

# World War II

Unit 7: The Great Depression and World War II

Part 6: World War II Begins

# Objectives:

1. Explain how aggression lead to war in Asia and Europe.
2. Explain how the United States responded to the outbreak of World War II.
3. Explain why the United States finally entered the war. (7.4.4.21.4)

# I. Japanese Aggression in Asia

- A. In 1937, Japan began an all-out war against China.
  - 1. Japanese planes bombed China's major cities.
  - 2. Japanese troops occupied northern and central China.
  
- B. The Japanese advance into China alarmed American leaders.
  - 1. They thought it would undermine the Open Door Policy, which promised equal access to trade in China.
  - 2. It threatened the nearby Philippines which belonged to the United States.
  - 3. However, isolationist feelings kept the United States from taking a firm stand.

## II. German Aggression in Europe

- A. In 1938, Germany **annexed**, or took over, **Austria**.
1. This action violated the Treaty of Versailles.
  2. **Britain** and **France** took no action.





## II. German Aggression in Europe (con't)

- B. Later in 1938, Hitler claimed the **Sudetenland**, the western part of **Czechoslovakia**. He said that many people of German heritage lived there.
1. Britain and France had signed treaties to protect Czechoslovakia but did not want to go to war.
  2. In September, leaders of Britain, France, Italy, and Germany met in Munich. At this **Munich Conference**, Hitler promised that Germany would take no further territory once it had the Sudetenland.
  3. Britain and France agreed. This practice of giving into aggression in order to avoid war is known as **appeasement**.

## II. German Aggression in Europe (con't)



Sudetenland



German territory



## II. German Aggression in Europe (con't)

- C. In August 1939, Hitler and Stalin signed the **Nazi-Soviet Pact**.
1. The two rivals agreed not to attack each other.
  2. Secretly, they agreed to divide **Poland** and other parts of Eastern Europe.
  3. In September 1939, Hitler launched a **blitzkrieg**, or lightning war, against Poland. The Poles soon surrendered.
  4. The Soviet Union seized eastern Poland. It also invaded **Finland** and later annexed **Estonia**, **Lithuania**, and **Latvia**. The Soviet Union claimed this was for their own protection and security.



# II. German Aggression in Europe





# III. A Global Conflict

A. Two days after Hitler's invasion of Poland, Britain and France declared war on Germany. **World War II** had begun.

1. Germany, Italy, Japan, and six other nations formed the **Axis** powers.
2. Eventually Britain, France, the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and 45 other countries would make up the **Allies**.

### III. A Global Conflict (con't)

- B. In the spring of 1940, German armies smashed through **Denmark** and **Norway**. In May they overran **Holland** and **Belgium** and pushed into France.
  1. Britain went to aid France, but by May, the Germans forced them to retreat to Dunkirk, a French port on the English Channel. The British sent every available ship to rescue the trapped soldiers.
  2. German armies marched to Paris. France surrendered on June 22, 1940.

# III. A Global Conflict (con't)

C. At the time, Britain stood alone against Germany.

1. In the **Battle of Britain**, German planes bombed London and other British cities. British fighter pilots fought back.
2. After months of bombing, Hitler gave up his plan to invade Britain.



# IV. The U.S. Reaction to the Outbreak of WWII

- A. Most Americans favored the Allies but did not want to go to war. Isolationists opposed Roosevelt's measures to help Britain and prepare the nation for war.
  
- B. U.S. Aid to the Allies:
  - 1. President Roosevelt asked Congress to repeal the law that banned the sale of arms to warring nations. Isolationists objected. FDR won a compromise. The United States could sell arms to the Allies under a “cash-and-carry” plan, that is, the Allies had to pay cash and carry away the arms in their own ships.
  - 2. German submarines sunk many British ships. Roosevelt agreed to give Britain 50 old American destroyers. In return, Britain gave the United States 99-year leases on military bases in Newfoundland and the Caribbean.

# IV. The U.S. Reaction to the Outbreak of WWII (con't)

## C. U.S. Preparations For War:

1. Congress approved greater spending for the army and navy.
2. Congress set up a military draft, the first peacetime draft.

## D. President Roosevelt's 3<sup>rd</sup> Term:

1. The threat of war persuaded Roosevelt to run for a third term. He was the first President to do so.

# IV. The U.S. Reaction to the Outbreak of WWII (con't)

## E. Lend-Lease:

1. Roosevelt suggested lending supplies to Britain.
2. Congress passed the **Lend-Lease Act**, allowing sales or loans of war goods to “any country whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the United States.”
3. Airplanes, tanks, guns, and ammunition were transported to Britain by British merchant ships.
4. When Hitler invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941, Roosevelt extended Lend-Lease aid to the Soviet Union.



# IV. The U.S. Reaction to the Outbreak of WWII (con't)

## F. The Atlantic Charter:

1. In August 1941, Roosevelt and Churchill issued the **Atlantic Charter**, which set goals for the postwar world.
2. The leaders agreed to seek no territory from the war.
3. They supported “the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live.”
4. The charter called for a “permanent system of general security” similar to the League of Nations.

# V. Why the U.S. Entered the War (con't)

- A. Americans were alarmed by Japanese aggression in Asia. After Germany defeated France, Japan took control of French colonies in Southeast Asia. In September 1940, Japan signed an alliance with Germany and Italy.
  
- B. The United States tried to stop Japanese aggression by refusing to sell oil and scrap metal to Japan. This embargo angered the Japanese.

# V. Why the U.S. Entered the War (con't)

- C. Japanese and American officials met in November 1941. Japan asked the United States to lift the embargo. The United States asked Japan to withdraw its armies from China and Southeast Asia. Neither side would compromise.



# V. Why the U.S. Entered the War (con't)

D. On Sunday morning, **December 7, 1941**, Japanese planes attacked the American Pacific fleet anchored at **Pearl Harbor, Hawaii**.

1. The Japanese thought the attack would force the United States to beg for peace immediately.
2. American aircraft carriers survived the attack because they were at sea at the time.
3. The Japanese did not bomb the fuel oil tanks in Hawaii. The fuel oil was a valuable resource in the war that followed.

# V. Why the U.S. Entered the War (con't)

- E. On December 8, 1941, Congress declared war on Japan.
- F. Germany and Italy then declared war on the United States.