

CASE STUDY #1: JAPAN MOVE TO GLOBAL WAR

La previa WUUU:

- Prior to US arrival to Japan, Japan had closed its borders to prevent W. expansion (**1600**)
 - Fear of change in their culture and religion
- EDO period → last period of simply Japanese identity, change to MODERNIZATION (following W. models)
 - Rapid urbanization
 - Economic growth
 - Samurai class → high status but surpassed by growing merchants
- Western ships arrived in China, subjecting them to "humiliating" treaties
- US arrival by Commodore Perry and "Black Ships" (**1853**)
 - Wanted to open Japan for trade
- The Shogun (Yoshinobu) signed the Treaty of Kanagawa (**1853**) which ended Japan's policy of isolation
- Japan was influenced by the West → Meiji restoration (**1868 - 1912**):
 - Military (Britain) → no more Samurai
 - War tactics (Germany)
 - Education (Germany)
 - Navy (British)
 - Constitution with Emperor as Commander of the Military
- Even after adopting Western ideas, they were seen as unequal
- Modernized Japan had a sense of superiority → want to conquer all East Asia (Sphere of influence)
 - Encouraged people to have more children to build strong armies to achieve said goal
 - Intense nationalism
- The increase in population led them to a need for raw materials
- Korean treaty (**1876**) → Japan wanted to take valuable resources from them to help in their desire to expand and develop
 - Japan helped them achieve independence from China → controlled them
- **First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895)** → Japan crushed China raising Western attention
 - They invaded Meijing and threatened to burn the city down and forced China to sign a treaty
 - Treaty of Shimonoseki (**1895**):
 - They would take the parts of China that European countries didn't want → China gave Taiwan + Pescadores Islands + Liaodong Peninsula
 - Gained living space and access to raw materials
 - Force China to make Korea independent → Japan annexed it (**1910**)
- Triple Intervention (**1895**) → USSR, Germany & France pressured Japan to give up the land that they conquered in the Sino-Japanese War.
 - Most humiliating moment for Japan → portrayed as weak

- Start of racist propaganda in West
- Russia takes advantage and moves into Manchuria, building the Chinese Eastern Railway (key for trade)
- Anglo-Japanese Alliance (1902) → First ever military alliance between Western country and Eastern country
 - Established Korean neutrality
 - UK strategically signed alliances as they wanted and ally that also hated Germany, France and Russia
 - Boosted Japanese morale
- Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901)
 - Chinese rebels that wanted to take out foreign influence out of China
 - Eight -Nation Alliance → defeated Boxers and occupied Beijing
 - Russians would take advantage and tried to seize “Port Arthur Peking” in Manchuria
- Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) → Japan wins again
 - Japan wanted access to the Manchurian Railway and sovereignty over Korea, which led them to attack Russia as they also wanted that
 - Negotiations failed
 - Battle of Tsushima → Japan destroyed Russian fleets → proved to be a STRONG world power
 - Treaty of Portsmouth (1905):
 - Russia withdrew from Korea → Japan annexes in 1910
 - Japan regain control of the Liangdong Peninsula and Manchuria (trade + raw material)
- The Qing dynasty collapses (1910):
 - China is divided in CCP and GMD (Chinese instability)
- Japan joins WW1 (1914) with the Allies:
 - Rival against China (again) → Twenty-one demands (1915)
 - Economic dominance in Manchuria and Inner Mongolia.
 - Influence over China’s economy, military, and government
 - China refuses → raises tensions
 - Participation in Paris Peace conference (1919) → 1 of big 5 powers
 - Attempted “ Racial equality clause” FAILED → led to resentment
- Japan after WW1 (1920s) → gained international respect
 - They got a lot of money by supplying resources Allies and Asian markets
 - Taisho democracy → weak
 - Change of policy to internationalism, aimed to develop Japan’s economy via peaceful means
 - Good relations with the USA and continuing to seek economic advancement in China
 - Prime Minister Kujo → participation in Washington Conference:
 - Four-Power treaty → diplomacy when Japanese expansion in Asia

- **Nine-Power treaty** → China is open for everyone
 - **Five-Power naval treaty** → Japan has a smaller Navy than USA and GB
- After the rise of Communism in Russia Japan is scared for revolution
- Corruption → Siemens Scandal (**1914**) → government's unpopularity
- Militarist conservatives want to continue expansion (anti-internationalism) → Later seen in Kwantung Army
- Great Depression (1929) → US established Smoot- Hawley Tariff Act which rose imports to 200%
 - Japan's exports DROPPED as it depended on foreign trade → increase in unemployment
 - This boosted ideology of self-sufficiency "ultranationalism"

Second Sino-Japanese War:

- After death of Shikai (1916) → central government collapsed
 - Warlords controlled everything LOL
- China fragmented in two (loads of political instability) → GMD (nationalists) and CCP (communists)
- 1st United front to unify China → Northern Expedition (1926-28)
- YET → Shanghai Massacre (**1927**)
 - Jiang Jieshi and GMD purge of communist party "disease of the heart"
 - Broke alliance
- GMD and CCP fought each other → Japan opportunism to seize Manchuria

Manchurian Crisis:

- Japan deploys the Kwantung Army in Manchuria → They act on its own, killing the Manchurian Warlord
- The Kwantung Army orchestrate the Mukden Incident (**1931**):
 - The Japanese-owned Manchurian Railway is blown up by the Kwantung Army
 - Is blamed on the Chinese → The Kwantung Army seizes Manchuria (**1932**)

■ **Manchukuo**

- The LoN condemns Japan and apply sanctions, but Japan still trades with the USA (so basically nothing happens)
- Japan abandons internationalism → moves to expansionism again (under the control of the Kwantung Army)
- Hideki Tojo leads the Kwantung Army to invade China (**1935**)
- Xi'an Incident (**1936**) → Chinese Civil War continues, so Zhang Xueliang kidnaps Jieshi to STOP fighting and focus on Japan.
 - 2nd United front against Japan (**1937**)
- Marco Polo Bridge Incident (Jul. 1937) → triggered FULL on 2nd Sino Japanese War
- During this conflict Japan also fights WWII. The US warns them not to expand further south from China.

Entering WW2:

- Japan creates the “Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere” with the excuse of making a coalition between Asian countries → It resulted in Japan wanting to conquer everyone
 - Close down trade to any country that wasn't Asia
 - Ultimately made them leaders of Asia and allowed full control of activities
- Dark Valley Era → military had more control over decisions than politicians
 - Koda-ha (Imperial Way) → believed in military dictatorship
 - USSR as ENEMY
 - National spirit army
 - Tosei-ha (Control Faction)
 - Military capitalist democracy
 - Good relations with USSR
 - Main enemy CHINA
 - 1936 → revolution done by the Koda-ha, killed a member of the Tosei-ha
 - Generated a war between both factions as they now started killing members of the army → lost the support of the people who sided with the Tosei - ha
 - 1937 → General Tojo (Tosei-ha) takes over and eliminates the Kwantung army.
- Rape of Nanjing (1937) → attack from part of Japanese Imperial Army towards China
- US moral embargo of airplane parts (key for war) (1939)
- US froze Japanese assets and imposed oil and steel embargo (1940)
- Japan signs the Tripartite Pact (1940) with Tojo as War Minister
 - Germany and Italy would center on conquering Europe; Japan, Asia
 - Japan would seize European colonies in Asia
- US oil embargo seizes 80% of Japan's oil source (1941)
- Tojo becomes Prime Minister (1941) → Signs **Neutrality Act with the USSR (1941)**
- Japan starts expanding like crazy for living space and raw materials (autarky)

Pearl Harbor (1941):

- Japan's expansion threatens US territories, not paying attention to US threats
- Goal → destroy the American military base and then attack the Philippines in order to close off the region and eliminate the American presence in Pacific
- Due to US embargos → Japan starts planning an attack on the US + Incentivates them to continue expanding for “survival”
- In order to continue expanding Japan strategically plans an attack on Pearl Harbor to slow down the US response as they continue attacking other colonies .
- **ATTACK ON Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7th 1941)**
 - Expands on Hong Kong, Dutch East Indies, Philippines, Malaya
- US declaration of War on Japan (**Dec. 8th 1941**)

By 1945 both the Second Sino-Japanese War and WWII ended for Japan with their surrender after the US nuke on Hiroshima and Nagazaki 🤖

CASE STUDY #2: ITALY MOVE TO GLOBAL WAR

Previa:

- Italy's historic past
 - They used to have one of the largest empires (Roman Empire) → wanted to return to their former glory
- Move from democratic to totalitarian state in order to achieve said "glory" again
- Divided Italy (until **1861**) → divided into various separate states "Kingdom of Sardinia"
 - Lack of nationalism
 - Different agricultures based on region
 - South (working class) and North (elites) hated each other as they had been fighting for territory since FOREVER (500 years)
 - High social class division → Only wealthy elites could vote
- Unification of the Kingdom of Italy (**1860s**):
 - Sardinia, Piedmont, Lombardy, Parma, Modena, Tuscany, Papal territory, the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies
- Division in ideologies
 - Right-Wing → Nationalist goals come first
 - FASCISM:
 - Nationalism → Pride for the country
 - Militarism → Promotion of violence as necessary for progress
 - Authoritarianism → The state has control over everything
 - Social Darwinism → There is a believed superior race
 - Social unity → This superior race is the only division. No class divisions
 - Left-Wing → Societies goals come first
 - ANARCHISM
- **Italy in WWI** → sided with Allies and expected gains of territory from Austria-Hungary, promised to them in the **Treaty of London (1915)**
 - However, in the **Treaty of Versailles and St. Germain (1919)** they did not receive various promised territories. The most important one they didn't get was the **Fiume**
 - WWI left Italy's economy in shambles, which led to social unrest
 - Led to the creation of the fascist party
 - Biennio Rosso (**1919-20**) → strikes
 - Made the liberal government look WEAK
- After WWI there was a wave of nativism, racism, and xenophobia in the US → strict immigration laws that trapped low class Italians in a poor country → international resentment
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- **Rise to power of Mussolini:**
- Rise of fascism in Europe → Germany, Spain and Italy
 - Italy after WWI was bad: rise in unemployment, hyperinflation, US migration restrictions, etc

- This ideology promised to restore order, fight socialism and revive economy → make Italy great again
- Benito Mussolini → former socialist turned interventionist, who started a new movement in Italy called “Fasci di Combattimento”
 - Sought to restore the Roman Empire by conquering Mediterranean + Balkan + North African territories
 - Sought to achieve *Spazio Vitale* (living space)
 - **Similar to Lebensraum in Germany**
 - Super nationalist
 - Anti-communist
 - One party state
 - Anti-internationalist (autarky)
 - “Protection from socialism” (appealed businessmen)
- Mussolini’s creation of the “Blackshirts” → paramilitary group
 - attacked socialist meetings, burned union offices, and beat opponents.
- Creation of Fascist Party (1921)
 - Mix of politics, violence and intimidation
 - Rose to power given:
 - Anger for war settlements
 - Unemployment and crisis
 - Bolsheviks communist in Russia
 - Mussolini Church support
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- March on Rome (**Oct. 1922**) → Group of Blackshirts marching and threatening to take power forcefully
 - King refused to use army against him (afraid of communism and dying like last King lol) and appointed him Prime Minister

Mussolini Dictatorship:

- Convinced King to give him executive power
- Mussolini's government receives a “vote of confidence” → gains emergency power
- The Nationalist Party joins the Fascists → the Acerbo Law is passed, giving 67% of the Parliament’s seats to the Party with more votes (Fascist) (1923)
 - **Similar to 1933 enabling act in Germany**
- There was a harsh control of opposition, killing or disappearing activists → Liberal political leader Matteotti was murdered
- Mussolini becomes “Il Duce” (1925) → Law of Powers of Head of Government is passed → Mussolini becomes the supreme executive leader, can only be removed by the King
- Loads of political violence
 - banning of opposition political parties and trade unions
 - State controlled press

- OVRA (secret police)
- Death penalty passed
- No jury trials
- Youth movements towards war
- Policies:
 - Battle for Grain (1925), Battle for Lira (1926), Battle for Births (1927) & Battle for Land (1928)
 - Improve wheat and cereal production for self-sufficiency, improve the value of its currency, increase the population of Italy and gain more territories (Balkans, Mediterranean, Africa)
 - Economic
 - All workers and employers work for the state → employers dominated
 - All corporations are nationalized
 - Eliminate class division
 - Foreign Policy
 - Corfu Affair (1923) → Invasion of Greek Islands after Italian official was killed there
 - LoN ordered a withdrawal (actually paid them 10000 lira to leave)
 - Seizure of Fiume (1924) → "Vittoria Mutilata"
 - Treaty of Friendship with Albania (1924) → protectorate state
 - Threatened France influence in E. Europe
 - Locarno Treaty (1925) → Western European borders confirmed
 - Kellogg Briand Pact (1928) → war was prohibited as foreign or national policy
 - Support of Right-Wing Movements in Germany (and Spain)
 - Allow to train German pilots in Italy LOL
 - Empire Building:
 - Supported independence movements in French Morocco (1920s) → didn't really care about independence, just wanted Morocco for himself xd
 - Violent suppressions of independence movements in Italian Libya (1923-32) (control over North Africa)
 - Seizure of Corfu (Greece) (1923) after the murder of an Italian general (he just wanted the territory on the Mediterranean)
 - Fiume annexed from Yugoslavia (1924) → Treaty of Rome
 - Balkan expansion
 - Invasion of Ethiopia looking to conquer North Africa → Against LoN (1935)
 - Invasion of Albania to overtake Balkan territory (1939)
- Italian Aggression
 - 1930s foreign policy
 - 4 Power Pact (Britain, France, Germany and Italy) → reaffirms Great Power influence in Europe
 - Support of Austria → Independent, no unification with Germany

- Stresa Conference (**1935**) → Stresa Front to stop German expansion
- Abyssinian Crisis (**1934-36**) → Following the expansionist policies of Mussolini and the intent to take over Northern Africa:
 - Avenged the 1896 Italian loss in the Battle of Adowa → Nationalism
 - Used colonial troops to attack
 - Ethiopia was rich in resources → raw materials and economic growth
 - Mussolini believed that the Stresa front would lead to Britain's and France to tolerate the invasion (didn't work lol)
 - The conflict started in 1934 by the dispute of the Wal Wal Oasis → Italy won and demanded an apology
 - No apology → 500,000 Italian soldiers invaded Abyssinia → It was annexed in 1936
 - LoN condemned Italy but did nothing (as usual)
- Spanish Civil War (1936) → opportunity to expand Italian influence (fascism)
 - Aims:
 - Supported fascism against communism in Spain in order to get Naval Bases in W. Mediterranean
 - 70,000 troops joined war (more than any other nation)
 - Results:
 - high economic costs
 - depletion of Italian arms (Weak)
 - Tensions with France and Britain increased
 - New alliances:
 - Rome-Berlin Axis (**1936**)
 - Anti-Comintern Pact (**1937**)
 - Leaving LoN (**1937**)
- March to War:
 - Supported German Anschluss (1938)
 - Supported German occupation of Rhineland
 - Supports invasion of Czechoslovakia (1939)
 - Invasion of Albania
 - Pact of Steel (1939)
 - Italy not ready for War yet by end of 1939, when war is declared upon Germany

WW2:

- Italy signs the Tripartite Pact (**1940**)
- Joins WWII in June 1940 after Germany's fast conquest of France and Britain
- Invasions of Egypt from Libya
- Invasion of Greece from Albania

- Invasion of France through Alps

CASE STUDY #3: GERMANY MOVE TO GLOBAL WAR

Previa:

- Before the war, Germany was in their “Golden Years”. They were powerful, had a great economy and were very authoritarian.
- By the end of WW1 (1918) the majority of the German population had the misconception that they were winning due to their win over Russia after the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1917)
 - However, after the German Schlieffen Plan failed and the Spanish influenza spread, this perspective deteriorated.
 - German general Ludendorff saw that Germany’s defeat was imminent → ceded power to the Prince Max of Baden
 - Eventually the Kaiser abdicated → Socialist government calls for Armistice
- The Weimar Republic was established after all the chaos that followed WW1. After the abdication of the Kaiser, this provisional government was created.
- When war was completely over and the Armistice was proposed, this felt like a stab in the back for the Germans as some truly believed they were winning the war.
 - This was supposed to be based on the 14 points proposed by Wilson, but ended up being the Treaty of Versailles (1919)
 - HUGE damage reparations (132 billion gold marks)
 - Military restrictions (100,000 soldiers, 6 ships, Demilitarization of the Rhineland)
 - Territorial losses (about 13%, including 10% of Germany’s population)
 - Article 231 WAR GUILT CLAUSE
 - Germans blamed the “stab in the back” on the communists
- In light of the economic crisis, the Communist-lead Germany sought bank loans from (mostly) American and European banks, however some of them were Jews (Warburg, Rothschild) → Jews were stereotyped as the bank owners/lenders
- The people that signed the Armistice were called the “November Criminal”
 - They were thought to have stabbed Germany in the back
 - Antisemitism surged during this time period
- Heavy and continuous political instability
 - Spartacus Uprising (1919) → Communist revolt in Berlin
 - This intensified hate for the Left
 - Kapp Putsch (1920) → Right’s attempted coup
- The SA was established by Röhm (1921) → Ideology based on Mussolini's fascism
- Munich (Beer Hall) Putsch (1923) → Hitler’s failed coup. He was sent to jail and there he wrote the *Mein Kampf*:
 - Racial superiority: The Aryan race was superior over other races (*untermenschen*)
 - The most inferior race were the Jews → Largely resented for the bank lenders stereotype
 - *Gross Deutschland*: Unification with Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland (Aryan countries)
 - *Lebensraum*: Living space for Aryans only

- Other than the Jews, the Communists were blamed for Germany's misery (Weimar Republic) and portrayed as enemies
- Invasion of the Ruhr (**1923**) → Unpaid reparations made France take over the industrial area of Germany in order to compensate.
- HUGE economic crisis → Hyperinflation and unemployment
- Between the years of 1924-1929, Germany sought to stabilize their economy and recover the "Golden Years"
 - Gustav Stresemann was the mastermind behind Germany's economic recovery
 - Rentenmark → new currency established that restored trust in money value
 - Dawes Plan (**1924**) → reparation costs were frozen for 2 years. US assisted Germany with a loan of \$300M
 - Young's Plan (**1929**) → spread reparations over 58 years with US support
- Locarno Treaties (**1925**) → confirmed W. borders. Germany accepted and recognized other nations' borders.
- League of Nations (**1926**) → Germany was invited to join LoN.
- Kellogg Briand Pact (**1928**) → War was prohibited as national or international policy.
- Great Depression (**1929**) → The NY stock exchange market collapsed causing the loans that were given to Germany to help better its economy to COLLAPSE.

INTRO TO AUTHORITARIAN STATES (HITLER) → paper 2

Hitler's rise to power:

- Hitler, who fought in WWI as an intelligence agent, was one of the many Germans resented towards the European powers after the Treaty of Versailles.
 - He was commanded to investigate the German Worker's Party, led by a Socialist leader, but ended up joining
 - He renamed it as the Nationalist Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP) in **1920** → gave it the Swastika as symbol (卐)
- Hitler "rebranded" the NSDAP to the Nazi Party / Third Reich, giving his own ideas for fascism.
 - 25 points programme
- Hitler's goals aligned with the ones of the SA (**1921**) → became his "own military police"
- Hitler's Youth Programme (**1926**) → Instilled the idea of young people learning about extreme nationalists ideas as well as Nazi ideology
- After the Great Depression there was no Reichstag majority → Hindenburg issues Article 48 decree
 - President takes complete control in times of emergency as it happened after the GP
- In elections NSDAP grew from 2.6% to 18.3% by 1930
 - Biggest Right Wing party
- Goebbels was KEY for Hitler's rise to power as his propagandistic strategies led to massive support increase
 - The usage of rallies, radios and flyers was KEY

- Nuremberg rallies
 - By late 1939 → 70% of the German households had one of these radios.
- The Nazi Party was the most influential with the largest amount of seats in the Reichstag (37%) (**1932**) → Political figures and elites started fearing Hitler's complete domination of Germany

Consolidation of power

- Hindenburg appoints Hitler as Chancellor (**1933**)
- An extremist socialist burns the Reichstag (Reichstag fire) (**Feb. 1933**):
 - Hitler blames the communists (Van Der Lubben)
 - A LOT of anti-communist propaganda
 - SA targets and arrest communists
- Reichstag elections (**Mar. 1933**):
 - The Nazi Party had 44% of the votes
 - The Nazi Party allies with the Catholic Party by promising to respect the existence of the Catholic Church, contrary to the Communist's atheistic view
 - With 67% of the votes, the **Enabling Act** is passed → Hitler becomes the supreme leader
 - This allows for laws to be passed without the Reichstag's approval
- The *Gleichschaltung* (**1933+**)
 - Purge of Civil Services begin
 - Gestapo created with Himmler as leader
 - Dissolved trade unions and replaced them with the German Labour Front (DAF)
 - Purge of Jew/Communist literature and education
 - Hitler signs the *Reichskonkordat* with the Vatican → religious freedom and political neutrality in exchange for protection of Catholic education.
 - SPD party was banned and other opposition parties were pressured to dissolve as well
 - One-party State → a law was signed to prohibit the formation of new parties
- Dachau (**1933**) was the first concentration camp. Was planned to hold opposition (mostly Jews, communists)
- Night of the Long Knives (**1934**)
 - Röhm sees Hitler as an uncontrolled force → Plans to take him out
 - Hitler creates his own paramilitary group (SS, black shirts)
 - Purge of the SA leadership → Röhm is killed
 - Almost all SA members were sent to Dachau
- The SS started as Hitler's bodyguards (**1920**):
 - Led by Heinrich Himmler. Answered only to Hitler.
 - It became a civilian police force that operated like a military → extra legal actions
 - Organized and ran the Concentration Camps → Death's Head Division
 - The Gestapo was centralized under the commands of Himmler (new secret police)
 - The Waffen-SS were special military units

- Geneva Disarmament Conference (1933) → LoN called for militaries to be in a defensive scale → France refused after atrocities in WWI → Hitler pulled out from there and LoN
- However, to seem “peaceful”, Hitler signed a Non-Aggression Pact with Poland (1934)
- Hindenburg dies (Aug. 1934) → Hitler becomes both President + Chancellor = Führer and Reichskanzler
- The Nuremberg Law is passed (1935) → Banned marriages between Jews and Aryans. Forbade Jews from employing German women under 45.
- Olympic Games in Germany (1936) → Huge propaganda stunt by removing Nuremberg Laws and Aryan supremacy propaganda.
- Slogans → “Deutschland über alles”
- Youth Groups grew by 1936 → 5.4M members.
 - Became mandatory in 1939

Foreign Policy

- *Grossdeutschland*: all German-speaking nations in Europe are part of Germany
- *Lebensraum*: expand German territory for the Aryans.
- *Untermenschen*: believed the non-Aryan people were inferior. Included Jews, Slavs, communists, etc.
- Anglo-German Naval Agreement (1935) allowed Hitler to grow Navy 35% of Britain's
- Remilitarization of the Rhineland (1936) –A In violation of the Treaty of Versailles and the Locarno Treaties, which demilitarized the Rhineland region
- Rome-Berlin Axis(1936) → Collaborate with Italy on mutual interests (ideology, expansion)
- Reichswehr (Army) swears personal loyalty to Hitler → Army, SS and Gestapo under his control
 - Scandals that brought down the highest ranking army leaders. Hitler assumed the title of Commander in Chief of the German Army (1938) → Major military decisions
- Munich Agreement (1938) → International commission that determines new borders with plebiscites
- Anschluss (1938)
 - Plebiscite shows that 99% of Austrians wanted to unify (Anex Austria)
 - LoN did not act as it was weak after Abyssinian Crisis
- Anglo-German Declaration (1938) → “Peace in our time”
- Invasion of Czechoslovakia (1939) → Sudeten Crisis
 - Raw material (resources) → *Lebensraum*
 - 3.5 million Germans → *Grossdeutschland*
 - 70% of Czech’s industry was lost + 33% population
 - British Appeasement Policy changes
- Pact of Steel (1939) → Formal pact between Italy and Germany after Rome-Berlin Axis
- Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (1939) → Non-aggression pact with USSR:
 - Division of Eastern and Northern Europe into German and Soviet spheres of influence
 - Allows Hitler to invade Poland without fear of Soviet intervention.
 - Avoids two-front war + access to Soviet resources
 - Allowed USSR to focus on Japanese threat (Manchuria)
- Invasion of Poland (1939) → *Lebensraum* + *Grossdeutschland*
 - Wanted Danzig (was part of Germany before WWI) + separated new German territory

from mainland

- Britain and Poland signed a military alliance
- Mussolini tried diplomatic action as he was not ready for war
- SS soldiers dressed as Polish soldiers attacked German radio station
- Germany bombed Warsaw (Luftwaffe)
- Britain ultimatum to withdraw from Poland → rejected → Declaration of war (WWII)

Policy of Appeasement:

- Was a policy of making concessions to avoid a greater conflict, Chamberlain was the main influence (anti-war sentiment)
- It raised after the weakness of the League of Nations:
 - No economic, military or US support
 - Many discrepancies over the Treaty of Versailles
 - Countries (specially France and Britain which were leaders) were after own interests
- US isolationism → Neutrality acts implicitly disregarded LoN's condemnations
- Anglo-German Naval Agreement (**1935**) allowed Hitler to grow Navy 35% of Britain's
- Britain ultimatum to withdraw from Poland → rejected → Declaration of war (WWII)