Chapter 27
Diplomacy and War, 1919–1945

People
Neville Chamberlain: the British Prime Minister during the 1930s and the leading advocate of appeasement.

Marshal Henri Pétain: A French hero of the First World War and a strong supporter of the French right (though not a fascist himself), he signed an armistice with Germany on June 22, 1940.


Bernard Montgomery: a British General, he led Commonwealth troops in a counterattack against Rommel in Africa.

Douglas MacArthur: the American General who led the “island hopping” campaign across the Pacific to reach Japan.

Harry S Truman: President of the United States after Roosevelt; decided to use atom bombs against Japan to shorten war in the Pacific.

Josip Broz (Tito): A communist who led Yugoslavia in fighting the Germans and the collaborationist Croat regime.

Marie Madeleine Fourcade: During the Second World War she headed the resistance network in France known as the “Alliance.”

Charles DeGaulle: Headed the French resistance and the government in exile (assumed leadership of “Free French.”)

Adolf Eichmann: a Nazi officer whose orders were to operate concentration camps and kill Jews; captured in 1961 in South America by Israeli agents and placed on trial in Jerusalem.

Terms
Lebensraum: “living space;” the idea that the German people needed to expand their land area for German people.

Axis: an alliance established between Italy and Germany in October 1936 and joined by Japan in 1937.

Anschluss: The absorption of Austria into Hitler’s Germany, a move desired by many Austrians as well as by Germans.

Appeasement: the policy aimed at the prevention of war by giving in to Hitler’s demands for expansion in Europe, adopted by Great Britain and France.

Blitzkrieg: “lightning war;” German style of warfare in the Second World War, characterized by quick attacks.

Vichy Regime: the government that was set up in the south of France, led by those who were willing to collaborate with the Nazis.

Operation Overlord: A plan to invade France, planned by the US and Britain (D-Day landing on Normandy’s beaches).

Manhattan Project: A secret investigation at the University of Chicago to conduct joint research into developing atomic weapons, with participation from scientists from the US, Britain, and Canada.
**Final Solution:** Hitler’s policy of systematically killing all Jews with the goal of exterminating them all. (Concentration camps built to house Jews to be put to death).

**Genocide:** Used to describe the attempt to exterminate an entire race; in this case it refers to the killing of Jews in German-occupied Eastern Europe in the Second World War.

1. • Some Western economists claimed that the payments were too large for Germany to pay, while others felt that Germany was simply reluctant to pay.
   • Germans requested a two-year moratorium on the payments.
   • The British became willing to grant Germany’s request, but the French still refused.
   • In January 1923, France sent troops into the industrial area of the Ruhr in Germany when Germany could no longer pay.

2. • Japan’s invasion of Manchuria in 1931.
   • Italy’s invasion of Abyssinia in 1935, part of Mussolini’s quest for empire.
   • When the German troops marched into the Rhineland in March 1936 (though treaties of Versailles and Locarno had demilitarized this area of Germany). Hitler was counting on a reluctance of the League and Western powers to risk war.

3. • German troops marched into Austria, making it part of Third Reich.
   • After Austria, Hitler turned to Czechoslovakia. After the meeting at Munich, the Sudetenland was split off of Czechoslovakia in the Munich Agreement by leaders of the democracies and Hitler, without consent of the Czechs.
   • On March 15, 1939 German troops marched into what was left of Czechoslovakia (though Hitler had said that he would demand no more territory).

4. • Stalin’s frustrations with Western European democracies (because he felt they did not trust him) led him to sign a ten-year non-aggression treaty with Hitler.
   • The secret of the treaty was the division of spheres of influence in Baltic States, Bessarabia and Poland.
   • No one expected these two hostile powers to draw together, but Soviets knew they were not ready for war and needed some protection.

5. • He planned to fight the Second World War using a strategy called *blitzkrieg* (lightning war).
   • He wanted to avoid another trench warfare war, so he used different strategies such as his secret operations.
   • He signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact with Stalin to avoid having a two-front war.
6. Churchill was responsible for introducing the idea of the “Grand Alliance” bringing the British and other Allies together.
   • He was pugnacious and dedicated, willing to take action to defend freedom and democracy against Hitler.
   • Churchill’s speeches gave hope to those who fought the Nazis.

7. September 1, 1939: German troops invade Poland. War begins.
   September 17, 1939: Soviet Union enter war.
   December 7, 1941: Japan attacks Pearl Harbour; The United States enters the war.
   June 1941: Hitler invades Russia and begins Operation Barbarossa.
   Following the invasion of Sicily, comes the fall of Mussolini.
   February 1942: Singapore captured by Japan.
   June 6, 1944: D-Day Operation Overlord — the Normandy invasion.
   May 2, 1945: Berlin surrendered. (May 8 was VE Day as Germany accepted terms of unconditional surrender, ending the war in Europe.)
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   August 6, 1945: First atomic bomb drops on Hiroshima killing 70000. (VJ Day as war ends with Victory over Japan after 2nd atomic bomb.)

8. A secret study called the “Manhattan Project” was undertaken at the University of Chicago, which was a joint effort of the United States, Britain and Canada.
   The first atomic chain reaction was produced in 1942, and a nuclear weapon was fully developed in 1945.
   The bomb was made partly as a result of the work of scientists who were exiled from fascist states.
   The bomb was used on August 6, 1945 on Hiroshima.

9. The two opposite poles of resistance were:
   a) resistance
   b) collaboration

Most people did neither, but accepted the German occupation and tried to go on with their lives. These people included:
   • Shopkeepers who sought business from German troops.
   • People who fraternized and entertained German soldiers.
   After the war these people were often publicly humiliated.
10. **Defense**
- The defense did not present a denial of his actions, but rather the denial of personal responsibility for them.
- They claimed that Eichmann was a faithful soldier who was simply following his orders.

**Prosecution**
- They suggested we define what we mean by “*justice.*”
- They also held that Eichmann was guilty because he had made choices; he chose to ignore his human responsibility.
- They said it was ultimately his own decision to obey orders; he chose to follow through with an immoral decision to kill others.