CHAPTER 30

A Second Global Conflict and the End of European World Order

CHAPTER SUMMARY

In contrast to the disorganized beginning of World War I, World War II was provoked by deliberate aggressions of Germany, Japan, and Italy. The failures of the Western policy of appeasement encouraged the Axis Powers’ militaristic expansions. The most deadly conflict in history, World War II, resulted in the rise of the United States and the Soviet Union to world preeminence and competition. Western European hegemony came to an end as independence movements in Africa and Asia succeeded in the decades after the war.

Old and New Causes of a Second World War. Grievances from World War I’s aftermath and economic havoc resulted in militarist responses from Japan, Germany and Italy. Japan attacked Manchuria in 1931, and politicians in the West responded with a collective shrug. In contrast to Japan’s gradual shift towards the military, Germany’s was abrupt. Adolf Hitler promised to restore Germany’s once-impressive economic and military place in Europe and to eliminate the Communist threat within its borders. In alliance with Italy, Germany assisted the fascist takeover of Spain.

Unchecked Aggression and the Coming of War in Europe and the Pacific. By the late 1930s a number of patterns were clearly established in the interaction between the new totalitarian states of Germany, Italy, and Japan and Western democracies. The lesson eventually learned by the West was that unchecked aggression led to yet more aggression. This lesson was taught most clearly at Munich. As China and Japan bitterly struggled throughout the 1930s for control of east Asia, the West to a great extent watched from the sidelines.

In Depth: Total War. The 20th century saw the introduction of a new kind of war in which vast resources of belligerent nations were used to support all-out military effort. It resulted from industrialization and efforts by governments to organize their people. The latter had its genesis in the nationalist responses to the French Revolution. Industrial technology was first applied on a large scale in the U.S. Civil War but World War I fully revealed its impact. Governmental use of the media to provoke patriotic responses was used in World War I, as well. All these features returned even more developed in World War II. Total war had varied social results, including the inclusion of women in the workplace and the introduction of new household technologies. Still, total war was especially notable for its unprecedented devastation.

The Conduct of a Second Global War. The German-devised tactic of blitzkrieg blind-sided both western and eastern Europe, and north Africa. In Asia, the war spanned the entire Pacific region.

Nazi Blitzkrieg, Stalemate, and the Long Retreat. By mid-1940 the Germans controlled most of the continent of Europe and much of the Mediterranean. After western Europe fell to Germany, the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union. Battles between Nazi and Soviet troops were among the largest ever and led to the weakening of the German war effort. North Africa was also the site of many battles, as was Italy. With tremendously effective help from the United States, the Allies slowly pushed the Germans back within their borders after six years of fighting.

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**From Persecution to Genocide: Hitler’s War Against the Jews.** Jews, Polish intellectuals, and Communists were rounded up and killed during German offensives into eastern Europe. The destruction of the Jewish people became the official policy of the Nazi reich. Concentration camps set up in the 1930s became the death camps of perhaps as many as 12 million people in the 1940s. 6 million of those of the Jewish faith.

**Anglo-American Offensives, Encirclement, and the End of the 12-Year Reich.** American and British forces countered Nazi gains first in the Atlantic and in North Africa. Their attack into Italy eventually forced the toppling of Mussolini. In 1944, the Allies invaded and pushed the Germans out of northern France. The last German offensive in the West, near the French/Belgian borders, resulted in their eventual defeat in the spring of 1945. At the same time, the Soviet army poured in from the East after years of bitter, brutal fighting. Germany was spent.

**The Rise and Fall of the Japanese Empire in the Pacific War.** After Pearl Harbor, Japan quickly captured many European holdings all over the Pacific. With support from Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand, the United States exploited Japan’s strategic and material weaknesses with clever strategies and brute force. With the first use of atomic weapons by the U.S., the war against Japan came to a sudden end.

**War’s End and the Emergence of the Superpower Standoff.** The end of World War II led to a decades-long confrontation between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. and their allies. Both were members of the United Nations, formed during the war as the official name of the anti-Axis Allies. After World War II, the UN did much to aid refugees and to promote health care worldwide.

**From Hot War to Cold War.** The Cold War, lasting from the late 1940s to the late 1980s, rose from disagreements between the U.S.S.R. and its World War II allies over postwar territorial settlements. Korea was divided into Soviet and U.S. zones and Germany’s holdings were similarly divvied up in Europe. The stage was set for two of the great movements of the latter half of the 20th century: first, decolonization and second, the Cold War.

**Nationalism and Decolonization.** The end of World War II marked the beginning of an age of nationalist movements in the European colonies in Africa and Asia.

**The Winning of Independence in South and Southeast Asia.** The outbreak of World War II ended the uneasy alliance between the Indian National Congress and Britain. Massive civil disobedience campaigns and the arrest of Gandhi and Nehru strained relations between the two. The Muslim League, supporters of the partition of India into Hindu and Muslim sectors, rallied to the British cause. In 1947, the jewel in the British crown was divided into India and Pakistan; later Sri Lanka and Burma (Myanmar) also received independence. The retreat of the once-powerful British from Asia prompted similar responses from the Dutch and French, most notably in Indonesia and Vietnam.

**The Liberation of Nonsettler Africa.** Independence movements in nonsettler Africa were initiated by Western-educated individuals, like Nkrumah in Ghana. By the mid-1960s the British, French, Portuguese, and Belgian nonsettler colonies in Africa were independent.
Pakistan splits from India
World War II ends
Israel becomes a nation
Japan invades Manchuria

___ 1931
___ 1939
___ 1945
___ 1947
___ 1948
___ 1957

TERMS, PEOPLE, EVENTS
The following terms, people and events are important to your understanding of the chapter. On a separate sheet of paper, define each one.

Afrikaner National Party Manchuria
Algeria Midway Island
apartheid Mohandas Gandhi
Atlantic Charter Muhammad Ali Jinnah
Axis powers Muslim League
Battle of Britain National Socialist Party
Battle of Coral Sea Neville Chamberlain
Battle of Stalingrad Nonaggression pact
Battle of the Bulge OAS
blitzkrieg Potsdam Conference
Cold War Quit India Movement
Dwight Eisenhower South Africa
Erwin Rommel Stafford Cripps
Final Solution Tehran Conference
total war
Franklin Roosevelt Tripartite Pact
Ghana United Nations
Hiroshima and Nagasaki Vichy
Holocaust Wannsee Conference
Indian National Congress Wehrmacht
Jomo Kenyatta Winston Churchill
Kenya African Union World Court of Justice
Kwame Nkrumah
Land Freedom Army
Manchukuo
Yamamoto

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MAP EXERCISE

The following exercise is intended to clarify the geophysical environment and the spatial relationships among the important objects and places mentioned in the chapter. Locate the following places on the map.

Ghana  Rhodesia  South Africa
Kenya  Algeria

Based on the map above and your knowledge of the period, place the year each of these countries received their independence from European rule.
SHORT ANSWER. Write the word or phrase that best completes each statement or answers the question.

1. The Axis powers of Germany, Italy, and Japan signed an alliance called the __________________.

2. The English prime minister who showed determination and a positive attitude to the public throughout the war was ________________.

3. Japanese soldiers were especially brutal to the Chinese civilians living in the Guomindang capital, ________________.

4. U.S. president Roosevelt called for “the right of all people to choose the form of government under which they live” in the WWII agreement with Britain, the _________________.

5. Nazi Germany’s policy called the “__________________” led to the death of about 6 million Jews in what came to be known as the Holocaust.

6. The Indian leader who supported a separate Muslim state called Pakistan was ________________.

7. The turning point battle in the Pacific war, which saw the Japanese lose several aircraft carriers, was at ___________________.

8. The first atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of _________________.

9. The last German offensive of the war was called the Battle of the _____________.

10. South Africa imposed a rigid system of racial segregation called _________________.

TRUE/FALSE. Write “T” if the statement is true and “F” if the statement is false.

1. The Zionist military force that fought in Palestine was the Palestine Liberation Organization. T

2. The governments of England and France cooperated to mutually establish independence in their respective African colonies. F

3. Western cultural influences have remained strong in almost all of the former colonies. T

4. The Fourth French Republic was toppled partly because of events in Algeria. F
5. The end of World War I had little to do with the beginning of World War II.

6. The Guomindang in China fought both domestic Communists and Japanese invaders within a decade.

7. Germany’s “blitzkrieg” is a form of military attack that involves fast troop and armor unit movements supported by air strikes.

8. The United States was the only major allied power that was not invaded by Germany.

9. The French Vichy government was a “puppet” to the Nazi regime.

10. The policy held by the Western Allies concerning immigration of Jews was partially responsible for the final total of deaths in the Holocaust.
MULTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers to the question.

1. World War II began in Europe when
   A) Germany invaded Poland.
   B) Germany invaded the U.S.S.R.
   C) Italy invaded Ethiopia.
   D) Germany invaded France.
   E) Japan invaded Manchuria.

2. The United Nations differed from the League of Nations in that
   A) the U.S.S.R. proposed the creation of the UN.
   B) France refused to join the UN.
   C) the headquarters of the UN was in Europe.
   D) the U.S. joined the UN.
   E) the League of Nations ultimately had more members.

3. Hitler came to power in Germany when
   A) he seized power in a putsch.
   B) the army placed him at the head of the government.
   C) the League of Nations approved his candidacy.
   D) he introduced fascism as a political movement.
   E) he was appointed by government officials.

4. When Germany demanded a portion of Czechoslovakia, European leaders responded by
   A) demanding the withdrawal of its demands.
   B) calling for a conference with Hitler to discuss his demands.
   C) sending soldiers to defend Czechoslovakia.
   D) asking for military action by the League of Nations.
   E) doing nothing.

5. Before WWII, Germany and Italy practiced with their weaponry and tactics in
   A) Japan.
   B) Spain.
   C) France.
   D) U.S.S.R.
   E) Czechoslovakia.
6. The United States dropped how many atomic bombs on Japan?

   A) One  
   B) Two  
   C) Three  
   D) Four  
   E) More than four

7. Which of these regions did NOT see major military action in WWII?

   A) North America  
   B) Eastern Europe  
   C) East Asia  
   D) North Africa  
   E) Pacific Islands

8. Dividing postwar Europe into Western and Soviet satellite states occurred at the allied war conference at

   A) Teheran.  
   B) Potsdam.  
   C) Casablanca  
   D) Cairo.  
   E) Yalta.

9. In South Asia, the Muslim League lobbied for

   A) reparations for disfranchised Untouchables.  
   B) defeat of the British in WWII.  
   C) separate status for a Muslim state carved from India.  
   D) unity among all peoples of south Asia.  
   E) full cooperation with Indian nationalist leaders like Gandhi.


    A) The English colonies were less successful economically in the long run.  
    B) Their leaders came from among the lower social classes.  
    C) They refused assistance from outside powers.  
    D) They tended to be less violent in nature.  
    E) There were no differences.