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## Unit 5 Study Guide - WWII

**Note:** The test will be on \_\_\_\_\_. Do NOT rely solely on the study guide. Use your vocabulary flash cards, SS journal notes, and Brainpop Videos to review as well.

### CAUSES OF WWII

#### I. JAPANESE AGGRESSION

In 1931 and 1932, the Japanese invaded Manchuria, China in order to gain more natural resources, including iron, coal, soybeans, salt and above all LAND!

#### II. ITALIAN AGGRESSION

In 1935, Italy invaded Ethiopia and finally annexed it in 1936 in order to demonstrate their power and rebuild their reputation. It also provided the country with more natural resources and land.

In 1939, Italy invaded Albania, giving Italy control of the entrance to the Adriatic Sea.

#### III. GERMAN AGGRESSION

Hitler demanded Western Czechoslovakia (Sudetenland) at the Munich Conference in 1938. France and Great Britain agreed to give Hitler the Sudetenland to avoid another war (appeasement).

In 1939, Hitler (Germany) and Stalin (Soviet Union) agreed NOT to attack one another for 10 years. They also secretly agreed to split Poland. Hitler later broke this agreement by invading the Soviet Union in 1941.

Despite the efforts of the League of Nations and Great Britain's Neville Chamberlain, a second conflict erupted when Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. France and Great Britain were thrust immediately into the conflict, but the United States remained neutral, practicing isolationism.

#### IV. OTHER CAUSES

Under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was forced to take full blame for WWI. Germans were also required to pay \$33 billion in reparations, were forced to give up land, and could only keep a very small military.

Germany was in ruins due to the destruction of World War I, as well as the Great Depression. During this time, Germany experienced high unemployment and high inflation. So, their money wasn't worth very much.

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Many people in Germany were drawn to Hitler because he was nationalistic and wanted to rebuild the country of Germany. He promised jobs and economic growth. He also believed the Germans were superior or better than people of other nationalities and races.

Initially, the Allies attempted to negotiate and appease Hitler to avoid another war. Little by little, Germany began to rebuild its military (militarism). They also took back territory that they had lost during World War I (imperialism), breaking the Treaty of Versailles.

In 1940, Germany, Italy, and Japan signed an agreement and formed an alliance, which became known as the Axis Alliance or the Axis Powers.

Ultimately, militarism, alliances, nationalism, imperialism, appeasement and aggression all led to WWII.

## **ALLIES** – United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union

**Franklin D. Roosevelt** – President of the United States from 1932-1945. After guiding the United States through the Great Depression and after creating the New Deal, President Roosevelt's approval was high among many Americans. As war became inevitable, he hesitated to involve the United States in another destructive war, until the attack on Pearl Harbor. The surprise attack thrust the United States into the conflict. Roosevelt was re-elected to his third and fourth terms during World War II.

**Harry S. Truman** – Became president in 1945 with the sudden death of President Roosevelt. The war in Europe was close to an end, but the conflict with Japan continued. Utilizing the foreign policy and plans established by Roosevelt, Truman ordered the use of atomic bombs against Japan. This led to Japan's surrender. Truman also helped to create the United Nations in June of 1945. He believed that diplomacy and negotiations could prevent future conflict.

**Winston Churchill** – Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1940-1945. He skillfully maneuvered public opinion and utilized Great Britain's Navy and ground troops to lead Great Britain through World War II. With his country under constant bombardment by air from Germany during the Battle for Britain, Winston Churchill sought to support the citizens of his country as well as oppose the Axis Powers.

**Joseph Stalin** – Leader of the Soviet Union from 1929-1953. Initially, the Soviet Union had an alliance with Nazi Germany. Stalin joined the Allies following Germany's betrayal and invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941. Stalin utilized the harsh winter climate of his country in the Battle for Stalingrad to the defeat German's forces in 1943. He did this by drawing German troops into the country, where he cut off German supply lines

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## **AXIS POWERS** - Germany, Italy, and Japan

**Adolf Hitler** - Chancellor of Germany from 1933-1945. Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party rose to power by promising the people of Germany jobs and national pride. He used his position as Chancellor to concentrate all political power, and ultimately to seize power as a dictator. Once he had control, laws and policies were instituted to restrict the life of Jews and other minority groups. Ultimately, his ambitions led him to invade other countries, beginning with Poland. The restrictions placed on Jews and others eventually led to large-scale violence and genocide of Jews and others in concentration camps and throughout his territories.

**Hirohito** - Emperor of Japan from 1926-1989. Hirohito was willing to sacrifice lives to expand Japan's empire. During this time emperors were viewed as "more than human," and Hirohito expected his subjects to sacrifice their lives for their country if it was necessary. Japanese soldiers were expected to fight to the death rather than surrender. In fact, it took the use of atomic weapons to force the Japanese military and Hirohito to surrender.

**Benito Mussolini** - Leader of Italy from 1922-1943. Benito Mussolini, Italy's Fascist dictator during World War II, was an ally of German, and Japan. As a leader, he utilized Italy's military to try and re-establish Italy as a great European power.

## **OTHER PEOPLE**

**Tuskegee Airmen** - a group of African-American military pilots who fought in World War II

**Eleanor Roosevelt** - First Lady and wife of Franklin D. Roosevelt, was an advocate for civil rights for women, African Americans, and the under-privileged. During WWII, she created a victory garden on the White House Lawn and instituted the same food and gas rationing system at the White House that was instituted in households across the United States. She encouraged volunteers to assist the country and advocated for women to hold jobs traditionally held by men, who were now fighting overseas. She also played a role in the creation of the United Nations (UN).

**"Rosie the Riveter"** - icon representing the American women who worked in factories and shipyards during World War II

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## **MAJOR BATTLES & EVENTS**

**Pearl Harbor** – Japan attacked the United States Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. This surprise attack by Japan resulted in a change in public opinion in the United States from an isolationist stance into full out participation in the war. Congress declared war against Japan and the other Axis powers of Germany, Italy, and Japan.

**D-Day Invasion** – On June 6, 1944, a combined force of American and British soldiers landed on the beaches of Normandy, France. This attack was necessary for the retaking of France from Germany and was seen by military leaders as essential to drive the German military back to Germany and ultimately defeat them. This three-day battle was costly in terms of life, but was afterward considered a major turning point in the war in Europe.

**Battle of Iwo Jima** – When U. S. Marines captured the Japanese island of Iwo Jima in March of 1945, many lives were lost. American soldiers took this island away from the Japanese, robbing them of an important strategic advantage. The island was important as a location for Japanese planes to refuel and to resupply troops stationed on other islands. For the United States, its capture was also beneficial because it could be used as a staging area for attacks on Japan.

**V-E Day** – May 8, 1945, is celebrated as *V-E* or Victory in Europe Day. In 1945, Allied forces defeated Germany, which ended most conflict in the European theatre. As the war ended in Europe, the full horror of the Holocaust and the devastating effect on the Jewish people was discovered by the world.

**Bombings of Hiroshima & Nagasaki** – atomic bombs developed secretly during 1939-1940 by a group of scientists under a program called the Manhattan Project. They made this type of bomb by splitting the atom into two parts. President Truman knew that if he decided to use the atomic bombs, he would be sacrificing the lives of Japanese citizens, but he felt this could end the war and save the lives of allies. The first atomic bomb, “Little Boy,” was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. The second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan on August, 9, 1945. Japan finally surrendered. Historians still have debates over whether or not Truman should have dropped the atomic bombs.

**V-J Day** – August 14, 1945, is considered *V-J* or Victory over Japan Day, when Japan agreed to the Allies’ terms of surrender. This surrender followed the dropping of atomic bombs by the U.S. on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. For some, the Japanese surrender came as a surprise, because many believed that Japan would hold out as long as possible.

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**Holocaust** – The Holocaust was the “systematic, state-sponsored persecution”, and murder of approximately six million Jews, and about five million others, by Nazis during World War II. Under the leadership of Adolph Hitler, laws and policies were enacted to persecute Jews, minorities, and political groups that were determined to be “undesirable.” Initially these groups had their rights limited, property seized, and freedoms reduced. Over time, this persecution evolved into genocide where these groups were murdered due to their religion, ethnicity, political beliefs, or behaviors.

#### 1. Forced Immigration

- Nuremberg laws passed removing citizenship from Jewish people
- Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) – Jewish businesses and synagogues destroyed
- Concentration camps

#### 2. Ghettos

- Jews forced to live in walled section of town with little food or sanitation

#### 3. “Final Solution” – Hitler’s code word for total elimination of European Jews

- Genocide – elimination of a group of people based on ethnicity or race
- Death camps established – mass shootings, starvation, poison gas

## **OTHER TERMS**

**United Nations** – formed in 1945 as “an international organization designed to end war and promote peace, justice and better living for all mankind.”

**Opportunity Costs** – The value of what is given up when a choice is made.

- Example #1: The amount of time people spent standing in ration lines could have been used in other ways.
- Example #2: Private business could have made more of a profit if they had been able to sell their products without limitations.

**Rationing** – To allow each person to have only a fixed amount

## **PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Why did dictators rise to power after the Great Depression?
2. List and explain three causes of WWII?
3. Who were the significant leaders for the Axis and Allied powers?
4. What event led to the Allies declaration of war on Germany?
5. How did the attack on Pearl Harbor change the American public’s view of entering into World War II?
6. Why was winning the Battle of Iwo Jima so important for the Allies?
7. Explain the significance of D-Day.
8. How did Truman arrive at the decision to use nuclear weapons?
9. How did the role of women change during the period of time prior to World War II and the period of time immediately following World War II?
10. Who were the Tuskegee Airmen?
11. How did rationing change consumer behaviors during WWII?
12. Why was the UN created?