Second World War

I. The Twenty Year Crisis
II. Outbreak of War in Europe
III. Outbreak of War in Asia
IV. Explaining the War
V. Turning Points of the War
VI. Fallout
Global Level Causes

- A. Problem of German Power
- Status Quo Powers: France and United Kingdom
- Revisionist Powers: Germany and Italy
- Isolated Powers: Soviet Union and United States
Interwar Europe
A. Global Level Causes

B. Failure of Collective Security
- Exclusion of USSR (except 1934-39), Germany (except 1926-33), United States *never* in League.
- Failure to resolve Manchuria (1931) and Ethiopia (1935)

C. Collapse of the World Economy (Great Depression)
- Smoot-Hawley Tariff
B. Domestic Level Factors

- Collapse of Democracy & Rise of Fascism
  - Benito Mussolini – Italy (1922)
  - Adolph Hitler – Germany (1933)
  - Francisco Franco – Spain (1936)

- Class Conflict
  - “Better Hitler than Blum”

- Pacifism
  - Appeasement
Collapse of European Democracies

European Democracies, 1925
- Authoritarian government
- Parliamentary government
- Monarchy

Date when authoritarian government began

European Democracies, 1939
- Authoritarian government
- Parliamentary government
- Monarchy

Date when authoritarian government began
C. Individual Level Causes

Adolph Hitler

Neville Chamberlain
II. Outbreak of War in Europe

- German Rearmament (1935)
- Reoccupation of the Rhineland (1936)
- Anschluss with Austria (1938)
- Sudetenland Crisis (1938)
- Munich Conference (1938)
- Nazi-Soviet Pact (1939)
- Invasion of Poland (1939)
Sudetenland Crisis and Munich Conference
Chamberlain Returns from Munich

“I believe it is peace in our time…”
Nazi-Soviet (Ribbentrop-Molotov) Pact

The image depicts a cartoon featuring two characters, one labeled 'Ribbentrop' and the other 'Molotov.' The dialogue between them reads:

- Ribbentrop: 'The scum of the earth, I believe.'
- Molotov: 'The bloody assassin of the workers, I presume?'

The cartoon portrays a tense interaction, with Ribbentrop holding Molotov in a forceful manner, suggesting a historical conflict or tension between the two figures.
II. Outbreak of War in Europe

- German Rearmament (1935)
- Reoccupation of the Rhineland (1936)
- Anschluss with Austria (1938)
- Sudetenland Crisis (1938)
- Munich Conference (1938)
- Nazi-Soviet Pact (1939)
- Invasion of Poland (1939)
III. Outbreak of War in Pacific

- 1931: Invade Manchuria
- 1933: Invade rest of China
- 1937: ‘Rape of Nanking’
- 1940: Occupy French Indochina (Vietnam)
- 1941: Take Dutch East Indies (Indonesia)
- Dec. 7, 1941: Pearl Harbor

It started long before Pearl Harbor
‘Rape of Nanking’ 1937

- Between 200K and 300K Chinese Civilians Slaughtered by the Japanese Army
### IV. Explaining the War: Realist Perspective

#### Table 4-2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of analysis</th>
<th>Realist perspective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Systemic**      | • Distribution/balance of power:  
                      — Rise of German and Japanese power  
                      — Versailles Treaty alienated rather than reintegrated Germany  
                      — Power vacuum caused by many new, weak states in eastern Europe, and a weak China in Asia  
                      — Major powers such as the United States and Soviet Union not involved to create balance  
                      — Tripolarity sets off scramble between Germany, Russia, and the United States to ally with third country | |
| **Process**       | • Failure of UK, France, Poland, Russia, and United States to align against the greater power (Germany). Why did they buckpass?:  
                      — Kept off-balance by adept (compared to clumsy, before World War I) German diplomacy—Hitler’s pact with Poland, naval treaty with Britain, and alliance with Italy  
                      — Threats based on different national (geopolitical) not common institutional interests  
                      — France formed alliances with Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Romania—all weak states—instead of the Soviet Union | |
| **Foreign policy**| • Germany’s assessment of Soviet power (present and future) was accurate and not distorted by domestic bureaucratic or ideological factors | |
| **Domestic**      | • Aggressive interests of various domestic groups in Germany | |
| **Individual**    | • Hitler’s war  
                      • Roosevelt’s embargo |
IV. Explaining the War: Liberal Perspective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of analysis</th>
<th>Liberal perspective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Systemic</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Structure**     | • Collective security problems and the failure of the League of Nations:  
                    —Major powers not involved to create preponderance of power  
                    —Weak centralized security commitments and hence no incentives to  
                    disarm  
                    —Aggressor states not members of League and hence not subject to  
                    institutional constraints  
                    • Economic depression |
| **Process**       | • Misperceptions of threat:  
                    —UK saw France as stronger than Germany  
                    —France thought defense dominant and “chain-ganged” with UK and  
                    Poland (left initiative to Hitler)  
                    —UK appeased instead of balanced Hitler at Munich (1938) and failed to  
                    align with Soviet Union after Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia in March 1939  
                    • Spread of immoderate goals: Germany and Japan were revisionist states,  
                    sought to overturn Versailles and create Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity  
                    Sphere  
| Foreign policy    | • British foreign minister resigns from domestic opposition to plan to divide  
                    Ethiopia  
| Domestic          | • Divided domestic interests in United States reject League  
                    • Economic collapse in Germany |
| Individual        | • Ineffective leadership of Congress by a dying President Wilson |
## IV. Explaining the War: Identity Perspective

### Table 4-3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of analysis</th>
<th>Identity perspective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Systemic</strong></td>
<td><strong>Structure</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Change in individual and collective identity:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>—Shared norms of self-determination not uniformly practiced or applied, created many small, weak states (rather than weak states themselves being the cause, as realist perspectives emphasize)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>—National identities diverged—different nationalism drove security dilemma (not geopolitics, as realist perspectives emphasize)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Process</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Spread of fascism, socialism, and racism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Decline of democracies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foreign policy</strong></td>
<td>• Racist views of German decision makers exaggerate Soviet or Bolshevik threat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Domestic</strong></td>
<td>• Bolshevism/communism in Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Racism/militarism in Germany and Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Exceptionalism in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Individual</strong></td>
<td>• Stalin’s communist beliefs that Germany and other capitalist countries would fight one another and that the Soviet Union could stay out of it</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V. Turning Points of the War

- Phoney War (September 1939-May 1940)
- Battle of France (May-June 1940)
- Battle of Britain (July 1940-June 1941)
- Invasion of Russia (June 1941)
- Pearl Harbor (December 1941)
- Battle of Stalingrad (1942)
- Midway (June 1942)
German Blitzkrieg

Blitzkrieg! 1939–1940

- Occupied by Russia
- Occupied by Germany
- British evacuations

- May–June 1940
- Invasion 2 April 1940
- Invasion 1 Sept. 1939
- 10 May 1940
- 12 May 1940
- 10 June 1940 attacks France
- Invaded 30 Nov. 1939
- Annexed 1939
- Invaded 17 Sept. 1939
- Annexe 1939
- Communist Russia
- Deutsche Satelliten
“...we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.”
Axis Advances when US Enters War

Europe

Map 4-2  Germany and Occupied Territories, 1942

- Greater German Reich
- Territories controlled by Germany
- German allies
Axis Advances when US Enters War

- Pacific
V. Turning Points in War

- North Africa Invasion (November 1942)
- Battle of Kursk (July-August 1943)
- Italy Invasion (September 1943)
- Normandy Invasion (June 1944)
- Battle of the Bulge (Dec 1944-Jan 1945)
- Saipan (June 1944) and Okinawa (April 1945)
- Atomic Bombs (Hiroshima/Nagasaki) Aug. 1945
Normandy Invasion (D-Day)
IV. Fallout of War

- Germany and Japan destroyed as Great Powers
- Britain and France Further Weakened
- Border Changes
- US and USSR as ‘Superpowers’

Eagle from atop Reichchancellory, Berlin
Imperial War Museum, London
Border Changes