

WORLD WAR II

LESSON 6

THE ROAD TO WAR, PART 1

New York State Standards:

Standard 1 – United States

Standard 2 – World History

Standard 3 – Geography

Standard 4 – Economics

Standard 5 – Civics, Citizenship and Government

National Standards:

ERA 8: Standard 4A: The Student understands the causes of World War II

- ◆ Analyze the consequences of Britain, France and the US failure to effectively oppose fascist aggression.
- ◆ Analyze the relative importance of the legacy of World War I, the depression, ethnic ideological conflicts, imperialism, traditional political or economic rivalries as underlying causes of World War II.

Objectives:

- ◆ **Students will be able to understand how Germany remained unchallenged in Europe leading up to World War II.**
- ◆ **Students will be able to define and apply the concepts of Appeasement, Sanctions, and Pacifism.**

Extra:

- ◆ **Students will be able to understand how the aggression of Germany, Japan and Italy forced Europe into War.**

Key Vocabulary

- Appeasement
- Pacifism
- Sanctions
- Anschluss

Essential Questions

- Why did Britain and France adopt policies of appeasement?
- Why did the United States adopt policies of neutrality?

Extra:

- Was the war preventable? Why or Why not?

Literacy Strategies

- Using Graphic Organizers
- Creating information through writing

AIM: How did Britain and France fail at preventing war in Europe?

DO NOW: Story and “Hook” on appeasement [5 mins]

CONTENT	QUESTIONS	METHOD
<p>Think back to when you were younger. Did you ever want something from your parents? They said "no you can't have it."</p> <p>Nag, or threaten.</p> <p>Avoid a conflict. Appeasement.</p> <p>Well, the same thing happened in World War II. Peace at any price</p>	<p>Ask and see if anyone can share experiences. So what do you do?</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>What schemes did you come up with to get your way?</p> <p>Do they give in?</p>	<p>Students love to think back to when they were younger. Relate vocab, to their lives.</p>
<p>HANDOUT Read and discuss the viewpoints [5 mins]</p> <p>News Article: [15 mins] Students will read the handout positions and read one of the events on the side of the ditto and then write a brief editorial article on their event taking into account their position.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Japan invades Manchuria 2. Italy invades Ethiopia 3. Germany Violates Treaty 4. Austria Annexed 5. Czechoslovakia/Munich <p>Reading aloud and note-taking, hitting the aim, and vocabulary as I go – transparency on sequence of events. Chart [10 mins]</p> <p>Closure [5 mins]: How did Britain and France fail at preventing war in Europe? Ask student responses – put on board.</p>	<p>Students will write a reaction of these events. Then read their reaction to the class.</p> <p>After the students are given time to write. They then must read aloud their article to the class.</p> <p>Read at least one view from each student.</p> <p>British follow appeasement – some felt Germany was punished too harsh and to avoid war.</p> <p>France follows appeasement to avoid war.</p> <p>America wants to stay out of it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did Britain and France adopt policies of appeasement? • Why did the United States adopt a policy of Neutrality? • Was war Preventable? 	<p>Reading then writing.</p> <p>Multiple perspectives of history.</p> <p>Multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>Reading, Writing, Performing.</p> <p>Multiple modes of instruction.</p> <p>Based on their articles I can assess if they grasp the concept or not. Cause and effect</p> <p>Critical thinking-evaluation</p>

Aggression and Appeasement

KEY VOCABULARY

Appeasement -

Pacifism -

Sanctions -

Anschluss -

Britain + France

Why appeasement? The policy of appeasement evolved for various reasons. France was demoralized, suffering from political divisions at home. It needed British support for any move against Hitler.

The British, however, had no desire to confront the German dictator. Some Britons thought that Hitler's actions were a justified response to the Versailles treaty, which they believed had been too harsh.

In both Britain and France, many saw Hitler as a defense against a worse evil—the spread of Soviet communism. Also, the Great Depression sapped the energies of the western democracies. Finally, widespread pacifism, or opposition to all war, and disgust with the last war pushed governments to seek peace at any price.

Early Challenges to World Peace

Challenges to peace followed a pattern throughout the 1930s. Dictators took aggressive action but met only verbal protests and pleas for peace from the democracies. Mussolini and Hitler viewed that desire for peace as weakness and responded with new acts of aggression. With hindsight, we can see the shortcomings of the democracies' policies. We must remember, however, that these policies were the product of long and careful deliberation. People at the time strongly believed that they would work.

The United States

Reaction in the United States. As war clouds gathered in Europe in the mid-1930s, the United States Congress passed a series of Neutrality Acts. One law forbade the sale of arms to any nation at war. Others outlawed loans to warring nations and prohibited Americans from traveling on ships of warring powers. The fundamental goal of American policy, however, was to avoid involvement in a European war, not to prevent such a conflict.

1

Japan on the move. One of the earliest tests was posed by Japan. Japanese military lead-

ers and ultranationalists felt that Japan should have an empire equal to those of the western powers. In pursuit of this goal, Japan seized Manchuria in 1931. (See page 756.) When the League of Nations condemned the aggression, Japan withdrew from the organization.

Japan's easy success strengthened the militarists. In 1937, Japanese armies overran much of eastern China. (See page 757.) Once again, western protests had no effect.

2



Italy invades Ethiopia. In Italy, Mussolini used his new, modern military to pursue his own imperialist ambitions. He looked first to Ethiopia, in northeastern Africa. Italy's defeat by the Ethiopians at the battle of Adowa in 1896 still rankled. (See page 639.)

In 1935, Italy invaded Ethiopia. Although the Ethiopians resisted bravely, their outdated weapons were no match for Mussolini's tanks, machine guns, poison gas, and airplanes. The Ethiopian king Haile Selassie (HI lee: suh LAS ee) appealed to the League of Nations for help. The league voted sanctions, or penalties, against Italy for having violated international law. League members agreed to stop selling weapons or other war materials to Italy. But the sanctions did not extend to petroleum, which fueled modern warfare. Besides, the sanctions were not enforced. By early 1936, Italy had conquered Ethiopia.

3



Hitler's challenge. By then, Hitler, too, had tested the will of the western democracies and found it weak. First, he built up the German military in defiance of the Versailles treaty. Then, in 1936, he sent troops into the Rhineland—another treaty violation. The area belonged to Germany, but it lay on the frontier with France. (See the map on page 791.) In 1919, France had insisted that the Rhineland be a "demilitarized" zone, off-limits to German troops.

Hitler's successful challenge of the hated Versailles treaty increased his popularity in Germany. Western democracies denounced his moves but took no real action. Instead, they adopted a policy of appeasement, giving in to the demands of an aggressor in order to keep the peace.

4

Austria annexed. From the outset, Nazi propaganda had found fertile ground in Austria. By 1938, Hitler was ready to engineer the Anschluss, or union of Austria and Germany. Early that year, he forced the Austrian chancellor to appoint Nazis to key cabinet posts. When the Austrian leader balked at other demands, Hitler sent in the German army "to preserve order."

The Anschluss violated the Versailles treaty and created a brief war scare. But Hitler quickly silenced any Austrians who opposed the German takeover. And since the western democracies took no action, Hitler easily had his way.

5



The Czech crisis. Hitler's next victim was Czechoslovakia. At first, he insisted that the three million Germans in the Sudetenland in

western Czechoslovakia be given autonomy (independence). The demand set off new alarms among the democracies.

Czechoslovakia was one of two remaining democracies in Eastern Europe (Finland was the other). Still, Britain and France were not willing to go to war to save it. As British and French leaders searched for a peaceful solution, Hitler increased his price. The Sudetenland, he said, must be annexed to Germany.

At the Munich Conference in September 1938, British and French leaders again chose ap-

peasement. They caved in to Hitler's demands and then persuaded the Czechs to surrender the Sudetenland without a fight. In exchange, Hitler assured Britain and France that he had no further plans for expansion.



POLAND

ACTIONS AND REACTIONS

JAPAN IN CHINA
Action:
Reaction:

ITALY INVADES ETHIOPIA
Action:
Reaction:

GERMANY MILITARIZES
Action:
Reaction:

AUSTRIA ANNEXED
Action:
Reaction:

CZECH CRISIS - MUNICH
Action:
Reaction:

INVASION OF POLAND
WAR!



ACTIONS AND REACTIONS

JAPAN IN CHINA

Action: Japan invades Manchuria (Part of China). For Resources and to expand its empire. Imperialism.

Reaction: West protests. The League of Nations condemns their actions. Takes no forceful action.

ITALY INVADES ETHIOPIA

Action: invaded for revenge and resources. Used airplanes, tanks, machine guns, and poison gas.

Reaction: League of nations votes for sanctions. Or penalties. Prevents trade, except oil. Sanctions were not enforced.

GERMANY MILITARIZES

Action: Builds up military, sent troops into the Rhineland, the de-militarized zone. Supposed to be off limits for German Troops.

Reaction: Took no real action. Appeasement - giving into the demands of the aggressor to avoid conflict.

AUSTRIA ANNEXED

Action: Hitler sends in the German Army "to preserve order".

Reaction: Brief scare of war. Then no action taken because many Austrians embraced Germany. The rest were silenced.

CZECH CRISIS - MUNICH

Action: Hitler demanded that the Sudetenland (German part of Czechoslovakia) be added to Germany.

Reaction: France and Britain reach an agreement with Hitler, to give him the land. Hitler agrees to not seek any further expansion. Promise broken.

INVASION OF POLAND

WAR!

The above excerpts are taken from PRENTICE HALL WORLD HISTORY: CONNECTIONS TO TODAY textbook.