The Beginnings of World War II
Aggression and Appeasement
Rise of Adolf Hitler

• Austrian born but highly German nationalistic
• Rose to power through democratic means in 1933
  – Built power through German fears of communism and Jews, and economic problems
  – Eventually gained power as totalitarian dictator
Rome-Berlin Axis

- Nicknamed the "Pact of Steel"
- Signed by Benito Mussolini of Italy and Adolf Hitler of Germany in 1936
Germany Re-occupies the Rhineland

- March 1936
- Hitler testing France to see if they would act
- Hitler sends soldiers into Rhineland
  - France removes soldiers
- Showed Hitler the Allies would not act
The Austrian Anschluss

- March 1938
- Germany annexes Austria
  - Austrians “vote” and approve annexation
- Hitler trying to unify all Germanic peoples
The Sudetenland

- 1938
- Hitler wants to annex German parts of Czechoslovakia
- British meet with Hitler in Munich to discuss
  - Gives Hitler Germanic regions in return for promise this is it
    - Hitler takes rest of Czechoslovakia in 1939
Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact

• Treaty signed between Germany and the Soviet Union
• Pledged not to attack each other
• Also made plans for the joint invasion of Poland
Japanese Aggression in Manchuria

- Japan invades Manchuria in 1931
  - Looking to get vital resources
  - Looking to take over territory it felt it deserved for part in World War I
Japan’s Problem

- Japan imports 88% of all its raw materials
- After Japan’s unchecked invasion of Manchuria, Japan continues to take portions of China in 1937
- U.S. and Britain raise their embargo on war materials to Japan