The Interwar Years

**Topic 1-Italian Fascism**

Read: mid-pg. 869 to mid-pg. 873

1. Identify some of the problems faced by the Italian government after World War I.  What was its greatest fear?
2. What are the origins of the world 'fascism?'  What are its basic principles [see **doc.** on pg. 1018]?
3. How did the fascists come to power in Italy in the 1920s?
4. Why was Mussolini so popular?  What was his personal appeal?
5. What was the goal of the "corporate state?"  How did it set the relationship between government, business, and labor in fascist Italy?
6. Identify the major components of fascist economic policy.  How efficient did Italy's economy become under Mussolini?  What inherent problems were created?
7. What were some of Mussolini's 'notable' achievements?"
8. Why did Mussolini's government feel it was necessary to make an accommodation with the Vatican?  What did each side receive from their signing of the Lateran Treaty in 1929?
9. Why was the Catholic Church more accommodating to the fascists than it had been toward the preceding liberal government in Italy?

**Topic 2-The Nazis**

Read: pg. 884 to top of pg. 889 and Documents

1. What were the major characteristics of modern dictatorship or totalitarianism?   the limitations of totalitarian rule?
2. Who were Hitler's political and cultural targets?
3. What were Hitler's basic racist and political views?  How were these views a reflection of some 19c and early 20c political and scientific thinkers [see **doc.** on pg. 888]?
4. Which groups in Germany society were the biggest supports of the Nazis?  Why?
5. Why did the Weimar Republic collapse in the early 1930s?
6. How did Hitler and the Nazis actually come to power?
7. What were some of the impressive economic successes of the early Nazi years?  How was Hitler able to accomplish this in the midst of the global depression?
8. What Nazi policies were focused on women and children?  How did Nazi propaganda make all Germans feel that they were part of a great cultural struggle?
9. How did the Nazis deal with the Christian churches in Germany?
10. Why were Jews primary targets of Nazi hatred?  How was Nazi ideology reflected in the Nuremberg Laws?

**Topic 3-Nazi Propaganda**

Document Packet

**Topic 4-Eastern Europe and the Spanish Civil War**

Read: pg. 879 - 881; mid-pg. 895 - pg. 896.

1. What was the political pattern followed by many of the governments in Eastern Europe in the 1930s?  How supportive were they of fascism?
2. How did Austria move closer to a fascist regime by the mid-1930s?
3. What were the causes of the Spanish Civil War?  Identify the different sides in the conflict.
4. What were some of the things that the various fascist movements in Europe had in common?  What were the real fears that many Europeans of all classes had in the inter-war years that fascism seemed to address?
5. How did Britain and France and the other Western democracies respond to the Spanish Civil War?
6. Why did Franco and his Nationalist forces ultimately win?
7. What were the political, economic, and military effects for Spain and the rest of Europe of the Spanish Civil War?

**Topic 5-The Depression**

Read: bottom of pg. 881 to mid-pg. 883; pg. 892 to mid-pg. 895

1. Identify the major causes of the Great Depression.
2. How did the Depression expose more deep-seated global problems?  What were they?
3. What were the financial and political repercussions of this world economic collapse?
4. How did the nations of Europe and the United States respond to the Depression?
5. What was the Marxist interpretation of the Great Depression?
6. Why did the weak economic recovery of the late 1930s create divisive social changes?  Identify these changes for the working-, middle-, and upper-classes.
7. Identify some of the Christian and liberal thinks and writers of the inter-war period.  What were their major intellectual arguments?
8. What were the basic economic theories of John Maynard Keynes?  What role did he feel government should play in the economy?  How was this different from the classical laissez-faire views of the past?
9. How did foreign policy issues have an unexpected, paradoxical effect on conservatives and leftists in Europe in the 1930s?
10. Why was Ramsay MacDonald a "traitor" to his Labour Party principles?
11. How was the French election of 1936 a drastic change from earlier ones in the decade?
12. Identify the reforms initiated by Léon Blum's Popular Front government in France.  Why did it fail within a year?

**Topic 6: The Road to War (again)**

Read: pg. 902 - 905.

1. Why could it be said that World War II actually began with the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931?
2. How did the countries of Eastern Europe try to counterbalance the threat of Germany's rapid rearmament?
3. Why did Italy invade Ethiopia in 1935?  What was the response of the League of Nations?   of the major European powers?
4. What was the response of the international community to the German invasion of the Rhineland in 1936?
5. How did Austria become part of the Third Reich?
6. What was 'the Sudetenland problem?"  How was it resolved?
7. Why didn't France live up to its alliance obligations to Czechoslovakia?
8. Why did Hitler make a diplomatic/military pact with Hitler in 1939?  What were the terms of that agreement?

The Interwar Years

Interwar Years

Assignment 1

Pg. 869-874

**Italian Fascism**

 -Like Russia, started to industrialize

 -unlike Russia-more personal freedom and constitutional tradition and a more responsive government

 -at the end of World War I

 -high inflation and unemployment

 -talk of revolution

 -peasants took land they had been promised

 -industrialists combated strikes with lockouts

 -workers occupied factories and a communist revolution seemed possible

 -Italy got less from the Treaty of Versailles than they expected

 -did not get the Dalmatian port of Fume

 -Gabriele d’Annunzio led an expedition to capture it for Italy

 -showed what bold, nationalist action could do

*The Victory of Fascism*

 -Fascism-comes from the Latin word for bundle of sticks

 -led by Benito Mussolini-former editor of socialists newspaper-fired for writing in favor of Italy entering the war

 -became a nationalist, denounced liberalism and parliamentary indecision

 -Fascism was a movement and a party

 -used propaganda, symbols, and activism in new ways

 -party militants (Black Shirts) became the civilian army

 -changes in Italy’s politics allowed for fascists success

 -1921-first elections with universal male suffrage-well organized parties able to get voter’s attention

 -Catholic Popular Party-conservative, rural supporters demanded major changes

 -Socialists had split-left wing became the Communist Party (inspired by success in Russia)

 -Fascists gained 35 seats in 1921

 -Prime Minister Giolitti tried to make a coalition that included Fascists in a “National Bloc”-wanted to get the Fascists to follow parliamentary ways (no luck)

 -Fascist Black Shirts planted bombs, beat up opponents, disrupted meetings while denouncing Marxists as a threat to order

 -supported by police and property owners (feared a communist revolution)

*The Weakness of Opposition*

 -left wing unions called a general strike in 1922-raised fears of revolution

 -Black Shirts took over town councils by force

 -Politicians worked to find a parliamentary majority

 -Black Shirts marched on Rome-October 1922

 -Mussolini waited in Milan

 -Parliamentary leaders called for martial law, but King Victor Emmanuel III refused

 -Mussolini arrived in Rome where King Victor Emmanuel invited him to form a cabinet

 -Black Shirt’s symbolic revolt was enough to capture power

 -Mussolini became the Prime Minister of a coalition government

 -1924 elections the Fascists won massive victories

 -Fascists became more brutal

 -Giacomom Matteotti, a socialist, stood up to the Fascists and was murdered

 -opponents could not unite to get rid of Mussolini

 -Fascists isolated the socialists and then the Popular Party

 -Popular Party had lost support of the Vatican due to their positions on social reform

 -by 1925 all opponents of the Fascists had been expelled from parliament

 -newspapers printed what they were told to or they were shut down

 -Mussolini seen as a strong anti-socialist leader

*Fascist Rule*

 -1926-passed a series of special laws

 -declared the Duce (leader) of Fascism the head of stated with the right to set the Chamber’s agenda and govern by decree

 -nearly all laws made this way for almost 20 years

 -opposition parties were outlawed, political opponents were arrested, civil service and judiciary purged of anyone thought to be independent

 -Mussolini’s sensitivity to the masses brought the Italian government a popular touch

 -1931-law forced all professors to sign a loyalty oath, only 11 refused

 -regime had little to fear—resistance centered in France and among communists

 -secret police, militia, and tribunals reached into every town

 -early recruits from unemployed and alienated swelled fascists ranks

 -Fascists organizations in place in schools and work places, included everyone over the age of 4

 -denounced French Revolution and majority rule, but hailed “the People”

 -main thing was to obey the Duce

 -intellectuals were suspect

 -attempted to reclaim the glory of Rome

*The Corporate State*

 -partly a façade, partly an expression of ideology

 -intent was to organize each sector of production into a corporation

 -each encompassed employees and workers—leaders appointed by government

 -established industry wide policies and wages

 -by 1926-outlawed strikes, lockouts, and independent unions

 -1934 number of corporations set at 22-controlled production from raw material to finished product

 -the president of each corporation appointed council of delegates who sat on the National Council of Corporations

 -presented as a way to replace conflict with coordination and eliminate class conflict

*Domestic Policies*

 -goal-autarchy-a self-sufficient national economy

 -emphasized industrialization and technology

 -government remained active in the economy and sometimes favored nationalization

 -Lira set as equal to the Franc-hurt Italian exports

 -1926-Battle of the Grain-effort to double grain production

 -production declined when people found ways around fascists bureaucracy

 -efforts made to keep peasants on the land and increase the birthrate

 -achievements-

 -suppressed the activities of the mafia

 -drained swamps around Rome to prevent malaria

 -new rail roads and superhighways

 -meeting halls, recreation centers, and libraries built

 -programs for vacations

 -family bonuses gave poor some security

 -education reform—more people in school for a longer time

The Lateran Agreements

 -Mussolini was mostly anti-clerical

 -adopted some measures the Vatican would welcome

 -crucifixes in classrooms

 -more money for church repairs and salaries

 -1929-Lateran Treaties ended 60 years of conflict between Italy and the Church

 -recognized Vatican City as an independent state

 -religious teaching in public schools

 -marriage laws conform to Catholic doctrine

 -restricted Protestant activities

 -determined indemnity that the Church should be paid for land lost during Italian Unification

 -other nations were impressed by Italy’s ability to run trains on time, end political squabbling, and end the communist threat

The Interwar Years

Assignment 2

The Nazis

Pg. 884-889

**Hitler’s Germany**

 -Nazis won power in a democracy with a strong administrative position

 -defeat in war, inflation, competing ideologies and depression all helped

*The Rise of Hitler*

 -rejected from art academy in Vienna

 -served in World War I

 -worked in Munich after the war spying on German Workers Party-considered dangerous

 -address political rallies—refined speaking style

 -message-Germans were victims of conspiracies by foreign powers, capitalists, Marxists, Free Masons, and Jews

 -Jews were behind war profits, reparations, inflation, and depression

 -Marxism and Communism were Jewish ideas

 -internationalism and pacifism were Jewish ideas intended to destroy Germany

 -believed that Western civilization was Aryan-old term for people of Europe/Asia

 -German and Nordic people were the purest Aryans

 -life was a desperate struggle won by the ruthless

 -German destiny was victory over enemies who threatened her with the Treaty of Versailles, economic disaster, communists, Jews, moral decay and abstract art

 -all attacked the German Volk (people)

 -people must weld virtues into an irresistible force

*The Growth of the Nazi Party*

 -Hitler called his party the National Socialist German Workers Party (Nazi is an acronym)

 -one of many German nationalists movements

 -1923 Hitler led a Putsch (rising) in a Munich Beer Hall

 -after it failed, Hitler was imprisoned

 -wrote *Mein Kamph* (my struggle)—outpouring of his political beliefs

 -Hitler was released in 1925, worked to reorganize and strengthen the Nazi Party

 -SA-brown shirted storm troopers

 -SS-elite corps, black uniforms, body guards, and special police

 -gathered a group of loyal men

 -Hermann Goring-an air ace

 -Joseph Goebbels-journalist and party propagandist

 -Heinrich Himmler

 -worked to enlarge the party, organized rallies, and terrorize opponents

 -1930-Nazis were second largest party in the Reichstag (German Parliament)

 -1931 got financial support from Rhineland industrialists and some farmers—all feared losing income and status

 -most workers supported the Socialists

 -promises of economic recovery, new jobs, and higher agriculture prices attracted many

 -1931-Nazis attacked the “Culture of Bolshevism” in the Weimer Republic and announced they would protect only those who joined them now

*Collapse of the Weimer Republic*

 -Social Democrats led a government that faced depression

 -had a shaky parliamentary majority and an uncooperative president

 -1930 the government resigned-replaced by the Center Party and Heinrich Bruning

 -Nazis gained over 100 seats in the Reichstag in 1930

 -constantly disrupted parliamentary proceedings

 -Hitler became a candidate for president in 1932 when Hindenburg’s term expired

 -other politicians convinced Hindenburg to run again

 -Hindenburg won, dismissed Bruning, and replaced him with Franz von Pappen, a friend of the army officers and the Junkers

 -Von Pappen, in hopes of creating an right wing coalition, lifted the ban on the SA and the SS, named four barons and a count to his cabinet and declared martial law in Prussia to get rid of the socialist government there—all right wing moves

 -Socialism/Communism feared more than Hitler and the Nazis

 -the reaction forced Hindenburg to call another election—resulted in a Nazi landslide (40% of the Reichstag)

 -Hindenburg refused to grant Hitler the decree powers he demanded and did not name him chancellor

 -in the following election, Nazis remained the largest power

*Hitler Takes Office*

 -Hindenburg named General Kurt von Schleicher (an army officer) Chancellor

 -not popular among anyone

 -Von Pappen felt he could control Hitler—convinced Hindenburg to appoint Hitler as head of the coalition government

 -Hitler was the only candidate acceptable to the right that could command a popular following

 -took office January 1933

 -Hitler called for another election-marked by systematic terror

 -Fire broke out in the Reichstag—blamed on the Communists

 -Hindenburg agreed to issue special laws-Ordinances for the Protection of the German State and nation

 -ended most civil liberties-freedom of press and assembly

 -Nazis won 44% in the election and controlled the Reichstag with their nationalist allies

 -Communists were expelled from the Reichstag

 -March of 1933-Hitler demanded a special Enabling Act that gave him the right to enact all laws and treaties without constitutional restrain for four years

 -only 94 Social Democrats (out of 566 total delegates) voted no—terror worked

*Consolidating Nazi Power*

 -Nazis worked to destroy potential for opposition—established concentration camps

 -started campaigns to boycott Jewish businesses

 -April of 1933-Jews eliminated from public service

 -limited university enrollment-Jewish (1.5%) and Women (10%)

 -outlawed all political parties except the Nazis—elections of 1934 Nazis won 90%

 -stricter controls on press, strikes, and civil service

 -Hitler’s most serious rivals were inside the Nazi Party

 -leaders to his left were killed

 -General von Schleicher and his wife were Catholic Leaders and socialists-killed

 -Night of Long Knives-74 deaths

 -Hindenburg died in August of 1933-Germany voted to unite the Chancellorship and presidency into one office-Hitler

 -took the official title of Fuhrer (the leader)

*Administrative and Economic Policies*

 -federal states lost autonomy

 -all government employees were appointees of Hitler

 -secret trials for treason held in new courts

 -treason was broadly defined

 -arrest and detention without charge became regular practice

 -Nazi Party restructured itself to parallel the state

 -Gestapo-Nazi secret police

 -public works projects reduced unemployment

 -government offices, highways, public housing, reforestation

 -armament industry and growing army eliminated unemployment

 -Hitler spent money while other nations tried to balance budgets

*Paying the Cost*

 -payments for foreign trade make with special marks (value changed depending on the products and nations involved)

 -goods that Germans bought were paid for with marks only good to purchase stuff in Germany

 -increase German self sufficiency

 -increased German influence in markets that depended on sale to Germany

 -confiscated property from Jews

 -high taxes and forced people to loan the government money

 -campaigns that encouraged people to give jewelry to the state

 -printed more money-impact hidden by the war

 -strikes were outlawed

 -limited worker mobility

 -National Labor Front represented all workers and management-froze wages and made decisions to benefit the government and businesses

 -industrialists make money in calmer times

*Winning Approval*

 -new benefits to workers—summer camps and vacations

 -Strength Through Joy Program

 -propaganda reassured ordinary people

 -denounced modern art, decadence of Berlin nightlife (especially homosexuality), and new roles for women

 -benefits to new families-prenatal care, bonuses to large families

 -women-discouraged from working outside the home (decrease unemployment)

 -wifely subordination presented as a principal of social order and foundation of the family

 -could not be lawyers or judges

 -could not make up more than 10% of learned professions

 -schools, propaganda showed women as breeders of the Aryan race

 -penalties for abortions of Aryan babies

 -forced sterilization of the “unfit”

 -children were required to join the Hitler Youth

 -Military-Treaty of Versailles rejected in 1935

 -Hitler pusher rearmament

 -return of universal compulsory service in 1935

 -created an air force

 -spent many times what Britain and France spent

 -military officers required to take an oath to of loyalty to Hitler

 -by 1938 Hitler had removed the minister of war, chief of staff, and over 12 generals in an effort to consolidate control over the military and foreign service

*Nazis and the Churches*

 -concordat with the Vatican in 1933 gave Hitler some force in appointing bishops and gave the Church assurance over Catholic orders and schools

 -Protestant detonations agreed to form a new body—the Evangelical Church under a national bishop that Hitler chose

 -when the bishop declared the need to Araynize the Evangelical Church, dissidents formed a separate Church—the Confessional Church

 -the Minister for Church Affairs was authorized to confiscate ecclesiastical property, withhold funds, and have pastors arrested

 -some priests and ministers supported the regime, but most resisted

 -1937 Martin Niemueller was arrested for speaking against the regime

 -leader in the Confessional Church

 -1937-Pope Pius XI condemned the deification of the state and Nazi racial polices

 -after that, Catholic churches were harassed

*Anti-Semitism*

 -central to Nazi practice and ideology

 -Nuremburg Laws of 1935 codified and extended regulations on Jews

 -anyone with 1 Jewish grandparent was considered Jewish

 -they were subjects, not citizens

 -Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honor prohibited marriage or sex between Aryans and Jews, Gypsies, or Blacks

 -Jews were expelled form life one thing at a time and required to register with the state and give their children Jewish names

 -1938-a German diplomat was murdered by a Jewish man

 -started a new round of terror

 -many Jews arrested

 -SS led an orgy of violence—Kristallacht

 -fine of 1 billion marks levied on the Jews

 -barred from theater, concerts, buying jewelry

 -forced to sell businesses and property

 -denied access to certain parts of cities

 -made to wear a yellow star

 -for most Germans, life got better

 -propaganda and marches became part of life

 -Goebbels-head of the Reich Chamber of Culture (propaganda)

The Interwar Years

Assignment 4

Eastern Europe and the Spanish Civil War

Pg. 879-881

**The Great Depression and the Retreat from Democracy**

 -10 years after the Treaty of Versailles, democracy was in retreat

 -authoritarian regimes violated or eliminated constitutions of Hungary, Spain, Albania, Portugal, Lithuania, Poland, Yugoslavia, and Italy

 -by 1936 political liberty was suppressed in Romania, Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Greece and Germany

 -divided over social reform, nationality and religion

 -countries suffered more chaos with each economic crisis and foreign threat

**Authoritarian Regimes**

 -often considered fascism on the Italian model, many felt it was uncontrollable

 -sought to achieve stability through decisiveness and force

*The Monarchs of Central and Eastern Europe*

 -experimented with fascists policies

 -Hungary-anti-Semitic government of Admiral Miklos Horthy in 1920

 -Romania-King Carol II was an admirer of Mussonili

 -stripped Jews of land and citizenship, tightened censorship laws, and imposed martial law

 -Bulgaria-1934 coup abolished parliamentary democracy

 -1929 King Alexander I of Yugoslavia assumed dictatorial powers—an effort to tame divisions of nationalism among Serbs, Croats, and Slovenians

 -by the end of the 1930s efforts were started to limit/suppress fascists activities

 -opposition from France—countries depended on France for support

 -threated by the fascists an the anti-fascists

 -mostly remained authoritarian

*The Republics of Poland and Austria*

 -Poland-internal conflict-Catholics verses the Socialists, conservative land owners verses radical peasants

 -1926 Marshall Jozef Pilsudski took over in a military revolt

 -resigned when his followers gained a majority in Parliament

 -men from the military continued to run the country

 -Austria-division between the Catholic/German countryside and imperial Vienna

 -Social Democrats (left wing) had little influence beyond Vienna

 -Christian Socialists (right wing) were an early influence of Hitler

 -nationalism, social welfare, anti-Semitism

 -moving toward fascism

 -parties clashed violently

 -Chancellor Englebert Dolfus, a Christian Socialist suspended Parliament, outlawed communism, and banned all other parties except the Fatherland Front (his own conservative coalition)

 -1934-crusthed the Social Democrats with military force

 -assassinated by the Nazis in hopes of an Anschluss (union between Austria and Germany)

 -Anschluss happened in 1938, Austria could not suppress growing Nazi threat

*International Fascism*

 -Fascists in Europe had a lot in common

 -uniforms-shirts of one color made a group of supporters look like a movement

-used paramilitary organization, promised decisive action to remake society -through discipline and force

-created drama in the streets-marches, demonstrations, speeches showed fascisms power

-used devices of democratic politics, but corrupted the process

-used patriotism of World War I

-simple solutions to complex problems

-problems were the fault of enemies—Jews, Marxists, foreigners, etc.

-addressed real fears

 -rural society threatened by urbanization

 -small business threatened by big companies

 -business people threatened by worker’s demands

 -middle class threatened by socialism

 -privilege threatened by democracy

 -unemployed threatened by depression

 -religious threatened by secularism

*The Appeal of Fascism*

-Fascists borrowed from ideas in Europe at the time—criticism of capitalism, socialism, conservatives

 -doctrines of race were familiar due to imperialism

-Corporatists thought championed by Mussolini

-organizing society and parliament based on occupation promised to end selfish competition of interests and parties that existed in liberal system, preserve social hierarchy, and eliminate class conflict

-gained supporters (including the church) because of the Depression

*The Spanish Civil War*

-drove home the point that all of Europe was divided between fascists right and Marxist left

-Spain had problems since the end of World War I

-1923-General Miguel Primo de Rivera—assumed dictatorial powers

 -implemented reforms similar to Mussolini

 -popular discontent forced him into exile in 1930

-1931 elections—republicans and socialists won

 -Second Spanish Republic

 -political turmoil and violence continued

-the Falange formed by Jose Antonio Primo de Riveria (the dictator’s son) modeled after Italian facism

-July 1936 Spanish officers stationed in Morocco rose up—start of the Civil War

-General Francisco Franco emerged as the leader-supported by Italy, Germany, and Portugal (leader Oliveira Salazar rule a conservative one party state)

-supporters called Nationalists-army officers

-appealed to monarchists, clergy, anti-anarchists, and anti-communists

-Italy and Germany formed the Rome-Berlin Axis to support Franco

-Germany and Japan formed the Anti-Comintern Pact—pledged mutual sympathy and anti-communism

-military support, troops, and supplies were provided

-Mussolini thought Spanish victory would enhance Italian prestige

-Hitler wanted to test his new military technology

-the Spanish government was supported by republicans, socialists, communists, anarchists, labor unions, Catalan and Basque nationalists

 -known as loyalist

 -defenders of democracy against fascists aggression

 -looked to democracies for support—thousands came to Spain to support them

 -Lincoln Brigade, Garibaldi Brigade

*The Course of the Conflict*

 -only USSR provided reliable assistance—ended in 1938

 -France, Britain, and the USA remained neutral

 -aid to the nationalistic forces from Germany and Italy

-foreign aid, trained troops, and modern weapons made Franco’s victory almost inevitable

-Loyalists became increasingly dependent on aid from the USSR—influence of the USSR increased

-Spanish Republic fell in the spring of 1939

 -refugees fled to France

-Franco imprisoned his enemies

 -undid social measures

 -restored the power of the Church over education

 -joined the Anti-Comintern Pact and took Spain out of the League of Nations

-more than one million Spanish people died

-1937 bombing of Guernica by German aircraft showed what war meant for civilians

Topic 5

The Depression

Pg. 881-883 and 892-895

**The Great Depression**

-worldwide depression benefited fascist governments—looked like the death knell of capitalism

*The Stock Market*

 -October 24, 1929 the stock market crashed

-banks failed because businesses cut back, consumption declined, factories closed, and unemployment went up

-May of 1931-financial panic hit Europe

-the Depression exposed deep problems

 -not all industries had recovered after the war

 -old trade patterns had not come back

-worldwide economy-US loans to Germany so Germany could pay reparations to the allies so the allies could repay the US war loans was unproductive

-USA raised tariffs in 1922 and 1930—Europe could not make money selling goods to the USA

*The Repercussions*

 -by 1932 industrial production 2/3 what it had been in 1929

 -unemployment soared

 -government expected to find solutions to economic problems

-look abroad for help—reparations broke down and allies could no longer pay back loans to the USA

-President Hoover proposed all inter government payments be suspended in 1932

 -supposed to be temporary

-Britain abandoned the gold standard which devalued the Sterling

 -British loans had saved Austrian banks

 -chaos in international monetary exchanges

-League of Nations sponsored a World Economic Conference in London in 1933

 -failed to find solutions

-US went off the gold standard—structure of credit, exchange, and liberal economic fell apart

*National Responses*

 -raised tariffs and import quotas-further reduced trade

 -socialists also did not have a solution—liked that capitalisms weaknesses were exposed

 -unemployment was the biggest problem

 -Soviet production continued to advance

**The Democracies Weak Response**

**Divisive Social Change**

*The Economy*

-economic recovery was starting by the mid-1930s

-agriculture—more productive-mechanized and scientific

-workers had better transportation, cheaper clothes, more leisure—took organized conflict to get higher wages

-many workers had shorter work week

 -factories were more efficient—treated like machines

-large businesses recovered faster, and feared labor unions

*Cultural Life*

 -seemed more foreign, politicized, and ideological

 -Spain-Pablo Picasso-Guernica commented on Spanish Civil War

**The Argument for Liberty**

-intellectuals, Marxists, Christian thinkers, liberals, and economists expressed a revived commitment to freedom

-Marxists-Soviet Union looked to be a success-Constitution of 1936

 -insistence of importance of justice, equality, and liberty (on paper)

*Christians and Liberals*

 -stressed individual freedom and social justice

*Keynesian Economics*

-John Maynard Keynes—The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money—1936

 -argued against traditional economic theory

 -iron laws of economics do not control boom/busts

-massive unemployment intolerable and proved capitalism could not be left on its own

-dismissed Marx as outdated

-felt when the economy lagged, government should-

 -lower interest rates

 -encourage production

 -finance public works and social welfare

-as the economy expanded government should-

 -use opposite policies to check inflation and speculation

-many capitalists denounced him as a socialist

 -ideas resulted in the New Deal

*Domestic Policies*

 -conservatives perused balanced budget—hurt the unemployed

 -liberals accepted tariffs and subsides that had only a few positive results

 -socialists (weakened by communism) accepted weak welfare measures

 -Foreign policy

 -Conservatives downplayed danger of Italy and Germany

 -left abandoned anti-military stand—felt fascism must be resisted

 -cause of democracy rested with Britain and France

*Cautious Compromise in Britain*

 -Ramsay MacDonald became British Prime Minister after a Labour victory in 1929

 -drastic cuts in welfare and unemployment—divided his own party

-formed a national government with members from all three parties—a conservative government in disguise

-MacDonald expelled from the Labour Party

-controls on foreign exchanges, increased tariffs—policies split the liberals

-MacDonald resigned in 1935, unloved

-succeeded by a conservative government—Stanley Baldwin

 -Crisis of 1936—King Edward VIII married a divorcee and was forced to abdicate

 -George VI became king

 -foreign policy was uncertain—could not resist Italy and Germany

 -1937 Baldwin turned Prime Ministership over to Neville Chamberlin

 -convinced he could avoid war with caution and compromise

*Weak Government in France*

-experienced depression later and less severely than industrial countries—when it came it stayed

-the left won legislative elections in 1932

-could not put together a reliable majority-socialists refused to participate in bourgeoisie government

-result was unstable government focused on protecting interests and reducing expenditures

-rightest factions including the fascists Croix de Feu (Cross of Fire) grew more vocal

-February 6, 1934 demonstrations by uniformed militia against Portainment

-almost brought down Third Republic

 -Serge Staviski-investment swindler exposed in the 1930s

 -subject of anti-Semitic demonstrations

-former president Gaston Doumergue recalled from retirement-empowered to govern by decree

-supported by all but the royalists and the Marxists

-governed for 9 calming months

 -elections of 1936-big change

-moderate republicans, socialists, and communists combined to form an anti-fascists Popular Front

 -USSR allowed communists to join alliances with other parties

 -first socialists Premier—Leon Blum—intellectual and Jewish-distrusted

 -wave of strikes as he took office—workers wanted benefit from victory

 -occupied factories-conservatives feared revolution

-government pushed through a 12% increase in wages, two weeks paid vacation, forty hour work week, and compulsory arbitration—ended strikes

-other reforms-Bank of France, nationalized arms industry, public works, increased pensions, small business subsidies, devaluation of the Franc

 -frightened the business class

 -economy was more regulation than stimulation

 -Blum’s government began tax reform plans when it was defeated in the senate

 -Popular Front broke up

 -France’s international position was falling apart

Interwar Years

Assignment 6

War!

Pg. 902-905

**The Years of Axis Victory**

-Civil War in Spain made the situation clear-Germany and Italy were allied, rearming, and aggressive

-France and Britain were rearming in hopes of avoiding war

-Eastern Europe was paralyzed

-USSR-nobody knew if it could or would fight

**The Path to War**

 -Hitler made demands that resulted in war in 1939

*The Anschluss*

 -February 1938-Hitler began to pressure Austria

 -summoned Austrian chancellor Kurt von Schuschnigg to Berchtesgaden

 -Schuschnigg promised to allow Austrian Nazis into his cabinet

 -held a plebiscite hoping that Austrian opinion would be for independence

 -Hitler sent his army to the Austrian border

 -Schuschnigg gave in, and was replaced by a Nazi who invited the Germans in-March 13

 -in one month, the German annexation of Austria was approved by a plebiscite

 -German influence spread toward the Balkans

 -Britain and France did nothing

*Czechoslovakia*

-two weeks later Hitler demanded autonomy for the Sudetenland—German speaking part of Czechoslovakia

 -claimed that German were being abused and Versailles settlement was unfair

-Czechoslovakia was a prosperous, industrial state, protected by an army

 -had mutual aid treaties with France and Russia

 -mobilized their army

 -Hitler worked on ethnic resentment-Czech and Slovak parts did not get along

 -pro-Nazi party had won most votes in 1935

-Chamberlain wanted to talk directly to Hitler-mediated while German troops trained on the border

-Chamberlain met with Hitler at Berchtesgaden-September 15

 -Hitler demanded the Sudetenland

 -Britain and France advised Czechoslovakia to submit

 -Only the Soviet Union supported Czechoslovakia

-Chamberlain flew to Germany to announce the agreement-Hitler changed the terms

*The Munich Agreement*

-September 29, 1938-Mussolini, Hitler, Chamberlain and Prime Minister of France met in Munich

 -Hitler was granted everything he asked for

 -Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia were not consulted

-Czechoslovakia surrendered 1/3 of their population, best military defense, and economic strength

 -turned into a dependent of Germany

-Chamberlain—“Peace in our time”-Celebrated—appeasement

*Poland and the Hitler Stalin Pact*

-early in 1939-German troops occupied Czechoslovakia and Lithuanian port of Memel—no longer only absorbing German people

-Chamberlain did not believe Nazis wanted war—thought concessions could appease Hitler

-Italy invaded and annexed Albania in 1939

-Rome Berlin Axis became a “Pact of Steal”

-Nazis demanded Danzig (German city given to Poland at Versailles) be returned to Germany

-Nazis claimed that Germans living in the Polish Corridor were persecuted

-Britain and France pledged to protect Poland

-Germany and USSR announced a non-aggression pact

-Stalin believed Britain and France wanted the USSR and Germany to go to war

-May of 1939 Stalin replaced his foreign minister with Vyacheslav Molotov—tough old ally

-Hitler gave the USSR free reign in Finland, Estonia, Lativia, Eastern Poland, and part of Romania if Germany was permitted to change its eastern border

-September 1, 1939-Germany invaded Poland

-Britain and France declared war on September 3