

Vocabulary

Vocabulary

Use the vocabulary words and definitions below as a reference for this unit.

- aggression** hostile, unprovoked action
- annihilation** the act of destroying completely; wiping out
- anti-Communist** against communism
- anti-Semitism** prejudice against Jewish people
- apathy** a lack of interest or concern; indifference
- arsenal** government buildings where arms and other war supplies are manufactured or stored; war supplies
- Axis Powers** alliance formed during World War II between Germany, Italy, and Japan
- bigotry** stubborn and blind attachment to one's own beliefs and opinions with no tolerance for beliefs opposed to them
- blitzkrieg** a war conducted with great speed and force
- Bolsheviks** Russian members of the Socialist Party led by Lenin; formed the Communist Party in 1918
- communism** belief in common ownership of all property by the people

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concentration camps prisons operated by Nazi Germany in which Jews and other groups considered to be enemies of Adolf Hitler were starved while doing slave labor or were tortured and murdered

death camps Nazi extermination centers where Jews and non-Jews were brought to be put to death as part of Hitler's Final Solution

dictator a ruler with complete power

embargo an enforced halt on trade imposed by one government on another government

fascism system of government that places all power in the state and its leader; promotes an extreme form of nationalism and one-party rule

genocide the deliberate and systematic extermination of a particular racial, national, or religious group

ghetto sealed areas established in poor sections of cities where most Jews were forced to live before and during World War II; in modern times, it has come to mean sections of cities where minorities live due to socio-economic barriers

German-Soviet treaty pact between Germany and the Soviet Union not to attack one another

Holocaust the attempted extermination of all Jews in Europe and other groups by Nazis during World War II, resulting in the mass murder of about six million Jews

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intolerance	unwillingness to respect or try to understand customs, ideas, or beliefs that are different from one's own
monarch	a person who rules over a kingdom or empire
moderates	people who want change to take place gradually
Munich Pact	pact between Great Britain, France, Italy, and Germany that gave Germany part of Czechoslovakia called the <i>Sudetenland</i>
National Socialists (Nazis)	political party in Germany led by Adolf Hitler
neutral	not taking sides in a quarrel or war
persecution	unfair and cruel treatment of a person or group
pogrom	violent and bloody acts, including massacres, carried out against Jews
revolutionaries	people who want a radical change in their country's political organization
scapegoat	a person blamed for the mistakes of others
socialism	system of government in which the state owns all factories and farms

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totalitarian dictatorship a government that exercises total control over every aspect of the public and private lives of its citizens

Who's Who in Background Causes of World War II

Albert Einstein	Benito Mussolini
Francisco Franco	Jesse Owens
Adolf Hitler	Franklin D. Roosevelt
Vladimir Ilyich Lenin	Joseph Stalin