

# THE COMING OF WAR 1931-1942

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# RISE OF TOTALITARIAN STATES

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- Totalitarianism – theory of government in which a single party or leader controls the economic, social and cultural lives of people.
- Some characteristics include:
  - Strong, charismatic leaders
  - State control of the economy
  - Gov't control of media and propaganda
  - Censorship and “fear mongering”

# STALIN IN THE SOVIET UNION

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- Joseph Stalin took over as head of the Communist Party in USSR
- His state-run, collectivized farms left nearly 10 million people to starve to death
- Ordered the deaths or imprisonments of another million people suspected of party disloyalty



# MUSSOLINI IN ITALY

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- Totalitarian leader, Benito Mussolini came to power in Italy.
- Known as “Il Duce” – the leader
- Fascist Party promoted nationalism and fought against socialism and communism.



# HIROHITO IN JAPAN

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- Japanese emperor Hirohito ruled Japan during a time of military expansion
- Military took control of government
- In the 1930s Japan began invading and conquering its neighbors: Korea, Taiwan and China

# HITLER IN GERMANY

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- Germany was hit hard by the Treaty of Versailles and the worldwide depression
- Hitler worked his way up through the German government and eventually gained total control.
- Wrote "*Mein Kampf*" – (means "My Struggle") in which he blamed Communists and Jews for the problems of the German people.



# AXIS AGGRESSION

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During the 1930s:

- Germany invades European neighbors
- Italy invades Ethiopia
- Japan invades China, Korea
- League of Nations was powerless to stop the invasions of the “Axis Powers” without the US



# ALLIED RESPONSE TO AGGRESSION

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- Great Britain and France pursued a policy of appeasement towards these aggressive nations
- Appeasement – granting concessions to a potential enemy in the hope that it will maintain peace
- At left: British Prime Minister Chamberlain and Hitler in 1938



# WAR ERUPTS IN EUROPE

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- September 1939 –Germany initiates blitzkrieg, or “lightning war,” against Poland
- The invasion of Poland began WWII
- May 1940 – Germany occupied France
- The unstoppable Hitler now turns his attention to Great Britain



# AMERICANS DEBATE INVOLVEMENT



- As with WWI, many in America wanted to stay out of the fighting
- Neutrality Acts passed by Congress prevented American entanglement in World War II
- FDR claimed the US must be the “arsenal of democracy” to combat fascist aggression
- “Cash and Carry” –Congress approved the supply of war materials to the allies if they paid “cash” and assumed the responsibility of transporting (“carry”) them back to Europe
- Churchill warned FDR in December of 1940 that the British were running out of supplies and money...

# FDR STEPS IN

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- FDR felt that economic support of the Allies was the only way to stop Hitler
- Convinced Congress to pass the “Lend-Lease Act” in March 1941
- Lend-Lease allowed FDR to sell or lend war supplies to any country whose defense he considered vital to the safety of the US



# JAPAN ATTACKS THE UNITED STATES

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- General Hideki Tojo –Japanese Prime Minister
- US-Japanese relations had been strained; US presence in Philippines and Guam threatened Japanese conquest of Pacific
- Tojo wanted to plan a surprise attack to pull the US into war against the Axis alliance



# “A DAY THAT WILL LIVE IN INFAMY”

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- December 7, 1941 – Japanese kamikaze pilots attack Pearl Harbor Navy Base in Hawaii
- 2,500 people died
- Sunken *USS Arizona* remains submerged as memorial to the fallen
- December 8, 1941 – FDR asks Congress to declare war on Japan