World Events 1920-1940

Leaders and Events causing WWII
Totalitarian Governments

- Maintain control over its citizens
- No individual rights
- Government suppresses all opposition

Summary: A centralized government is in total control, usually led by a dictator.
Joseph Stalin - Soviet Union

- Name = Man of Steel
- Takes control in 1924 when Lenin dies.
- Communist government, no private enterprise
- Peasants own no land, work for government.
Stalin’s Two Goals:

- Agriculture: All farms are collectives, owned by the state.
- Industry: 5-year plans to build large state owned factories, steel mills & power plants.
Stalin: Results

- Soviet Union becomes third largest industrial power after U.S. & Germany
- 8-13 million people killed by labor camps or execution
- Secret Police controls everyone!
Benito Mussolini - Italy

- Takes power after marching on Rome and King appointing him ruler.

- Fascism - A new political movement of a strong centralized government led by a dictator.
Benito Mussolini - Italy

- Fascism - the nation is more important than the individual. You must obey the dictator.

- He dreams of making Italy a great world power again, like the Roman Empire.
Mussolini -

- Called Il Duce: “the leader”
- Fascists controls every aspect of a citizen’s life
- Fascists crush all opposition & become a totalitarian state
- Fascist allows private property and capitalism
- Fascists are anti-communists
Adolph Hitler - Germany

- Hitler was appointed Chancellor (prime Minister) in 1933 after the Nazi’s were elected to power.
- He gets rid of the democratic Weimar Republic.
- He establishes The Third Reich.
Hitler - Head of NAZI Party

1. Dream of uniting all Germans in an empire - The Third Reich.
2. Expand Germany’s land for “lebensraum” or living space.

Aryans are a superior master race over others.
Called “Fuhrer” - Leader
Hideki Tojo - Japan

Becomes Prime Minister in 1931 after invading Manchuria

A military-ruled government.

Message: the military can do whatever it wants to.
Hideki Tojo - Pacific Expansion

Japan needs more natural resources and more space for a growing population.

League of Nations condemns Japan, but it does nothing to stop it.
Francisco Franco - Spain

Franco rose to power as a military general rebelling against the Spanish Republic during the Spanish Civil War 1936-1939.

Fascist government
Western democracies remained neutral, but Mussolini & Hitler supported Franco and that forged an alliance between Berlin-Rome.
Francisco Franco - Spain

3,000 private American citizens fought Franco to stop Totalitarianism.

500,000 lives lost and Franco’s victory turns Spain totalitarian.
Franklin Roosevelt  U.S.

- Elected president in 1932
- Democratic form of government (Republic)
- People against Europe’s bloody wars. America is isolationist.
- Roosevelt promises to stay out of war
Franklin Roosevelt  U.S.

- Congress passes Neutrality Acts
  - Acts 1&2: outlawed arms sales and loans to nations at war
  - Act 3: ban on weapons sales and loans to nations in civil war (Spain)
Neutrality breaks down.
When Japan invades China the US supports China with arms & supplies.
Treaty of Versailles broken

- Hitler attacks the Rhineland (30 mile wide border with France)
- Military alliance w/ Italy- Berlin / Rome Pact
- Mussolini takes Ethiopia in Africa
- League of Nations makes economic boycott, but has no power to stop aggression.