

Chapter 30: A Second Global Conflict and the End of the European World Order



Old and New Causes of a Second World War

- General Chiang Kai-shek was able to dominate over the regional warlords in China.
- The success of the Guomindang (Nationalist party) in China worried Japan.
- Japan seized Manchuria in 1931 and proclaimed to be the independent state of Manchukuo.

Old and New Causes of a Second World War

- Adolf Hitler and the National Socialist (Nazi) party wanted to invade and destroy the Soviet Union.
- Germany rearmed in 1935, militarized the Rhineland in 1936 and seized areas of Czechoslovakia.
- Hitler and Mussolini intervened to help Francisco Franco's fascist government in the Spanish Civil War in the mid 1930's.
- Only the Soviet Union provided military aid to Spain's republican government.

Unchecked Aggression and the Coming of War in Europe and the Pacific

- World War II began on September 1st, 1939 when Germany invaded Poland.
- Isolationist countries like the USA, Great Britain and France were willing to sacrifice small states like Austria and Czechoslovakia to avoid war.
- Japan invaded China from Manchukuo in 1937 and sought to conquer all of China.
- Japan was successful at first, occupying most of the Chinese coastal cities.

Unchecked Aggression and the Coming of War in Europe and the Pacific

- In December 1937, Japanese forces took the Nanjing and killed between 200,000-300,000 people.
- Stalin and Hitler signed a nonaggression pact in August 1939.
- After the pact, Germany invaded western Poland and the Soviet Union occupied eastern Poland.
- The British and French declared war on Germany on September 3rd, 1939.

The Conduct of a Second Global War

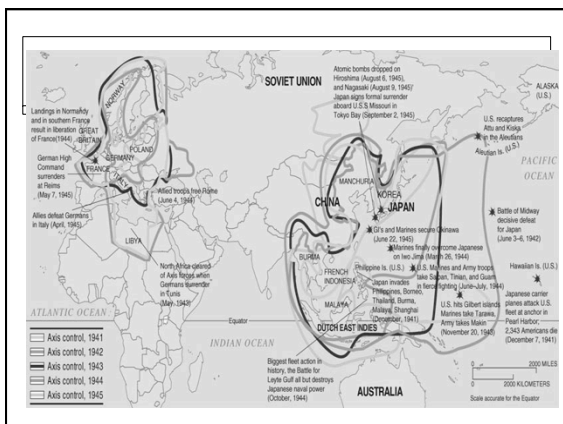
- Axis Powers- Germany, Italy, Japan
- Allied Powers- Great Britain, France, Poland
- Germany used the strategy of "blitzkrieg" war by rapidly penetrating enemy territory.
- France fell to Germany quickly, a result of divided and weak leadership.
- Great Britain was the only western democracy to survive Nazi takeover.

The Conduct of a Second Global War

- Battle of Britain- Britain was able to withstand a Nazi air offensive.
- Germany decided to abandon plans to conquer the British Isles.
- The Nazis were able to control most of the continent of Europe by the mid-1941.
- Nazi forces drove the Soviets out of Finland, Poland and the Baltic states.

The Conduct of a Second Global War

- German advance was stalled on the outskirts of Moscow and Leningrad.
- Germans were never able to take key cities in the USSR.
- In 1943, the USSR went on the offensive and drove out Germany.
- The USSR was able to drive Germany out and capture Poland by late 1944.



The Conduct of a Second Global War

- In February of 1942, Nazi officials decided to initiate a “final solution” to the “Jewish problem.”
- The more the war turned against Hitler, the more they pressed the genocidal campaign.
- Jewish people and other “undesirables” were shipped to camps in the east.
- As many as 12 million people were murdered in the Holocaust.

The Conduct of a Second Global War

- The USA provided assistance to Great Britain.
- American tank divisions joined Great Britain in North Africa in 1942 and 1943 and helped to clear Germans from North Africa and the Middle East.
- Allied forces advanced into Italy and took over the fascist regime and Mussolini.
- General Dwight Eisenhower led forces into France.
- By early 1945, the Allied began invading Germany from the west and the USSR invaded from the east.

The Conduct of a Second Global War

- Japan captured colonial territories of the British in Hong Kong, Malaya, Burma, Dutch East Indies and the Philippines.
- The Japanese empire was vulnerable to the Allied colonies.
- Resistance fighters cooperated with British and American forces against the Japanese.
- Allied forces gained momentum after a win at Midway Island.

The Conduct of a Second Global War

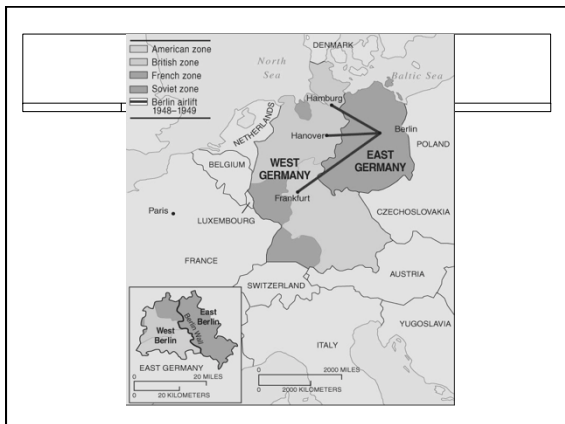
- The Allies began bombing the Japanese islands.
- The United States dropped two atomic bombs: one on Hiroshima on August 6th, 1945 and Nagasaki on August 9th, 1945.
- Over 100,000 people were killed immediately and about 100,000 people died later from radiation poisoning.
- Japan surrendered on August 15th, 1945.

Wars End and the Emergence of the Superpower Standoff

- Leaders from the Axis and Allied Powers met on several occasions to build a more lasting peace.
- The United Nations was established.
- The UN initiated international diplomacy and assistance beyond just the Western powers.
- The primary mission of the UN is provide a forum to settle international disputes.

Wars End and the Emergence of the Superpower Standoff

- Tension between countries surfaced during the 1944 Tehran Conference.
- Germany was divided into four zones in the Yalta Conference in 1945.
- Final post-war settlements were reached in the Potsdam Conference in 1945.
- Independent nations created in 1918 were restored and most fell under Soviet domination.



Nationalism and Decolonization

- The devastation of World War II drained the resources of the European powers.
- WWII also enhanced the power and influence of the United States and the USSR.
- The Atlantic Charter of 1941 was an alliance agreement between the United States and Great Britain.

Nationalism and Decolonization

- The “Quit India Movement” was massive civil disobedience that began in the summer of 1942 to end British control of India.
- There were demands for a separate Muslim state, led by the Muslim League and Muhammad Ali Jinnah.
- The process of decolonization began between 1945 and 1947.
- Pakistan was created and Jinnah became the first president.

Nationalism and Decolonization

- India and Pakistan saw vicious Hindu-Muslim, Muslim-Sikh rioting before, during and after partition.
- The area saw over 10 million refugees.
- Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in January 1948.
- Burma (Myanmar) and Ceylon (Sri Lanka) also gained independence, but peacefully.

Nationalism and Decolonization

- Non-settler Africa was affected by WWII by forced labor, confiscation of crops and resources, and inflation.
- Industrialization was seen in Africa, to supply wartime needs for Europe.
- Kwame Nkrumah led the decolonization process of the British Gold Coast to establish the nation of Ghana.
- He established the Convention Peoples Party.
- Great Britain recognized Nkrumah as the prime minister of Ghana in 1957.

Nationalism and Decolonization

- Between 1956 and 1960, the French colonies moved in stages toward nationhood.
- By 1960, all French colonies had independence.
- Belgium gave up their colony of the Congo in 1960, although there was no real nationalist movement for independence.

Nationalism and Decolonization

- Settler colonies saw more resistance to decolonization because European settlers were reluctant to turn political control over to the African majority.
- The Land Freedom Army in the 1950's (Kenya) used terror and guerilla warfare against the British.
- Kenya received independence in 1963 and was one of the most stable and prosperous new African states.

Nationalism and Decolonization

- In South Africa, the Afrikaners had no option to return to Europe.
- The Afrikaner National Party emerged as the majority party in an all-white South African legislature.
- Racial segregation, called apartheid, was established in 1948 to keep political and economic dominance of the Afrikaners.

Nationalism and Decolonization

- The Holocaust provided support for the idea that the Jews should have their own homeland.
- Zionists were determined to carve out a Jewish state in Palestine.
- The United Nations approved the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish countries.
- The area of Palestine and Israel continues to be an international problem to this day.

