



WORLD WAR II & EUROPE SINCE 1945

WORLD WAR II

- Many countries faced deep economic and political problems as a result of World War I.
- Dictators rose to power and attacked their neighbors and plunged the world back into war.
- After World War I Europe factories and farmlands had been destroyed, and economies were in ruins.
- Countries like Germany and Austria, owed billions in war damages.
- 1929 the stock market crashed in the USA triggering a global economic crisis called the Great Depression.
- The Great Depression caused unemployment throughout Europe.

WORLD WAR II

- Dictator -- A ruler who has total control.
- In Russia Vladimir Lenin gained power. He formed a Communist government and united Russia into the Soviet Union.
- After Lenin's death Joseph Stalin will take power.
 - He made economic decisions, restricted religious worship, and used secret police to spy on citizens.
- Benito Mussolini took power of Italy.
- By the 1930's Germany turned to the Nazi Party and their leader was Adolf Hitler.
 - He banned all parties except for the Nazi's, he started discriminating against so-called inferior races, like the Jews.

WORLD WAR II

- Italian and German aggression forced Europe into a 2nd world war.
 - Italy invades Ethiopia.
 - Germany will annexed Austria. Then Germany takes Czechoslovakia.
 - Once Germany invaded Poland Great Britain and France will declare war.
 - Germany, Italy, and Japan formed an alliance called the Axis Powers.
 - France, Great Britain, and other countries created an alliance called the Allies.
 - In less than a year, Hitler had gained control of almost all of Western Europe.
 - By 1941 Germany had in invaded the Soviet Union, the Italians invaded North Africa, and Japan attacked the United States.

WORLD WAR II

- Holocaust – the attempt by the Nazi government during World War II to eliminate Europe's Jews.
- Over 6 million Jews were murdered.
- 1944 Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, an invasion called D-Day.
- Spring of 1945 World War II is over.
- Results of the War:
 - Millions of deaths, tensions between Allies, and creation of the United Nations.

WORLD WAR II

- More than 50 million people lost their lives.
- The United States and the Soviet Union emerged from the war as Super Powers. These two powers will create a intense rivalry, which will be known as the Cold War.
- In the hope to prevent another deadly conflict 50 nations formed the United Nations. An international peacekeeping organization.