From Europe to America: World War II Begins

Chapter 11 Section 2
US History (EOC)
Francisco Franco and Guernica

• Guernica is in the Basque region of northern Spain.

• This region was resisting/opposing Francisco Franco.

• Franco allowed Hitler to test his “blitzkrieg” warfare if he would destroy this town and its resistance.

• Pablo Picasso – who usually avoids politics – was furious!
Guernica by Pablo Picasso

- Painted for the Spanish Pavilion at the 1937 World’s Fair
- Documents the atrocities committed at the city of Guernica in Spain.
- Calls out Francisco Franco for the attack and destruction.
The Invasion of Poland

- Sept. 1, 1939 = Poland is attacked!
  - World War II officially begins here!
  - Germany used blitzkrieg ("lightning warfare")!
  - It took 3 weeks for Germany to conquer Poland.

- What happened after the attack and takeover?
  - Europe is QUIET! 1939–1940: Do we really have to go to war?
  - May 1940: Hitler launched new blitz = Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg!
France Under Attack

- Because France had promised to protect Poland, Hitler also attacked through Luxembourg, the Netherlands and BELGIUM!
- This attack began on May 10, 1940!
- British and French forces raced through Belgium in an attempt to STOP German forces.
The Maginot Line of Defense

- What was France’s plan for defense in the 1920s and 1930s?
  - The Maginot Line of defense.

- Did the Maginot Line work?
  - NO! Germany went around the line and attacked France through Belgium.

- German troops drove the British and French forces towards the English Channel.
The Fall of France

- June 1940: Hitler invaded France
  - Charles de Gaulle fled to England
  - set up a French government in exile

- France was divided into 2 parts after June 22, 1940:
  - Occupied France (North)
  - Vichy France (South): a puppet government

- At this point, Germany felt they could defeat Britain through air raids.
The Miracle at Dunkirk

• How rapidly did Hitler take France? 6 weeks! (May 10-June 22, 1940)
  • June 4: British and French troops were driven to the shores of the English Chanel
  • Hitler ordered the advance to stop

• Was this a true STOP? NO
  • Britain evacuated 338,000 soldiers during the break in fighting
  • As this event ended, Hitler ordered the area bombed 😞
The Battle of Britain

- Germany used France as a base of operation for its Luftwaffe (Air Force).
- The Luftwaffe concentrated on:
  - Airstrips, Aircraft Factories, & Cities
- The Royal Air Force (RAF) fought every night to defeat Germany.
- English cities defended themselves by using dirigibles.
- Dirigibles are balloons filled with helium or hydrogen that cause planes to explode in the air.
- Churchill said: ‘Never... was so much owed by so many to so few.’
Our Finest Hour...

This was their finest hour
Roosevelt’s Internationalism

- **Internationalism**: national policy of actively trading with foreign countries to foster peace.
- Why did Roosevelt support internationalism?
  - Increased trade would increase prosperity!
  - This would help PREVENT war!
- Did Roosevelt think the Neutrality Acts would work? NO!
  - “…might drag us into war instead of keeping us out.”
- Did Roosevelt break the Neutrality Acts? YES! China
The Axis Threat: American Neutrality that is "decidedly un-neutral"

- Why was America afraid?
  - France has fallen & Britain is under siege!
  - FDR scrambled to provide Britain "all aid short of war"
- Destroyers-for-Bases Deal:
  - Britain asked America for 50 old US destroyers
  - Britain could trade something of "equal" value...
  - Britain offered the US 99-year (rent free) leases on naval bases in British territories.
The German response:
- Germany, Italy, and Japan signed the Tripartite Pact.
- This is the formation of the AXIS powers.
- The goal: Keep the US out of the war!
- No nation could fight a 2-ocean war...

Is PEACE possible?
- Not with Hitler!
- FDR addressed this in his fireside chat...negotiation with Hitler is impossible.
FDR: Arsenal of Democracy

- December 1940: Roosevelt’s “Arsenal of Democracy” speech: a call to “arm and support” the Allies!

- March 1941: Hitler’s aggression had not stopped, FDR proposed a new act:

  - Lend-Lease Act:
    - This act gives the president power to sell, transfer, exchange, or lend war equipment to any country he chooses on certain conditions:
    - These countries had to be “vital to the defense of the United States”
The Atlantic Charter

America was not in this war...YET!

August 1941: Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to a post-war world that would include:

- Democracy
- Nonaggression
- Free trade
- Economic advancement
- Freedom of the seas.