death squads

SS units mass murder Jews on Eastern front

1.4 million dead

Jews rounded into ghettos

Poland was the largest

overcrowded thousands into small blocks

maintained culture

education, social welfare, temple, entertainment

Death camps

genocide

scientific elimination of certain groups of people

Jews, homosexuals, gypsies, political enemies

Auschwitz

largest of the death camps

healthy men and women were worked to death

elderly, young, and handicapped were gassed

12 million killed in Holocaust

6 million Jews