

History 12

Topic 4 -- Turmoil & Tragedy, 1933-1945

Work in this unit will be marked out of 40. Map work will be evaluated at 10 marks per map and will be graded on the basis of completion, accuracy and neatness.

Answer the following questions based on the readings outlined on your Topic 4 guide and on the material listed below:

Library Research

Web Links:

- A good links page to primary documents can be found at Paul Halsall's Fordham University site at: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html>
- Spartacus, Schoolnet is one of the best school resources on History. Find it at <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/>
- The British GCSE revision site at <http://www.johndclare.net/> is basic, but sound material.
- Learn History, at <http://www.learnhistory.org.uk/germany/index.htm> has useful material on interwar Germany.

Your answers to the following questions will be based on lectures, readings, and web research.

Hitler & Nazi Germany (Note: also refer back to the lecture on Hitler's rise to power in the last unit.)

1. What did Hitler hope to achieve in the Munich Putsch of 1923? What did he actually achieve?
2. Do exercise 4, p. 87 in DeMarco.
3. Do exercise 5, p. 87 in DeMarco.
4. Do exercise 6 on p. 88 in Demarco.
5. Do the coursework unit questions a-i on p. 91 or DeMarco.
6. Why did Hitler have to form a coalition with the **Nationalists** after he came to power in 1933?
7. What was the **Enabling Bill** and what did it allow Hitler to do.
8. Although undemocratic, Hitler's ascent to power was quite legal; Explain.
9. What are the characteristics of a **totalitarian** state?
10. What was the purpose of the **Night of the Long Knives**? Why did Hitler believe that this was necessary? Who were the key figures targeted for execution?
11. Complete Exercise 1 on p. 95 of DeMarco.
12. Complete Exercise 2 on p. 95 of DeMarco.
13. Complete Exercise 3 on pp. 95-96 of DeMarco.
14. Describe the **Hitler Youth** movement. Why was this movement Important in Hitler's plans?
15. What was the nature of Hitler's relationship with the Churches?
16. What were the roles of the **SS** and the **Gestapo**?
17. Explain why anti-Semitism played such an important role in the philosophy of National Socialism.
18. Complete Exercise 4 on pp. 98-99 of DeMarco.
19. Briefly compare conditions in National Socialist Germany and Fascist Italy. Which country provided the most extreme example of a totalitarian state? Why?

The Road to War:

20. What were Hitler's foreign policy goals between 1933-1939? What limited his ability to attain them before 1936? Be sure to describe the **Dolfuss** affair in answering this question.
21. What was the **Stresa Front** and why did it collapse? Be sure to note the significance of Italy's invasion of **Abyssinia** (Ethiopia) in this regard.
22. Complete Exercise 2 on page 124 or DeMarco.
23. Why was the League of Nations ineffective with dealing with Mussolini's aggression in Abyssinia?

24. What problems did Britain and France face in the 1930's that caused them to be somewhat timid in dealing with the aggressive totalitarian states? Could they have reasonably adopted alternative policies?
25. Find out about France's **Maginot Line**. Why was it built? How do you suppose the massive spending on this project influenced France's military thinking between the wars? What technological changes made the value of this project dubious?
26. Define **appeasement**. How was this policy pursued by Britain and France in the second half of the 1930's? Do you think this policy was correct? Why or why not?
27. How was **Anschluss** finally achieved? How did the other European powers react?
28. What happened in the Czechoslovakian Crisis of 1938? How was the problem resolved at **Munich**? Why did Prime Minister Chamberlain say that he had achieved "peace in our time" when he returned from Germany?
29. Complete Exercise 4 on page 127 of DeMarco.
30. What was Britain's reaction to Hitler's occupation of the rest of the Czech portion of Czechoslovakia in March, 1939? How was this reaction translated into policy?
31. What was the **Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact** (otherwise known as the **Nazi-Soviet Non-Agression Pact**)? Why did this come as a shock to Western countries?
32. Complete Exercise 6 on page 130 of DeMarco.
33. Create a time line showing Hitler's foreign adventures between 1934 and September, 1939.

Stalin, The Great Purge and the Soviet Union's Road to War:

34. Complete Exercise 8 on pages 64-65 of DeMarco.
35. Complete Exercise 9 on page 65-66 of DeMarco.
36. What was Stalin trying to achieve in launching the **Purges** of the 1930's? Were they necessary? Did they achieve his ends? How did they weaken the USSR militarily?

Colonies Between the Wars:

37. What social and political effects were felt in the colonies of European nations between the wars? How did the Great Depression affect them?
38. What role did religion play in shaping independence movements in the Indian Sub-Continent between the wars?

The Spanish Civil War:

39. What economic and social circumstances in Spain led to civil conflict?
40. Briefly outline the events in Spain between 1931 and 1936.
41. Describe the political outlook of **General Franco**. Why did both Hitler and Mussolini see events in Spain as an opportunity?
42. What role did the USSR play in Spain. Why do you suppose Stalin did not play a more active role, like the Italians and Germans?
43. What were the **International Brigades**? How did they reflect the outlook of leftists in the Western democracies toward the gains being made by fascists around the world?
44. What was the attitude of Britain and France to the war in Spain.

The World at War:

45. Why did making a stand on behalf of Poland in 1939 make little military sense? Did Hitler believe the insistence of Britain and France that they would stand behind Poland? Why or why not?
46. Describe the French and British defensive position in 1939.
47. Complete Exercise 1 on page 134 of DeMarco.
48. What was Poland's fate in September, 1939? What happened to the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia around the same time?
49. Who was Russia at war with in 1939-40? Why?
50. Why was the winter of 1939-40 described as the period of **phony war** in Britain or **sitzkrieg** in Germany? What brought this phase of the war to an end?
51. Complete questions b,c, and d in Exercise 2 on page 136 of DeMarco.
52. Why was the fall of France so swift? Did this make sense militarily?

53. What is referred to as the **Vichy Government**? Who led it? Who opposed it? Who led the opposition and from where?
54. What was **Operation Sea Lion**? Why did it not succeed?
55. What was the **Battle of Britain**? Why was this a crucial victory in the war against Hitler? What part was played in it by new technologies, like radar and new aircraft types? Why is it that some say this was a battle won by civilians?
56. What help did the USA send to Britain in September, 1940 and how did Roosevelt increase this aid in the Spring of 1941?
57. What was **Operation Barbarossa** and how was it connected with Hitler's dream of **lebensraum**?
58. Complete Exercise 6 on pages 148-149 of DeMarco.
59. Complete Exercise 7 on page 149 of DeMarco.
60. Explain what happened and what was the significance of each of the battles of **Moscow**, **Stalingrad** and **Kursk**.
61. Why did Japan attack **Pearl Harbour** and involve itself in a war with a great industrial power like the United States? Did the Japanese honestly believe that they could win? How?
62. The Summer of 1942 saw the Axis power at its height? What battles turned the tide for the Allies in this year? How did the failure of the Axis to win the war at this time mean that defeat was more than
63. What was the **Battle of the Atlantic** and how was it won?
64. Why did **Chiang Kai-Shek** not launch a major offensive against the Japanese?
65. How did Japanese actions in the areas they conquered alienate native populations and encourage the development of guerilla forces against them?
66. What happened at the following battles and how did they affect Japan's war effort: the **Battle of Midway**, the **Battle of the Coral Sea** and the **Battle of Leyte Gulf**.
67. Why do you suppose Churchill wanted to invade Italy before invading France? Why was Stalin unimpressed?
68. Why did the Western Allies delay opening of a second front in Western Europe until comparatively late in the war? What was Stalin's reaction to this delay?
69. What was **Operation Overlord**? Account for its success.
70. What secret weapons did the Germans finally unleash late in the war? Why did they not affect the war's outcome?
71. What controversy surrounds Soviet actions during the **Battle of Warsaw**? How might this have affected Polish attitudes toward the Russians?
72. What was the **Battle of the Bulge** and what was its outcome?

Resolution of the War:

73. How effective was Allied strategic bombing in Europe. Some have called the targeting of cities a "war crime." Do you believe this is right? Why or why not?
74. What was the **Holocaust**? How was it carried out? How was it possible that such horrific actions could occur?
75. What was decided at the **Yalta Conference**? At **San Francisco**? At **Bretton Woods**?
76. Why has the Yalta Conference sometimes been described as a "sell out" to the Communists by Western leaders? To what extent is this description accurate? Why did this happen?
77. Three major leaders died in April, 1945 - who? What happened to each?
78. Why was Winston Churchill and his government defeated by the Labour Party of Clement Attlee in the general election of 1945?
79. What happened at the **Potsdam Conference**?
80. It has been said that between 1945 and 1947 many Europeans "voted with their feet". What is meant by this? What stopped this "voting"?
81. Summarize the Japanese position by August, 1945. Why do you think the Russians failed to pass on to the Americans Japanese peace proposals?
82. Why did the Americans decide to use the **A-bomb** on **Hiroshima** and **Nagasaki**? Was it justified? Why or why not?
83. In the return of the Imperialists to Asia after World War II, why was it impossible for the Dutch and French to turn back the clock to the pre-war style of Imperialism?