Chapter 13:
Dictators, WWII, and the Holocaust
1931-1945
Timeline

- 1931 - Japan invades Manchuria
- 1932 - FDR elected
- 1935 - Congress decides to stay neutral; Italy invades Ethiopia
- 1936 - FDR reelected
- 1937 - Japan invades China
- 1939 - Germany invades Poland
- 1940 - FDR reelected
- 1941 - Japan bombs U.S. at Pearl Harbor, HI
- 1943 - Soviets defeat Germans at Stalingrad
- 1944 - FDR reelected; Allies invade Europe at Normandy (D-Day)
- 1945 - U.S. Drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan; Germany and Japan surrender
Rise of Dictators

- The Treaty of Versailles ended WWI and left the losing countries, especially Germany, in major debt.
- Economies around the world were struggling despite the economic growth of the 1920s.
- The Great Depression in the U.S. during the 1930s spread around the world, pushing countries into further economic despair.
- Worldwide unemployment caused many Europeans to turn to new leaders to solve these problems.
- Dictators took control of Italy, Japan, Germany, and the Soviet Union.
Mussolini, Hitler, and Stalin

- Dictator = a single person who rules a country absolutely, usually very strict and ruthless

- Benito Mussolini (Il Duce) – Prime Minister of Italy 1922, became dictator in 1925 – began the fascist movement

- Adolf Hitler (der Fuhrer) – dictator of Germany 1933 – led German fascist party, known as Nazi Party

- Joseph Stalin – dictator of Soviet Union 1924, followed Lenin – Communist government controlled every aspect of life
Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin
Fascism vs. Communism

These two government styles are very different, although both require a strong dictator.

- **Fascism** – a political system based on a single dictator promoting nationalism, patriotism, and race superiority; disagreement is not tolerated.

- **Communism** – a political and economic system based on a single dictator having control of all production and goods, there is no private property, goods are given out by government.
Why do you think Fascist and Communist governments require a dictator?

- Take one minute to answer this question in a complete sentence in your notes.
  - Fascism and Communism require a dictator because.................

- Take one minute to discuss your opinions with your neighbors and decide on a group answer.

- The person in your group with the lightest eye color raise your hand and be prepared to share your group answer.
Expansion and Appeasement

- Germany, Italy, and Japan began to invade nearby countries to expand their control and gain access to valuable resources.

- In 1936, Mussolini and Hitler formed an alliance and planned an attack on Sudentenland (German area of Czechoslovakia).

- Chamberlain (Prime Minister of Great Britain) and Hitler met in Munich to discuss a peace treaty to avoid another war.

- Hitler won control of Sudentenland if he promised to stop attacking other countries.
  - Appeasement = agreeing to something to avoid war
What is an example of appeasement from your everyday life?

- Take one minute to answer this question in a complete sentence in your notes.
  - An example of appeasement in my life would be when.................

- Take one minute to discuss your examples with your neighbors and choose one to share with the class.

- The person in your group with the longest hair raise your hand and be prepared to share your group example.
Beginning of the War

- Hitler broke the Munich Agreement by attacking Czechoslovakia and then Poland
- Britain and France declared war on Germany after the invasion of Poland, hoping Stalin would help
- The Soviet Union could not be an ally because of the nonaggression pact they signed with Germany
  - Nonaggression pact = two countries will not invade each other (basically they will stay neutral)
- World War II officially began
Germany Attacks

- Germany used a *blitzkrieg* (lightning war) tactic to surprise their enemies with tanks, troops, and planes.
- Germany began to *conquer the countries bordering it* and by 1940, France surrendered.
- Germany plans to take down Great Britain, which would end the war.
- Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) takes on Germany's Air Force (called the Luftwaffe) in an all-air battle over Britain.
- The RAF was strong and Britain would not surrender.
Hitler vs. Stalin

- The Soviet Union had conquered several small countries for Germany but Hitler and Stalin did not trust each other.
- Hitler feared Stalin's motives and wanted his resources so Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941.
- Hitler decided to split his forces between three major cities to make Soviets surrender.
- Millions of Soviets died, but the Soviet forces were able to push the Germans back and did not surrender.
U.S. Gets Involved

- President Roosevelt suggested the Lend-Lease Act which allowed the U.S. to send raw materials, equipment, and weapons to the Allied nations
  - Lend = to let someone *borrow* something
  - Lease = to let someone *use* something *in return for* $ 
- The Lend-Lease Act allowed the U.S. To send about $50 billion worth of war materials to the Allies without being involved in the war
- In 1940, Japan joined the Axis Powers and decided to invade the Dutch East Indies for their oil, but the U.S. Navy was in their way
Japan Attacks Pearl Harbor

- In 1940, Japan joins the Axis Powers of Germany and Italy
- General Tojo takes control of Japan in 1941 and plans an attack on the U.S. Naval Base in Hawaii
- **December 7, 1941** – Japanese warplanes bombed ships, planes, military and civilian targets
- About 2,400 Americans died in the Pearl Harbor attack, half of them died on the U.S.S. Arizona
- President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan and said that December 7, 1941 was “a date which will live in infamy”
Photo #: NH 38118  USS Shaw explodes during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941.
U.S. Soldiers Needed

- Once the U.S. declared war on Japan, Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S.
- The U.S. had to mobilize (get ready) for war very quickly
- Millions of Americans volunteered to fight, millions were drafted
  - Draft = Selective Service Act requires all men between the ages of 18 and 38 to register for military service, if your birthday is selected you must fight
- Selective Service is still required, but the draft has not been active since the Vietnam War in the 1960s
Everyone Can Help the War Effort

- 300,000 Mexican Americans, one million African Americans, many Native Americans and Asian Americans fought for the Allied forces in WWII

- African Americans and some Japanese Americans fought in segregated units
  - 99th Fighter Squadron (Tuskegee Airmen) was an all African American pilot unit

- Over 300,000 women served in the military; many were part of the Women's Army Corps (WAC), some joined the Army and Navy Nurse Corps or the Navy and Coast Guard in noncombat positions
Tuskegee Airmen
WWII: North African Theater

- Allies needed time to prepare to fight Germany in Europe so they fought the Axis powers in northern Africa first.

- Egypt was an important area for the Allies to maintain control of because of the water route to the Middle East (through the Suez Canal).

- American General Dwight D. Eisenhower led the Allies in northern Africa against German General Erwin Rommel (known as “The Desert Fox”) in 1942.

- Eisenhower's army lost to Rommel in February 1943, but by May 1943 Rommel's army surrendered to the Allies – they now had a base to attack southern Europe.
General Eisenhower & General Rommel
WWII: European Theater

- Soviet Union occupied several small countries and the eastern half of Poland for Germany.
- Germany and Italy had successfully invaded most European countries including France by 1942, then Germany turned on the Soviet Union and invaded it.
- Soviet troops fought off the attacking German forces.
- After a brutal battle where many soldiers died of starvation or froze to death, the German troops surrendered in the Soviet Union in 1943.
- Germany did not win control of the Soviet Union, Stalin joins with the Allied Powers.
Allies planned their attack on German troops in northern Europe, but it was a surprise attack.

American, British, and Canadian forces planned an amphibious (water) landing on northern France to reclaim France.

June 6, 1944 – D-Day – more than 130,000 soldiers led by American General Patton landed on the beaches of Normandy and invaded German forces.

The Germans were surprised, but fought well.

Over 10,000 Allied troops were wounded or killed, but the Allies secured the beaches.
June – December 1944, Allied forces pushed the German troops east toward Germany while the Soviets pushed the Germans west, trapping them.

Battle of the Bulge (last major battle of the European theater) in December 1944.

Germans attacked the Allies in Belgium, almost a victory for the Germans but the Allies regrouped and won.

Over 200,000 casualties in the Battle of the Bulge alone, 120,000 Germans and 80,000 Americans killed, wounded, or captured.
General Patton
Victory in Europe!

- February 1945 – Allied leaders Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin (the “Big Three”) meet at Yalta Conference in the Soviet Union
  - Plans on ending the war and creating an international peace keeping organization were decided
- Roosevelt dies in April 1945, Truman takes over
- Allies reach Berlin, Hitler senses war is almost over and commits suicide April 30, 1945
- May 7, 1945 – Germany surrenders to the Allies
- May 8, 1945 is declared V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day)
Yalta Conference: Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin
WWII: Pacific Theater

- Japan needed resources and money so they expanded their empire by attacking other countries.
- Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941 pushed America into the war.
- General MacArthur was ordered to protect Australia from Japanese invasion, but when he left his troops on Bataan they were quickly defeated.
- 70,000 U.S. troops were forced to walk 60 miles without food and water in the Bataan Death March where thousands died or were killed.
General MacArthur

Bataan Death March
April 1942, the Allies start to push back on the Japanese advances

At the Battle of the Coral Sea the Japanese and U.S. Navy's fought without ever seeing each other (launching war planes from air craft carriers)

June 1942 – Battle of Midway – 4 carriers and 250 Japanese planes destroyed, U.S. lost 1 carrier and 150 planes

- Battle of Midway was the turning point in the war

Allies used an island hopping campaign to reclaim islands conquered by Japan
Battle of Midway
Guadalcanal was the first successful land battle against the Japanese August 1942 – February 1943.

Communication is a key element in organizing an attack, to make sure the Japanese could not break their code the U.S. used the Navajo language.

- Navajo Code Talkers (400 men from Arizona) went with soldiers into battle to communicate the plans so that the Japanese could not understand them.

The battle at Leyte in the Philippines damaged Japan's navy so badly that it was no longer a threat.

Kamikazes were still a very effective weapon.

- Kamikaze = suicide pilot, planes full of explosives
Navajo Code Talkers

US Marine Keith Little, Navajo Code Talker
WWII: Pacific Theater (cont'd)

- February and April 1945 – U.S. needed bases close enough to Japan to bomb it so they invaded the islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa
- U.S. soldiers, including Arizonan Ira Hayes raised the U.S. flag on the top of Mount Suribachi
- 18,000 U.S. soldiers died on Iwo Jima and Okinawa, over 120,000 Japanese died
- U.S. plans to bomb Japan in order to prevent more loss of life were underway
  - Manhattan Project = top secret program to build an atomic bomb, led by scientist Oppenheimer
Flag raising at Iwo Jima
Victory in Japan!

- President Truman warned Japan to surrender or they would be destroyed but Japan did not surrender.
- August 6, 1945 the B-29 bomber called the Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima killing 70,000 people.
- Japan still refused to surrender, and on August 9, 1945 another atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city Nagasaki killing 40,000 people.
- Japan surrendered to the U.S. on August 14, 1945.
- August 15th was declared V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day).