

World War II (1939–1945)

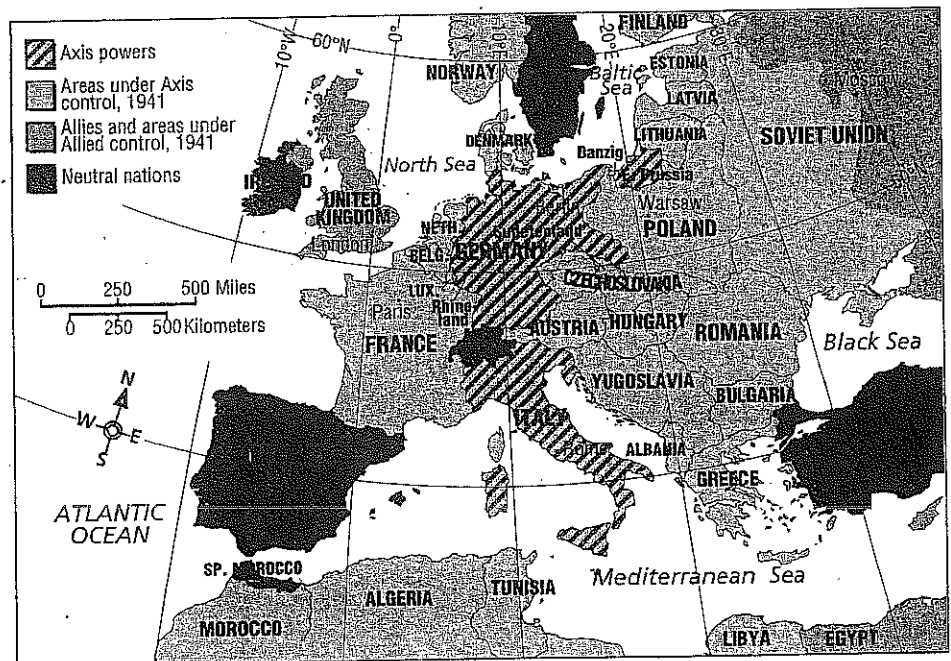
SECTION 1

PRELUDE TO GLOBAL WAR

THE BIG IDEA

Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939 marked the start of World War II. War quickly spread across Europe and Asia.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: Axis and Allies, 1941



GEOGRAPHY WORKSHEET 35***Fascist Expansion in Europe***

Region

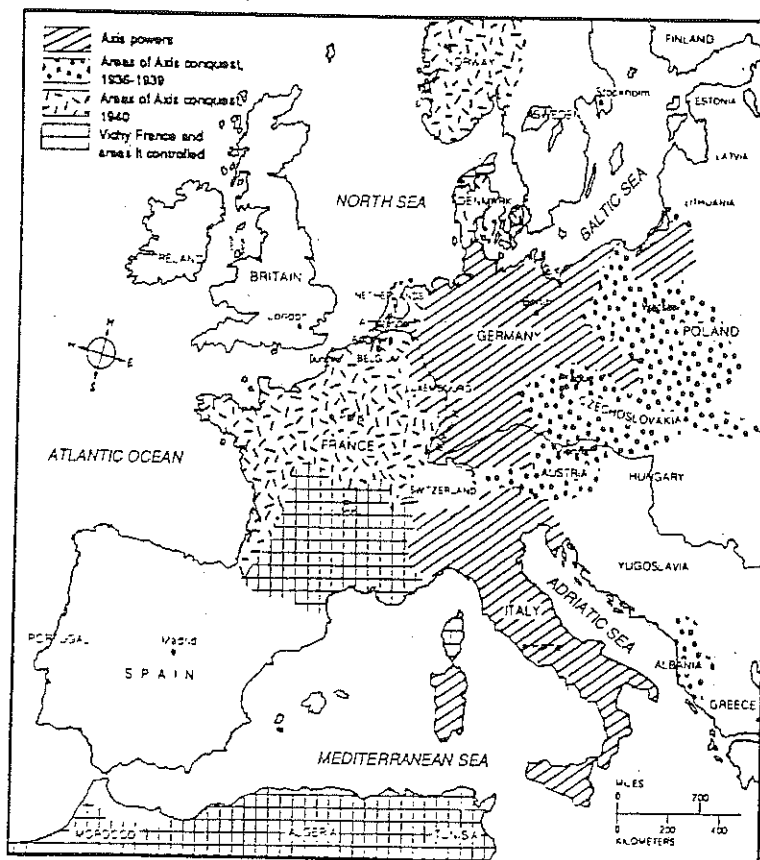
Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

The 1930's saw growing support for dictators and totalitarian governments in Europe. Hitler, in Germany, and Mussolini, in Italy, called for aggressive actions against their "enemies." In 1934 Mussolini's troops attacked Ethiopia, and in 1936 that African nation was annexed by Italy. Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933 and, shortly thereafter, pulled his country out of the League of Nations. Raving against the Jews and other "enemies" of Germany, he then began to rearm Germany, in direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles. In March, 1936, Hitler remilitarized the Rhineland, an area of Germany that, according to the treaty, was to remain demilitarized. France and Great Britain made no moves to counter these actions.

In March, 1938, Germany annexed Austria, without opposition. Next, Hitler demanded the return of the Sudetenland, a region of Czechoslovakia inhabited by a large number of Germans. Hitler claimed that the German

Czechs were being mistreated. He persuaded France and Great Britain, both of whom had promised to protect Czechoslovakia, that this would be his last territorial demand. The Munich Pact, signed in September, 1938, by Germany, Italy, France, and Great Britain, turned Czechoslovakia over to Germany. Today, this pact is considered to be the worst act of appeasement of modern times. At that time, however, the Allies believed they were signing a document that would bring peace. Instead, six months after German troops crossed the border into the Sudetenland, Hitler took over the rest of Czechoslovakia.

In April, 1939, Mussolini invaded and annexed Albania. Great Britain and France finally realized that peace was not what either Hitler or Mussolini wanted, and they began to prepare for war. On September 1, 1939, Hitler invaded Poland. The European allies declared war on Germany two days later. World War II had formally begun.

Europe, 1936-1940

Extending Map Skills

1. Which nations were the Axis powers? Who were their leaders?

[illegible]

2. Which eastern European countries were taken over by the Axis powers before World War II formally began?

[illegible]

3. Germany's invasion of which eastern European country signaled the formal beginning of World War II?

4. Which nation on the Adriatic Sea did Mussolini invade and annex in 1939?

5. Which countries were conquered by the Axis powers in 1940?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Making Inferences

6. Which country in continental Europe was the only one to remain free of Axis influence by 1940?

7. When Germany conquered France, it occupied the northern part of the country and set up a puppet government in the southern part of France. What was this puppet government called?

8. Why, do you think, were the African nations of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia controlled by the Vichy government?

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Making Judgments

9. Is it reasonable to believe that World War II might have been avoided by an early show of strength on the part of Great Britain, France, or the United States? Explain your answer.

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