

Introduction to WWII
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Social Studies 11

Underlying Causes of World War Two

- Treaty of Versailles
- The Great Depression
- The Failure of the League of Nations (Appeasement)
- The Rise of Militarism

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Treaty of Versailles

- Remember, The Treaty of Versailles (1919) was a humiliating Treaty for Germany because it stated that:
 - a) Germany had to pay back millions of dollars in reparations
 - b) the German army could be no greater than 100000 men
 - c) the German navy could not build any large warships
 - d) there could be no German air force
 - e) the German empire was to be divided among the victorious allies
- The idea behind the treaty was that Germany would never be strong enough to declare war on any other country in Europe. Germany was forced to sign the treaty. Hitler used the treaty to stir up German nationalism. This helped him gain political power in the 1930's.

The Great Depression

- The Depression hit the countries of Europe particularly hard due to the damage WWI had done to their infrastructure.
- Of all of these, Germany had it worst. The terms of the Treaty of Versailles crippled the country, creating horrid conditions
- For example, at its peak, inflation was so high that a Mark (the German currency) was worth one cent on the dollar by the end of the day.

Failure of the League of Nations (Appeasement)

- The League of Nations was the brainchild of Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States during World War I.
- The League consisted of nations, including Canada, that would band together so wars such as WW I would not occur again. One principle of the League was collective security (if one member of the League was attacked by another power, other members of the League would send military support to the country being attacked).
- A major weakness of the League of Nations was that the United States was not a member.

Rise of Militarism

Three key events lead to the Rise of Militarism before WWII.

- a) In 1904-05, Japan defeated Russia in the Russo-Japanese War. Next, Japan began a war with China.
- b) Mussolini defied the League of Nations by invading Ethiopia in 1935.
- c) Hitler also defied the League of Nations. In 1935 Hitler enlarged the German Army from 100 000 men to 350 000 men. Germany embarked on an intensive naval program. They also began to build up the German Air force. All of these actions went against the Treaty of Versailles.

The Other ISM's

Nationalism

- Another underlying factor causing the war, Nationalism was the primary reason for German, Italian and Japanese aggression.
- Fascism in these countries was built largely upon nationalism and the search for a cohesive “nation state”

Nazism

- What is Nazism?
- Extremely fascist , nationalistic and totalitarian
- Based on beliefs of the National Socialist German Workers Party (and Hitler's “Mein Kampf”)
- Belief in the racial superiority of the Aryan, the “master race”
- Belief that all Germans should have “lebensraum” or living space in Europe
- Violent hatred towards Jews and blamed Germany's problems on them

Communism?

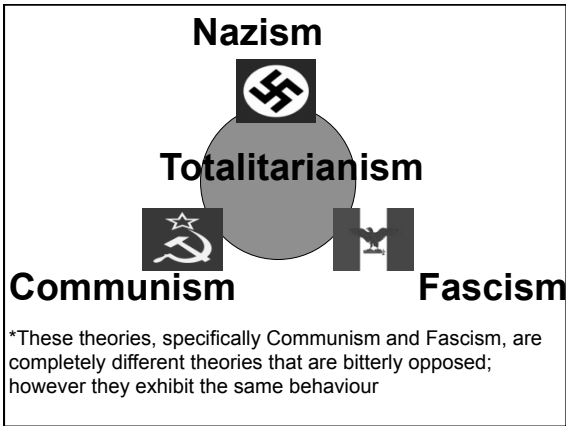
- What is Communism?
- LEFT WING
- Based on a theory by Karl Marx
- Revolutionary idea of a political, economic and social system that creates a "classless society"
- State ownership and control of the means of production (no private ownership)
- Soviet Communism or "Stalinism", was more of a totalitarian and military state combined with elements of communism

Fascism

- What is Fascism?
- RIGHT WING
- Intense nationalism and elitism
- Totalitarian control
- Interests of the state more important than individual rights
- Maintain class system and private ownership

Totalitarianism Reviewed

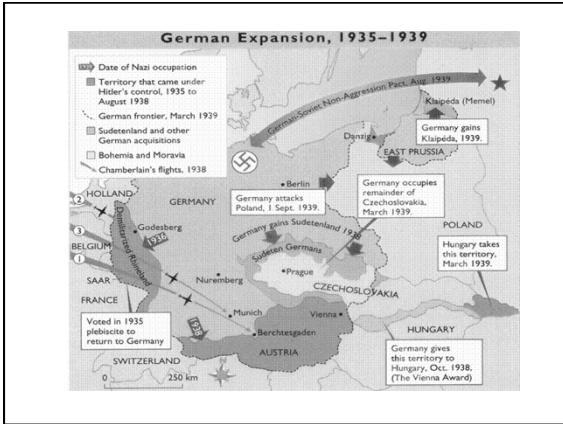
- Government establishes complete control of all aspects of the state (political, military, economy, social, cultural)
- Highly nationalistic (flags, salutes, rallies, uniforms)
- Strict controls and laws
- Military state (secret police, army, military)
- Censorship (opposing literature and ideas)
- Propaganda (media – radio, newspapers, posters)
- One leader (dictator); charismatic
- Total conformity of people to ideas and leader
- Terror and Fear



Territory:

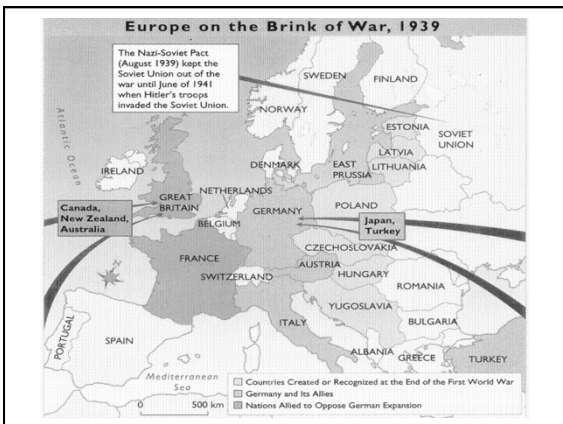
- Many of the members of the Triple Alliance and their allies had lost a significant amount of territory in the First World War.
- This attitude led many members of these nations to support those individuals and political parties who wished to gain territory for these nations





In the Beginning...

- ❖ The Second World War officially began with the German Invasion of Poland on September 1st 1939.
- ❖ Canada as a member of the commonwealth declared war on September 10th 1939.



Canada and the War

- Canada Goes to War
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6LpoXpAjPw>

Canada Declares War

- May 1939 the King visits Canada to rally support for Britain in the tense times
- PM Mackenzie King did not want Canada to become involved in another world conflict (couldn't risk having to impose conscription again)



Canada Declares War

- On September 1st, Germany invaded Poland
- Two days later, (Sept 3) Britain and France declared war on Germany
- In WWI when Britain declared war Canada was automatically drawn in
- This time Canada was an independent country so had to decide on their own
- After a special session in Parliament where King **GUARANTEED** there would never be another conscription, on September 10th, Canada declared war on Germany

Mobilizing Canada's resources

- Canada was not prepared
 - Army, Air Force and Navy troops were small in number
 - Most equipment was outdated and unfit for combat
 - 4500 troops, a few dozen anti-tank guns, 16 tanks, and no modern artillery
 - No cheering but there were still many volunteers
 - Aboriginal people volunteered at a higher percentage of their population than any other group in Canada (Thomas Prince would become one of Canada's most decorated soldiers)



Mobilizing Canada's Resources

- At first Canadian army rejected African-Canadian volunteers
- As war continued they were accepted into the army and officer corps
- Years of Depression = pay was appealing (\$1.30/day plus \$60 a month for a dependent spouse and \$30/month for each child)
- Ties to Britain still strong = Volunteers
- New sense of national pride = Volunteers

Mobilizing

- The first Canadian troops sailed from Halifax on Dec. 10, 1939



British Commonwealth Air Training Plan

- Mackenzie King hoped Canada's contribution to the war effort would remain, as much as possible at home, = Conscription could be avoided
- Dec 1939 – Canada agreed to host and administer training plan = British instructors would train pilots and other flight personnel from all over the Commonwealth in Canada



British Commonwealth Air Training Plan

- Canada's open skies, climate, distance from enemies = ideal
- Airfields built in Prairies and near small towns/ villages
- 130,000 pilots, navigators, flight engineers, ground staff trained
- Total cost = \$2.2 billion – Canada paid over 70%

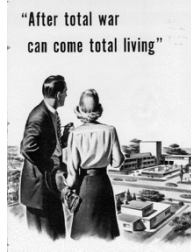


Total War

- April 1940 – the government established the Department of Munitions and supplies
 - C.D. Howe appointed minister and given authority to do whatever it took to gear up the economy to meet wartime demands
 - Vancouver – ships and navy
 - Montreal – planes
 - Ontario/Quebec – munitions factories
 - **Crown Corporations** – government owned businesses that Howe brought in if private sector was unable to produce what he wanted
 - Government ran telephone companies, refined fuel, stockpiled silk for parachutes, mined uranium, controlled food production

Total War

- = Canadians willing to do whatever it took to defeat the enemy



The War at Home

- Under "Total War" Canadians at home were dedicated to producing materials for the war
 - 1944: 14,000 tanks and personal carriers; 4,000 aircraft; 16,000 artillery pieces



The War at Home: Women

- Huge increase of industrial production in Canada
 - However, most young men are serving overseas
- Women needed (once again) to enter the factories
 - Went against the middle-class ideal of the role of women



The War at Home: Women

- Ronnie and Rosie
 - Ronnie the Bren Gun Girl (Canadian)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-EoKvWve-og>
 - Rosie the Riveter (American)



The War at Home: Wartime Economy

- With increased production and employment, people suddenly had more money to spend
 - Depression-dreary Canadians want to spend it!
- To avoid soaring inflation and massive debt (what happened after WWI), PM Mackenzie King took the following steps:
 - Encouraged Canadians to buy Victory Bonds
 - Government used the money to help finance the war, and people cashed the bonds for profit after the war
 - Increased income tax
 - *Wartime Prices and Trade Board* froze all wages and prices in 1941
 - Introduced food rationing in 1942 limiting the amounts of certain goods that Canadians were allowed to eat
 - 1kg of meat, 220g of sugar, 250g of butter and 225g of coffee
 - Generous rations in comparison to Britain and the USA

The War at Home: Japanese Internment

- 22,000 Japanese Canadians living on the coast of British Columbia
- Anti-Japanese sentiment growing after invasion of Hong Kong and attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941
- In early 1942, Canadian government used the War Measures Act to move Japanese Canadians into internment camps in the Okanagan, regardless of how long they have been living in Canada
- In 1943: Federal Government given the power to confiscate and sell Japanese Canadians' property
 - Possessions were auctioned off – owners received nothing

The War at Home: Racism



The War at Home: Racism

- Video: The Dispossessed
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFn7-ULrV9U>

The War at Home: The Conscription Crisis (Again)

- When elected, PM Mackenzie King promised Canada (specifically Quebec) that there would be NO CONSCRIPTION
 - May 1940: Clearly evident that Britain needed more help overseas
- Government brings in **National Resources Mobilization Act (NRMA)**
 - Gives government special emergency powers to take over nation's resources
 - More importantly, it also allowed for conscription
 - Only for home defense

The War at Home: Lesson in Politics

- King decides to hold a (a fancy word for a vote on a particular issue)
 - NOT ON CONSCRIPTION
 - Referendum is on whether to release the government from its earlier promise of not introducing conscription
- Quebec: told voters that the plebiscite was on the *possibility* of conscription
- Rest of Canada: told that plebiscite was *most definitely* on conscription
- *"Conscription if necessary, but not necessarily conscription"*



The War at Home: Conscription



The Liberals began sneaking conscription through Parliament in October 1940. They began by requiring all single men between 21 and 24 to report for 30 days of basic training. This prompted a rush on jewellery stores and marriage bureaus. By volunteering to work in labour camps, a few were able to avoid 30 days of being shouted at while wearing a uniform two sizes too small. Shortly after, the training period was upped to four months .

War at Home: Conscription

- Video: A rip in the fabric
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAAY_Od7kyQ

The War at Home: What the war meant to Canada

- Economic
 - Provided soldiers, weapons, and resources to Britain and its allies in order to resist Germany from 1939 onwards
 - Value of goods produced rose from \$5,6 billion in 1939 to \$11.8 billion in 1945
 - Virtually every sector of the Canadian economy boomed (aluminum, paper, lumber, mining, smelting)
 - Great increase in demand for petroleum, which led to new discoveries of oil in Alberta
 - Manufacturing overtook agriculture as Canada's most important sector of the economy
- *From 1939 to 1949, Canada transformed itself from a rural economy into a modern industrial nation*

The War at Home: What the War Meant to Canada

- Social
 - Women employed in great numbers, which raised their profile in society and promoted their rights as workers
 - Significant wave of immigration: 48,000 war brides; 21,000 children
 - Government paid for their trip
 - Displaced migrants from war-torn countries came to Canada to start a new life
 - Encouraged by Canadian government to meet the growing demand for labour
 - Minority groups who fought as soldiers in the war helped to push civil rights for all Canadians

The War at Home: What the war meant to Canada

- Political
 - Canada had an enormous contribution to the war effort
 - Gave Canada a new role on the world stage as a major player in a global conflict, with one of the world's largest Navy and Air Force
 - Canadian soldiers recognized for their efforts on the battlefields and contribution to the Allied victory around the world
 - Canadian soldiers' liberation of the Netherlands still remembered to this day



War Technology

- Submarines – the Germans invented a snorkel that brought air into the submarine. Batteries could be recharged below the surface
- Radar – an electronic system that uses radio waves to detect objects beyond the range of vision (distance, position, size, shape, direction, speed of an object)
- Atomic Bomb – Developed by the U.S. A sphere the size of a baseball was equal in power to over 20,000 of TNT. A single atomic bomb could cripple an entire medium-sized city



War Technology

- V-2 Rocket (German) – with a range of 350km used with deadly accuracy against London in the closing days of the war (designer Wernher von Braun moved to the U.S. after the war and designed the Gemini and Apollo rockets that eventually led to the U.S. moon landing of 1969)
- Coding machine – developed by the Germans known as "Enigma". Converted radio messages into code so that they could not be understood by the enemy (



War Technology

- Jet-Propelled Airplanes – first used in WWII. Could fly higher and faster than propeller-driven planes but were not perfected until the end of the war
- Synthetics – synthetic rubber was stronger than natural rubber and more resistant to heat. Nylon became a substitute for Japanese silk in parachutes. Aircraft windows were made of Perspex, a clear plastic was superior to glass (would not shatter) etc.
- Medical Technology – *penicillin*, an antibiotic was first isolated in 1929 (not used to treat infections in humans until 1941). Contributed to over 95% recover rate for wounded Allied soldiers. Plastic surgery.

The War in Europe

- Allies
 - Britain
 - France
 - Commonwealth countries (Canada, Australia, and New Zealand)
- Axis
 - Germany
 - Italy (1939)
 - Japan (1940)



The War in Europe: “Phoney War”



- After Germany invaded Poland, allied troops were quickly stationed along France's border with Germany
- Waited for Germany's next move...
- For 7 months nothing happened
- Started to believe there might not be a war

The War in Europe: Blitzkrieg

- This idea was quickly shattered when Germany renewed its blitzkrieg (“lightning war”) by attacking Denmark and Norway in April 1940
- German panzers (tanks) crashed through enemy lines while the **Luftwaffe** (air force) above conducted constant bombing



The War in Europe: Blitzkrieg

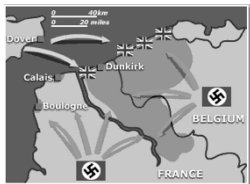


The War in Europe: Blitzkrieg

- Powerful and highly effective war tactic
- Swift and thorough left defending armies confused and disoriented
- Took Germany just hours to conquer Denmark and 2 months to subdue Norway
- On May 10th, Germany began its invasion of the Netherlands
- Moving quickly, Germany advanced through Belgium and finally into France

The War in Europe: Evacuation of Dunkirk

- Within days of arriving in France, German panzers had reached the English Channel
- Allied forces were soon surrounded in the French port of Dunkirk; the only option was an evacuation by sea



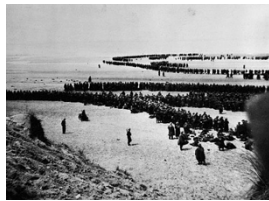
The War in Europe: Evacuation of Dunkirk

- The British navy called for every boat capable of crossing the English Channel to help in the effort
- Hundreds of fishing boats, pleasure crafts, and ferries joined naval and merchant ships in the evacuation



The War in Europe: Evacuation of Dunkirk

- German *Luftwaffe* bombed the port of Dunkirk making the escape by the Allies even more difficult, but the evacuation continued
- Nearly 340, 000 Allied soldiers were brought to safety in Britain



The War in Europe

- German army continued to sweep through France
- French army was no match for the powerful German troops
- June 22 1940 France surrendered
- Britain and the Commonwealth now stood alone against Germany



The War in Europe: The Battle of Britain

- Hitler's next goal: "Operation Sea Lion", the invasion of Britain

