

Aggression and Appeasement

Appeasement

- A series of unfortunate events while the world did nothing
 - o *Trying to avoid another war*
 - Willing to give up some things to avoid war
- Appeasement in Asia
 - o Japan a recent industrial power
 - Similar to Germany
 - Looking to exert their influence
 - Perceived racial supremacy
 - o Japan begins conquests
 - Manchuria
 - 1931
 - Modern day northeast China
 - Rebuked by League of Nations
 - o Alienated selves from former British, French, and American allies
 - o Sanctioned
 - o Japan withdraws in 1933
 - China
 - 1937
 - Sanctions tightened
 - o Materials of war
 - Tin, iron, oil
 - o Effectively forces Japan to continue conquests for resources
 - Japanese extremely harsh treatment of Chinese
 - o Rape of Nanking

Appeasement in Europe

- **Pact of Locarno**
 - o December 1, 1925
 - o Signed by Germany, France, Belgium, Great Britain, and Italy
 - o Agreed to uphold peace in western Europe
 - Upheld the established boundaries
 - Arbitration allowed to reassign boundaries
 - Protected Germany, France, and Belgium from invasion
 - Under threat of League of Nations action
- The Axis
 - o Diplomatic power plays
 - Germany resigned from League of Nations
 - 1933
 - Hitler distancing himself from injustices of Treaty of Versailles
 - German-Polish Non-Aggression Pact
 - Jan 1934
 - Both fearful of rising tensions with Soviet Union
 - o Poland relied on closer nation
 - France too unreliable
 - o Germany cancels pact in 1938
 - **German rearmament**
 - Began in 1935
 - Germany found loopholes



- “Pocket” battleships instead of dreadnaughts
- Air force made in Russia
 - Tested in Spain
- Rearmed in secret
 - Announced strength higher than it actually was
 - Wanted to scare France and Britain
 - Prevent intervention
- Allies believed Germany would rearm regardless of Versailles
 - Signed new treaties to at least make it legal
 - Would not have to intervene
 - Germany allowed to build navy
 - Including U-Boats
- Rome-Berlin Axis
 - 1936
 - Created connection between Italy and Germany
 - Both Fascist countries
- Anti-Comintern Pact
 - 1936
 - Japan, Germany, Italy
 - Anti-Communist
 - Specifically aimed at Soviet Union
 - Soviets supporting China
 - Hitler and Mussolini hoping to protect “Western values” against communism in the east
 - More so hoping Japan defeats China
 - Soviets would lose a friend
- Pact of Steel
 - 1939
 - Germany and Italy formed Defensive alliance against allies
 - Both distrusted the other
 - Rarely shared plans with each other
 - Forced them to react to others’ decisions
 - Japan joins in 1940
- Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact
 - August 23, 1939
 - Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact
 - Caught EVERYONE by surprise
 - In public
 - Hitler and Stalin pledge to not go to war with one another
 - Stalin did not trust British and French would aid them
 - Stalin did not want to be dragged into a war to save Poland
 - In secret
 - Divide Poland between them
 - Stalin wanted Poland just as much as Hitler
- Uncontested land grabs
 - Italy conquered Ethiopia



- 1935
- Italy invades Ethiopia after failing to do so in 1890
- League of Nations does nothing
 - Imposes sanctions
 - Do not work
 - Showed weakness in League of Nations
- **Saar Valley** reunited with Germany
 - 1935
 - Saar river a tributary of the Rhine
 - Huge coal deposits
 - Territory mostly German
 - Administered by League of Nations
 - French control of coal fields
 - League of Nations allows vote
 - Should territory be French or German
 - All French and German forces forced to clear out
 - 90% vote German
 - March 1st Saarland handed over to Germany
- Germany re-occupies the **Rhineland**
 - 1936
 - Established as a demilitarized zone
 - Germans had negotiated removal of foreign troops in 1930
 - Direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles and Locarno
 - Hitler had denounced both treaties
 - Marches 36,000 soldiers into Rhineland
 - Ordered to withdraw if France makes a move
 - France backs down
- **Anschluss**
 - March 1938
 - Hitler bullies Austrian Chancellor Kurt von Schuschnigg into giving Nazi party greater power in Austria
 - Schuschnigg agrees to avoid invasion
 - Reneges once he gets back to Austria
 - Germany and Austria united
 - Germany effectively *annexes Austria*
 - Marches soldiers into Austria
 - 99.7% of Austrians “Approve” union
- **Munich Crisis**
 - 1938
 - Hitler takes the **Sudetenland**
 - German Czechoslovakia
 - France had signed a defensive pact with Czechs
 - As did Soviets
 - British meet with Hitler
 - Hitler promises this is the last thing he wants
 - Neville Chamberlin negotiates away parts of Czechoslovakia with German majority



- Magyar majority handed to Hungary and Polish Majority handed to Poles
- France and Britain remove support for Czechs
- Chamberlain returns to Britain believing he has accomplished **“Peace for our time”**
 - March 1939 Hitler occupies rest of Czechoslovakia
 - No resistance...from anyone
 - March 1939 Hitler offers ultimatum to Lithuania
 - Give up Memel or face war
 - Lithuania gives up Memel
- Mussolini takes Albania
 - April 1939
 - Mussolini trying to mirror Hitler’s actions in Czechoslovakia
 - Italian movement far more contested
 - Army much more disorganized and ill-trained than Germans
- Germans and Soviets invade Poland
 - September 1st, 1939
 - Finally have gone too far
 - Britain and France declare war September 3rd



Europe in 1939

