

XII. World War II

A. Causes

1. Satisfied vs. Dissatisfied countries

a. Dissatisfied

- Germany, Japan, USSR, Italy – all dictatorships, all rely on force

b. Satisfied

- US, Britain, France, new/small nations – Most Republics, these fear war

2. First steps towards world domination

a. Mussolini's & Hitler's aggression

- Lebensraum – breathing space

b. world reactions

- appeasement – Chamberlain
- non-aggression pact – Stalin
- Anger – Winston Churchill

c. Invasion of the Polish Corridor

- Blitzkrieg
- war declared by Brits

B. The first bits of war

1. Sitzkrieg/Phony War – both sit and wait at the Maginot Line & Belgium

2. Germany's invasion of Denmark/Norway

3. Invasion of France (around Maginot line – through Belgium)

a. Three governments

- Nazi-occupied
- Vichy – puppet government
- De Gaulle & French Resistance – government in exile

4. Election of Winston Churchill

- ##### a. honest – “I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat.”

C. Hitler looks like he'll win World Domination

1. Battle of Britain

- ##### a. Churchill convinces British to keep going

2. The Holocaust

a. meaning

- definition of genocide

b. Hitler 6.5 million Jews – but they weren't the only ones

c. timeline

- Identification – racial, not cultural
- Ghettos
- 1941 – Introduction of the “Final Solution”
- The Concentration Camps
- Russian Shootings

- Liberation

- d. Besides being a mass homicide (reason enough to hate Hitler), what was especially nonsensical about the Holocaust?

D. The errors

1. The Holocaust (see above)
2. invasion of U.S.S.R.
 - a. Sound familiar? – One of history’s classic blunders - “Never get involved in a land war in Asia.”
 - b. Goal – Caspian Oil Fields
 - c. Battle of Stalingrad

E. The End of the European War

1. Triumph of Production – why the U.S. mattered
2. The Tehran Conference – plans for invasion
3. D-Day - 6 June 1944
 - a. Normandy Invasion
4. Battle of the Bulge
5. Hitler’s End
6. Germany surrendered