

Paths to War

German Path to War

- ❖ **Adolf Hitler** believed that Germany could build a great civilization.
- ❖ To do this, Germany needed more land to support more German people.
- ❖ He wanted lands in the east in the Soviet Union and prepared for war.
- ❖ His plan was to use the land for German settlements.
- ❖ The Slavic people would become slaves.

German Path to War

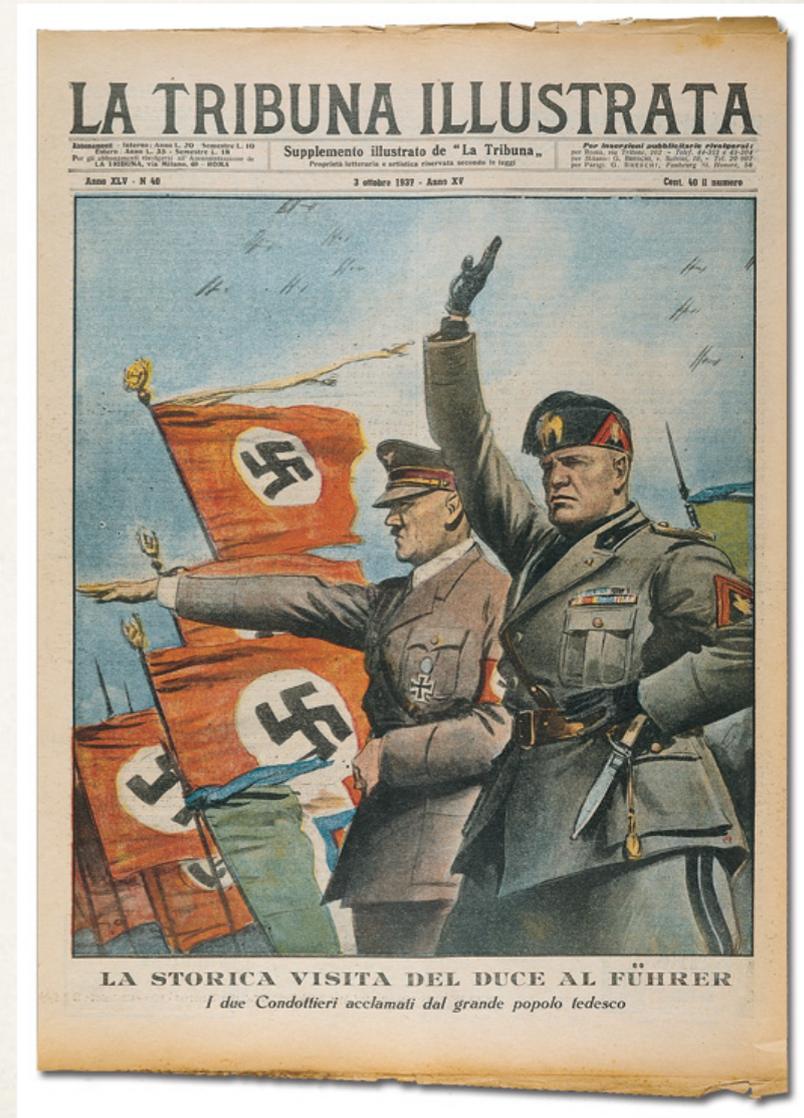
- ❖ Hitler proposed that Germany be able to revise the unfair provisions of the Treaty of Versailles that had ended World War I.
- ❖ At first he said he would use peaceful means.
- ❖ However, in March of 1935, he created a new air force and began a military draft.
- ❖ France, Great Britain, and Italy condemned Hitler's moves.
- ❖ Due to problems at home caused by the Great Depression, however, they were not prepared to take action.
- ❖ Hitler became convinced that the Western states would not stop him from breaking the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles.

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- ❖ In March of 1936, Hitler sent German troops into the **Rhineland**, which was supposed to be a **demilitarized** area.
- ❖ France would not oppose Germany for this treaty violation without British support.
- ❖ Great Britain saw Hitler's actions as reasonable and not call for military response.
- ❖ This was the beginning of the policy of **appeasement**, one based on the belief that if European states satisfied reasonable demands of dissatisfied states, the dissatisfied states would be content and peace would be preserved.

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- ❖ Hitler gained new allies. **Benito Mussolini** was the Fascist leader of Italy.
- ❖ He invaded Ethiopia in 1935 with the support of German troops.
- ❖ In 1936, both Italy and Germany sent troops to Spain to support General Francisco Franco.
- ❖ Later in the year, Hitler and Mussolini became allies and formed the Rome-Berlin Axis.
- ❖ Germany also signed the Anti-Comintern Pact with Japan forming an alliance against communism.



German Path to War

- ❖ By 1937, Germany had become a very powerful nation.
- ❖ In 1938, Hitler pursued a longheld goal, union with Austria, or *Anschluss*.
- ❖ By threatening to invade Austria, Hitler forced the Austrians to put Austrian Nazis in charge of the government.
- ❖ The new government then invited German troops into Austria to “help” maintain order.
- ❖ Hitler then annexed Austria to Germany.

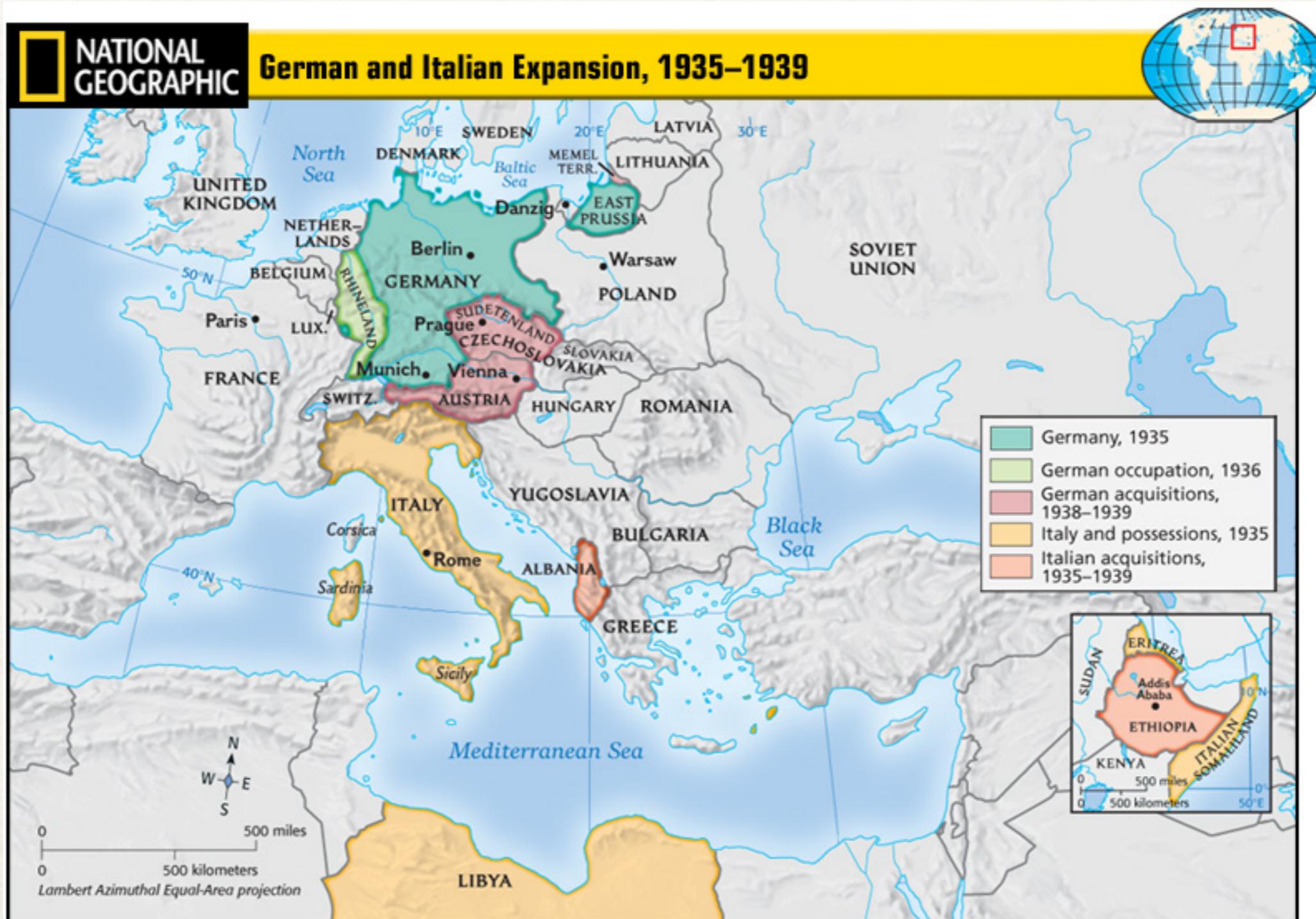
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- ❖ In 1938, Hitler demanded that the **Sudetenland** in northwestern Czechoslovakia be given to Germany.
- ❖ The British, French, Italian, and German representatives then met in Munich.
- ❖ Britain, France, and Italy gave in to all of Hitler's demands.
- ❖ German troops were allowed into Czechoslovakia.

German Path to War

- ❖ After the **Munich Conference**, the British prime minister, Neville Chamberlain, announced that the settlement meant “peace for our time.”
- ❖ He believed Hitler’s promises that Germany would make no more demands.
- ❖ After Munich, Hitler was even more convinced that France and Great Britain would not fight.
- ❖ In March of 1939, Hitler invaded western Czechoslovakia, and made a Nazi puppet state out of Slovakia in eastern Czechoslovakia.

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- ❖ France and Great Britain began to react.
- ❖ Great Britain said it would protect Poland if Hitler invaded.
- ❖ France and Britain began negotiations with **Joseph Stalin**, the Soviet dictator.
- ❖ They knew that they would need the Soviet Union to help contain the Nazis.

German Path to War

- ❖ Hitler was afraid of an alliance between the West and the Soviet Union.
- ❖ In August of 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union signed the Nazi-Soviet Nonaggression Pact.
- ❖ They promised not to attack each other. Hitler offered Stalin eastern Poland and the Baltic states.
- ❖ Hitler knew that eventually he would break the pact.
- ❖ However, it enabled him to invade Poland without fear.

Japanese Path to War

- ❖ In September 1931, Japanese soldiers seized Manchuria.
- ❖ The Japanese claimed that the Chinese had attacked them.
- ❖ In fact the Japanese had staged the attack themselves disguised as Chinese soldiers.
- ❖ When the League of Nations investigated and condemned the attack, Japan withdrew from the league.
- ❖ For several years, Japan strengthened its hold on Manchuria, which it renamed **Manchukuo**.

Japanese Path to War

- ❖ By the mid-1930s, militants had gained control of Japanese politics.
- ❖ The United States opposed the Japanese takeover of Manchuria, but did nothing to stop it.
- ❖ **Chiang Kai-shek** tried to avoid a war with Japan.
- ❖ He was more concerned with the threat from the Chinese Communists.
- ❖ He tried to appease Japan by allowing the Japanese to occupy parts of northern China.
- ❖ Japan moved steadily southward.
- ❖ In December 1936, Chiang formed a united front against the Japanese.
- ❖ In July 1937 the Chinese and Japanese clashed south of Beijing.
- ❖ The Japanese seized the capital of Nanjing.
- ❖ Chiang Kai-shek refused to surrender and moved the capital.

Japanese Path to War

- ❖ Japanese military leaders wanted to establish a **New Order** in East Asia.
- ❖ The order would include Japan, Manchuria, and China.
- ❖ The Japanese thought that, as the only modernized country, they could guide the other East Asian nations to prosperity.
- ❖ The Japanese planned to seize Soviet Siberia.
- ❖ During the 1930s, Japan began to cooperate with Nazi Germany.
- ❖ The Japanese thought that they and Germany could defeat the Soviet Union and divide its resources.

Japanese Path to War

- ❖ The Nazi-Soviet Nonaggression Pact forced the Japanese to rethink their goals.
- ❖ The Japanese needed natural resources.
- ❖ They looked to expand into Southeast Asia for sources.
- ❖ At the same time they knew that they risked strong response from European colonial powers and the United States.
- ❖ They decided to take the risk.
- ❖ In 1940, the Japanese demanded the right to exploit economic resources in French Indochina.
- ❖ The United States responded by imposing economic **sanctions**, or restrictions on trade that are intended to enforce international law, unless Japan withdrew to its borders of 1931.

Japanese Path to War

- ❖ The Japanese badly needed oil and scrap iron from the United States.
- ❖ The economic sanctions were a very real threat.
- ❖ In the end, after long debate, Japan decided to launch a surprise attack on U.S. and European colonies in Southeast Asia.



Paths to War

- ❖ What conflict led Japan to attack U.S. and European colonies in Southeast Asia?
- ❖ **List** the reasons why Hitler's pact with Stalin was a key factor in forcing Britain and France to declare war on Germany.
- ❖ In what sense was World War II a product of World War I?

Connecting

- ❖ Have you ever been let down by a trusted friend?
Describe how you felt.
- ❖ Imagine yourselves as citizens of Czechoslovakia.
Describe how you felt about being abandoned by the
Western allies.

Scaffolding

- ❖ Describe the effect the European policy of appeasement had on Hitler's policy of aggression and drive for empire.
- ❖ Write a statement that describes the cause-effect relationship between appeasement and aggression.