

Causes of WWII

F. Fascism (Militarism Japan, Germany, Italy)

A. Appeasement

R. Remilitarization

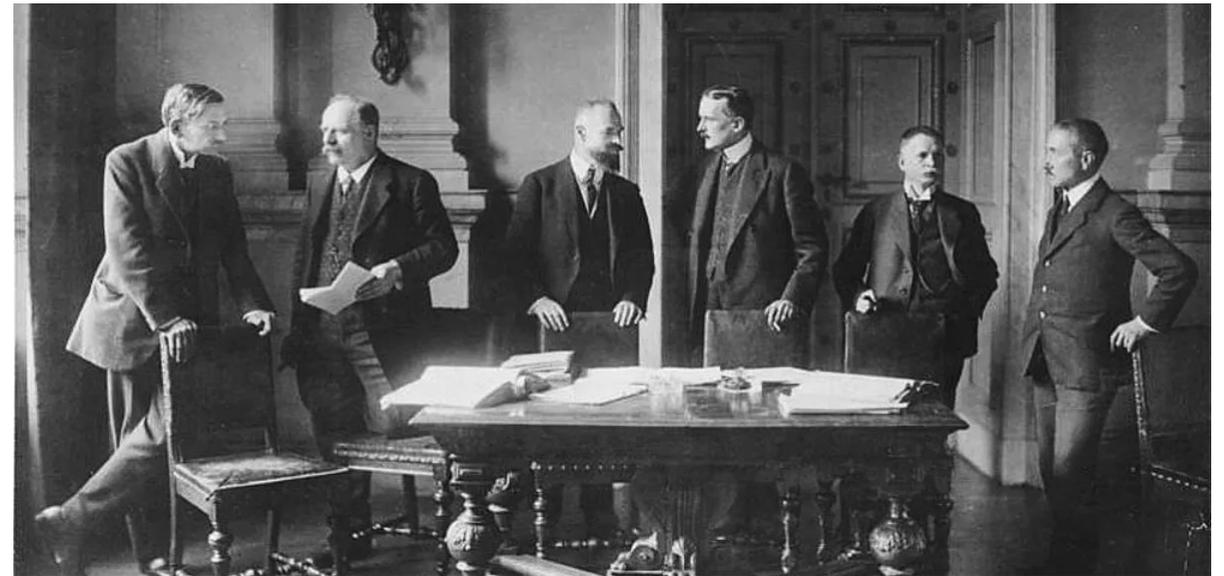
E. Economic Depression

T. Treaty of Versailles



Treaty of Versailles

- Following World War I, the victorious Allied Powers met to decide Germany's future.
- Germany would be forced to sign the Treaty of Versailles.
- Germany had to accept guilt for the war and to pay reparations. Germany lost territory and was prohibited from having a large military



Economic Depression

- The whole world was hit by an economic depression in the late 1920s.
- In a depression, economies shrink, trade is reduced, businesses close, prices fall, banks fail, and unemployment rises.
- During a depression, people often look for a strong political leader to resolve their problems.
- In 1933, Adolf Hitler became the leader of Germany by promising to restore German wealth and power.



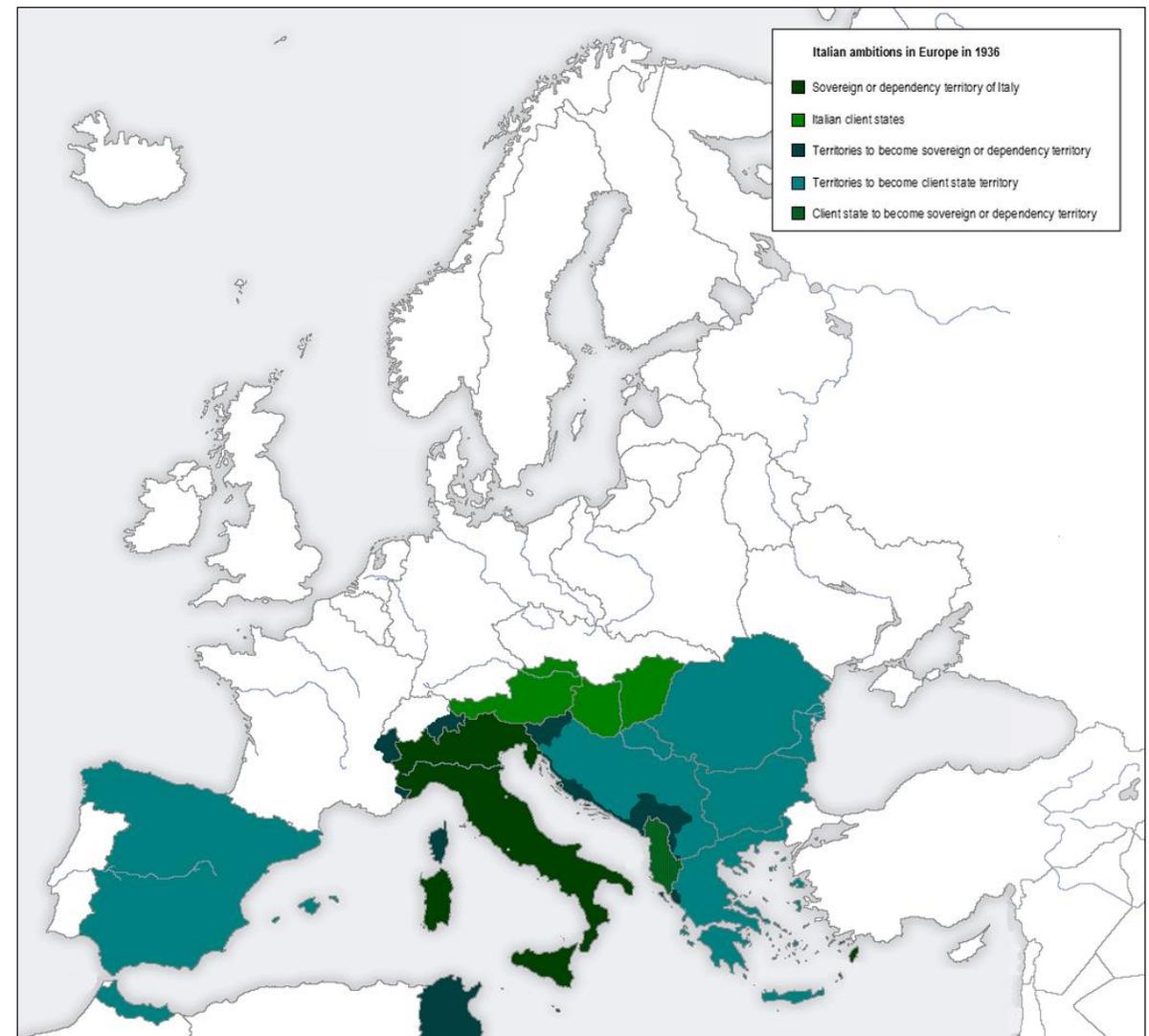
German Militarism



- Hitler immediately began secretly building up Germany's army and weapons.
- Although Britain and France knew of Hitler's actions, they thought a stronger Germany would stop the spread of Communism from Russia.
- In 1936 Hitler ordered German troops to enter the German-speaking areas of the Rhineland (France), Austria, and Czechoslovakia.
- At this point neither France nor Britain was prepared to go to war. In 1936, Hitler made alliances with Italy and Japan.

Italian Militarism

- Rise of Benito Mussolini and his vision of a "Roman Empire"
- Italy began expanding outside of her borders- Invading Ethiopia in 1935/6
- The desire to stop the spread of Fascism and the Italian Empire



Appeasement

- **Appeasement** - agreeing to the demands of another nation in order to avoid conflict
- During the 1930s, politicians in Britain and France began to believe that the Treaty of Versailles was unfair to Germany and that Hitler's actions were understandable and justifiable.
- **Munich Agreement of September 1938**- Britain and France allowed Germany to annex areas in Czechoslovakia.
- Germany agreed not to invade the rest of Czechoslovakia or any other country.
- In March 1939, Germany broke its promise and invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia.



Japan's Militarism

- In 1931, Japan was hit badly by the economic depression. Japanese people lost faith in the government.
- They turned to the army in order to find a solution to their economic problems. Japan needed natural resources for its factories.
- The Japanese army invaded China, an area rich in minerals and resources.
- China asked for help from the League of Nations. Japan ignored the League of Nations and continued to occupy China and Korea.
- As Japan invaded other areas of South East Asia including Vietnam, the United States grew concerned about its territories in Asia, such as the Philippines and Guam.

