

# BIOGRAPHIES



PEARSON BACCALAUREATE

HISTORY: PRESCRIBED SUBJECT



## The Move to Global War

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# CHAMBERLAIN



**1869–1940**

**N**EVILLE CHAMBERLAIN (1869–1940): British Conservative politician who served as Prime Minister from May 1937 to May 1940. Chamberlain is best known for following a policy of appeasement with regard to Hitler, and in particular for his signing of the Munich Agreement in 1938. He was replaced by Churchill eight months into World War Two.



# CHURCHILL



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## 1874–1965

**W**INSTON S CHURCHILL (1874–1965): Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during World War Two. He was strongly anti-communist, but nevertheless was prepared to work with Stalin against the Nazis. Churchill lost power in the 1945 British General Election. After the war he viewed the actions of Stalin with great suspicion. In his famous Iron Curtain speech in 1946, Churchill was the first to speak openly of Soviet expansion and call for an alliance to stop Stalin. He was elected Prime Minister again in 1951, during which time he stressed the need for Western unity and a special relationship between the USA and the UK.



# FRANCO



**1892–1975**

**F**RANCISCO FRANCO (1892–1975): Military leader who, in 1936, led a rebel movement against the left-wing government in Spain. After the civil war in 1939, he took control of Spain. From then until his death in 1975, he presided over a military dictatorship.



# HIROHITO

1901–1989

**E**MPEROR SHŌWA (HIROHITO) (1901–1989): succeeded his father as Emperor of Japan in 1926. During his reign, the Japanese signed the Tripartite Pact with Germany and Italy, which created the Axis powers. He was in power when the Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor on 8 December 1941 and he also gave the order to declare the end of the war in 1945. It was decided by the Allied powers that, despite his having been party to the outbreak and course of the war, Hirohito should be allowed to continue in his role as emperor. He was no longer to be considered as a deity, however. He remained on the throne until he died of cancer in 1989. He was succeeded by his son, Crown Prince Akihito, whose reign is known as the Heisei Era.





## 1889–1945

**A** **DOLF HITLER (1889–1945):** Austrian-born German politician and leader of the Nazi Party. As Chancellor and dictator of Germany, his expansionist regime led to World War Two, one of the most deadly conflicts in the history of humanity. Hitler's political and foreign policy aims were outlined in his book *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle), which included strong anti-Semitic views. His aggressive foreign policy, which sought to find 'lebensraum' or living space for Germans, caused the outbreak of the Second World War. Hitler's war also led to the Holocaust, where millions of Jewish people were killed.



# JIAN

## 1887-1975

**J** IANG JIE SHI (CHIANG KAI-SHEK) (1887-1975): Chinese nationalist general of the Guomindang Party (GMD). He fought with the Chinese Communists [CCP] in the First United Front in an attempt to unify China and remove the regional warlords. Once the warlords had been defeated Jiang turned on the CCP as he was determined not to share power with them. A civil war raged until 1937 when Japan launched its full scale invasion of China. A Second United Front was formed to unite the CCP with GMD to fight the Japanese invasion. This was an uneasy alliance. When Japan was defeated in the Second World War in 1945 mediation between the GMD and CCP failed and the civil war broke out again. The GMD and CCP fought until 1949 when Jiang was defeated. After the civil war Jiang founded a nationalist Chinese enclave on the island of Taiwan.



## 1893-1976

**M**AO ZEDONG (1893-1976): Leader of the Chinese Communist Party in its 1949 victory against the nationalist Guomindang in the Chinese Civil War. He has been regarded as a great revolutionary leader, military strategist and political thinker. Although many of his social, political and economic reforms were severely criticized for causing great suffering and famine in China, it was under Mao's leadership that China became a great power during the last half of the 20th century. Mao remained leader of the People's Republic of China until his death in 1976.



# MARX

**1818–1883**

**K**ARL MARX (1818–1883): 19th-century political philosopher and economist. His works were the inspiration for the political ideology of Marxism and for many of the 20th century's socialist and Communist parties. His most famous writings include the 'Communist Manifesto', which set down his theory that Capitalism would ultimately be replaced by Communism, where the working classes rule by themselves for themselves. Marx believed that Capitalism would eventually fail due to its own inherent weaknesses. However, he also foresaw revolutions as the precursor to the 'dictatorship of the proletariat'.



# MUSSOLINI

**1883 – 1945**

**B**ENITO AMILCARE ANDREA MUSSOLINI (1883 – 1945): An Italian journalist, First World War veteran, former socialist and latterly the leader of the Italian Fascist Party. After his black shirted fascist squads attempted a 'March on Rome' in 1922 to seize power, the Italian King Victor Emanuel III ceded power to Mussolini. Mussolini established a dictatorship in Italy by the 1930s, however he did not have total control as the King remained in Italy and the Pope in the Vatican City and this was in contrast to the totalitarian regime set up by Adolf Hitler in Germany from 1933. Mussolini's Fascist Party attempted to establish a 'Corporate State' system for the economy which would end conflict between workers and owners. He undertook public works programs and engaged the country in 'Battles' for grain and for births. In foreign policy Mussolini's fascist ideology promoted war and expanding Italy's empire. However, Italy was a founding member of the League of Nations and in the 1920s it generally worked with the western democracies. Mussolini became more expansionist and aggressive in the 1930s. After going to war against Abyssinia in 1935, which was condemned by the League, and intervening in the Spanish Civil War on the nationalist side, Mussolini allied with Hitler's Germany. Although initially remaining neutral when the Second World War broke out in Europe in September, 1939, Mussolini entered the war on the Axis side in June 1940. Following defeats to Allied forces, Mussolini was finally dismissed by the Italian King in 1943.



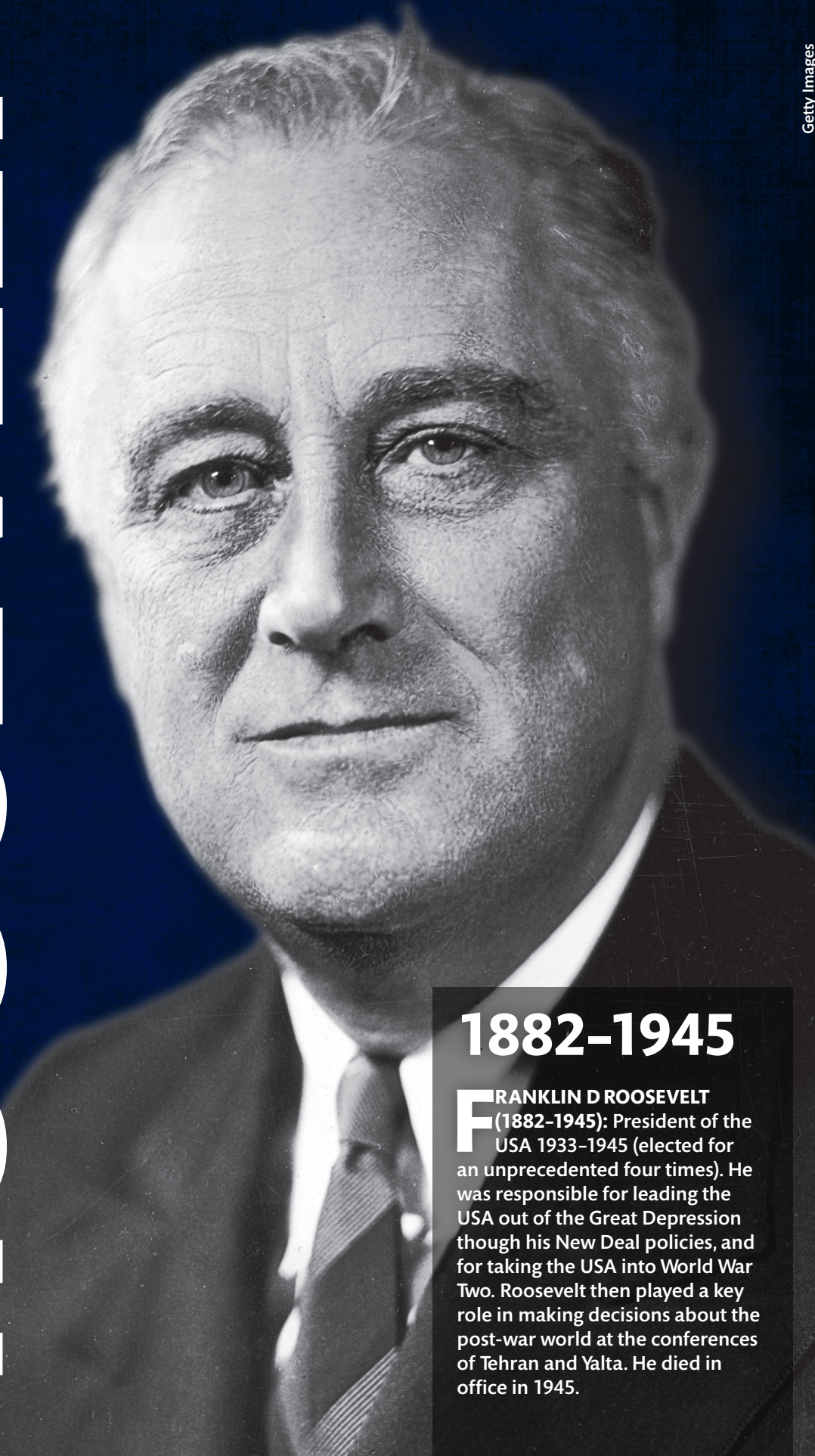
# PUYI

**1906–1967**

**E**MPEROR KANGDE (PUYI) (1906-1967): became Emperor of China at the age of two. He ruled for four years, until he was forced to abdicate in 1912. He was briefly restored to the throne in 1917 but this lasted for less than two weeks before he was once again removed. He continued to live in the Forbidden City in Beijing until 1924 when a struggle between warlords led to his having to leave. He sought refuge in the Japanese administered city of Tianjin. It was here, in 1932, that Puyi made a deal with the Japanese, and was installed as the Emperor of the puppet state of Manchukuo. He spent his reign under the thumb of the Japanese, constantly watched and forced to sign the laws they had written. After the war, he was captured by the Soviets and kept in Russia for four years until Mao Zedong arranged his return to China, where he had to undergo "thought reform" and was imprisoned for war crimes. After his release, he became a gardener in the Forbidden City and, by the time of his death in 1967, he had been absolved of his crimes.



# ROOSEVELT



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## 1882-1945

**F**RANKLIN D ROOSEVELT (1882-1945): President of the USA 1933-1945 (elected for an unprecedented four times). He was responsible for leading the USA out of the Great Depression through his New Deal policies, and for taking the USA into World War Two. Roosevelt then played a key role in making decisions about the post-war world at the conferences of Tehran and Yalta. He died in office in 1945.



# STALIN

1878–1953

**J**OSEPH STALIN (1878–1953): Leader of the Soviet Union from the death of Lenin to 1953. He wanted to establish a regime based on socialism in one country and began to centralize, industrialize and collectivize the Soviet Union. His reforms, which included transforming the country from an agrarian to an industrial nation, led to famine in the 1930s and his purges in the same decade led to millions of 'enemies of the Soviet people' being imprisoned or killed. Stalin's Soviet Union emerged as a superpower alongside the USA after World War Two, but tensions between the two led to the Cold War.



# WILSON

1856–1924

**W**OODROW WILSON (1856–1924): President of the United States from 1913 to 1921. He was an idealist who played a key role at the end of World War I with his 14 points which he hoped would lay the basis for a lasting peace in Europe. However, Congress in the US did not support Wilson's ideals, particularly his hope for an institution that would help to maintain peace - the League of Nations. Despite Wilson's efforts, the US signed a separate peace treaty with Germany and did not join the League of Nations.