Aim: What were the causes of World War II?

#### Do Now:

a) Analyze the characteristics of Fascism and answer the two discussion questions.

#### Analyzing Key Concepts

#### Fascism

Fascism is a political movement that promotes an extreme form of nationalism and militarism. It also includes a denial of individual rights and dictatorial one-party rule. Nazism was the Fascist movement that developed in Germany in the 1920s and the 1930s; it included a belief in the racial superiority of the German people. The Fascists in Italy were led by Benito Mussolini, shown in the chart at right.

#### SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Charts

- 1. Synthesizing Which political, cultural, and economic characteristics helped make fascism an authoritarian system?
- 2. Making Inferences What characteristics of fascism might make it attractive to people during times of crisis such as the Great Depression?



# Fascism in Italy

- The Fascist party of Benito Mussolini gained power in 1922.
- Fascist rose to power as a result of the dissatisfaction of the <u>Treaty of Versailles</u>, the Great Depression, widespread disorder, and fear of communism.

Anyone that criticized Mussolini was severely punished!!!

(Censorship)



# Fascism in Germany

Germany was feeling the effects of the Treaty of Versailles.

- How did the Treaty of Versailles aim to punish Germany for WWI?
  - Pay <u>reparations</u>
  - Gave France a coal mine for 15 years
  - "War Guilt" Clause
  - Shrank its military

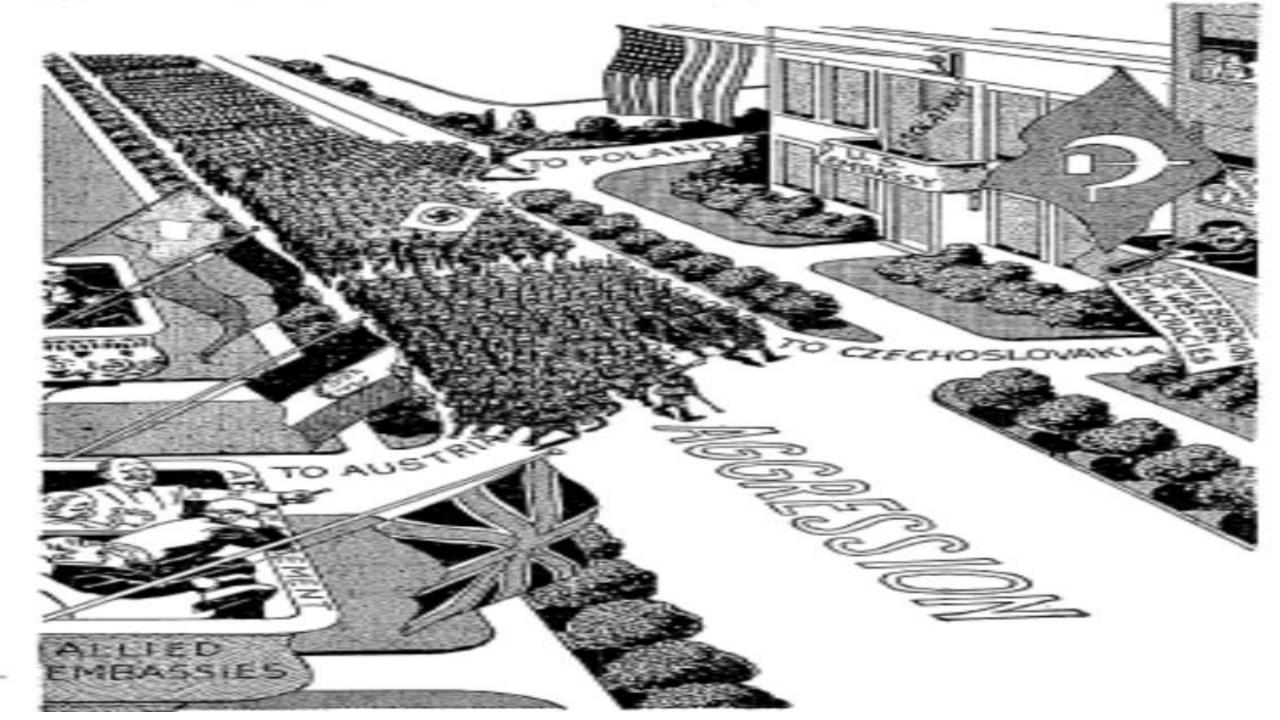
Not only was Germany hurt politically, socially, and economically, German military was suffering as well!



# **German Aggression**

German troops are mobilized by the Nazi party.

- The Nazi plan to gain control of European countries like:
  - o Austria
  - o Czechoslovakia
  - o Poland
- While the Germans begin to move across Eastern Europe, the Allied powers only watch. The Allied powers are:
  - o France
  - o **England**
  - o China



# **Appeasement**

Appeasement in a political context is a diplomatic policy of making political or material concessions to an enemy power in order to avoid conflict

European democracies appeased Hitler's demands. Among the most famous, was the agreement made at the <u>MUNICH CONFERENCE</u> in 1938. Here Britain and France agreed to give Hitler the Sudetenland (part of Czechoslovakia) as long as he promises not to attempt to conquer any more land.



#### The Outbreak of World War II

Germany invaded <u>Poland</u> in September of 1939. This time, instead of continuing to <u>appease</u> Hitler, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany. World War II had officially begun.



### The War In Europe

The democracies (G.B., France and Allies), suffered a series of crushing defeats. Slamming across the Polish border, wave after wave of German tanks and planes forced Poland to surrender within only 30 days.

- So overwhelming was the German method of attack that it was called *Blitzkrieg* (a German word meaning Lightning War).
- Next, Germany took Norway and Denmark, France managed a brief resistance but soon fell.
- Just before the war, Stalin (Soviet Union) signed a nonaggression pact with Germany.

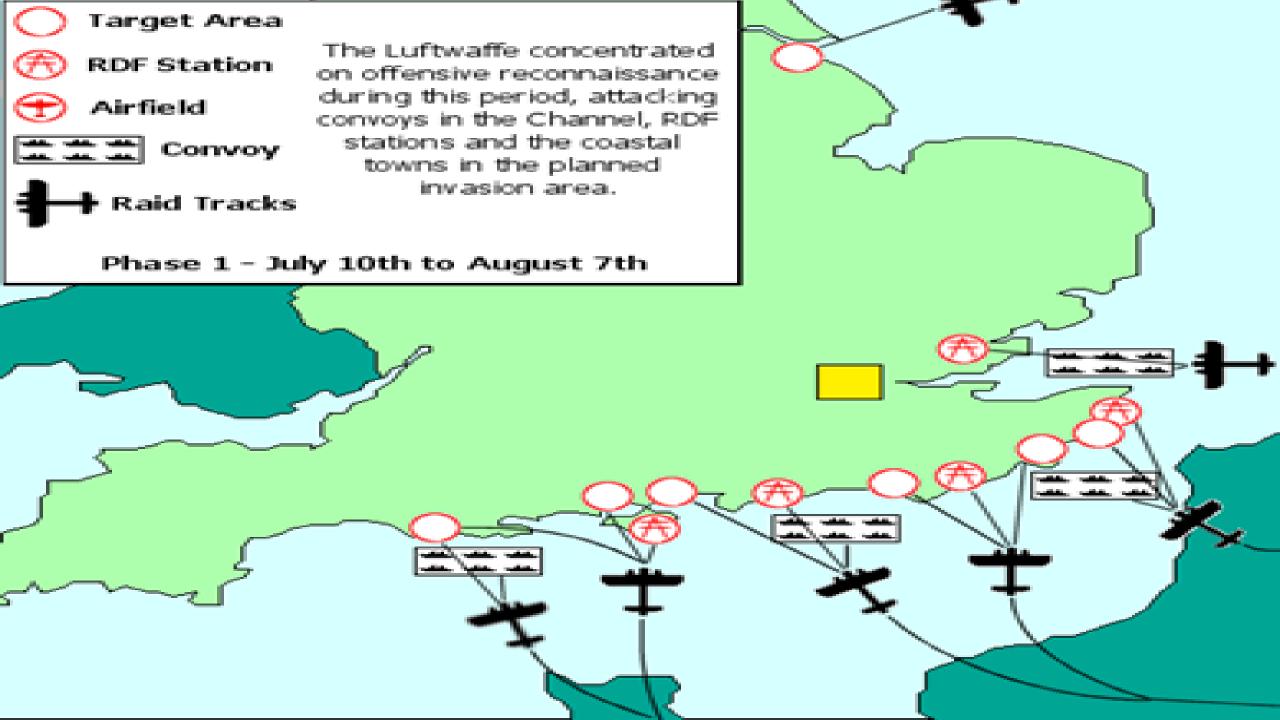
What do you think this means?



# The Challenge for Great Britain

With France beaten and the Soviet Union not involved, it was up to Great Britain to stop the Germans and its *Italian* allies from quickly conquering Europe.

- Hitler planned to invade <u>England</u> in September of 1940. To weaken its enemy first, Hitler ordered thousand of German planes to bomb England.
- Nightly, British air raid sirens warned civilians of German attacks. The Royal Air Force shot down enough planes to call off the attack.
- Even so...Great Britain would struggle for months as the last foe to resist Nazism!!!!!!













| Causes of WWII           | How did this lead to the Second World War? |
|--------------------------|--|
| Dictators                |  |
| Re-Arming Germany        |  |
| Appeasement              |  |
| Failure of the League of |  |
| Nations                  |  |
| Treaty of Versailles     |  |
| Invasion of Poland       |  |
| Neutrality of the U.S.   |  |
| Great Depression         |  |