World War II Sliderocket Lecture Notes

(by slide)

Slide 3

* Japans parliamentary system had several weaknesses
  + Constitution put strict limits on the powers of the prime minister.
  + Civilian leaders had little control over the armed forces
    - Q. Just by looking at this form of government, how could it possibly be dangerous and unstable?

Slide 4

* Militarists restored traditional control of the government to the military and made the emperor the symbol of state power.
* Militarists= extreme Nationalists
* Wanted China to provide raw materials and markets for its goods. Also give room to rising population

Slide 5

* Manchuria= rich in iron and coal
* 1931 invasion, despite objections from Japanese parliament.
* When Japan seized Manchuria, many League of Nations members protested. Japan ignored protests and withdrew from the League in 1933.

Slide 6

* A border incident near Beijing touched off a full-scale invasion by Japan in Northern China.
* Despite having higher numbers of soldiers, China’s army was no match for the better equipped and better trained Japanese army.
* Rape of Nanking= 6 weeks of murder, rape and looting.
  + 90,000 surrendered soldiers murdered
  + Between 20,000-80,000 females raped.

Slide 7

* Q- How did the Great Depression help lead to the invasion of China by Japan?
* Q- What was the reaction to the invasion by the League of Nations?

Slide 8

* Italy= Dreamed of building a colonial empire in Africa like those that Britain and France had.

Slide 9

* Ethiopia
  + One of three independent nations in Africa not colonized.
  + Previously resisted Italian attempt of conquest during the 1890s.
  + To avenge defeat, Mussolini ordered invasion of Ethiopia in Oct. 1935.
  + Italy won as a result of better equipment.
  + Ethiopia emperor Haile Selassie appealed to League of Nations but received nothing.
    - Opposite effect- League condemned act but no action
    - Why???
    - Hoped to keep peace

Slide 10

* Brain Check
  + Why did France and Britain keep giving in to the aggressor nations of Japan and Italy?
    - Fear of another devastating war, still hurting from WWI and Great Depression

Slide 11

* Hitler hated the Treaty of Versailles and long pledged to unto it. One of the restrictions was the disarming of military.

Slide 12

* The treaty had also prohibited Germany from entering a 30 mile wide zone on either side of the Rhine River known as the Rhineland. Zone was formed as a buffer between Germany and France.
* Appeasement= giving in to an aggressor to keep peace.
* Reoccupation of the Rhineland strengthened Hitler’s power and changed the balance of power in Germanys favor.

Slide 13

* Q- Do you think these agreements and alliances between Germany, Italy and Japan had an equal share of power between all 3?

Slide 14

* Had deep desire and fear to avoid war at almost any cost.
* Q- What is the first thing you notice about this table? What is the information telling you about the effects of WWI and the Great Depression?

Slide 15

* Believers argued that entering WWI had been costly as well as a mistake.
* 1935- Congress passed 3 Neutrality Acts: banned loans and sale of arms to nations at war.

Slide 16

* November 5, 1937- Hitler announced plans to take over Austria and Czechoslovakia.
* Treaty of Versailles prohibited *Anschluss* or union of Germany and Austria.
  + Quick Brain Check- Why? ^
* France and Britain ignore pledge to protect Austrian independence.
* Hitler’s next site was on Czechoslovakia. Sudetenland= western border regions of Czech where 3 million Germans lived.
* Czechs refuse Hitler’s demand and ask France for help.

Slide 17

* The Czechs were not invited to the meeting. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain believed he could keep the peace by giving Hitler what he wanted.
* In exchange, Hitler “pledged” to respect Czechoslovakia’s new borders.
* Q. Brain Check- If the Sudetenland was located in Czech. Why were they not invited to the meeting?

Slide 18

* Then Hitler demanded Poland return the former German port of Danzig. Poles refused and turned to France and Britain for help but we know that story already.

Slide 19

* Britain and France asked Soviet Union to join them in stopping Hitler’s aggressions. But at the same time Stalin (Soviet Union leader) was also talking/bargaining with Hitler.
* Both German and Soviet Union dictators reached agreement.

Slide 20

* Quick write
  + Ask for volunteers for answers or chose/use attendance sheet or seating chart for random student selection.