

World War II Unit Test Study Guide

1. What were the four factors of influence from the Treaty of Versailles that helped to cause World War II?
(1) Territorial losses, (2) Economic reparations, (3) Military restrictions, (4) War Guilt
2. How did the Great Depression affect the global environment?
Collapse of international trading, cutbacks in jobs in factories overseas, increased poverty, increased unemployment worldwide
3. What is fascism? What qualities does a fascist dictator have?
**Fascism is political system based on militarism, extreme nationalism, and blind loyalty to the state and its leader
Qualities: preached an extreme form of nationalism, nations must struggle (war), loyalty to an authoritarian leader, held mass rallies, followers usually wore a similar uniform**
4. What country did Benito Mussolini rule? How did he rise to power? What did he promise?
**ITALY – rose to power after King put him in charge, sent away political opponents
He promised to revive the economy, rebuild military, and give Italy strong leadership**
5. What country did Adolf Hitler rule? How did he rise to power? What did he promise?
**GERMANY – President named him chancellor, elected after all political opponents eliminated
Promised to restore Germany’s power through Anti-Semitism, rebuilding military, defying Treaty of Versailles**
6. Why was Japan interested in territory in China? Where did they take over?
Northeast China (Manchuria) – area rich in iron and coal (natural resources); also looking for more land for their growing population
7. What did Japan’s invasion of China prove about the League of Nations?
Proved that the League of Nations had no way to enforce its policies or provide punishments to countries who act in aggressive ways
8. What changes did Hitler make in Germany to restore German pride and provide jobs for citizens?
Rebuilt German military, created public works jobs building roads and stadiums, encouraged Germans to begin practicing Anti-Semitism (blame their problems on the Jews)
9. What is the significance of the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany?
Hitler proved to the international community that German was a prosperous and powerful country again; Jesse Owens stole the show against Hitler’s “Aryan” athletes
10. What was isolationism? Why did the United States practice this policy during the 1930s?
**Isolationism = policy to avoid political ties to other countries; keep to themselves
U.S. practiced this because they were focused on rebuilding during the Great Depression**
11. What was the policy of appeasement?
Giving into some form of aggression in order to avoid war
12. What occurred at the Munich Conference? What decision was reached with the Munich Pact?
The leaders of Britain, Italy, France, & Germany came together to address Hitler’s invasions of neighboring areas; Decision was to allow Hitler to keep the land he had already taken over (Sudetenland) as long as he did not invade any additional territories (Czechoslovakia)
13. How did Hitler respond to the Munich Pact?
Broke the agreement; 6 months later invaded Czechoslovakia
14. What event is labeled the official beginning of World War II?
Hitler’s invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939
15. What style of warfare did German use? Describe it.
Blitzkrieg; Overwhelm the enemy with speed and force usually combining air and ground forces
16. Describe Germany’s actions in the early years of World War II (1939-1941).
Germany was successful in taking over neighboring nations including Czechoslovakia, Belgium, and France (taken over most of Western Europe)

17. Why was the Battle of Britain significant? What strategy did Hitler use after radar detected German bombers?
**Britain was able to defend against Hitler; pushed the Germans back from taking over United Kingdom
Hitler used nighttime bombing after British radar detected their attacks**
18. What event occurred on December 7, 1941? Describe the attack. Why is it significant to WWII?
Japanese attack on U.S. naval base of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii; Two waves of surprise attack on navy destroyers and air fields “day which will live in infamy”; Significant because it pushed America to join World War II
19. What are the two alliances of WWII? _____**ALLIED POWERS**_____ and _____**AXIS POWERS**_____
20. What three countries belonged to the Axis Powers? **GERMANY, JAPAN, and ITALY**
21. What event occurred on June 6, 1944? Describe the attack. Why is it significant to WWII?
D-DAY (Invasion at Normandy, France); Surprise amphibious attack by Allied forces on German bases along Northwestern French coast; Allied forces “stormed the beaches” and began pushing German forces back. It is significant to WWII because it is known as the turning point battle – the beginning of the end for German troops in Europe
22. What was the Holocaust?
Massive killing of European Jews by the Nazi Party during WWII
23. What were the Nuremberg Laws? What did they restrict to German Jews?
Laws passed in Germany to deprive Jews of their citizenship and other basic rights; Took away their citizenship, didn't allow them to marry non-Jews, took away voting rights, forced them to wear arm-bands
24. What decision was reached at the Wannsee Conference? Why is it significant to world history?
The “final solution” was to murder all of Europe's Jews. Significant because never before had a modern country committed itself to the murder of an entire group of people.
25. Why did Hitler use the Jews and other “inferiors” as scapegoats?
Easier to blame another group of people than to accept Germany's downfall and role in WWI
26. How does World War II come to an end in EUROPE?
Allied troops closed in on the city of Berlin; Hitler and other top aides committed suicide before being captured on April 30, 1945. Official end = May 8, 1945 with German surrender notice
27. What was the Manhattan Project? What was ironic about the scientists of the Manhattan Project?
U.S. secret project to develop the atomic bomb located in Los Alamos, New Mexico; Ironic that many of the scientists that helped to build the bomb were Jewish refugees from Europe (Hitler could have had bomb first if he hadn't persecuted the Jews)
28. On what two cities are the atomic bombs dropped? What country dropped the atomic bombs?
Hiroshima and Nagasaki; United States dropped the bombs
29. WHY was the first bomb dropped? Second bomb?
First bomb: **Wanted a quick end to WWII; avoids American invasion with millions of casualties** Second bomb: **Japanese did not surrender; American chose to drop second bomb to force the Japanese to surrender**
30. Who was the United States President that made the decision to drop the bombs? How did he become President? What was “odd” about his decision to use the atomic bomb?
President Harry Truman made the decision to drop the bombs; He became President after the death of FDR in office; He said he “slept well that night” after making the decision to drop the bombs – didn't second guess himself at all
31. What was the aftermath of the use of atomic weapons by the United States?
Over 200,000 instantly killed; millions others suffered health effects for decades; brought the end of WWII in the Pacific but the world entered the Atomic Age
32. What is the United Nations? How many countries belong to the UN? What purpose does it serve today?
International organization designed to resolve disputes through peaceful methods; 180 nations; successful because there has not been WWII but it has not completed ended all conflicts