Chapter 22 Section 1
Aggression, Appeasement, and War
Setting the Scene

During the 1920s, the western democracies tried to strengthen the framework for peace. In the 1930s, that structure crumbled. Dictators in Spain, Germany, and Italy, along with militarists in Japan pursued ambitious goals for empire. They scorned peace and glorified war.

Unlike these dictators, leaders of the western democracies were haunted by memories of the Great War. Spurred by voters who demanded "no more war," the leaders of Britain, France, and the United States tried to avoid conflict through diplomacy. During the 1930s, the two sides tested each other's commitment and will.
I. Dictators Challenge World Peace
In the 1930s, Spain, Germany, Italy, and Japan pursued goals for empire
I. Dictators Challenge World Peace

Voters demanded "no more war" and the leaders of Britain, France, and the US tried to avoid conflict through diplomacy.
I. Dictators Challenge World Peace

Mussolini and Hitler viewed the desire for peace as weakness and responded with new acts of aggression.
I. Dictators Challenge World Peace

Japan seized Manchuria in 1931 - the League of Nations condemned the aggression and Japan withdrew from the League.
I. Dictators Challenge World Peace

In 1935, Italy invaded Ethiopia and King Haile Selassie appealed to the League of Nations for help.
I. Dictators Challenge World Peace

Hitler built up the German military and sent troops into the Rhineland - Western democracies adopted a policy of appeasement.
I. Dictators Challenge World Peace

In Britain and France many saw Hitler and Fascism as a defense against the spread of Soviet communism.

Goering, Chamberlain, Mussolini, Daladier, Hitler in Munich
I. Dictators Challenge World Peace
In the mid-1930s, the US Congress passed a series of Neutrality Acts with the goal of avoiding involvement in a European war.
I. Dictators Challenge World Peace

Germany, Italy, and Japan formed the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis and agreed to fight Soviet communism.
II. The Spanish Civil War

In 1936, Spain plunged into civil war that drew other European powers into the fighting.

SPANISH LOYALIST AT THE INSTANT OF DEATH
by Robert Capra, 1936
II. The Spanish Civil War

Francisco Franco led the Nationalists in a bloody civil war
II. The Spanish Civil War
Loyalists who supported the republic included communists, socialists, and supporters of democracy.
II. The Spanish Civil War

Franco triumphed and created a fascist dictatorship like those of Hitler and Mussolini.
III. German Aggression Continues

By 1938, Hitler began the Anschluss, or union of Austria and Germany.
III. German Aggression Continues

At the 1938 Munich Conference, Britain and France chose appeasement and Germany invaded the Sudetenland.
III. German Aggression Continues

British prime minister Neville Chamberlain announced that he had achieved "peace for our time."

Chamberlain holds up the treaty with Hitler, which he claimed would ensure "peace for our time."
III. German Aggression Continues

In March 1939, Hitler seized the rest of Czechoslovakia and Britain and France promised to protect Poland.
III. German Aggression Continues

In August 1939, Hitler announced a nonaggression pact with Joseph Stalin.

THE SCUM OF THE EARTH, I BELIEVE

THE BLOODY ASSASSIN OF THE WORKERS I PRESUME?
III. German Aggression Continues

When Germany invaded Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, Britain and France declared war on Germany - World War II had begun.