**World History Mr. Sadow Chapter 10 Notes and All Work**

**Chapter 22- World War II (1931-1945)**

**Section 1- Failure of a Lasting Peace**

In the 1920s and 1930s many nations were hit by political and financial problems created by **World War I** that led to **Benito Mussolini** becoming the dictator of **Italy** in 1925, **Adolf Hitler** becoming the dictator of **Germany** in 1933, and **Japan** becoming openly aggressive in 1931 against **China**. The **U.S.** didn't like what was happening around the world but was still an **isolationist** (a country that keeps to themselves and stays out of world affairs) nation. To stay neutral, she passed **neutrality acts** (laws against getting involved with any nation at war) in the 1930s.

A **civil war** (a war within a country between its own people) in **Spain** in the late 1930s involved Germany and Italy and was the prelude to World War II. In 1935 Italy invaded **Ethiopia** (very poor country on the eastern coast of Africa) and no countries protested. Hitler learned from Italy's action that no one would stand in Germany's way if Germany wanted more land. In 1936 Germany started taking over new lands, no one stopped her, and on September 1, 1939 she invaded **Poland** (country in Europe between Germany and Russia) and started World War II.

By that late date Britain and France realized that Germany would not be stopped with anything except armed force. Germany and Italy were the **Axis Powers** and **Britain** and **France** were the **Allied Powers**. By late 1940 Germany had overrun all of **Europe** and Japan had increased her war in China which she attacked in 1937. The Axis' actions worried the U.S. and made her realize that she no longer could remain neutral. In 1940 the U.S. repealed (took away) her neutrality acts, started arming herself, started **drafting** (to bring someone into the military without them volunteering) soldiers, and began changing her industry over to war production.

By mid 1941, Germany had given up trying to bomb Britain (called the **Battle of Britain**) into surrendering and instead invaded the **Soviet Union** (the name of Russia while it was communist from 1917-1991) in June of 1941. By June of 1941 America had set up a “**cash and carry**" (system by which a country can help other countries by allowing other countries to pay cash for goods and carry the goods away on their own; meant to keep the “helping” country from being attacked while helping) and "**lend-lease plan**" (system by which a country can help other countries by lending or leasing goods to other countries that do not have cash or transportation to carry away purchased goods) that allowed the Allied Powers to use American goods to fight the Axis Powers. When America became involved in selling her goods to the Allies German **U-boats** (submarines) started sinking U.S. ships in the Atlantic. The U.S. then started to arm her ships in the Atlantic to protect them from the Germans. An "**undeclared war**" (a war that exists, just not officially) existed from mid 1941 on between Germany and the U.S.

By mid 1941 Japan had joined the Axis and had further increased her war in China. America disliked Japan's actions and stopped selling goods, such as metal and oil, to her. The U.S. thought that Japan would have to stop her war in China since Japan relied on American metal and oil. Instead of stopping their attacks, Japan attacked the U.S. Pacific Fleet at **Pearl Harbor** (America’s main naval base in the Pacific Ocean) in Hawaii on December 7, 1941 at 7:55am. Japan wanted to cripple the U.S. fleet so she could expand further to get her own supply of metal and oil in Asia. The U.S. declared war on Japan on Dec. 8.

# Section 2- The United States and World War II: 1941-1945

On Dec. 11 Germany and Italy declared war on America so the U.S. declared war on them. The war against Germany, Italy, and Japan was a **total war** effort by the U.S. Their war industry went on 24hrs a day, 7 days a week and the U.S. produced more of everything than every other nation at war combined.

It was decided that Germany was the strongest of the 3 Axis Powers so she would have to be defeated first while stalling the others. American **General Dwight D. Eisenhower** was the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe against Germany. The first step to beat Germany was to take control of the Atlantic from the German U-Boats (called the **Battle of the Atlantic**). This was done by mid 1943. The second step was to soften Germany up in the south, in Italy and **North Africa** (northern dessert part of the continent of Africa). This was done by Sept. of 1943. The invasion of North Africa in 1942 was the turning point of the war against Germany. The Allies invaded Italy in Sept. of 1943 forcing Italy to surrender. The last step was to invade Germany and destroy her this phase began on June 6, 1944 at the **Normandy** (northern part of France directly across from England) invasion in France and ended with the German surrender on May 8, 1945. Paris was retaken in August and the German border was crossed in October. The Germans counterattacked in December of 1944 at the Battle of the Bulge but were turned back by the Allies. The Soviet Union began attacking Germany from the east in 1942 while the other Allies attacked Germany from the west.

In the war against Japan, it was fought on land and sea in the Pacific Ocean. **General Douglass MacArthur** and **Admiral Chester Nimitz** were the top army and navy commanders. On the sea it was an **aircraft carrier** war. On land the U.S. **bypassed** (went around) strong Jap targets and let them die off when they were surrounded and "**island hopped**," taking an island then moving on to another.

The naval **Battle of Midway** in June 1942 was the turning point of the Pacific War. The U.S. sunk four Japanese aircraft carriers and killed hundreds of trained pilots. As the U.S. moved closer to Japan and as the U.S. fleet grew American land and carrier planes began to bomb Japan in late 1944. The naval Battles of the Philippine Sea and Leyte Gulf in June and Oct. of 1944 were the final battles that destroyed the Japanese fleet. Naval battles were so

important in the Pacific War because without control of the sea and air you could not move troops.

Although America knew that Japan wanted to surrender by early 1945, Japan refused to surrender **unconditionally** (to have no say when you surrender) which the Allies wanted. This led to the first atomic bomb attack on **Hiroshima** on Aug. 6, 1945 and second on **Nagasaki** on Aug. 9, 1945. They were the first atomic bomb attacks ever and forced Japan to surrender, but they were also dropped to scare the Soviets of American military power in order to influence them. They were a factor in starting the **Cold War** (from 1945-1990 when America and the Soviet Union were very unfriendly towards each other but didn’t directly go to war vs. each other, which would then be a “hot war”) with the Soviets because we didn't tell her, our ally, that we had it.

**World History Mr. Sadow Chapter 22 Homework Assignments**

**Section 1, Due by**

1. What 3 things did the political and financial problems created by World War I lead to?

2. What was the U.S.' reaction to what was going on in the world?

3. What important lesson did Hitler learn from Italy's actions in 1935? How did he use the lesson?

4. What nations were the Axis Powers, again? Who were the Allies, again?

5. What 4 things did the U.S. do in reaction to Germany and Japan's military actions?

6. What two types of plans did America set up to help the Allies fight the Axis by supplying them with

weapons to fight with?

7. When America began selling her war goods to the Allies, what did Germany do, again? How did America

react, again?

8. When Japan expanded her war in China in 1937, what did America do? Why?

9. How did Japan react to America's actions in December 1941? Why?

10. Imagine yourself a Japanese citizen in 1941. Would you be proud that your country just attacked Pearl

Harbor? Why or why not?

**Section 2, Due by**

1. Why was the war against Germany, Italy, and Japan a total war effort by the U.S.?

2. What were the 3 steps in beating Germany? Who was the American commander in Europe?

3. As the Allies attacked Germany from the west, who attacked Germany from the east?

4. How was the Pacific war fought on land and sea? Who were the Allied army and navy commanders?

5. What was the turning point of the Pacific War? Why were naval battles so important in the Pacific?

6. What were the two final naval battles against Japan? What did America begin to do as its carrier fleet

grew?

7. Why were the atomic bombs dropped on Japan? (2 reasons)

8. What happened as a result of the two droppings?

9. Imagine you are a top American official debating the atomic bomb droppings? What would you decide?

Why?

10. Do you think the American strategy in the Pacific on land and sea was the right way to conduct the war

there? Why or why not? Any suggestions?