

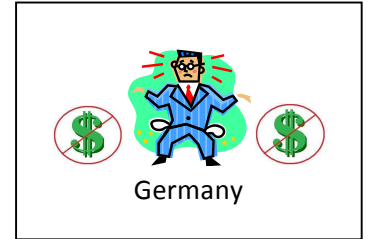
Name:

Date:

Period:

### The Road to War

The Allies had been harsh in their treatment of Germany after World War I. As part of the Treaty of Versailles, they demanded reparations, or repayment, from Germany for all the damages and expenses. This was more than Germany's economy could handle for they too had spent a lot of money during the war years. Germany also had to give up land and admit they were to blame for the war.



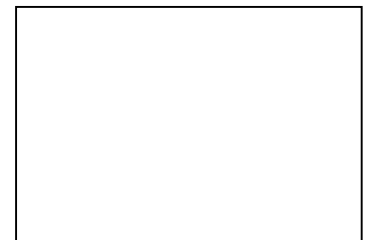
In 1933, Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party came to power in Germany by appealing to German nationalism and promising economic recovery. Hitler felt very strongly that Germany had been mistreated by the Allies after World War I. As the new leader, he ignored the terms of the Treaty of Versailles and worked to restore the nation's economy. He also began to secretly rebuild and rearm the military.

Other countries in Europe did little to stop Hitler because they too were suffering serious economic and political problems after World War I. In several countries, dictators rose to power by promising stronger countries which could take care of the peoples' needs. In Italy, Benito Mussolini took power and expanded into Africa and Easter Europe. Japan was expanding into China in order to obtain natural resources it needed. These three countries formed an alliance in 1937, called the Axis Powers.



Russia experienced a revolution during World War I, which overthrew the government. It was now called the Soviet Union. In the 1930's Joseph Stalin became dictator of the Soviet Union. He purged the country of all people who might oppose him and began to rebuild the armed forces. Fearful of Hitler's actions, Stalin promised to prevent German expansion into Soviet territory.

The United States, Great Britain, and France were also having economic problems. Anti-war sentiment had grown in all three countries as a result of the devastation and horrors of the First World War. In the U.S. these feelings were so strong that a policy of isolationism was enforced to keep the nation out of world affairs. During the 1930's none of the former allies wanted chance a new war with Germany. The Soviet Union and Germany made a pact to not attack one another. With no one to stop him Hitler began to conquer portions of Europe.



After World War I, the U.S. refused to sign the Treaty of Versailles because it did not want to join the League of Nations. Without the U.S., the League of Nations could not stop countries from attacking each other. Britain and France tried to negotiate with Hitler to stop him from attacking more countries. They agreed to let him keep the land he conquered as long as he promised not to continue, this was called appeasement. Soon however, Germany was invading countries again. When Germany invaded Poland Britain and France had no choice and declared war. By then however, Germany was already powerful again.

**Name:**

**Date:**

**Period**

**Road to War**

- 1. What were the conditions Germany had to agree to in the Treaty of Versailles?**
- 2. What did Hitler start to do when he became dictator of Germany?**
- 3. Why do you think Germans liked Hitler so much?**
- 4. What countries formed the Axis Powers?**
- 5. Where were Axis countries(all three) conquering land?**
- 6. What happened to Russia during the First World War?**
- 7. What did Russia's name change to?**
- 8. What did Stalin do when he became dictator?**
- 9. What problems were America, Britain, and France encountering?**
- 10. Why was Hitler able to conquer other countries?**
- 11. Was appeasement successful? Explain.**
- 12. How could World War Two have been prevented?**