

**STUDY GUIDE:**

**H I S T O R Y SL**

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# IB Academy History Study Guide

## *Move to Global War*

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Design

**Rational**

Typesetting



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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the IB Academy Study Guide for History.

We are proud to present our study guides and hope that you will find them helpful. They are the result of a collaborative undertaking between our tutors, students and teachers from schools across the globe. Our mission is to create the most simple yet comprehensive guides accessible to IB students and teachers worldwide. We are firm believers in the open education movement, which advocates for transparency and accessibility of academic material. As a result, we embarked on this journey to create these study guides that will be continuously reviewed and improved. Should you have any comments, feel free to contact us.

For this History guide, we outlined everything in condensed note-form so that it will be easy for you to grasp the material. In this guide you will find useful information such as key terms, timelines, charts and sample question boxes. Considering the format of the History guide, we also created podcasts (called IB Historicus) for each topic that are meant to be used alongside the study guide. The relevant podcast episodes are marked on the side of the page with a logo



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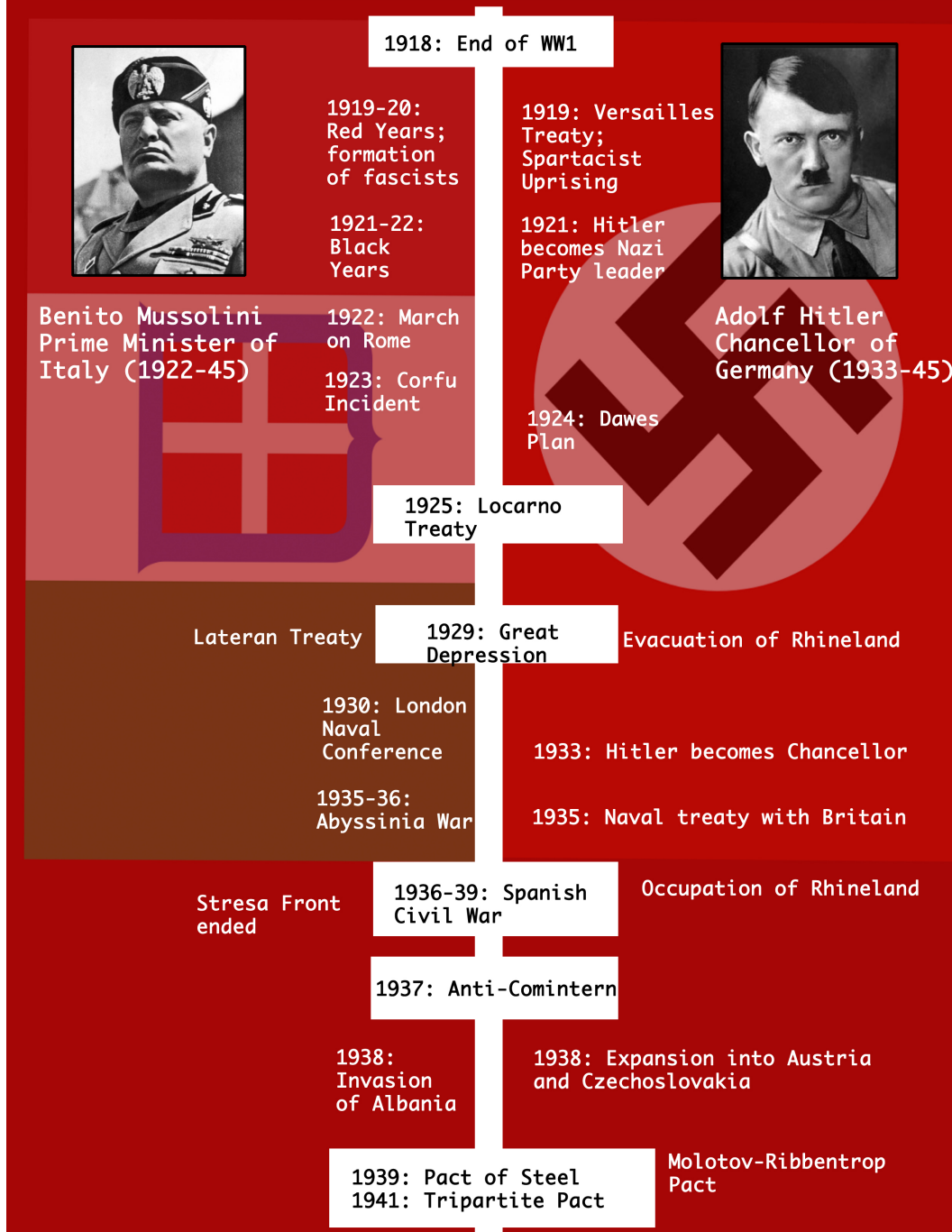
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**MOVE TO GLOBAL WAR**

# ITALY AND GERMANY

## Italy & Germany Timeline of Events



## 1.1 Case of Italy

### 1.1.1 Italian fascism: the 1920s



Episode 1



*The Blackshirts, the fascist's armed militia*

**Fascism:** A political movement developed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century that sought a 'third way' between liberalism and socialism. The characteristics of fascism differed between regimes, but generally the ideology advocated a strong totalitarian government where hierarchy, individuality, violence and culture were stressed to support the state.

#### Post WW1 sentiment → Historical class conflict still strong; peasantry suppressed and many emigrated

1. Search for a 'third way' → Opposites of the time: socialism v. capitalism
  - (a) Socialism & class struggle seen as a threat to world order
  - (b) Russia becomes first socialist state; Marxist parties on the rise
2. Benito Mussolini → Started out as socialist; later developed own ideas
  - (a) **Fascism** looked to combine welfare of the left-wing with preservation of tradition & hierarchy
  - (b) Italy in poor shape: Inflation, worthless savings and many bankrupt firms. Roughly 2 million unemployed; gov't did little to address concerns of inequality
  - (c) Red Years (1919–20): Land occupations & riots across the country
3. Fascist takeover
  - (a) Mussolini starts fascist group in March 1919: Nationalism, confiscation of war profits, vote for women
  - (b) April: Offices of *L'Avanti!* burned down; unions dismantled
  - (c) Increased 'blackshirts' violence

- (d) Black Years (1921–22): Overthrow of local councils, destruction of unions and weakened gov't
- (e) Landowners, middle class, students, cleric workers etc. support Fascists
- (f) Oct. 1922 March on Rome: ~25k converged on capital. King Victor Emmanuel III, looking to avoid civil war, asks Mussolini to form gov't
- (g) Socialist leader Giacomo Matteotti murdered in 1924. Within 2 years, fascism overran constitutional rule → Freedoms curtailed, opposition groups banned and communists exiled/jailed
- (h) 1929 Vatican City became independent

### Cautious foreign policy → Low profile to win back trust of European powers

1. Focus on domestic concerns & regime to fully consolidate its position
2. Improved relations with UK → Kicked off in 1924 when Austen Chamberlain was Minister of Foreign Affairs
  - (a) Italy seen as an obstacle to French **hegemony** and wall against communism
3. Dino Grandi, official at Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1925)
  - (a) Maintained distance with France + Germany; power projection in Mediterranean and security in Balkan region
  - (b) 1929 as Minister: Italy as arbiter for peace; pragmatism followed → 1930 London Naval Conference: Italy got same navy size as France
4. 1923 Corfu Incident: Italian officials assassinated; Mussolini demanded compensation & apology
  - (a) Greece refused and appealed to League of Nations. Mussolini pulled invasion out following pressure from France and Britain
5. 1924 Rome Pact with Yugoslavia
  - (a) Italy to receive long disputed town Fiume
6. International treaties
  - (a) Locarno(1925) → Normalised relations and security of post war territorial settlements
  - (b) Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928) → 'End all wars'
7. End of 'cautious era' → 1930 when Mussolini took control of Ministry role from Grandi
  - (a) Didn't like pacifist approach

**Hegemony:** Military, economic, political or cultural dominance of one state or social entity over another.



## Episode 2

**Syndicates:** An organised group of individuals, companies or entities formed together to pursue or promote common interests, usually economic.

**Corporatism:** Although the term existed from Papal doctrine in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Italian fascists appropriated it for their own use. For them, corporatism was a system in which various sectors of society were brought together to be represented and to work for the advancement of the state. It was a way to keep labourers happy but avoid socialist unions and to manage the flaws of modern capitalism.

## 1.1.2 Economic & Political Issues (1920s–1930s)

**Anti-fascist movements → Came from a weakened position due to censorships and bans**

1. Justice & Liberty Movement (1929) of Carlo Rosselli among others
  - (a) Comprised of democrats, republicans and socialists: viewed fascism as evil to be eradicated
  - (b) Failed militant activities including plan to bomb Mussolini's residence
  - (c) 1932: Call for new social democracy → Economic rights and decentralised gov't
  - (d) Distance from Italian communists
2. Not enough support or opportunities → Many anti-fascists exiled or imprisoned
  - (a) Unions replaced with **syndicates** filled with Blackshirt cronies
  - (b) Strikes made illegal
  - (c) Fascist **corporatism** gave workers important economic benefits
3. Relationship with the Catholic Church
  - (a) Lateran Treaty gave Vatican City sovereignty; enhanced fascist policies in Italy
  - (b) Church preferred capitalist system over fascist one
  - (c) Youth problem: belong to state or church? I.e. an indoctrination problem
  - (d) Catholic teachings curbed and youth groups dismantled in 1931
  - (e) Allowed to reopen but given restrictions → Rivalled fascist youth organisations

**Economic policy → Plan to boost industries and modernise military**

1. Pre-1925: Mirrored policies of predecessors → Maintain relations with big firms
2. Greater state intervention
  - (a) Coordination of labour and industry to meet state goals
  - (b) Cartelisation of industries and workers to join fascist syndicates
  - (c) Trade barriers against foreign goods
  - (d) State development projects, such as rail network revamp in Rome
3. Effects of Mussolini's policies
  - (a) 1931–38: New land reclamation projects and town constructions to showcase fascist architecture
  - (b) Syndicates obtained more worker rights such as higher welfare and shorter work weeks



- (c) Italy lacked natural resources such as minerals and fossil fuels—necessary for Mussolini's **autarky**
- (d) 'Battle for Grain' post-1925 → Development of chemical fertilizers
- (e) Great Depression and protectionism weakened economy
- (f) Economy didn't perform nearly as well as propaganda suggested

**Autarky:** The economic independence of a state or its self-sufficiency. Both Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy attempted to make their states self-sufficient, especially when external trade became increasingly difficult.

## 1.2 Case of Germany

### 1.2.1 Nazism & foreign policy

#### Ideal setting for change

1. Economic depression
  - (a) 1932 industrial production half of that in 1929
  - (b) Roughly 6 million unemployed
  - (c) Uncontrollable inflation
2. Post war mindset
  - (a) 'Stab in the back' myth → Germany betrayed by Jews and Bolsheviks
3. Mistrust of the left-wing groups
  - (a) Gov't promised to uphold military authority in face of 'Bolshevik threat'
  - (b) 1919 Spartacist Uprising in Berlin → Socialist movement put down
  - (c) Communist administration in Bavaria put down
4. Worsening position of Weimar Republic
  - (a) Blamed for accepting Versailles and not fixing economy
  - (b) By 1930, other parties including communists and Nazis gained more seats in **Reichstag**

#### Policy for all

1. Dismantle the Versailles Treaty
2. Lebensraum or living space for Germans in the east
3. Unite German speaking nationals and *Anschluss* with Austria
4. See the destruction of communism



Episode 4

**Reichstag:** The democratically elected parliament of the German political system. It passed legislation, government budgets and other functions such as ratifying treaties. In the Nazi regime, the Reichstag was essentially ceremonial as it acted as a rubber stamp for Hitler's decisions.

### Scene before Hitler → Context for his thought process

1. Economic depression
2. WW1 memory and longing for peace
3. Weakness of League of Nation → Especially against Japanese aggression
4. Versailles reworked
  - (a) 1929 evacuation of Rhineland
  - (b) 1932 Lausanne Conference to reduce reparations

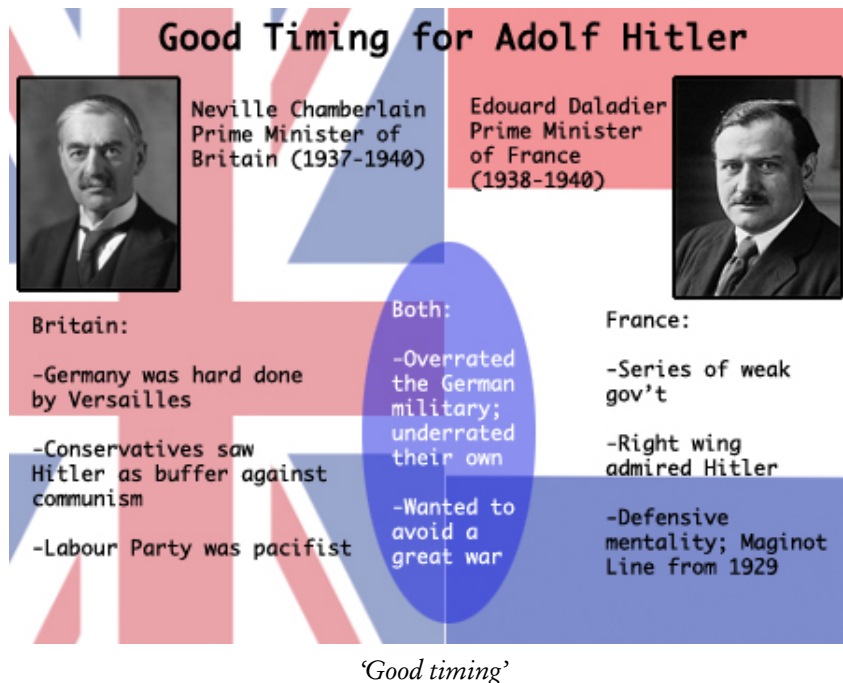
### Nazi push on foreign policy

1. Unsustainable economic programme
  - (a) From 1933, economy shaky as Hitler focused on military's development
  - (b) Within few years, foreign exchange of Germany was virtually non-existent
  - (c) Sizeable gold and currency seized from Austria and Czechoslovakia
  - (d) War with Poland justified to seize wealth and expand *lebensraum*
  - (e) Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (1939) provided some economic boost
2. Konstantin von Neurath
  - (a) Conservative foreign minister between 1933–38
  - (b) Able to downplay Hitler's expansionist policies
3. Hossbach Memorandum (1937)
  - (a) Hitler outlines goals with military advisors
  - (b) Discussions on living space and protection of Germany

## 1.2.2 Hitler & the Settlements



Episode 5



### Taking advantage

1. Weakness of Weimar Republic
  - (a) Blamed for economic shortcomings
  - (b) Accepted humiliated Versailles terms
2. Spoke the people's language
  - (a) Undo Versailles
  - (b) Provide leadership and order
  - (c) Appealed to industrialists over trade unions and communism
3. Yet, couldn't obtain full control
  - (a) Brownshirts weren't always disciplined
  - (b) 1932 Hitler lost presidency race to Hindenburg
  - (c) Nazi obtained more seats but couldn't form gov't
  - (d) 1933 the difference: Hitler made chancellor

## Move against Versailles → Make Germany dominant again

1. Way to isolate France
  - (a) Germany withdrew from World Disarmament Conference 1933
  - (b) 10 year non-aggression pact with Poland in 1934 → Counter France's 1921 agreement with the Poles

## Increase the military

1. March 1935: Hitler announced end of Versailles restrictions
  - (a) Peacetime strength set at 600k
  - (b) Introduction of air force and conscription
  - (c) Naval treaty with UK: Germany allowed to have 35% size of UK
2. March 1936: German troops move into Rhineland
  - (a) Against Versailles and Locarno
  - (b) Germany could've been resisted but Hitler gambled paid off
3. Closer ties with Mussolini
  - (a) UK + France denounced invasion of Abyssinia



*Abyssinia*

- (b) November 1936: Rome-Berlin Axis announced
4. 1938: Generals Blomberg+Fritsch dismissed for protesting aggressive foreign policy

## 1.3 Italian & German Expansion in 1938–1939



Episode 6



*Spanish civil war*

### Closer relations between Mussolini + Hitler

1. Four Powers Pact (1933) in Rome
  - (a) UK, France, Italy and Germany
  - (b) Mussolini invited powers to ensure international security and increase relations with France
2. Initial poor view of Hitler
  - (a) Mussolini wanted to safeguard Austrian sovereignty in 1934
  - (b) 1935 Stresa Front (UK+France+Italy) to counter Germany
3. Impact of Abyssinia
  - (a) Embargo on Italy in May 1936
  - (b) Hitler did not oppose → Two grew closer and Mussolini won't oppose *Anschluss*

## Austria + Czechoslovakia

1. Case of Austria
  - (a) Nazis involved in Austrian politics: considerable support
  - (b) Chancellor Schuschnigg handed police control to Nazis due to invasion fears
  - (c) He would oppose *Anschluss* → Hitler sent army in
2. Case of Czechoslovakia
  - (a) Industrialised country with roughly 3 million Germans in Sudetenland
  - (b) Other countries like Hungary and Poland had territorial claims
  - (c) Treaty with France (1924) and USSR (1936) for protection

## Albania → Mussolini taking advantage of French and British lax attitude; catch up with Hitler

1. Italian interest
  - (a) Albania independent since 1912 but in Italy's sights
  - (b) Strategic point of Adriatic Sea
  - (c) Part of fascist propaganda of making an empire
  - (d) Since 1920s, forced to give Italy resources
2. The campaign → April 1939
  - (a) King Zog of Albania refused to renew economic treaties; closer ties with Greece and Yugoslavia in 1934
  - (b) Mussolini's ultimatum rejected
  - (c) Within days Italian army overran Albania; royal family fled
  - (d) Albania placed under a union with Italian monarchy

## Post-1938 policies

1. After Czechoslovakia, Britain sought to protect independent states from aggression
  - (a) March 1939, Poland received unconditional guarantee
  - (b) France followed British initiative
2. Hitler's Poland ambitions
  - (a) Despite 1934 pact, Hitler wanted to reclaim lost territory of East Prussia and Danzig
  - (b) Propaganda on the 'Polish corridor' → Defend rights of Germans against oppressive Poles

- (c) France defensive, so UK looked to USSR → They went with Germany
- 3. Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Treaty (August 1939)
  - (a) Partition of Poland, USSR to claim Baltics and some trade agreed
  - (b) Mussolini left out → Further pushed to junior role
- 4. Pact of Steel, May 1939
  - (a) Military & political alliance between Italy & Germany
  - (b) Primarily aimed at UK + France
  - (c) Promotion of power and image of Rome-Berlin Axis

## 1.4 International Responses and Outbreak of War

Debate on Appeasement: Justifiable?

**YES**

- UK wasn't prepared for war; gave time to rearm & improve radar defenses
- Versailles was too harsh in many ways
- Hitler could stand up to USSR & be trusted if given concessions
- War should be last diplomatic option

**NO**

- Abandoned free people and potential allies
- Strengthened Hitler and Germany
- Gave impression that UK was unreliable
- Based on too many assumptions of Hitler

*Appeasement*



Episode 7

### Response to Abyssinia (1935–36)

1. Hoare-Laval Pact → UK + France initially softer stance on Italy; public outcry
  - (a) Pact failed but UK+France didn't want war with Italy
2. League of Nations denounced Italy and called for sanctions following Haile Selassie plea in 1935
  - (a) Oil not included in sanctions → Sanctions took a while as members half-heartedly supported

- (b) UK+France embargo ended just couple months after implementation
  - (c) League of Nations viewed as weak; no longer involved in major affairs afterwards
3. Why didn't UK + France take a bigger stance?
- (a) Britain didn't want to jeopardise their Mediterranean bases
  - (b) War was to be avoided at all costs; felt Italy had legitimate claims
  - (c) Italy could get oil from US anyways, as they weren't members of League of Nations

### Response to German activities 1933-38

1. Occupation of Rhineland → Against Versailles and Locarno
- (a) German military was still weak
  - (b) UK + France didn't want to escalate tensions; longed for peace
  - (c) UK felt Germany had legitimate complaints on Versailles
  - (d) No one knew Hitler's motives; France couldn't act without UK and had election concerns
  - (e) League of Nations was distracted by Abyssinia Crisis
2. Movement against Austria + Czechoslovakia
- (a) Austria was seen as ethnic German country and *Anschluss* was part of self-determination
  - (b) A 'just demand' in the eyes of Neville Chamberlain, who pursued appeasement
  - (c) Similar situation in Czechoslovakia → Ethnic Germans in Sudetenland
  - (d) UK wasn't prepared for war
  - (e) Munich Conference (1938): Sold out the Czechs
  - (f) March 1939: Slovak independence; Hitler occupied Prague

### Response to aggression in 1939 + war

1. UK cast-iron guarantee against aggression
- (a) Poland, Greece and Romania
2. On Albania
- (a) French condemned invasion but didn't act
  - (b) Britain embarrassed that they were taken by surprise
  - (c) League of Nations did not respond; Albania later left



3. Break out of war → Hitler's successes pushed for next move
  - (a) Sept 1, Germany invaded Poland. Two days later UK+France declared war
  - (b) Germany wanted and needed quick victory before France mobilised
  - (c) Oct. 6, Hitler offered peace but they refused

## 1.5 Sources and Further Reading

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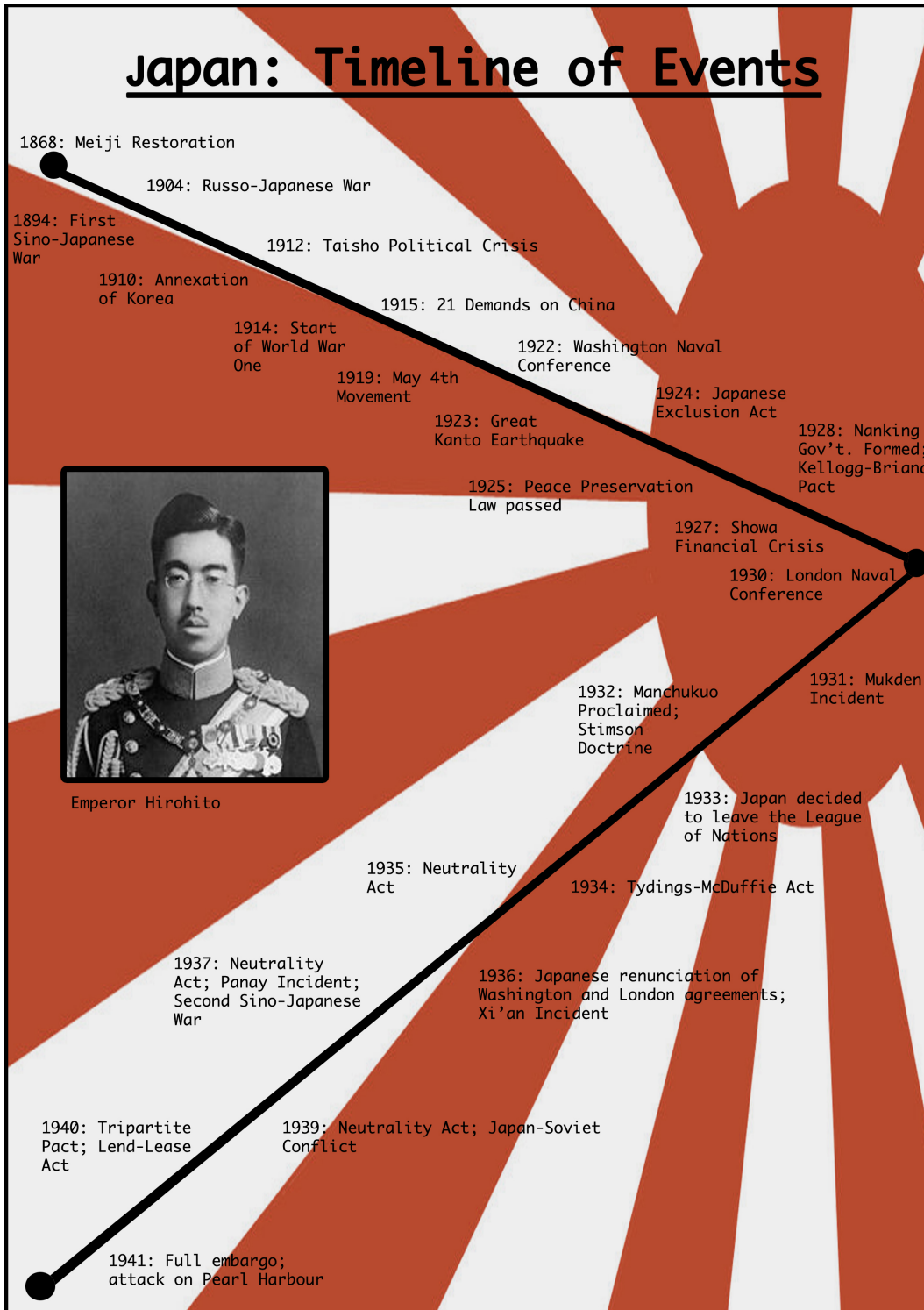
### Extract from *Fateful Choices* (2007) by Ian Kershaw, page 136

But, immediately, the British guarantee for Greece and Romania that followed the Italian takeover in Albania had the effect of driving Italy even closer to Germany through a military alliance, the 'Pact of Steel', signed on 22 May 1939. The two countries pledged mutual military assistance and support in the event of one or other power becoming involved in war. It was a case of 'Fascist diplomacy at its sloppiest': Italy had committed herself to unconditional backing of Germany even in a war entirely of German making.

1. According to this source, why did Italy join the Pact of Steel?
2. "By 1939, Mussolini was clearly the junior partner in the Axis alliance." Using this source and your own knowledge, evaluate the validity of this claim.



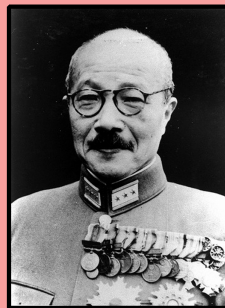
# JAPAN



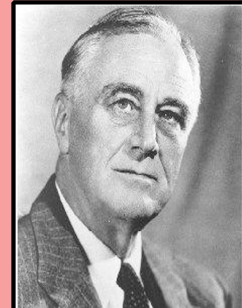
# Map of East Asia (c. 1939)



Chiang Kai-shek  
Leader of The Republic  
of China, 1928-75



Hideki Tojo  
Prime Minister of Japan,  
1941-44



Franklin D. Roosevelt  
President of the United  
States, 1933-45

## 2.1 Japan Pre-1931

### 2.1.1 Rise of Japanese Nationalism & Militarism



*Admiral Togo aboard the Mikasa at the start of the Battle of Tsushima (Painting by Tojo Shotaro, 1906)*



Episode 2

**Meiji Restoration:** Described as 'an aristocratic revolution' by some historians, the Meiji Restoration of 1868 was a series of events that saw members of the ruling class overthrow the Tokugawa government in favour of imperial rule. Although this conservative goal was championed, in the end they fundamentally reformed the country into a modern nation.

#### Sentiment during the Meiji Restoration → Emperor as head; Shintoism strengthened

1. 1633–1853, Japan (for the most part) closed off from the international community
  - (a) After **gunboat diplomacy** of Commodore Perry, Japan accepted deals favourable for foreigners
2. Anti-foreign attitudes on the rise → Between 1863–65, many instances of conflict against foreigners
  - (a) The height: 1877 Satsuma rebellion → Disillusioned samurai led by Saigo Takamori; victory for the imperial government

**Gunboat Diplomacy:** A foreign policy method that involves intimidation and the show of superior force. When Commodore Perry sought to open Japan for trade, he used his 'black ships' to demonstrate America's military might to force Tokugawa officials to accept negotiations.

## Nationalism and imperialism

1. New Government needed to match Westerners, therefore empire desired
  - (a) Ryukyus (1879) Formosa (Taiwan/1895) Korea (1910) etc.
2. 1<sup>st</sup> Sino-Japanese War (1894–95) → Primarily to exert power over Korea
  - (a) Despite numerical advantage, Chinese military was not as well trained → Victory for Japan
  - (b) Germany, France & Russia intervene so Japan gets less favourable terms → humiliation
  - (c) Korea independent, Taiwan ceded to Japan and China to pay indemnity
3. Russo-Japanese War (1904–05) → Revenge for the ‘Triple Intervention’ & influence over Korea + Manchuria
  - (a) Japan shock the world and defeat Russia, US mediate Treaty of Portsmouth
  - (b) Japanese influence in region confirmed, obtained part of Sakhalin and Liaodong
  - (c) Later Korea was made a protectorate of Japan
  - (d) Both wars enhanced popular nationalism → Serving the emperor also meant going to war

## Development of the military

1. From 1870s, universal conscription introduced and foreign officers came to train army
2. Between 1870–1913, Japan’s average military expenditure was higher than Germany and US
3. Military’s independence from civil body
  - (a) Army and navy officials were not cabinet members → Didn’t have to report to prime minister directly
  - (b) Until 1913, military had decisive say on the cabinet’s formation

## Political changes that reinforced nationalism + militarism

1. Further adventurism
  - (a) WW1 side of the Allies → Obtained German territories in China and the Pacific
  - (b) Siberian expedition during foreign intervention of Russian Civil War



2. Versailles Peace Talks (1919)
  - (a) Foreign powers refused to include racial equality clause → Upset Japan
3. Washington Conference (1921–22)
  - (a) Several gov't and military figures felt cheated due to naval limitations
4. Japanese Exclusion Act (1924)
  - (a) US Congress passed bill to limit Japanese immigration → Angered Japan, fuelled anti-foreign feelings

### Washington Conference 1921–1922

Following the First World War, many Western nations adopted the Wilsonian ideal of postwar order and international peace. The Hara Cabinet believed that Japan should follow the Western example and agreed to participate at the Washington Conference in 1921–1922.

- Nine Power Treaty participants: United States, Great Britain, France, China, Japan, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Portugal
- Recognise equal economic opportunity in China and respect integrity of the country
- Japan to relinquish certain rights imposed by the Twenty One Demands; gave up claims in Shandong
- Confirmed Japanese hegemony in Manchuria
- Naval Limitations → Five Power Treaty (US, UK, France, Italy and Japan)
- Japan's fleet in the Pacific bigger than combined Anglo-American Pacific fleet

Although international-minded members of the Japanese government applauded the agreements made in Washington, much of the military resented the treaties. They believed that the Japan was treated like a second-rate nation by Western powers and that their government intentionally looked to reduce military budgets.



## Episode 1

**Diet:** Under the Constitution of 1889, the Imperial Diet was an elective national assembly. The Diet had the power to debate fiscal matters and to enact legislation among other things. Diet sessions were kept to three months a year and voting for Diet candidates was limited to those who paid more than ¥15 in taxes.

## 2.1.2 Japanese Domestic Issues

### Political struggles

1. Taisho Political Crisis (1912)
  - (a) PM Saionji attempted defense budget cut → Army minister resignation but position required by constitution so Saionji resigned
  - (b) New PM Katsura unpopular due to military focus → **Diet** vote no confidence
2. Scandals → Siemens (1914) Oura (1915)
  - (a) Siemens: Secret collusion between naval officers and companies Siemens (Germany) and Vickers (UK) over contracts → Those involved fined, but WW1 broke out and all pardoned. Vickers contracted.
  - (b) Oura: PM Okuma wanted to increase military spending bill but only passed when Home Minister Oura bribed undecided members → Cabinet lost popular support, full resignations by 1916
3. Hara Takashi as first commoner PM (1918) → Push for 2-party parliamentary democracy
  - (a) New election laws and electoral restrictions enacted → Not good enough
  - (b) High national debt and old suffrage laws → Students, journalists, labour unions protested in 1919 and 1920
  - (c) 1921 Hara assassinated by ultranationalist
4. The role of the left-wing → Socialists and communists join the scene
  - (a) 1922 Japanese Communist Party formed
  - (b) Toranomon Incident (1923): Radical leftist attempted to assassinate Prince Regent Hirohito
  - (c) Gov't to take action against the left-wing → Peace Preservation Law (1925)
  - (d) Law allowed gov't and police to silence any leftist movement; Communist Party later banned



## Economic struggles

1. Earlier conflicts led to increased debt and inflation
  - (a) WW1 provided new opportunities for industries, especially for the **zaibatsu**
2. 1918 Rice Riots
3. 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake
  - (a) Yokohama port and much of Tokyo destroyed → Roughly \$1 billion worth of damages
  - (b) Approx. 150,000 deaths
4. 1927 Showa Financial Crisis
  - (a) WW1 investment bubble burst
  - (b) Hamaguchi Cabinet reforms to tackle crisis did little to help → 1930 attempted assassination
  - (c) 1929 Great Depression → Further move away from democracy since civil gov't blamed
5. Manchuria the solution?
  - (a) Had resources (e.g. iron and coal) that Japan needed
  - (b) Global protectionist measures meant Japan needed to expand market
  - (c) Due to international immigration limits, Japanese needed place to move to
  - (d) Washington Conference established Japanese hegemony in Manchuria

**Zaibatsu:** Large business conglomerates that formed from the 1870s onwards. These powerful entities, such as Mitsubishi and Mitsui, dominated many industries including banking and mining. Due to the amount of influence commanded by the zaibatsu, top political figures had to carefully consider the views of zaibatsu leaders.

## 2.1.3 Chinese Instability

### Japan's determination

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese wars → Japan too involved
  - (a) Chinese indemnity facilitated growth of Japanese industries
  - (b) With Liaodong, foothold in China
  - (c) Increased loans to Chinese gov't put them in Japan's debt
  - (d) South Manchurian railway from Russia
  - (e) By 1931, approx. ¥1.5 billion invested in Manchuria



Episode 3

## Growing Chinese nationalism

1. Anti-Japanese sentiment after 1<sup>st</sup> Sino-Japanese war
2. The Twenty One Demands (1915) → Increased Japanese hate and foreign distrust of Japan
  - Confirmation of Japan's holdings in Shandong
  - Recognition of Japanese influence in Manchuria
  - Handing over key industries to Japanese control
  - Banning China from allowing anyone but Japan to gain control over coastal areas
  - Miscellaneous terms including Japanese missionary activities
3. Most terms were agreed to by President Yuan Shikai → Everyone outraged
4. May Fourth Movement (1919) → Mass protests following weak response at Versailles
  - Against Japanese presence and boycott of goods
  - Cultural, intellectual movement as well → Birth of Chinese communism

## Japanese influence over Manchurian warlords → Weaken Chinese gov't

1. Death of Yuan in 1916 kickstarted warlord period
  - (a) Duan Qirui, leading Manchurian warlord from 1916–20, was pro-Japanese and accepted secret loans
  - (b) He lost out to other factions, before Zhang Zoulin rose to power → Also supported by Japanese
2. Zhang's campaigns → Obtain more territory for himself
  - (a) Took Republic's capital, Beijing, in 1924
  - (b) Chiang Kai-shek of **Kuomintang (KMT)** launched Northern Expedition (1926) to unite country
  - (c) 1927, Chiang announced KMT won't recognise Manchurian agreements it wasn't a party to → Zhang, therefore, didn't grant Japan's requests for new railroads
  - (d) Zhang's forces driven out of Beijing by KMT → Failure to stop KMT upsets Japanese militarists, so they assassinate him in 1928
  - (e) Zhang's son and successor, Zhang Xueliang, isn't pro-Japanese and supports KMT → More independent from Japan

**Kuomintang (KMT):** Founded by Sun Yat-sen and Song Jiaoren after the Revolution of 1911, the Nationalist Party established a republic in 1912 before Yuan Shikai reasserted authoritarian control. By 1926, Chiang Kai-shek rose to power and led to the KMT on a unification campaign. In 1928 the capital was founded in Nanking and during the course of the next two decades, the KMT were locked in conflict with Japanese militarists and Chinese communists.

## Chiang Kai-shek's strategy & Manchurian Incident

1. Priority was defeating Chinese Communist Party (CCP)
  - (a) 1927 Shanghai Massacre: Thousands of suspected communists purged or driven out to countryside
  - (b) 1928 Nanking gov't formed → Continued policy against CCP
2. 1930 conflict with former warlord allies → Weakened KMT; roughly 400,000 dead
3. Mukden Incident of 1931
  - (a) Independent behaviour of **Kwantung Army** → No approval from Tokyo
  - (b) Sept. 18, planted explosions near South Manchurian railway → Chinese terrorists blamed
  - (c) PM Inukai attempted to rein in the military but failed → 1932 assassinated by radical naval officers
  - (d) After Incident, Chiang still opted to suppress CCP → Baffled many

**Kwantung Army:** Not to be confused with the Kuomintang, the Kwantung Army was the Japanese military garrison based in Manchuria. They believed that Manchuria should not fall into Chinese hands, but unlike their leaders in Tokyo, they were willing to take military action. The Kwantung Army was responsible for the death of warlord Zhang Zoulin and the Mukden Incident.

## League of Nations & Lytton Commission

1. League of Nations contacted to conduct extensive research; six week stay to determine causes
2. Commission from League of Nations led by Victor Alexander Bulwer-Lytton
  - (a) Aim was to maintain peace and stability in region
  - (b) Mukden not directly addressed → Chinese nationalist propaganda blamed + Japanese aggression not a legitimate act of self defence
  - (c) Oct. 1932 League of Nations declared Japan to give up its claims and **puppet state** Manchukuo not recognised
  - (d) Japan rejected League of Nations' conclusion → May 1933, two year notice of withdrawal from League of Nations
  - (e) League of Nations couldn't agree on sanctions, UK + France unwilling to commit troops
3. Serious blow to the League of Nations' reputation
  - (a) Encouraged revisionist foreign policy worldwide

**Puppet State:** Given the illusion of a sovereign nation, a puppet state is one that is directly or indirectly controlled by a foreign power. In Manchuria, the Japanese established Manchukuo under the last Qing emperor Henry Puyi. For all intents and purposes, Manchukuo was an extension of the Japanese empire.

## 2.2 Japan from 1931

### 2.2.1 Japanese invasion of Manchuria and Northern China, 1931



Episode 4



*Flag of the Japanese puppet state Manchukuo (1932-45)*

#### Tokyo's reaction to Mukden

1. Unable to reach agreements due to military-civil gov't split
  - (a) Assassination attempts deterred lots of officials
  - (b) Public support for Kwantung Army actions
  - (c) Failure to establish a functioning liberal, democratic gov't → Lacked legitimacy
  - (d) Military expansions 'solved' economic problems; gov't did not
2. International community 'didn't care for Japan'
  - (a) Xenophobic policies against Japan
  - (b) Japan faced barriers as Western powers sought to protect colonial markets
3. Emperor Hirohito couldn't restrain military
  - (a) Angered by events in Manchuria, but refused to suspend constitution for direct control
  - (b) Many military leaders thought the emperor was weak

## Army takes more control

1. Failed plots of 1930s laid groundwork for radicals → Believed in a new 1850s style loyalist movement
2. 1932 **Ketsumeidan** alliance to assassinate politicians and business leaders
3. Okawa Shumei plot of 1932: With court members and Hirohito's brother, attempt to establish military gov't but failed → Only given light sentences
4. 1933: Various assassination of businessmen, League of Nations supporters and PM Inukai
5. Results of 1930s terrorist activities
  - (a) 1936: Last-ditch attempted coup by radicals → Failed & conspirators executed
  - (b) Zaibatsu withdraw support for political parties
  - (c) Populace lose faith in civil gov't
  - (d) Return of military veto on cabinet formation → No counter force

**Ketsumeidan:** The Blood Pledge Corps or Ketsumeidan was a right-wing civilian group led by Inoue Nissho. They wanted to get rid of forces of evil, i.e. pro-Western ideals, and to restore supreme political power to the emperor. In 1932 they worked together with radical naval officers to assassinate wealthy businessmen and liberal politicians. They successfully killed two targets and their broadcasted trial helped spread ultranationalist views in Japan.

## Chinese countermeasures

1. Zhang Xueliang's lack of resistance → Not backed by KMT & feared reinforcements from Korea
2. Some **guerrilla** defenders but defeated by Japanese
3. Chiang, well aware of Japanese superiority, focussed on consolidating Nanking power
4. Floods of 1931 and 1935 → Deadly disasters that needed immediate KMT response



Episode 5

## American response

1. American interest in the region
  - (a) 1889 Open Door Policy → Keep China open for trade, respect its sovereignty
  - (b) Lots of businessmen and missionaries active in China
  - (c) Several territories in the Pacific, such as Hawaii and Guam
2. Military intervention out of the question → Not enough interest in China
3. Economic sanctions undesirable due to 1930s downturn

**Guerrilla:** Taken from the Spanish word 'little war', guerrilla warfare involves small groups of combatants committing sabotage, ambush, hit-and-run moves and other unconventional tactics. Primarily used by the Chinese communists, guerrilla attacks worked extremely well against the less mobile Japanese army in north China.

**Kellogg-Briand**

**Pact:** Sponsored by France and the United States, this international treaty was signed in 1928 by many nations including Japan. In the spirit of international cooperation and peace maintenance of the 1920s, the treaty stated that war was to not be used to solve conflicts and matters of disputes. The Pact didn't live up to its name and proved to be ineffective.

**Tripartite Pact:** Signed in September 1940 between Germany, Italy and Japan, the Tripartite Pact included articles on:

- Japanese recognition of Germany and Italy's new order in Europe
- German and Italian recognition of Japan's new order in Asia
- Agreed cooperation with political, economic and military support should one of the signatories be attacked by a nation not involved in the European or Chinese wars
- An agreement that none of the provisions would affect their respective relationships with the Soviet Union

4. **Kellogg-Briand Pact** (1928)

- (a) US, with League of Nations, attempted to force Japan and China (as signatories) to respect the Pact
- (b) Couldn't be enforced since military intervention was not desired

5. **Stimson Doctrine** (1932) → Policy of Secretary of State Henry Stimson

- (a) US wouldn't recognise any treaty between Japan and China that violated American agreements
- (b) Proved ineffective as Japan continued to expand
- (c) Stimson declared that Japan violated Nine Power Treaty → New navals arm race
- (d) By 1936, Japan wouldn't commit to Washington or London naval agreements

6. **Tydings-McDuffie Act** (1934) → Guarantee Filipino independence after ten year transition

- (a) Way to check Japan's potential ambitions in the Pacific

7. **Desire for Isolationism** → US Congress mainly neutral

- (a) Neutrality Act of 1935: Prohibit export of arms to foreign powers at war
- (b) Neutrality Act of 1937: 'Cash & carry' provisions to assist friendly nations
- (c) Neutrality Act of 1939: Similar provisions as previous agreements
- (d) American public had little desire to fight in Europe, let alone East Asia

8. **Tensions on the rise**

- (a) USS Panay Incident 1937: American ship near Nanking attacked by Japanese → Japan apologised and paid indemnity; public now more anti-Japanese
- (b) Japan's agreements with the West → Threatened US
  - 1940 **Tripartite Pact**
  - 1941 Neutrality Pact with USSR
  - 1941 agreement with Vichy France to increase position in Indochina

9. America increases role against Japan
- (a) **Lend-Lease** extended to China
  - (b) Following threat in Indochina and failed negotiations → Full **embargo** in 1941

**Lend-Lease**

**Act:** Devised in 1940 by President Roosevelt but signed into action in 1941, the Lend-Lease Act was an American policy that provided military equipment and other goods to nations bogged down in conflict. Only countries perceived to be vital for US defense were given aid and roughly \$2 billion worth of supplies were given to China.

**Embargo:** The cutting of commercial exchanges between countries. The first series of embargos occurred in 1940, when the US limited trade of metals to Japan. A year later, oil was included which cut Japan off of nearly 90% of her imports.

**The State of Manchukuo**

To appeal to the international community's drive for self-determination, Japan established the state of Manchukuo for the Manchus in February 1932. Although the League of Nations and the United States refused to recognise Manchukuo as a legitimate state, the Japanese designed it to appear sovereign.

In 1934, the last Manchu emperor Henry Puyi was made titular head of Manchukuo. Despite disagreeing with Japanese policies, Puyi had little choice and obliged because he wanted his own realm. Either the Kwantung Army or Tokyo managed the affairs of Manchukuo, directly or indirectly. The state also had its own customs, border control and passports but it was far from being a sovereign nation.

Listen to  Episode 4 of the 'Move to Global War: Japan' IB Historicus podcast to find out more about Manchukuo.



## 2.2.2 Second Sino-Japanese War, 1937

**Japanese Imperial Army**  
 Roughly 570,000 troops (1937)  
 Well-trained & equipped

**Key Battles:**  
 Shanghai (1937)  
 Nanking (1937)

**A5M Fighter**

**Republic of China Army**  
 Roughly 1,600,000 troops (1937)  
 Lacked artillery units and ammunition

**Obtained modern American and Soviet built fighters**

**Key Battles:**  
 Changsha (1939)

### Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere:

Although vaguely discussed in previous years among Japanese imperialists, the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere was announced by the Konoe cabinet in 1940. The plan was to create a self-sufficient economic bloc centred on Japan and included areas such as China and Southeast Asia. Konoe's announcement of the bloc was more of a propaganda piece rather than a serious blueprint.

### 1. Lack of clear goals

- (a) China to be full colony of Japan or part of **Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere?**
- (b) Military extended conflict in spirit of nationalism and militarism built up before war → PM Konoe felt maybe KMT + CCP provoked Japan in many ways

### 2. Opening stages: Marco Polo Bridge Incident 1937

- (a) Japanese conducted training exercises near Wanping, later asked entry to locate soldier
- (b) Chinese refused and skirmishes followed
- (c) Neither Nanking nor Tokyo willing to back down → Full conflict broke loose following Chinese attack on Japanese settlement in Shanghai
- (d) Rationale behind invasion? → Japan's treaties in China gave them legal right; they're acting in "self defence"



## The Japanese-Soviet Border Conflict

### Conflict on the Mongolian frontier

1. Between May and Sept. 1939→ Undeclared war
  - (a) Kwantung army and Soviets clashed as Japanese pushed for more land
  - (b) Over 100.000 troops involved and some 1000 tanks + aircraft
2. General Zhukov decisive→ Unleashed after Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (1939)
  - (a) Non-aggression between Germany and USSR
  - (b) Shock to Japan→ Both Germany and Japan in Anti-Comintern
  - (c) Pact concluded as Battle at Nomonhan (Khalkin Gol in some sources) ensued
3. Soviet army v Kwantung army
  - (a) 1939 Soviet doctrine: Broad frontal attacks with combined infantry and heavy armoured units
  - (b) Faster, better tanks that had longer range. Motorised transport for quick movement of supplies
  - (c) Air battle more balanced, but numerical advantage for Soviets
  - (d) Japan had no heavy artillery; their doctrine focused on infantry combat
4. Results of Nomonhan: 'Eye opener'
  - (a) Heavy losses suffered→ Japanese military rethink their strategies
  - (b) New equipment introduced + tank production increased
  - (c) Southern route rather than inner Mongolia
5. Neutrality Pact of 1941
  - (a) Both nations agreed not to fight→ USSR avoid two front war; Japan's northern flank secured
  - (b) Both agreed to respect territorial integrity of Mongolia



Episode 9

### 2.2.3 Outbreak of the Pacific War

Question box.

Articles of the Tripartite Pact agreed between Japan, Germany and Italy signed in Berlin on Sept. 27 1940:

**Article 1.** Japan recognises and respects the leadership of Germany and Italy in the establishment of a new order in Europe.

**Article 2.** Germany and Italy recognise and respect the leadership of Japan in the establishment of a new order in Greater East Asia.

**Article 3.** Japan, Germany, and Italy agree to cooperate in their efforts on aforesaid lines. They further undertake to assist one another with all political, economic and military means if one of the Contracting Powers is attacked by a Power at present not involved in the European War or in the Japanese-Chinese conflict.

**Article 4.** With a view to implementing the present pact, joint technical commissions, to be appointed by the respective Governments of Japan, Germany and Italy, will meet without delay.

**Article 5.** Japan, Germany and Italy affirm that the above agreement affects in no way the political status existing at present between each of the three Contracting Powers and Soviet Russia.

**Article 6.** The present pact shall become valid immediately upon signature and shall remain in force ten years from the date on which it becomes effective.

With reference to its origin, purpose and content, analyse the value and limitations of this source.

## Japan's turn to the Pacific

1. Stalled campaign in north China/Manchuria
  - (a) Defeat against Soviets dashed hopes of expansion into Siberia
  - (b) Attrition in China forced military to rethink strategies for resources
2. Situation of the Pacific
  - (a) Philippines was US protectorate
  - (b) Malaya a British base
  - (c) Dutch East Indies: guaranteed by UK
3. US Embargo following Japanese occupation of Indochina
  - (a) Nearly 90% of Japan's oil imports cut; enough reserves for up to three years
  - (b) Southeast Asia had oil and rubber valuable for Japanese war machine

## Attack on Pearl Harbour

1. Japan knew US was in better position for drawn out war
  - (a) PM Tojo had to choose: accept humiliating terms from 'white imperialists' or take a daring gamble
  - (b) Chose to strike first; Hawaii a way to buy Japan time to conquer Southeast Asia and obtain favourable peace deal
  - (c) Britain and Netherlands bogged down in Europe against Germany; perfect timing for Japan
2. Dec. 1941 Pearl Harbour
  - (a) Japan crippled US fleet; achieved primary goal
  - (b) A day after the attack, President Roosevelt and U.S. Congress declare war on Japan
  - (c) Japanese-Americans subject to internment camps from 1942

## 2.3 Sources and Further Reading

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