Chapter 10 The Coming of War

Focus: What events caused World War II and how did the United States become involved?

Section 1: Dictators and War

Focus Question: Why did totalitarian states rise after World War I, and what did they do?

1. A Bitter Peace Unravels -
   1. Germany - from the beginning many Germans resented the terms of the Treaty of Versailles
   2. Italy and Japan - wanted more land
   3. New Governments formed - as some nations moved toward democracy, others moved toward dictatorships and totalitarianism
      1. A single party or leader controls the economic, social, and cultural lives of its people.
2. The Soviet Union
   1. Joseph Stalin - came to power after Lenin’s death in 1924. Stalin means man of steel and this is a good description of him.
      1. He was a ruthless leader, he didn’t think twice about killing rivals or sending innocent people to prison or death.
      2. Wanted to transform the Soviet Union into an Industrial Leader.
      3. Great Terror - While this was taking place an estimated 10 million people were killed. The Communist Party was purged of any suspected traitors. This included many of the officers of the Red Army.
      4. Stayed in power due to the fear that he instilled amongst his men
3. Italy
   1. Rise of totalitarianism - this was a direct result of the war and the peace treaties.
      1. It wanted land from the Austrian Hungarian Empire on the Adriatic Coast
      2. Economic depression made it hard for people to find jobs
      3. A communist movement was growing and the government seemed weak.
   2. Benito Mussolini
      1. Fascist Party - founded in 1919. This is all about nationalism and promised to make Italy great again.
      2. Black Shirts - his followers - fought against socialists and communists.
      3. Was asked to form a government by the King who feared a revolution. He called himself Il Duce- the leader. He quickly brought together the army and the government under his rule.
      4. He outlawed political parties, took over the press, and created a secret police.
      5. His hold wasn’t as great as Stalin’s over the Soviet Union, but it was pretty strong.
4. Germany
   1. The Weimar Republic - Germany was a democracy after WWI, but it was not easy.
      1. Economic Troubles was one of the reasons it was difficult to maintain this form of government
   2. Rise of the Nazi's
      1. The depression hit the Weimar Republic hard. Many anti-democratic protests were carried out with the leaders being the National Socialist Worker's Party.
         1. They are not socialists - even though it is in the name
         2. They opposed socialism, communism and any government that promoted class interests over German ethnic solidarity.
   3. Adolf Hitler - leader of the Nazi Party
      1. Mein Kopf - written while in prison after a failed rebellion of the Nazi's. It means my struggle and provided his reasoning for why Germany was failing.
         1. Mostly blamed the Jews - anti-Semitic.
      2. Anti-Semitism was nothing new - but now there were some scientific theories saying that Jews were a race.
   4. Hitler seizes power
      1. Hitler was appointed Chancellor in 1933 by the Weimar Republic. Over the next two years he also took the title of president as well and pretty much had the rule of the land and the Reichstag (Germany parliament) didn't stop him.
      2. 1935 Hitler had complete control over Germany.
   5. Hitler as leader
      1. As a leader he silenced all opposition, had a state controlled press, state controlled educational system and created a secret police.
      2. ended the depression through rearmament and public work projects
      3. Restricted freedoms and openly attacked Jewish people, communists, and socialists.
5. Japan
   1. Increased democracy was also seen in Japan. The power of the military was reduced and new laws were passed to give all men the right to vote. This ended when the Great Depression hit.
   2. Military rose to power - they came back

Section 2: From Isolation to Involvement

Focus Question: How did Americans react to events in Europe and Asia in the early years of World War II?

1. Roosevelt Opposes Aggression – Americans were shocked by what Japan did in 1937 even before the Rape of Nanjing. They had attacked without a declaration of war which was unheard of.
   1. Quarantine Speech - In October 1937, FDR made a speech about the atrocities that Japan had committed. He suggested that the aggressors needed to be quarantined just like a contagious disease.
      1. He suggested an alliance of the peace loving nations but with no real plan of action other than to quarantine them just like a contagious disease.
2. War erupts in Europe
   1. Appeasement had failed. The quarantine speech did nothing to stop Japan, just as the appeasement policies of England and France did nothing to stop Germany. In the spring of 1939, Hitler violated the Munich Pact and annexed the rest of Czechoslovakia.
   2. Blitzkrieg in Poland - England and France watched as Hitler invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia and realized they needed to take a stand. They both agreed that they would protect Poland.
      1. Nazi Soviet Non-Aggression Pact - Hitler was more concerned about a war with the Soviet Union than with England and France so he approached the Soviet Union agreeing the two would not attack each other.
         1. Secret part saying that they would invade Poland and divide it amongst themselves.
      2. Sept 1, 1939 the Germans invaded Poland. Due to the new technology this went pretty quickly. With a coordinated tanks and planes.
      3. Sept 17, the Soviet Union invaded from the east.
      4. England and France declared war on Germany but did nothing to help Poland.
3. France Falls -
   1. Phony War -for the first 8 months of the war nothing happened.
   2. Germany makes its move -
      1. April 1940 Germany invaded Denmark and Norway -they fell pretty quickly
      2. May 10, 1940 he sent forces into the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg.
   3. France had set up forces on the Maginot Line - the border between Germany and France and then sent more troops to the border of Belgium (this is where they attacked during WWI) but they left the Ardennes unprotected thinking they would not be able to invade through there. They were wrong.
   4. Evacuation from Dunkirk - as the British and French forces were surrounded, a few mistakes by the Germans allowed over 338,000 troops to be evacuated. Many believe that if they were not able to be evacuated at this point, the war would have been over before it began.
   5. Paris fell shortly afterwards.
   6. France divided - the northern section controlled by the Germans seas known as Occupied France, they also set up a government in Vichy in the South of France, although this area was technically neutral, it worked with the Germans.
4. Battle of Britain - the policy of appeasement was officially over after France fell.
   1. Operation Sea Lion - this was Germany’s plan to invade England. It relied on an air battle being fought first to weaken the English resolve and supplies.
      1. Luftwaffe - German air force was supposed to destroy the RAF - royal air force.
      2. Both civilian and military sites were targeted.
      3. Known as the blitz
      4. The invasion was ultimately put off since it didn’t seem like the British were giving up.
5. America debates involvement
   1. Favors isolation -
      1. Great Depression - many wanted to be more focused on domestic affairs than what was going on overseas.
      2. Already saw what happened during WWI, didn’t want to repeat that. The fact that fascism had risen in Europe seemed like the sacrifices were worthless.
      3. Nye Committee -supported the many theories that said that the only reason the US got into WWI was for private companies to make a profit. - Little hard proof, but the fact that they looked into it was enough to raise the question.
   2. Neutrality Acts - they were passed to keep the US out of war
      1. 1935 - can’t sell arms to countries at war
      2. 1936 - extended the above and all said they couldn’t make loans to belligerent nations
      3. 1937 banned American travel on ships of belligerent nations, and shipping weapons/arms even if they weren’t made in the U.S. This also applied to countries at Civil War.
      4. They did not distinguish between Allies or Aggressors.
   3. Interventionists - Roosevelt was not happy and was definitely Anti-Nazi, but he was limited. He was finally able to convince Congress to relent a little.
      1. 1939 - Cash and Carry policy. Belligerent nations could buy goods ad arms i the US if they paid cash and carried the merchandise on their own ships.
   4. Interventionists versus Isolationists
      1. Many thought this was wrong. FDR helped them to see that sending aid to England would in fact help keep the US out of the war. (Interventionist view point)
      2. Isolationists on the other hand thought by helping the Allies would automatically harm the Axis and that would cause the US to enter the war.
         1. America First Committee was an isolationist group that openly criticized FDR
            1. Charles Lindberg was one of the main members
   5. Reports from London during the Blitz helped many Americans change their mind.
      1. Reports said they were not bombing military, but civilian
   6. Tripartite Pact - this was signed between Germany, Italy, and Japan shortly after France fell.
   7. Selective Service Act - the first peacetime draft was issued. Calling up more than 1.2 million and 800,000 reserve troops.
   8. Continue to aid Britain - lent them fifty WWI battleships in exchange for eight defense bases - made without the consent of Congress since it was considered an emergency.
6. Final steps moving toward war
   1. FDR is reelected for a third term - first time ever.
   2. Four Freedoms - January 6, 1941 FDR made a speech about the fact that the war was being fought over freedoms - freedom of speech, worship, from want, and from fear. All things the Nazi and Japanese military were taking away.
7. Urging America to join the war effort
   1. FDR makes a speech in which he compares England to a neighbor whose house is on fire. As a good neighbor would you lend them a fire hose? - This was being a good neighbor and no one would question giving them a hose.
   2. Lend Lease Act - Britain started to run out of money. Roosevelt urged the American people to make the US “the great arsenal for democracy”.
      1. This act allowed the U.S. to sell, transfer title to, exchange, lease, lend or otherwise dispose of to any such government and defense article whenever he thought necessary in the interests of the defense of the US.
      2. By 1945 - the US had sent 40 billion of aid to the Allies - including the Soviet Union and China.
      3. This was pretty much a declaration of war on the part of the U.S. without saying so much.
8. Last steps
   1. Atlantic Charter - In August of 41, Roosevelt and Churchill secretly meet on a warship where they come up with this Charter. This endorsed the four freedoms including self-determination and an international system of general security.
   2. U-Boat attacks - Hitler was aware of the increased support the US gave to the Allies. He ordered his U-Boats to attack American ships. They shot at the U.S.S. Greer, hit the USS Kearny and sunk the USS Reuben James
      1. This shocked the American people and helped move public support even closer to war.
      2. FDR ordered the navy to attack German U-boats on sight.

Section 3: America Enters the War

Question: How did the United States react to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor?

1. Japan/U.S. relations
   1. Japan, although once an Ally, was trying to expand and was not happy that the U.S. was stopping them, but they relied heavily on trade with the U.S.
   2. Trade with Japan - Japan relied heavily on trade with the U.S. As the war broke out in Europe, Japan began to increase its expansion efforts.
      1. U.S. issues an embargo on naval and aviation supplies such as oil and rubber.
      2. This was made stricter when they signed the Tripartite pact, but it did little good as Japan was now getting its resources from the countries it invaded.
2. Peace Talks
   1. General Hideki Tojo became prime minister in 1941. Wanted to expand but keep the US neutral at the same time.
   2. Held peace talks through the summer of 41. In November the U.S. rejected Japans demands
3. Attack on Pearl Harbor - even as the peace talks were still under way, Japan sent naval forces to Pearl Harbor
   1. Japanese forces = 6 aircraft carriers, 360 airplanes, battleships, and cruiser and submarines.
   2. Goal was to eradicate the Pacific Fleet
4. Results -
   1. 2,500 people died, 8 battleships damaged, 3 destroyers destroyed, 3 cursers damaged, and 160 aircraft destroyed with 128 damaged.
   2. The fleet was out of commission for 6 months allowing the Japanese to expand without anyone stopping them.
   3. No aircraft carriers were in port as were 7 heavy cruisers and only 3 battleships were destroyed. American submarines, refueling stations and maintenance supplies were untouched.
   4. Nagumo cancelled the third wave of attacks which allowed the above to be undamaged.
   5. Prior to the attack there were some that did not want to enter the war. Pearl Harbor changed all that.
   6. War was declared on Dec 8, 1941. Germany and Italy declare war on US on December 11, 1941
5. Mobilizing for War
   1. Americans volunteers responded quickly once the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred.
      1. 16 million served
      2. Americans from all ethnicities served. Mexican and Native Americans served in integrated units. African Americans were only allowed in the navy and army. Neither allowed combat until the end of the war. Most were in support services such as waiters and cooks
      3. Women - roughly 350.000 served
         1. WAC - in the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps which later dropped the auxiliary when they received benefits The WAC provided clerical support, but also worked as drivers, instructors and lab technicians.
         2. Army Nurse Corps saw 57,000. Although they were not fighting they were on the front lines treating the wounded in the Pacific and Europe.
   2. Mobilizing Industry - some had started to step up as a result of the lend-lease act, but it was still not enough.
      1. War Production Board - oversaw the change from peacetime production to wartime production.
      2. Office of War Mobilization was created to unite private industry, unions and labor to make sure the resources - both man and natural were available to fill the demand.
      3. Great Depression was ended. There was a job for every worker. They were able to build an airplane every day and a ship every four.
6. Fighting in the Pacific
   1. Taking of the Philippines - this was the largest of the American territories in the Pacific. MacArthur tried to hold on,
      1. But they had not support and this was made worse as Japanese forces took Guam, Wake Island and Hong Kong.
      2. MacArthur underestimated the Japanese forces. They were forced to retreat and settled in for a long siege in Corregidor - but they suffered with little rations and no medical supplies.
      3. MacArthur was ordered to evacuate to Australia, but 72,000 American and Filipino soldiers were left behind.
   2. Bataan Death March - the 72,000 were forced to march 55 miles, take a train, and then march another 8 miles. Many were sick and malnourished.
      1. The Japanese believed in fighting to the end and anyone that surrendered was considered weak - so they were given little food and no water. Men were shot for breaking rank and trying to get water from the wells along the route.
   3. Gathering resources - as the Japanese continued to advance; they were able to secure the natural resources needed such as rubber, and oil.
   4. Japanese Expansion - by the summer of 42, Japanese forces controlled much of the Pacific and were poised to control the Indian Oceans as well.
   5. Doolittle Raid - this was direct retaliation for the attack on Pearl Harbor. This was an attack of b-25 bombers on Tokyo. It killed 50 Japanese, and destroyed 100 buildings. The pilots crash landed in China.
      1. It did very little in terms of military, but it was a great morale boost for the U.S.
   6. Battle of Coral Sea - In May 1942, this was the first sea fight in which the opposing sides never saw each other. It was fought primarily by airplanes.
      1. Technically a draw - it forced the Japanese to call off its attack on New Guinea. This was the first time they had been stopped.