

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

## WORLD WAR II ERA (1935 - 1945) – LESSON 2

**Objective: To examine the immediate causes of World War II.**

### Soviet Union



- Soviet leader Joseph Stalin ordered his people to produce more goods in order to strengthen the country in preparation for war.
- Farmers were forced to give up their land and to join **collective farms**.
- Millions of farmers that resisted were either killed or sent to labor camps.

### Japan

· Japan felt that they had the right to start an overseas empire, just as European countries such as Britain and France had.

· In 1931, Japan seized Manchuria, China, for its valuable coal and iron.

· The League of Nations failed to help China.

· In 1937, Japan began an all out attack on China, eventually conquering Korea and French Indo-China as well.



## War in Europe



· 1936 – German troops move into the Rhineland, bordering France and Belgium.

· 1938 – Germany **annexed** Austria.

\* Both of these actions violated the Versailles Treaty.

· 1938 – Germany claimed the Sudetenland, a part of Czechoslovakia.

\* Britain and France had signed treaties promising to protect Czechoslovakia.

· Sept. 1938 – At the **Munich Conference**, Hitler invited the leaders of Britain and France to Germany and assured them that he wanted no more territory.

\* Britain and France gave into Germany hoping that it would avoid warfare. This is known as **appeasement**.

\* However, in 1939, Germany invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia anyway!



## Stalin and Hitler



· 1939 – In the **Nazi-Soviet Pact**, Hitler and Stalin agreed not to attack one another.

· They also agreed to divide Poland and Eastern Europe amongst themselves.

· September 1, 1939 – Germany invaded Poland without having to fear of a Soviet attack.

\* Two days later, Britain and France declared war on Germany.