A RISING THREAT – Between the Wars

Emboldened by his experiences in battle, Adolf Hitler mobilizes membership in the Nazi Party and formulates his plan for a nationalist Germany to regain power. Benito Mussolini rises to the helm in Italy, leading the National Fascist Party. Meanwhile, Franklin Delano Roosevelt ushers the U.S. through the crisis of the Great Depression. In Japan, the quest for expansion and international power leads to increased militarization. Hideki Tojo rises up the ranks. Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany in 1933 and by 1939 the world explodes into war. After forming a Non-aggression Pact with the Soviet Union, Hitler attempts to conquer Europe, with Japan and Italy as allies. Churchill, now British Prime Minister, does his best to keep Britain from total collapse while the U.S. weighs the consequences of entering the war.

1. Who were the main Axis and Allied powers during World War II?

2. Why was Hitler so successful in mobilizing others to follow him?

3. What were Hitler’s main goals and how did he plan to achieve them?

4. Why did FDR choose to curb military funding during the New Deal? Do you think this was the correct decision at the time? Why?

5. Why did Mussolini decide to invade Ethiopia? How did this decision tie in with his larger plans for Italy?
6. Why did Stalin decide to form a pact with Hitler in August 1939?

7. What was the political strategy known as “appeasement”? Do you think it was effective during World War II?

8. Describe the differences between Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and Winston Churchill in their approach to leadership during the early years of World War II.

   **Chamberlain:**

   **Churchill:**

9. Why didn’t Roosevelt push to involve the U.S. in World War II right away?

10. What were some of the main goals of Japan in the years before and during World War II?

11. Who was Hideki Tojo and how did he help achieve these goals during this era?

12. Before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, what would you predict as the outcomes of WWII? Think what might have happened if Japan had not bombed Pearl Harbor.
On January 6, 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt delivered his Annual Message to Congress, which later became known as his "Four Freedoms Speech." In this address, Roosevelt outlined the critical importance of American support to Britain during World War II. Below is an excerpt from his address.

**PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT’S ANNUAL MESSAGE (FOUR FREEDOMS) TO CONGRESS (1941): EXCERPT**

In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way—everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want—which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world.

The fourth is freedom from fear—which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor—anywhere in the world.

That is no vision of a distant millennium. It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation. That kind of world is the very antithesis of the so-called new order of tyranny which the dictators seek to create with the crash of a bomb.

To that new order we oppose the greater conception—the moral order. A good society is able to face schemes of world domination and foreign revolutions alike without fear.

Citation: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Annual Message to Congress, January 6, 1941, Records of the United States Senate, SEN. 77A-11, Record Group 46, National Archives. To view the telegram in digital format visit [www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=70](http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=70)

**Document Based Questions**

1. What are the four freedoms Roosevelt describes in this speech? Why were these freedoms at risk at the time he delivered his speech?

2. Roosevelt describes the “new order of tyranny.” What do you think this phrase refers to and what does Roosevelt see as the alternative?

3. Which of the “four freedoms” do you think are most important, and why?