

World War II and the Cold War

Lesson 2 World War II Begins

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How does conflict develop?

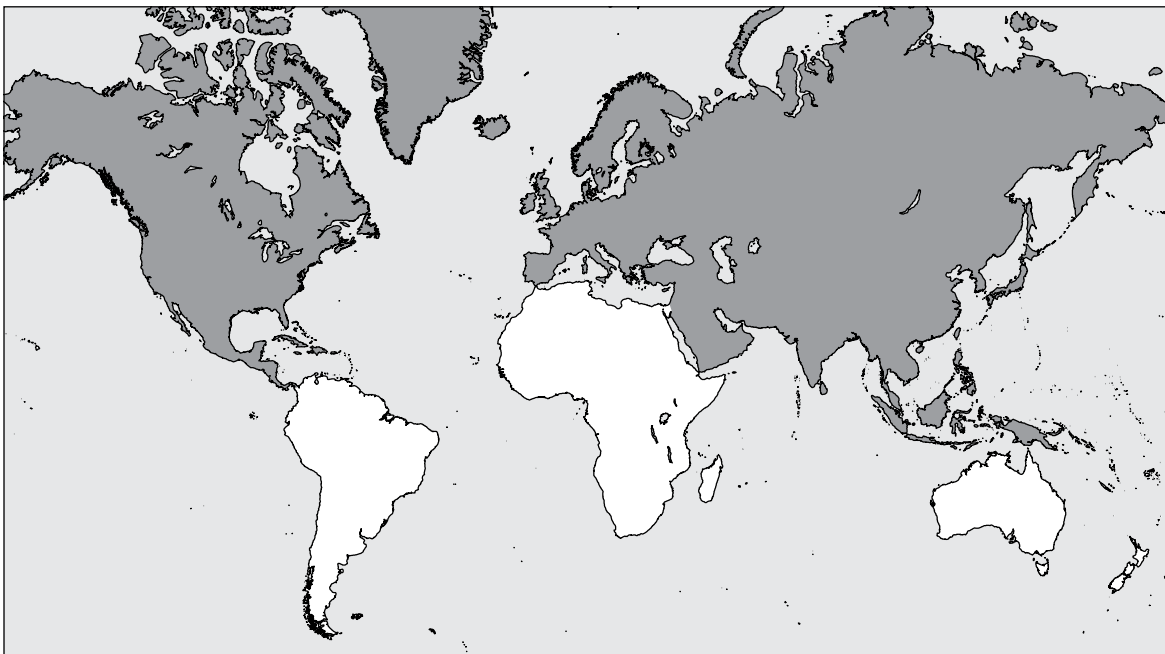
GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did European leaders respond to the demands Hitler made for territory?*
2. *How did war in Europe develop into another world war?*

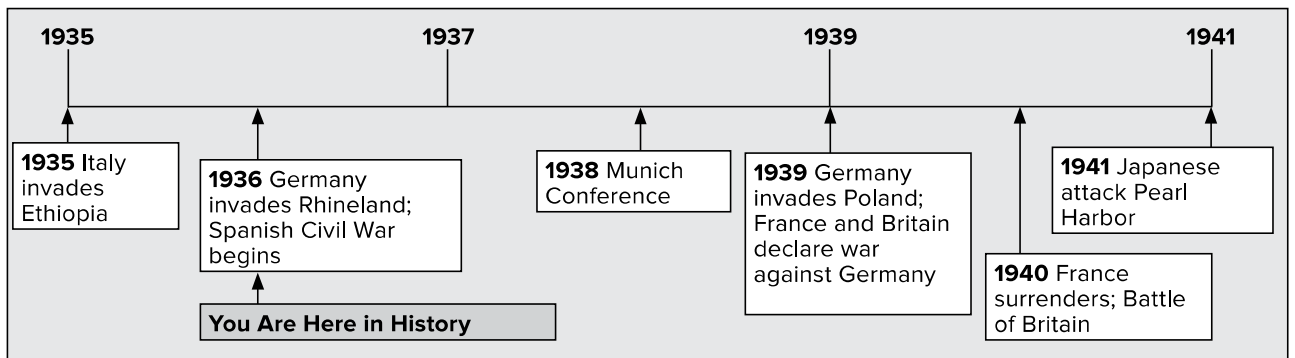
Terms to Know

appeasement the act of trying to avoid war with an aggressive nation by giving in to its demands

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



World War II and the Cold War

Lesson 2 World War II Begins, *Continued*

The Path to War

The Treaty of Versailles ended World War I. Many Germans believed the treaty was unfair. It greatly limited the size of Germany's military. It also said no German troops could be in the Rhineland. This German area bordered France.

Hitler rejected the terms of the treaty. First he increased the size of Germany's armed forces. Then he sent German troops to occupy the Rhineland in 1936. Britain and France responded with a policy called **appeasement**. This meant they tried to avoid a fight by accepting Hitler's demands. Hitler continued taking territory in Europe.

German Expansion

1936: Occupied the Rhineland

1938: Took control of Austria

1938: Seized the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia

Hitler demanded territories where German-speaking people lived. Britain and France did not want a war with Germany. At a conference in Munich in 1938, they agreed to let Hitler take the Sudetenland if he promised not to seize any more territory. Hitler agreed, but then broke his promise. German forces invaded western Czechoslovakia. Hitler next demanded Danzig, a German-speaking city in Poland. Britain offered to help Poland if Germany invaded.

The Coming of War

Hitler signed a secret agreement with the Soviet leader, Joseph Stalin. They promised they would not attack each other. They also agreed to divide Poland.

On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded western Poland. Two days later, Britain and France declared war on Germany. Then, the Soviet Union attacked eastern Poland.

Poland soon fell. With great speed, the German army then seized nearly all of Western Europe. Italy joined the war to help Germany, attacking France from the south. Only Britain remained outside of German control. Hitler expected the British to make peace.

Britain's prime minister, Winston Churchill, refused. Hitler ordered an air attack on Britain. He wanted to destroy the British Royal Air Force (RAF). The British fought back. This air battle became known as the Battle of Britain.



Defining

1. What is *appeasement*?



Identifying

2. What region did Hitler occupy in 1936?



Reading Check

3. Why did Britain and France follow a policy of appeasement?



Explaining

4. Why did Hitler order an air attack on Britain?

World War II and the Cold War**Lesson 2** World War II Begins, *Continued***Marking the Text**

5. Circle the name of the technology the British used in the air war against Germany.

**Explaining**

6. Why was the Battle of Britain important?

**Analyzing**

7. Why do you think Roosevelt believed Britain needed American help to stop Hitler?

**Contrasting**

8. How did the war change for the German military from the beginning of 1940 to the end of 1941?

The Germans bombed British airfields, aircraft factories, and cities. They destroyed large areas of London and killed many people. The RAF, however, used a new technology called radar to track German planes. This helped British fighter pilots find the enemy. The Germans suffered heavy losses. Two months later, Hitler canceled his invasion plans.

Hitler turned his attention to invading the Soviet Union. He ignored the treaty with Stalin. In June 1941, German troops invaded the Soviet Union. They destroyed Soviet equipment and captured half a million soldiers.

Stalin ordered a scorched-earth policy. As the Soviets retreated, they burned their cities, destroyed their crops, and blew up dams. This made it difficult for the Germans to support their troops with food and other supplies.

When the rainy season began, the roads became muddy. German trucks and tanks got stuck. Soon after, the harsh winter set in. German invaders were unprepared for the cold. They reached Moscow in December 1941. The Soviets struck back, however, forcing the Germans to retreat.

The United States tried to stay out of the war in Europe. In the 1930s, Congress had passed laws making it illegal for the United States to help any country at war if the United States itself was not in the war.

President Roosevelt, however, saw Germany as a danger to the United States. In 1940 he convinced Congress to approve a law that would help Britain. The law let Britain buy food and weapons from Americans if they paid cash.

Congress Passes Wartime Laws

1930s: United States not allowed to help warring countries if U.S. itself was not in the war

1940: British allowed to buy U.S. goods under two conditions:

1) pay cash

2) use British ships to take goods to Britain

1941: U.S. lends weapons to Britain

British ships also had to carry the goods from the U.S. to Britain. Then in 1941, Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act. This law allowed the U.S. to lend weapons to Britain.

Just as Germany was expanding in Europe, Japan was also expanding in Asia. Japan had taken over Manchuria in northern China. Then they began moving south.

World War II and the Cold War**Lesson 2** World War II Begins, *Continued*

In 1937 the Japanese took over the Chinese capital of Nanjing. When France fell to the Germans in 1940, the Japanese invaded the French colony of Indochina. They had plans to seize the Dutch East Indies, British Malaya, and the American territory of the Philippines.

The United States tried to use economic pressure to stop Japanese expansion. President Roosevelt blocked the Japanese government from withdrawing money it had in American banks. Roosevelt also stopped selling oil, gasoline, and other resources to Japan.

Japan's reaction was to go to war. Japan bombed American ships and planes in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. Congress then declared war on Japan. Four days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. The world was at war again.

The United States Enters World War II

Japan invades south China and Indochina.



The United States freezes Japanese funds in U.S. banks and refuses to sell oil and other resources to Japan.



Japan attacks Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.



The United States declares war on Japan.



Germany and Italy declare war on the United States.

Glue Foldable here

Check for Understanding

List the countries Germany was fighting at the end of 1941.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What event led to the U.S. entrance into World War II?

4. _____

**Identifying**

9. What is one economic action the United States took against Japan?

**Reading Check**

10. What was Stalin's scorched-earth policy?



11. Place a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line. Write *Pearl Harbor* in the center of the tab. Create a memory map by drawing four arrows around the title.

List words or phrases that you remember about this event. Use the reverse side to add information.