**The Road to War: Chapter 11 Section 1 Notes**

1. The Rise of Dictators
   1. Adolf Hitler
      1. Became popular in Germany during the late 1920’s
         1. Published his political beliefs in a book called Mein Kampf (My Struggle).
         2. Took advantage of the anger and suffering of the citizens in Germany.
            1. Angry over the terms of the Treaty of Versailles

Germany had to give up some of it’s territory

Forced Germany to pay back large sums of money for the damages it caused during WWI.

* + - * 1. Worldwide depression of the 1930’s

Millions out of work

Economy close to collapse

* + 1. Hitler comes to power
       1. Becomes the chairman of the National Socialist German Workers’ Party (Nazi Party)
          1. Nazis’ were extremely racist and believed Germans were better than all other people.
          2. Nazis’ blamed Jews for Germany’s problems.

Anti-Semitism: Extreme hatred of Jews

Led to imprisonment and murder of many German Jews.

* + - 1. Becomes the chancellor of Germany in 1933.
         1. Ends democracy
         2. Formed a totalitarian government

A single party and its leader suppress any opposing views and controls peoples’ lives.

* + - 1. Builds up Germany’s strength
         1. Ignored the Treaty of Versailles and built up it’s military.
         2. Declared Germany’s right to expand its territory.
         3. Formed an alliance with Italy and Mussolini in 1936
  1. Benito Mussolini
     1. Became popular in Italy after WWI
        1. Took advantage of the anger and suffering of the citizens in Italy
           1. Angry that Italy had not won enough in the Treaty of Versailles.
           2. Worldwide depression of the 1930’s.
        2. Popularized fascism
           1. Fascism: A one-party system of government led by a dictator who supports extreme nationalism and racism.
     2. Became the county’s leader. Known as Il Duce (The Leader)
        1. His Fascist party forced the king of Italy to declare him the leader of the Italian government in 1922.
        2. He banned all political parties except the Fascist Party
        3. Ended democratic rule in Italy
        4. Ended freedom of the press
        5. Ended all civil liberties
     3. Built up the military
        1. Wanted Italy to regain the power it had during the ancient Roman times.
        2. Decided to attack an annex other countries into Italy
           1. Invaded and annexed Ethiopia
           2. Invaded and annexed Albania
  2. Japan
     1. Military leaders come to power in Japan
        1. Leaders believe expanding Japan’s power in Asia would solve its economic problems.
           1. Japan attacks Manchuria (Northeast China) in 1931
           2. Japan attacks various regions in China until it controlled most of the country by 1937
        2. Leaders form an alliance with Germany and Italy in 1940.
           1. Known as the “Axis”

1. Joseph Stalin
   1. Leader of Communist Russia (Soviet Union) in the late 1920’s
      1. Used force to demand the complete obedience of the people
      2. Had his opponents and their supporters killed
      3. Sent millions of Russians to labor camps
      4. Reorganized the economy of the Soviet Union by forcing millions to work on farms owned by the government.
2. The United States
   1. Most Americans wanted to stay out of international crises and conflicts.
      1. Congress passed a series of Neutrality Acts between 1935 and 1937
         1. Banned the sale of weapons to nations at war.
         2. Allowed trade only with countries that could pay cash and transport the goods in their own ships.
3. Germany on the March
   1. Rhineland
      1. Hitler ordered his troops into the Rhineland, a German Territory west of the Rhine River.
      2. The Rhineland was declared a neutral zone in the Treaty of Versailles.
         1. France and Great Britain complained but did nothing to stop Germany.
   2. Austria
      1. Hitler sent troops into and annexed Austria
      2. There was no battle in fact, the Nazi’s were cheered as they entered Austria..
      3. Austria is a German speaking country.
      4. Most were in favor of unification of the Germanic peoples.
   3. Sudetenland
      1. The Sudetenland is a German-speaking area of Czechoslovakia
      2. Hitler sent troops to the Sudetenland and threatened to annex it.
         1. Hitler falsely claimed the people of the Sudetenland were being treated unfairly
         2. In an attempt to avoid war in the region, Britain and France called European leaders together at the Munich Conference to find a peaceful resolution.
            1. Britain and France agreed to let Germany have the Sudetenland as long as Germany promised not to invade anymore countries.
            2. Germany broke the agreement by taking control of the rest of Czechoslovakia by force in 1939
   4. Poland
      1. Hitler wanted to take over Poland, but was afraid Stalin would try to stop him since Poland bordered the Soviet Union
      2. Hitler and Stalin, bitter enemies, signed the Soviet-German Non-Aggression Pact in 1939
         1. The two countries promised not to attack each other’s country
      3. Hitler was now able to attack Poland without fear of retaliation from the Soviet Union
         1. European leaders were shocked by the Nazi-Soviet agreement.