

Global Struggles

1931–1960

CHAPTER 13

A World in Flames

1931–1941

CHAPTER 14

America and World War II

1941–1945

CHAPTER 15

The Cold War Begins

1945–1960

CHAPTER 16

Postwar America

1945–1960

Why It Matters

The rise of dictatorships in the 1930s led to World War II, the most destructive war in world history. The United States played a major role in the war, fighting in Europe, Africa and Asia. Afterwards, the United States emerged as a global superpower, abandoned isolationism, and began building alliances around the world. Confrontation with the Soviet Union led to the Cold War, as the United States sought to contain the spread of communism.



Despite the fog, American soldiers march in Belgium during the winter of 1944-1945.

A World in Flames

1931–1941

SECTION 1 America and the World

SECTION 2 World War II Begins

SECTION 3 The Holocaust

SECTION 4 America Enters the War

Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, at left, walks in Munich, Germany, with German dictator Adolf Hitler, center, in 1938.

Roosevelt
1933–1945



U.S. PRESIDENTS

U.S. EVENTS

WORLD EVENTS

1931

1931

- Japan invades Manchuria

1933

1933

- Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany

1934

- Nye Committee holds hearings on causes of World War I

1935

- First Neutrality Act bars sale of weapons to warring nations

1935

1935

- Hitler denounces Treaty of Versailles
- Italy invades Ethiopia

1936

- Spanish Civil War begins
- Hitler reoccupies the Rhineland

1937

- Neutrality Act limits trade with all warring nations

1937

1937

- Japan invades China





MAKING CONNECTIONS

Could World War II Have Been Prevented?

In the 1930s, global economic problems brought dictators to power in Europe and Japan, and another world war erupted. Many Americans, disillusioned by World War I, wanted to remain neutral, but when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, the United States was forced to join the war.

- *What problems do you think World War I created that contributed to the outbreak of World War II?*
- *Do you think different American policies in the 1920s and 1930s could have prevented World War II?*

FOLDABLES™

Comparing Totalitarian Dictators Make a Trifold Book Foldable to compare and contrast the dictatorships of Benito Mussolini, Joseph Stalin, and Adolf Hitler. As you read the chapter, add details about each ruler under his name. Use your list as a helpful study guide on their differences and similarities.

	Mussolini	Stalin	Hitler
○			
○			
○			
○			
○			
○			
○			
○			
○			
○			

○ Totalitarian Dictators



1939

- United States denies SS *St. Louis* permission to dock

1939

1940

- Roosevelt makes "destroyers-for-bases" deal with Britain

1941

1941

- Congress passes Lend Lease Act
- Japan attacks Pearl Harbor

1938

- Munich Conference gives Sudetenland to Hitler


1939

- Poland invaded; World War II begins

1940

- France surrenders to Germany; Britain wins Battle of Britain



History  **ONLINE Chapter Overview**
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Section 1

America and the World

Guide to Reading

Big Ideas

Government and Society In the years following World War I, aggressive and expansionistic governments took power in both Europe and Asia.

Content Vocabulary

- fascism (p. 454)
- collective (p. 455)
- internationalism (p. 459)

Academic Vocabulary

- exploit (p. 454)
- dominate (p. 457)

People and Events to Identify

- Benito Mussolini (p. 454)
- Vladimir Lenin (p. 455)
- Joseph Stalin (p. 455)
- Adolf Hitler (p. 456)
- Manchuria (p. 457)
- Neutrality Act of 1935 (p. 458)
- Axis Powers (p. 459)

Reading Strategy

Taking Notes As you read about the events in Europe and Asia after World War I, use the major headings of the section to create an outline similar to the one below.

America and the World
I. The Rise of Dictators
A.
B.
C.
D.
II.

In the years following World War I, aggressive and expansionist governments took power in Europe and Asia. Meanwhile, most Americans did not want to get involved in another foreign war.

The Rise of Dictators

MAIN Idea Dictators took control of the governments of Italy, the Soviet Union, Germany, and Japan.

HISTORY AND YOU Can you think of a country today that is ruled by a dictator? Read about the repressive governments that arose during the 1920s and 1930s.

When World War I ended, President Wilson had hoped that the United States could “aid in the establishment of just democracy throughout the world.” Instead, the treaty that ended the war, along with the economic depression that followed, contributed to the rise of antidemocratic governments in both Europe and Asia.

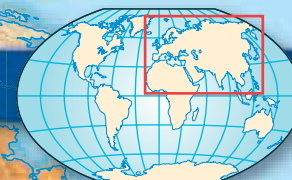
Mussolini and Fascism in Italy

One of Europe’s first dictatorships arose in Italy. In 1919 **Benito Mussolini** founded Italy’s Fascist Party. **Fascism** was an aggressive nationalistic movement that considered the nation more important than the individual. Fascists believed that order in society would come only through a dictator who led a strong government. They also thought nations became great by building an empire.

Fascism was also strongly anticommunist. After the Russian Revolution, many Europeans feared that communists, allied with labor unions, were trying to bring down their governments. Mussolini **exploited** these fears by portraying fascism as a bulwark against communism. Fascism began to stand for the protection of private property and the middle class. Mussolini also promised the working class full employment and social security. He pledged to return Italy to the glories of the Roman Empire.

Backed by the Fascist militia known as the Blackshirts, Mussolini threatened to march on Rome in 1922, claiming he was coming to defend Italy against a communist revolution. Liberal members of the Italian parliament insisted that the king declare martial law. When he refused, the cabinet resigned. Conservative advisers then persuaded the king to appoint Mussolini as the premier.

Once in office, Mussolini worked quickly to set up a dictatorship. Weary of strikes and riots, many Italians welcomed Mussolini’s leadership. With the support of industrialists, landowners, and the Roman



0 1,000 kilometers
0 1,000 miles
Lambert Equal-Area projection

ATLANTIC OCEAN

ARCTIC OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

In 1936 General Francisco Franco launches a military revolt that overthrows Spain's democratic government; Franco then establishes a dictatorship.

In 1933, high unemployment and fears of communism enable Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party to take power. Hitler imposed a dictatorship, enacted anti-Jewish policies, and began rebuilding the military.

In 1926 Joseph Stalin becomes dictator of the Soviet Union and begins to collectivize agriculture and industrialize the economy. His policies kill millions of rural peasants.

In 1922 fears of communism and economic chaos enable Benito Mussolini to lead the Fascists to power in Italy.

In 1931, the militarist Empire of Japan invades Manchuria; six years later, Japan attacks China. In 1941 General Hideki Tōjō becomes prime minister and led the nation into war with the United States.

Analyzing GEOGRAPHY

- 1. Region** In which region of the world did a dictator first come to power, and when?
- 2. Human-Environment Interactions** What effect did Stalin's policies have on the Soviet Union?

Catholic Church, Mussolini—who took the title of *Il Duce*, or “The Leader”—embarked on an ambitious program of bringing order to Italy.

Stalin Takes Over the USSR

After the Russian Revolution, the Communist Party, led by **Vladimir Lenin**, established communist governments throughout the Russian Empire. In 1922 they renamed these territories the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The Communists instituted one-party rule, suppressed individual liberties, and punished opponents.

After Lenin died in 1924, a power struggle began between Leon Trotsky and **Joseph Stalin**. Born with the surname of Dzhughashvili, Stalin replaced his last name with the Russian word *stal*, meaning “steel.” Between 1902 and 1913, he had been imprisoned or exiled seven times, but he always escaped.

By 1926, Stalin had become the new Soviet dictator. He began a massive effort to industrialize his country, using Five-Year Plans. During the first two of these Five-Year Plans, from 1928 to 1937, steel production increased from 4 million to 18 million tons (3.628 to 16.326 million t). At the same time, however, industrial wages declined by 43 percent from 1928 to 1940. Family farms were combined and turned into **collectives**, or government-owned farms. Peasants who resisted by killing livestock or hoarding crops faced show trials or death from starvation. As many as 10 million peasants died in famines during 1932 and 1933.

Stalin tolerated no opposition, targeting not only political enemies but also artists and intellectuals. During the late 1930s, the USSR was a nation of internal terrorism, with public trials that featured forced confessions. A new constitution, passed in 1936, promised many freedoms but was never enforced.

Stalin also used concentration camps; by 1935 some 2 million people were in camps, most of which were located in the Arctic. Prisoners were used as slave labor. Between 8 and 10 million people died as a result of Stalin's rule, which lasted until his death in 1953.

Hitler and Nazi Germany

Adolf Hitler was a fervent anticommunist and an admirer of Mussolini. A native Austrian, Hitler had fought for Germany in World War I. Germany's surrender and the subsequent Treaty of Versailles caused him and many other Germans to hate both the victorious Allies and the German government that had accepted the peace terms.

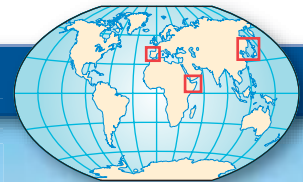
Postwar Germany's political and economic chaos led to the rise of new political parties. One of these was the National Socialist German Workers' Party, or the Nazi Party. The party was nationalistic and anticommunist, calling for Germany to expand its territory and not abide by the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. It also was anti-Semitic. Using the words *Socialist* and *Workers* in its name, the party

hoped to attract unhappy workers. Adolf Hitler was one of the party's first recruits.

In November 1923, the Nazis tried to seize power by marching on city hall in Munich, Germany. Hitler intended to seize power locally and then march on Berlin, the German capital, but the plan failed. The Nazi Party was banned for a time, and Hitler was arrested.

While in prison, Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf* ("My Struggle"), in which he called for the unification of all Germans under one government. He claimed that Germans, particularly blond, blue-eyed Germans, belonged to a "master race" called Aryans. He argued that Germans needed more space and called for Germany to expand east into Poland and Russia. According to Hitler, the Slavic peoples of eastern Europe belonged to an inferior race, which Germans should enslave. Hitler's racism was strongest, however, toward Jews. He believed that Jews were responsible for many of the world's problems, especially for Germany's defeat in World War I.

After his release, Hitler changed his tactics. Instead of trying to seize power violently, he focused on getting Nazis elected to the



War and Civil War in the 1930s

▼ Japanese officers targeted resource-rich Manchuria as the first goal in their drive to build an empire.



▲ Mussolini, the dictator of Italy, wanted to build a new Roman Empire in Africa. In 1935 the Italian army invaded Ethiopia, then known as Abyssinia. The emperor, Haile Selassie, went into exile.

Reichstag, the lower house of the German parliament. When the Great Depression struck Germany, many desperate Germans began to vote for radical parties, including the Nazis and Communists. By 1932, the Nazis were the largest party in the Reichstag. The following year, the German president appointed Hitler as chancellor, or prime minister.

After taking office, Hitler called for new elections. He then ordered the police to crack down on the Socialist and Communist Parties. Storm troopers, as the Nazi paramilitary units were called, began intimidating voters. After the election, the Reichstag, dominated by the Nazis and other right-wing parties, voted to give Hitler dictatorial powers. In 1934 Hitler became president, which gave him control of the army. He then gave himself the new title of Der Führer, or “The Leader.”

Militarists Control Japan

In Japan, as in Germany, difficult economic times helped undermine the political system. Japanese industries had to import nearly all of the resources they needed to produce goods.

During the 1920s Japan did not earn enough money from its exports to pay for its imports, which limited economic growth. When the Depression struck, other countries raised their tariffs. This made the situation even worse.

Many Japanese military officers blamed the country’s problems on corrupt politicians. Most officers believed that Japan was destined to **dominate** East Asia and saw democracy as “un-Japanese” and bad for the country.

Japanese military leaders and their civilian supporters argued that seizing territory was the only way Japan could get the resources it needed. In September 1931, the Japanese army invaded **Manchuria**, a resource-rich region of northern China. When the Japanese prime minister tried to stop the war by negotiating with China, officers assassinated him. From that point forward, the military controlled the country. Japan’s civilian government supported the nationalist policy of expanding the empire and appointed a military officer to serve as prime minister.

 **Reading Check** **Examining** How did postwar conditions contribute to the rise of dictatorships in Europe?



In 1936 a civil war broke out in Spain when Fascist General Francisco Franco attempted a military coup. With aid from Hitler and Mussolini, Spain became a testing ground for new military ideas such as air strikes. On April 26, 1937, planes released 100,000 pounds of bombs, destroying 70% of Guernica, shown at left after the bombing. A mere 15 days after the bombing, the artist Pablo Picasso began painting Guernica (above).



Analyzing VISUALS

- 1. Comparing** In what way were the three wars shown on the map all a prelude to World War II?
- 2. Analyzing** How does Picasso show the terror of the Guernica bombing?

American Neutrality

MAIN Idea Most Americans did not want to get involved in another European war, despite Franklin Roosevelt's emphasis on internationalism.

HISTORY AND YOU Do you think the United States should become involved in the wars of other nations even when it is not under attack? Read to learn about American attitudes during the 1930s.

The rise of dictatorships and militarism discouraged many Americans. The sacrifices they had made during World War I seemed pointless. Once again, Americans began supporting isolationism and trying to avoid involvement in international conflicts.

The Nye Committee

Isolationist ideas became stronger in the early 1930s for two reasons. When the Depression began, many European nations found it difficult to repay money they had borrowed during World War I. In 1934 all of the debtor nations except Finland announced they would no longer repay their war debts.

Meanwhile, dozens of books and articles appeared arguing that arms manufacturers

had tricked the United States into entering World War I. In 1934 Senator Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota held hearings to investigate these allegations. The Nye Committee documented the huge profits that arms factories had made during the war. The report created the impression that these businesses influenced the decision to go to war. Coupled with the European refusal to repay their loans, the Nye Committee's findings turned even more Americans toward isolationism.

Legislating Neutrality

Italian and German aggression increased under Mussolini and Hitler. Worried that the actions of these nations might lead to war, Congress passed the **Neutrality Act of 1935**. This legislation—reflecting the belief that arms sales had helped bring the United States into World War I—made it illegal for Americans to sell arms to any country at war.

In 1936 a rebellion erupted in Spain after voters elected a coalition of Republicans, Socialists, and Communists. General Francisco Franco led the rebellion, backed by Spanish Fascists, army officers, landowners, and Catholic Church leaders. The revolt became a civil war and attracted

INFOGRAPHIC

The Neutrality Acts, 1935–1937

Causes

- Nye Senate Committee report suggesting that the American arms industry had pushed the nation into World War I for its own profit
- growing belief that America should have stayed out of World War I

The Neutrality Act of 1935

- mandatory embargo on selling or exporting arms, ammunition, or implements of war to nations at war
- discretionary travel restrictions
- set to expire after 6 months

Causes

- Italy's invasion of Ethiopia; FDR encourages a moral embargo against Italy, which he could not enforce

The Neutrality Act of 1936

- arms embargo with countries at war
- discretionary travel restrictions
- ban on loans to nations fighting, but short-term credits exempted
- republics in the Americas exempted

Causes

- Spanish Civil War
- sale of aviation parts to rebels in Spain, which FDR thought unpatriotic
- agreements creating the Axis alliance

The Neutrality Act of 1937

- arms embargo against nations at war
- travel ban on warring nations' ships
- trade with countries at war on a cash-and-carry basis allowed if goods were not contraband or sent on foreign ships



▲ Republican Senator Gerald Nye headed the Senate Munitions Committee, whose findings convinced many that arms makers were “merchants of death” and that the United States should remain neutral.

Analyzing VISUALS

1. **Analyzing** What impact did the Nye Committee's findings have on public opinion?
2. **Evaluating** Why did so many Americans support neutrality?

worldwide attention. Congress passed a second neutrality act, banning the sale of arms to either side in a civil war.

Shortly after the Spanish Civil War began, Hitler and Mussolini pledged to cooperate on several international issues. Mussolini termed this new relationship the Rome-Berlin Axis. The following month, Japan aligned itself with Germany and Italy when it signed the Anti-Comintern Pact with Germany. The pact required the two countries to exchange information about communist groups. Together, Germany, Italy, and Japan became known as the **Axis Powers**, although they did not formally become military allies until September 1940.

With tensions in Europe worsening, Congress passed the Neutrality Act of 1937. This act not only continued the ban on selling arms to warring nations, but also required them to buy all nonmilitary supplies from the United States on a “cash-and-carry” basis. Countries at war had to send their own ships to the United States to pick up the goods, and they had to pay cash. Loans were not allowed. Isolationists knew that attacks on American ships carrying supplies to Europe had helped bring the country into World War I. They wanted to prevent such attacks from involving the nation in another European war.

Roosevelt’s Internationalism

When he took office in 1933, President Roosevelt knew that ending the Great Depression was his first priority. He was not, however, an isolationist. He supported **internationalism**, the idea that trade between nations creates prosperity and helps prevent war. Internationalists also believed that the United States should try to preserve peace in the world. Roosevelt warned that the neutrality acts “might drag us into war instead of keeping us out,” but he did not veto the bills.

In July 1937, Japanese forces in Manchuria launched a full-scale attack on China. Roosevelt decided to help the Chinese. Because neither China nor Japan had actually declared war, Roosevelt claimed the Neutrality Act of 1937 did not apply, and he authorized the sale of weapons to China. He warned that the nation should not stand by and let an “epidemic of lawlessness” infect the world:

PRIMARY SOURCE

“When an epidemic of physical disease starts to spread, the community . . . joins in a quarantine of the patients in order to protect the health of the community against the spread of the disease. . . . War is a contagion, whether it be declared or undeclared. . . . There is no escape through mere isolation or neutrality. . . .”

—quoted in *Freedom From Fear*

Despite his words, Americans were still not willing to risk another war. “It is a terrible thing,” the president said, “to look over your shoulder when you are trying to lead—and find no one there.”

 **Reading Check** **Evaluating** Why did many Americans support isolationism?

Vocabulary

- 1. Explain** the significance of: Benito Mussolini, fascism, Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, collectives, Adolf Hitler, Manchuria, Neutrality Act of 1935, Axis Powers, internationalism.

Main Ideas

- 2. Identifying** Which nations did dictators govern during the years after World War I?
- 3. Analyzing** What events caused Roosevelt to become more of an internationalist?

Critical Thinking

- 4. Big Ideas** Why did antidemocratic governments rise to power in postwar Europe and Asia?
- 5. Organizing** Use a graphic organizer similar to the one below to compare the governments opposed to democracy in Europe and Asia.

Country	Dictator	Ideology

- 6. Analyzing Visuals** Look at the photograph on page 457 of Guernica after it was destroyed. How might both isolationists and internationalists have used the image to win support for their cause?

Writing About History

- 7. Persuasive Writing** Write a newspaper editorial supporting either isolationism or internationalism after World War I. Include reasons that support your ideas and that help convince others to embrace your position.

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