



World War Part 2: A Rising Threat

Emboldened by his experiences in battle, Adolf Hitler mobilizes membership in the Nazi Party and formulates his plan for a nationalist Germany to regain power. Benito Mussolini rises to the helm in Italy, leading the National Fascist Party. Meanwhile, Franklin Delano Roosevelt ushers the U.S. through the crisis of the Great Depression. In Japan, the quest for expansion and international power leads to increased militarization. Hideki Tojo rises up the ranks. Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany in 1933 and by 1939 the world explodes into war. After forming a non-aggression pact with Russia, Hitler attempts to conquer Europe with Japan and Italy as allies. Churchill, now Prime Minister, does his best to keep Britain from total collapse while the U.S. weighs the consequences of entering the war.

Directions: Answer each of the questions with at least 3 complete sentences.

1. Why did Mussolini decide to invade Ethiopia? How did this decision tie in with his larger plans for Italy?
2. Why do you think Stalin decided to form a pact with Hitler in August 1939?
3. What was the political strategy known as “appeasement”? Do you think it was effective during World War II?
4. How would you describe the differences between Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and Winston Churchill in their approach to leadership during the early years of World War II?

Name _____

Period _____ Date _____

5. Why do you think Roosevelt did not push to involve the U.S. in World War II right away? Do you think this was the right decision?
6. What were three of the main goals of Japan in the years before and during World War II?

World Wars part 3: Never Surrender



7. When and why did the United States enter World War II?
8. How would you describe the relationship between FDR and Churchill? What were some of the important decisions they made together during World War II?
9. Why do you think Mussolini failed to maintain power in Italy?