Prepare to Read

Build Background Knowledge

Ask students to recall the rise of dictators during the early 1930s. Based on their previous reading, have them predict what they think the dictators will do next.

Set a Purpose

What is the main idea of Chamberlain’s speech? (He believes he has achieved an agreement that means lasting peace with Germany.) Ask students to predict how long the peace will last.

Focus

Point out the Section Focus Question and write it on the board. Tell students to refer to this question as they read. (Answer appears with Section 1 Assessment answers.)

Preview

Have students preview the Section Standards and the list of Terms, People, and Places.

Reading Skill

Have students use the Reading Strategy: Recognize Sequence worksheet.

Note Taking

As students read, have them fill in the table sequencing the events that led to World War II.

From Appeasement to War

After the horrors of World War I, Western democracies desperately tried to preserve peace during the 1920s while ignoring signs that the rulers of Germany, Italy, and Japan were preparing to build new empires. Despite the best efforts of Neville Chamberlain and other Western leaders, the world was headed to war again.

Aggression Goes Unchecked

Throughout the 1930s, challenges to peace followed a pattern. Dictators took aggressive action but met only verbal protests and pleas for peace from the democracies. Mussolini, Hitler, and the leaders of Japan viewed that desire for peace as weakness and responded with new acts of aggression. With hindsight, we can see the shortcomings of the democracies’ policies. Those policies, however, were the product of long and careful deliberation. At the time, some people believed they would work.

Japan Overruns Manchuria and Eastern China

One of the earliest tests had been posed by Japan. Japanese military leaders and ultranationalists thought that Japan should have an empire equal to those of the Western powers. In pursuit of this goal, Japan responded with new acts of aggression. With hindsight, we can see the shortcomings of the democracies’ policies. These policies, however, were the product of long and careful deliberation. At the time, some people believed they would work.

The next time, the world was headed to war again.
World War I. Then, in 1930, he built up the German military in defiance of the treaty that had ended World War I. His moves but took no real action. Instead, they adopted a policy of appeasement, which increased Hitler's popularity at home. The Western democracies denounced Germany for violating international law. But the League had no power to enforce its sanctions, and by early 1936, Italy had conquered Ethiopia.

Hitler Goes Against the Treaty of Versailles By then, Hitler, too, had noted the will of the Western democracies and found it weak. First, he built up the German military in defiance of the treaty that had ended World War I. Then, in 1936, he sent troops into the “demilitarized” Rhineland bordering France—another treaty violation. Germans hated the Versailles treaty, and Hitler’s successful challenge made him more popular at home. The Western democracies denounced his moves but took no real action. Instead, they adopted a policy of appeasement, or giving in to the demands of an aggressor in order to keep the peace.

Keeping the Peace The Western policy of appeasement developed for a number of reasons. France was demoralized, suffering from political divisions at home. It could not take on Hitler without British support. The British, however, had no desire to confront the German dictator. Some even thought that Hitler’s actions constituted a justifiable response to the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, which they believed had been too harsh on Germany.

In both Britain and France, many saw Hitler and fascism as a defense against a worse evil—the spread of Soviet communism. Additionally, the Great Depression sapped the energies of the Western democracies. Finally, widespread pacifism, or opposition to all war, and disgust with the destruction from the previous war pushed many governments to seek peace at any price.

Vocabulary Builder sanctions—(san SHUNZ) n. penalties

Hitler remilitarized Germany Hitler rebuilt the German military during the 1930s in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles. Here, German police march in goose step as Hitler salutes in the background. How did remilitarization affect the rest of Germany?

Italy Invades Ethiopia In Italy, Mussolini used his new, modern military to pursue his own imperialist ambitions. Italy’s defeat by the Ethiopians at the battle of Adowa in 1896 still rankled. In 1935, Italy invaded Ethiopia, located in northeastern Africa. Although the Ethiopians resisted bravely, their outdated weapons were no match for Mussolini’s tanks, machine guns, poison gas, and airplanes. The Ethiopian king Haile Selassie (HY luh suh lah SEE) appealed to the League of Nations for help. The League voted sanctions against Italy for violating international law. But the League had no power to enforce its sanctions, and by early 1936, Italy had conquered Ethiopia.

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Universal Access Solutions for All Learners

Special Needs Less Proficient Readers Students may use the visuals in this section to learn about fascist aggression. Have students turn to the photo of the tanks rolling through Prague on the next spread of pages. Ask What does this photo have in common with the photo of the goose-stepping soldiers above? (Both show the reemergence of Nazi aggression.)

Use the following resources to help students acquire basic skills.

Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide

Adapted Note Taking Study Guide, p. 121

Adapted Section Summary, p. 122

Teach

Aggression Goes Unchecked H.SS 10.8.1

Instruct

Introduce: Vocabulary Builder Have students read the Vocabulary Builder term and definition. Use the Idea Wave strategy (TE, p. T22) and ask What is an example of a sanction that a school might use to penalize disruptive students? (Sample: detention, suspension, removal from a sports team)

Teach Trace Japanese, Italian, and German aggression during the 1930s. Ask Why were these countries aggressors during this time? (They each wanted to fulfill imperialist ambitions.) Why didn’t the Western democracies stop this aggression? (France was struggling with divisions at home; the British did not want to confront the dictators; some people thought Hitler’s actions were justified in light of the Versailles Treaty; many saw fascism as preferable to communism; pacifism was widespread.)

Quick Activity Point out that during the 1930s, many pacifists were working to avoid war at all costs. Have students, in small groups, discuss the following questions: What is pacifism and could it be a wise policy? Would students have supported pacifist goals if they had lived in the 1930s?

Independent Practice Ask students to take the role of a French political leader during the 1930s and choose an act of aggression by one of the Axis powers. Have students write a brief speech outlining what they think the act of aggression shows about the country undertaking it, how they think their country should respond, and why that is the best response.

Monitor Progress As students complete their tables, circulate to make sure they understand the growing aggression of the dictatorships.

For a completed version of the table, see Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 121

Note Taking Transparencies, 105A

Answer

Caption helped its economy, raised morale, increased Hitler’s popularity.
Spain Collapses Into Civil War

**H-SS 10.8.2**

Instruct

- **Introduce** Have students read the red heading Spain Collapses Into Civil War. Ask: How did the Spanish Civil War start? Have them predict what impact this war will have on the rest of Europe. Then have them read to find out whether their predictions were accurate.

- **Teach** Discuss the effects of the Spanish Civil War. Ask: How was the Spanish Civil War another step in the march toward world war? (The Nazis were able to experiment with their new weapons; it produced open conflict between fascist and anti-fascist forces; it probably increased fears of spreading fascism.)

Independent Practice

Break students into small groups and assign each group one of the following countries: Germany, Italy, the Soviet Union, Britain, France, and the United States. Have each group identify which side its country took in the Spanish Civil War (or whether it took no side at all) and find reasons for that choice. Then have the groups report their findings to the class.

Monitor Progress

Point out the Faces of Fascism photos. To help students review the section so far, ask them to briefly explain the significance of each of the leaders pictured.

Answers

- Japan seized Manchuria in 1931 and invaded eastern China in 1937. Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1935 and conquered it the following year. Hitler built up the German military and sent troops into the Rhineland.

- Hitler and Mussolini sent arms and forces to help the fascist Franco; Stalin sent troops to fight against him; people from other countries who opposed fascism volunteered to fight on one side of the Loyalists.

**462 World War II and Its Aftermath**

- As war clouds gathered in Europe in the mid-1930s, the United States Congress passed a series of Neutrality Acts. One law forbade the sale of arms to any nation at war. Others outlawed loans to warring nations and prohibited Americans from traveling on ships of warring powers. The fundamental goal of American policy, however, was to avoid involvement in a European war, not to prevent such a conflict.

- **Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis** In the face of the apparent weakness of Britain, France, and the United States, Germany, Italy, and Japan formed what became known as the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis. Known as the Axis powers, the three nations agreed to fight Soviet communism. They also agreed not to interfere with one another’s plans for territorial expansion. The agreement cleared the way for those anti-democratic aggressor powers to take even bolder steps.

- **Standards Check** Describe the German, Italian, and Japanese drives for empire. **H-SS 10.8.2**

Spain Collapses Into Civil War

In 1936, a local struggle in Spain polarized public opinion throughout Europe. Troubles in Spain started in 1931, when popular unrest against the old order forced the king to leave Spain. A republic was set up with a new, more liberal constitution. The government passed a series of controversial reforms, taking land and privileges away from the Church and old ruling classes. Still, leftists demanded more radical reforms. Conservatives, backed by the military, rejected change.

In 1936, a conservative general named Francisco Franco led a revolt that touched off a bloody civil war. Fascists and supporters of right-wing policies, called Nationalists, rallied to back Franco. Supporters of the republic, known as Loyalists, included Communists, Socialists, and those who wanted democracy.

People from other nations soon jumped in to support both sides. Hitler and Mussolini sent arms and forces to help Franco. The Soviet Union sent soldiers to fight against fascism alongside the Spanish Loyalists. Although the governments of Britain, France, and the United States remained neutral, individuals from those countries, as well as other countries, also fought with the Loyalists. Anti-Nazi Germans and anti-Fascist Italians joined the Loyalist cause as well.

Both sides committed horrible atrocities. The ruinous struggle took an estimated one million lives. One of the worst horrors was a German air raid on Guernica, a small Spanish market town. In April 1937, German planes dropped their load of bombs, and then swooped low to machine-gun anyone who had survived the bombs. An estimated 1,600 innocent civilians were killed. To Nazi leaders, the attack on Guernica was an experiment to identify what their new planes could do. To the rest of the world, it was a grim warning of the destructive power of modern warfare.

By 1939, Franco had triumphed. Once in power, he created a fascist dictatorship similar to the dictatorships of Hitler and Mussolini. He rolled back earlier reforms, killed or jailed enemies, and used terror to promote order.

- **Standards Check** How did the Spanish Civil War involve combatants from other countries? **H-SS 10.8.2**

**Link to Art**

- **Picasso’s Guernica** In 1937, the Spanish republican government commissioned Pablo Picasso to paint a memorial to the destruction of Guernica. His painting, titled simply Guernica, is filled with fragmented structures and broken human bodies. In a scene of overwhelming anguish and suffering, a wailing mother holds her dead child; a distraught woman rushes from a building; and other people appear with arms and heads extended in the pain of death. Picasso also made extensive use of symbolism in this work. A horse may stand for Spain under attack; a bull, familiar from Spanish bullfighting and folk tales, could represent human irrationality. An electric light may symbolize the destructive power of modern technology, while an oil lamp might show humanity’s resistance to war’s atrocities. In Guernica, Picasso shows how war’s destructive power and irrational nature can unleash terror and torment on humanity.
German Aggression Continues
In the meantime, Hitler pursued his goal of bringing all German-speaking peoples into the Third Reich. He also took steps to gain “living space” for Germans in Eastern Europe. Hitler, who believed in the superiority of the German people, or “Aryan race,” thought that Germany had a right to conquer the inferior Slavs to the east. “Nature is cruel,” he claimed, “so we may be cruel, too. . . . I have a right to remove millions of an inferior race that breeds like vermin.”

Austria Annexed
From the beginning, Nazi propaganda had found fertile ground in Austria. By 1938, Hitler was ready to engineer the Anschluss (AHN shloos), or union of Austria and Germany. Early that year, he forced the Austrian chancellor to appoint Nazis to key cabinet posts. When the Austrian leader balked at other demands in March, Hitler sent in the German army to “preserve order.” To indicate his new role as ruler of Austria, Hitler made a speech from the Hofburg Palace, the former residence of the Hapsburg emperors. The Anschluss violated the Versailles treaty and created a brief war scare. Some Austrians favored annexation. Hitler quickly silenced any Austrians who opposed it. And since the Western democracies took no action, Hitler easily had his way.

The Czech Crisis
Germany turned next to Czechoslovakia. At first, Hitler insisted that the three million Germans in the Sudetenland (soo day land)—a region of western Czechoslovakia—be given autonomy. Czechoslovakia was one of only two remaining democracies in Eastern Europe. (Finland was the other.) Still, Britain and France were not willing to go to war to save it. As British and French leaders searched for a peaceful solution, Hitler increased his demands. The Sudetenland, he said, must be annexed to Germany.
Europe Plunges Toward War H-SS 10.8.2

**Instruct**

- Introduce: Vocabulary Builder Have students read the Vocabulary Builder term and definition. Ask students to speculate on why the use of technology in World War I would make Europe hesitant to start another war. (Sample: World War I was so destructive because of advances in technology, and weapons had advanced even further since that time.)

- Teach Explain that, as Churchill predicted, appeasement failed, and Europe was plunged into war. Ask: What event made the democracies willing to fight? (Hitler’s invasion of the rest of Czechoslovakia) What event provoked the war? (Hitler’s invasion of Poland)


**Independent Practice**

- Have students access Web Code mzp-2911 to take the Geography Interactive Audio Guided Tour and then answer the map skills questions in the text.

**Monitor Progress**

- Check Reading and Note Taking Study Guide entries for student understanding.

- Check the answers to map skills questions.

**Answers**

- He wanted to bring all German-speaking people into the Third Reich.

**Map Skills**

1. Review locations with students.
2. It is a narrow strip of land separating Germany from East Prussia.
3. Sample: Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, because those were the countries that bordered Germany and Italy.

At the Munich Conference in September 1938, British and French leaders again chose appeasement. They caved in to Hitler’s demands and then permitted the Czechs to surrender the Sudetenland without a fight. In exchange, Hitler assured Britain and France that he had no further plans to expand his territory.

“Peace for Our Time” Returning from Munich, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain told cheering crowds that he had achieved “peace for our time.” He told Parliament that the Munich Pact had “saved Czechoslovakia from destruction and Europe from Armageddon.” French leader Edouard Daladier (dah lub day) reacted differently to the joyous crowds that greeted him in Paris. “The fools, why are they cheering?” he asked. British politician Winston Churchill, who had long warned of the Nazi threat, judged the diplomatic failure “They had to choose between war and dishonor. They chose dishonor; they will have war.”

**Standards Check** Why did Hitler feel justified in taking over Austria and the Sudetenland? H-SS 10.8.1

**Connect to Our World**

Connections to Today When the British and French leaders returned from the Munich Conference in 1938, the people of their nations cheered. The French leader Edouard Daladier, however, expressed concern about whether the agreement would prove wise. Daladier was correct, of course, in that the agreement did not satisfy Hitler’s appetite for conquest. In late 1990, another aggressive dictator, Saddam Hussein of Iraq, took over a small, neighboring country—the oil-rich nation of Kuwait. This time, world leaders chose to form a coalition, sanctioned by the United Nations and led by the United States, to force the dictator to retreat from Kuwait. After brief military operations, the coalition freed Kuwait. However, the coalition did not drive Saddam from power in Iraq—a step many predicted that the coalition members would regret.
Europe Plunges Toward War

Just as Churchill predicted, Europe plunged rapidly toward war. In March 1939, Hitler broke his promises and published the rest of Czecho-Slovakia. The democracies finally accepted the fact that appeasement had failed. At last thoroughly alarmed, they promised to protect Poland, most likely the next target of Hitler’s expansion.

Nazi-Soviet Pact

In August 1939, Hitler stunned the world by announcing a nonaggression pact with his great enemy—Joseph Stalin, the Soviet dictator. Publicly, the Nazi-Soviet Pact bound Hitler and Stalin to peaceful relations. Secretly, the two agreed not to fight if the other went to war and to divide up Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe between them. The pact was based not on friendship or respect but on mutual need. Hitler feared communism as Stalin feared fascism. But Hitler wanted a free hand in Poland. Also, he did not want to fight a war with the Western democracies and the Soviet Union at the same time. For his part, Stalin had sought allies among the democracies. He did not want to fight a war with the Western democracies and the Soviet Union at the same time. For his part, Stalin had sought allies among the Western democracies against the Nazi menace. Mutual suspicions, however, kept them apart. By joining with Hitler, Stalin tried to protect the Soviet Union from the threat of war with Germany and grabbed a chance to gain land in Eastern Europe.

Invasion of Poland

On September 1, 1939, a week after the Nazi-Soviet Pact, German forces invaded Poland. Two days later, Britain and France declared war on Germany. World War II had begun.

The devastation of World War I and the awareness of the destructive power of modern technology made the idea of more fighting unbearable. Unfortunately, the war proved to be even more horrific than anyone had imagined.

Why the West Appeased Hitler

- Fear of the destructive power of modern technology
- Widespread pacifism following World War I
- Hitler’s actions seen as a justifiable response to the harsh Treaty of Versailles
- Widespread economic depression
- Hitler’s fascists seen as a defense against Soviet communism
- Faith in diplomacy and compromise
- Misreading of Hitler’s intentions

Vocabulary Builder

- Appeasement
- Dictator
- Dictatorship
- Pacifism
- Depression
- Technology

Section 1 Assessment

1. Sentences should reflect an understanding of each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section.
2. Germany invaded the rest of Czecho-Slovakia. Hitler announced a nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union, Hitler invaded Poland.
3. They followed a policy of appeasement in an effort to keep the peace.
4. Germany and Italy supported Spain’s fascist leader.
5. Once Hitler broke the promises he had made at the Munich Conference, the democracies knew they would have to fight him to stop him.
6. Sample because that period was full of tension between the same nations that had fought in World War I, and when war did break out again in 1939, the two sides were largely the same.