

World War II (1939-1945)

Causes:

I. Axis Aggression (1931-1939)

Germany

1. Germany remilitarizes (a powerful army and navy is in place by 1936)

- German troops occupy the *Rhineland*.

2. Annexes Austria (1938)

A. claims German speaking people belong within one German nation.

3. Annexes Czechoslovakia (1938)

A. Hitler demands the Sudetenland (German populated area in Czechoslovakia)

B. France and Britain do not intervene on behalf of the Czech government.

**** Appeasement: giving in to the demands of someone in hopes that they will not ask for more.**

C. Hitler announces that this will be his last territorial demand. Six months later he seizes the remainder of Czechoslovakia.

4. Poland (1939)

Italy

- 1. Mussolini invades Ethiopia in 1935**

Japan

- 1. Japan invades Manchuria in 1931**

II. The Failure Of The League Of Nations

III. German Resentment At The Treaty Of Versailles

- 1. Germany had to accept responsibility for starting the war.**
- 2. The peace terms were dictated to them and not negotiated by them.**

IV. Worldwide Economic Problems Give Rise To Dictators