

**Summary****I. THE SECOND WORLD WAR****1. Causes of WWII**

- International borders established after the Peace of Paris were defied by the aggressive foreign policy of Italy, Japan and above all Germany.
- Economic depression and social unrest promote totalitarian States bent on expanding their areas of influence.
- Two main alliances:
  - Rome-Berlin Axis: Japan, Italy and Germany;
  - the Allied powers: France, Great Britain and the Commonwealth (Australia, Canada); later the USSR and the USA.

**2. Japan, Italy and Germany: the steps towards the war**

- a. The system of security of the League of Nations was useless and that encouraged Japan, Italy and Germany to follow an aggressive military policy.
- b. France and Great Britain assumed that there was a need of "appeasement" with respect to Germany and Italy, because of their unfair treatment after the WWI.
- c. They thought that concessions to nationalist expansionism, was the best guaranty of peace.
- d. They hoped that this would give them time to strengthen their military power.
- e. The USSR had little confidence in France and preferred a pact with Nazi Germany.

1. Japan: After the military faction took power, a part of China was invaded, Manchuria. China protested in the League of Nations but no action was taken. Japan left the League in 1933 and invaded the north of China.
2. Italy: After the Great War Italy expected territorial compensations in Eastern Europe for its war efforts, instead; Yugoslavia was created. Mussolini, head of the Fascist State decided to conquer Libya and Ethiopia by 1936, and Albania in 1939. The League of Nations did nothing though Ethiopia was a member State.
3. Germany: Left the League of Nations in 1933, and started the rearmament, against the Versailles settlement.
  - In 1938 forced the Anschluss or union with Austria and annexed the Sudetenland, a Czech region inhabited by Germans. Great Britain and France did not support Czechoslovakia. So Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia, occupied Prague, and created the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.
  - Then in 1939, Hitler signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact (Molotov-Ribbentrop) that divided Eastern Europe into two spheres of influence under Hitler and Stalin.
  - The Nazi invasion of Poland in September 1939 marked the beginning of WWII.

**3. The War****a) The Blitzkrieg (1939-1940) "lightning war".**

- A quick victory based on the combined action of both air force and tanks.
- After the invasion of Poland, the Nazis occupied Denmark and Norway, and Belgium in 1940. France surrendered in June.
- Mussolini joined the German side and invaded Greece and Egypt.
- Nazi Germany's next objective was Great Britain; but it abandoned the project due to the counterattacks of the Royal Air Force.

#### b) The attack on the USSR and the USA (1941-1942)

- In 1941 Hitler decided to invade the USSR. The Germans could not capture Moscow, Leningrad or Stalingrad. Winter allowed the Soviets to reorganize their troops.
- Japan attacked the American base of Pearl Harbor in December, and Hitler declared also the war on the USA.

#### c) The defeat of the Axis (1942-1943)

- The American industrial power was directed to war objectives.
- The German economy began to have difficulties to support war efforts.
- In the Russian front, the battle for Stalingrad in 1943 was a victory for the Soviets and the beginning of the end for the Nazis.

### COLLABORATIVE LEARNING: GROUPS OF 3/4 STUDENTS

**These statements are false. Be ready to explain why.**

Discuss and then be ready to explain orally why these statements are false. (Use the summary from unit 3 )

1. Italy and Japan followed a policy of "appeasement" because they were suffering economic depression and social unrest.
2. If the League of Nations had not existed the war would have started earlier.
3. Italy obtained Libya and Ethiopia after the Great War as a compensation for its war efforts.
4. Hitler invaded Austria and annexed Poland because of the unfair treatment after the WWI.
5. The Blitzkrieg's objective was the invasion of Great Britain. But Germany abandoned the project due to the winter.
6. America entered the war late because of economic problems at home.

### RESEARCH: READING & COMMENT: 7/8 STUDENTS GROUPS

**"Anne Frank. The Diary of a young Girl"**

1. Create a Blog where each member of the group selects an entrance of the diary and rewrites that entrance from another character's point of view: it must be a character from the story; for example, Anna's mother discovers that page of the diary and writes about her opinion or her account of Anna's thoughts or the happenings she has written about.
2. Create and include in the blog an interactive morphologically classified glossary of terms, with reference to page. Complete with short sentences with real information about the war situation at that moment and illustrate it with images from Anna, her companions, and the house where they were hiding in Holland.

USEFUL LINKS:

<https://www.annefrank.org/en/>

<https://www.annefrank.com/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_people\\_associated\\_with\\_Anne\\_Frank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_associated_with_Anne_Frank)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00gvptr>

#### READINGS & WATCHING & COMMENT

*The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* (2006) is a novel written by John Boyne and a 2008 film. It tells the story of two young boys, a German and a Jewish, in a concentration camp.

- Identify and describe these characters: Bruno, Gretel, Shmuel, Ralph Hoess.
- Would you describe the script as realistic?
- People living near a concentration camp were or were not aware of what was happening with the Jews in those camps?

Should there be any historical evidence that supports your answer, contribute it.

#### Maps

##### 1. German revisionism 1936-1939

Show on the map the steps towards the war of Nazi Germany.



#### 2. Expansion of Axis 1941

Identify on the map the different European territories under the control of the Axis powers.



**Vocabulary. Explain/define the following concepts/ persons/ institutions. Use your own words**

- Appeasement policy
- Operation Barbarossa
- Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact
- Blitzkrieg
- Battle of Stalingrad
- Operation Overlord
- Battle of El Alamein
- Afrika Corps
- Anschluss
- The Munich Conference
- Pearl Harbor
- "D" day
- Battle of Midway