 UNIT 12 The Twentieth Century to Today

- Astronaut’s footprint on the moon
- U.S. astronaut standing on the moon

- Chinese revolution 1911
- World War I begins 1914
- Russian Revolution 1917
- World War II begins 1939
Evaluating Information Study Foldable Make this foldable to help you learn about the major global events of the twentieth century to the present.

**Step 1** Fold the paper from the top right corner down so the edges line up. Cut off the leftover piece.

**Step 2** Fold the triangle in half. Unfold.

**Step 3** Cut up one fold line and stop at the middle. Draw an X on one tab and label the other three.

**Step 4** Fold the X flap under the other flap and glue together.

Reading and Writing As you read, ask yourself why many of the major events of the 1900s and early 2000s occurred. Write your questions under each appropriate pyramid wall.

### PRIMARY SOURCES

**Library**

See pages 696–697 for other primary source readings to accompany Unit 12.

Read “A Day in Space” from the World History Primary Source Document Library CD-ROM.

### Journal Notes

What world changes and challenges took place in the 1900s? Note details about these changes as you read.

- **1960** “Year of Africa”
- **1991** Soviet Union breaks up
- **2001** World responds to terrorist attacks on U.S.
CHAPTER 37

Conflict and Change
1900 A.D.–1945 A.D.

1914 World War I begins
1917 Russian Revolution
1929 Worldwide depression
1939 World War II begins
1945 First atomic bomb dropped on Japan

English poster

Allied soldiers from World War I
SECTION 1 World War I

For almost 100 years after Napoleon’s defeat, no long, general European war developed. By the early 1900s, however, rivalries among the countries of Europe were causing trouble.

Background By the early 1900s, tension grew between several countries. France was jealous of Germany because it was industrializing rapidly. Great Britain did not like Germany expanding its navy. Russia involved itself with the problems of the Slavic peoples in Austria-Hungary.

Each European country built up its armed forces and made alliances with other nations. They each promised to help the others in their alliance if they were attacked. Thus, trouble between any two nations of different alliances could draw in many countries. A small war could easily grow into a large one. All that was needed was a spark.
Reading Check
Why did Russia mobilize for war?

The spark for World War I occurred in Sarajevo (sahr uh yē vō), a small town in Austria-Hungary. There, in June 1914, a teenager named Gavrilo Princip shot and killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary. Princip belonged to a secret nationalist group called the Black Hand. This group wanted the Serbs ruled by Austria-Hungary to be ruled by Serbia (ser’ bē uh).

Austria-Hungary blamed the Serbian government for the Archduke’s death and declared war on Serbia. Russia, an ally of Serbia, began to mobilize, or call up its troops, to go to Serbia’s aid. Germany then showed its support of Austria-Hungary by declaring war on Russia. Shortly after, France and Great Britain entered the war on the side of Russia. So did Japan and, later, Italy and China. The Ottoman Empire, on the other hand, decided to support Germany and Austria-Hungary. Together, Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria were called the Central Powers. Russia, Serbia, France, Great Britain, Japan, Italy, and China were called the Allied Powers.

From 1914 to 1918 World War I, also called the Great War, was different from any earlier war. It was the first war where civilians (suh vil’ yuhnz), or people who are not soldiers, were also attacked. The war grew so large that 31 countries, with 65 million soldiers, took part. Although most land fighting took place in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, naval warfare took place throughout the world.

There were also new, more powerful weapons being used. Machine guns fired bullets one after another at a rapid speed. Huge guns fired shells more than 75 miles, or 120 kilometers, away. Airplanes carried bombs behind enemy lines and dropped them on enemy cities. Submarines attacked ships at sea. Poison gases were used. Tanks and flame throwers were introduced.

Much of the fighting took place on the western front, the zone between France and Germany. There, opposing armies dug themselves into the ground in trenches protected by barbed wire. This kind of fighting is called trench warfare. To get at the enemy, each side had to climb out of its trenches and cross open land under artillery (ar til’ uhr ē), or mounted gun, fire. The casualties were enormous. One battle alone cost 900,000 lives. In another area, French and German soldiers engaged in trench warfare for ten months.

On the eastern front, the Russian Empire suffered heavy losses. Some 3.8 million soldiers were killed in just the first ten months of the war. In 1918, after two revolutions, Russia withdrew from the war and signed a separate peace treaty with Germany, having recognized Ukraine as an independent country. The Russians gave up large areas of land previously conquered by them. Located to the
west of Russia, these lands included one third of their farmland, one third of their population, and almost all of their resources of coal, iron, and oil.

In the meantime, German submarines tried to stop supply ships to Great Britain and France. In 1917, after the submarines sank American ships with civilians on board, the United States declared war on Germany. Until then, the United States had tried to stay out of the conflict.

The United States sent 2 million fresh troops to Europe to aid the tired Allied forces. The Americans helped to bring a quick end to the war, in favor of the Allied Powers. On November 11, 1918, Germany and its allies agreed to an armistice (ar’ muh stis), or a stop in the fighting.

The Great War was over. Over 13 million soldiers and 17 million civilians lost their lives. Another 20 million soldiers had been wounded, and there was billions of dollars in damage to property.

Making the Peace Woodrow Wilson, the President of the United States, had drawn up a peace plan called the Fourteen Points. Wilson believed that national groups in Europe should have the right to form their own countries. He wanted to reduce armaments (ar’ muh muhnts), or equipment for war. Above all,
he wanted a world association of nations to keep the peace. The British, French, and Italian leaders, however, had other plans. They wanted repayment for their losses during the war from the defeated countries.

The peace treaty that Germany signed after World War I was called the Treaty of Versailles (vuhr sî'). This treaty put most of the blame for the war and the financial repayment on Germany, for which the Germans were very angry. Under this treaty, Germany lost land in Europe and overseas. Alsace and Lorraine, which Germany had taken from France in 1870, were returned to France. Some of Germany’s eastern territory became part of the reestablished nation of Poland. Germany’s African colonies were divided between France and Great Britain, while its Pacific colonies were given to Japan.

Under the Treaty of Versailles, Russia lost even more territory than Germany did. Part of the Russian territory was lost to Poland and Romania, and part of it became the new nations of Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Ukraine’s desire for independence, however, was ignored.

The treaty did not deal with the needs of some other countries. India and people in Southeast Asia who had supported the Allied Powers wanted independence from Great Britain and France. Their wishes were ignored. Over the next 30 years, serious troubles developed in all these areas.

The other Central Powers were dealt with in separate treaties. Austria-Hungary was broken up, and four new countries—Austria,
Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia—were created. France received a mandate, or right to rule, in Syria and Lebanon. Great Britain received mandates in Iraq and Palestine.

For the most part, President Wilson’s peace plan was not followed. However, one point was kept. An organization called the League of Nations was established so the countries of the world could come together to talk over their troubles. Most hoped the League could help prevent future wars. But the League had a serious weakness—it had no army of its own. If a country did not want to obey the League, it could not be forced to do so. The League was also weak because the United States refused to become a member. Many Americans disagreed with the World War I treaties. After 1919, the United States became an isolationist country. It decided to stay out of European affairs and world problems.
Painting of Peter the Great

The 1920s and 1930s were a difficult time for people everywhere. Most were trying to recover from the damage caused by World War I. Then, in 1929, a depression, or a sudden slowdown in business, began. People in many countries started to question their forms of government. In Germany, the people turned to a leader who would soon threaten world peace. People in Russia had overthrown their government and set up the world’s first Communist nation.

**Emerging Russia** In Muscovy, the years following the death of Ivan the Terrible in 1584 were called the “Time of Troubles.” There was much disorder in the country. The troubles ended in 1613 with the crowning of seventeen-year-old Michael Romanov (rô’muh nahf) as czar. The Romanov dynasty ruled Russia until 1917.

The first great Romanov ruler was a grandson of Michael’s, Peter the Great, who came to the throne in 1682. Determined to make Muscovy strong and modern, Peter disguised himself as a sailor and visited the capitals of various European countries. There he learned all he could of western ways.

When Peter returned home, he began reforming the country he named Russia. He started textile factories, built canals, and encouraged mining. He ordered a new capital, St. Petersburg, built on the Baltic Sea. Since St. Petersburg was an ice-free port, the country’s trade by water with western Europe continued...
even in winter. Peter revised the alphabet and set up schools for the upper class. He trained a powerful army and also built the country’s first navy. He even changed people’s appearance. He ordered men to shave their beards and to wear European-style short jackets instead of long coats.

The next great Romanov ruler was Catherine the Great, who came to the throne in 1762. At first Catherine wanted to improve the condition of the peasants. She even considered abolishing serfdom. Then peasants in a newly conquered area of Ukraine rebelled. Soon after, the French Revolution broke out. These two events so frightened Catherine that she gave up her ideas of reform.

Catherine did not help the peasants, but she did make Russia much larger. In a number of wars, the country’s borders were pushed farther east, west, and south.

**The Road to Revolution** During the 1800s, there was a great deal of discontent in the Russian Empire. About 30 million serfs, one half of whom were owned by the czar, labored to support about one-half million nobles and clergy. The czar controlled what industry there was. All society suffered and students protested, peasants revolted, and workers staged strikes. In 1825, a group of army officers, inspired by the ideas of the French Revolution, rose up against the czar. The rebellion, however, was put down.

A period of strong government controls followed. Writers who ridiculed government leaders were not published. Some writers were exiled. Even so, ideas about freedom and reform spread.

In 1861, Czar Alexander II, who was trying to modernize the country and appear to be a fair ruler, freed the serfs. However, he did not give them land of their own. As a result, most became tenant farmers.

In 1905, another uprising took place. It began when thousands of workers appeared in the square before the czar’s palace. They carried petitions asking for a national assembly, freedom of speech and religion, and better conditions for workers and peasants. Government soldiers fired on the crowd, killing hundreds of unarmed people. A general strike then broke out. Finally, Czar Nicholas II agreed to some of the workers’ demands. He ignored the national assembly, however, and its plans for reform.

World War I only made Russia’s problems worse. The country did not have enough factories to produce guns and ammunition or enough railroads to carry supplies to the front. As a result, it suffered higher casualties than any other country. Nearly 9 million soldiers were killed or wounded in battle. Civilians suffered from lack of food and fuel.
At last the Russian people could stand no more. In March 1917, they revolted. Striking workers, led by women textile laborers, jammed the streets of St. Petersburg, which had been renamed Petrograd (pet’ ruh grad). They demanded bread and peace. The workers were soon joined by the city’s garrison (gar’ uh suhn), or military group stationed in the area. Within a few days, the revolt spread throughout the country. Peasants took over the lands of nobles. Soldiers left the front and began walking home. The czar was forced to abdicate, and a temporary government was set up.

Lenin

There was much confusion in the months following the overthrow of Nicholas II. A revolutionary group called Bolsheviks (bol’ shuh viks) took advantage of this. Led by Vladimir Lenin (len’ in), they gained the support of the soviets, or committees that represented workers and soldiers. The Bolsheviks promised land to the peasants and bread to the workers. They also promised to get Russia out of the war.

In November 1917, the Bolsheviks seized power from the temporary government. Lenin was chosen to lead the new government. Soon after, he signed a peace treaty with Germany that ended Russia’s part in World War I. The treaty, however, did not end the troubles at home.
From 1918 to 1920, Russia was divided by a civil war between the majority Bolsheviks—now known as Communists—and the minority Mensheviks (men’ chuh viks) and other groups who were non-Communists. The Communists were also called Reds, because red had been the color of revolution since the French Revolution. The non-Communists were called Whites.

The Whites received soldiers and supplies from other countries, including the United States. These countries were afraid that if the Reds won, communism would spread throughout Europe. The Russian people as a whole did not like the Communists. However, because they did not want to return to old ways, most of them supported the Reds, and by 1921, the Whites had been defeated.

In 1922, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or the Soviet Union, was formed. It was made up of four republics, the largest of which was Russia. By 1924, the Soviet Union was completely under the control of the Communist party.

Lenin died that same year. His body was embalmed and placed in a glass coffin inside a red marble tomb near the wall of Moscow’s Kremlin. In his honor, Petrograd was renamed Leningrad.

**Stalin**

After Lenin died, there was a struggle for power in the Soviet Union which lasted until 1928. In that year, Joseph Stalin (stah’lin) took control of the government. He also controlled the Communist party, which was the only political party allowed in the country.

Stalin wanted the Soviet Union to industrialize as quickly as possible. So, he set up a series of Five-Year Plans. Their major goal was to build up heavy industry, or the manufacture of basic materials and machines. Under these plans, steel mills, power plants, oil refineries, and chemical plants were built and kept under government control. Workers were paid according to how much they produced. Factory managers had to turn out a certain quantity of goods. By 1939, the Soviet Union was a major industrial power. The people paid a price for industrialization. Workers labored long hours for low wages. Consumer goods, such as clothing and household goods, were poorly made and hard to find, and housing shortages were common.

Another goal of the Five-Year Plans was collectivization (kuh lek ti vuh zá’ shuhn), or combining small farms into large ones controlled by the government. On a collective, farmers were paid according to the number of days they worked. Collectivization allowed them to share tractors and other farm machinery. The government bought their crops at fixed prices and sold them abroad to buy machinery for factories.

Many peasants wanted to keep working on their own farms. They resisted collectivization by killing their horses, cows, and...
pigs. Those who refused to move were either shot or sent to labor camps in Siberia (siˈbɪrə), a frozen wilderness in the northeast. In Ukraine, Stalin caused famine to control the people. By 1936, most farms in the Soviet Union were collectivized.

**The World Economy** The worldwide depression that began in 1929 did not affect the Soviet Union. However, it affected most of the other industrialized countries. For this reason, it was called the Great Depression. Factories closed and millions of people lost their jobs. By 1932, one out of four Americans and British and two out of five Germans were out of work. Banks failed and people lost their savings. People who had been put out of their homes lived in shacks built out of cardboard or tin. In Germany, prices skyrocketed. Money bought so little that people lit their stoves with it instead of using firewood.

**Democracy or Dictatorship** Some western countries, such as the United States and Great Britain, had a long tradition of stable, democratic government. Voters in these countries wanted to keep their governments but felt that the governments should do more to help the people.
In the United States, President Franklin D. Roosevelt (roo’ zuh velt) set up a program known as the New Deal. Two of its chief aims were relief and reform. To provide relief and put people back to work, the federal government set up several different agencies. One of these, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), gave jobs mostly to young people. They planted trees and built small dams all over the United States. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) paid unemployed people to build roads, airports, bridges, and hospitals. It also provided work for artists and writers. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) built dams that provided cheap electric power.

The federal government also planned long-range reform. Congress passed social security laws that provided money for elderly people and orphaned children. Many people, however, were not covered by these laws and did not receive help.

Other western countries, such as Germany and Italy, did not have a long tradition of stable, democratic government. Germany had only had an elected government since World War I. Many Germans thought their elected representatives spent too much time debating issues. They wondered if it might not be better to have one strong leader who could act quickly.

Italy was the first nation to become a dictatorship (dik tā’ tuhr ship), or a country ruled by a single person with absolute authority. In 1922, Benito Mussolini (buh net’ o moo suh le’ ne’), leader of the Fascist (fash’ist) Party, took over the Italian government.

**Reading Check**

What groups were helped by passage of social security laws?

**Reading Check**

What type of government is set up under a dictatorship?

**UNEMPLOYMENT**

The Great Depression caused many people who had lost their jobs to wait in long lines, hoping to get another one. What programs did the U.S. government offer to help the unemployed?

**Then... & Now**

**A Party Theme**

When Franklin D. Roosevelt ran for president in 1932, he adopted the song “Happy Days Are Here Again” as his campaign theme. The Democrats still play the song at their party’s national convention.
In 1933, Adolf Hitler became chancellor, or prime minister, of Germany. Before long, he did away with the German republic and set himself up as dictator. He called himself Der Fuhrer (dār fyū’ uhr), which means “the leader.” He called Germany the Third Reich (rīk), which means the “third empire.” Hitler was supported by a violent political group called the National Socialist Party, or Nazis (nah’ tsēz). The Nazi symbol of identity was the swastika (swos’ tuh kuh), or hooked black cross. Many citizens of Germany were angry over the Treaty of Versailles. They saw Hitler as a leader who would make their country economically and politically strong.

Once Hitler was in power, he did away with all political parties except the Nazis. He had books about democracy burned. He took over the courts and set up a secret police. He took over the radio and the press and abolished trade unions. He fought against the Christian churches.

Hitler blamed many of Germany’s troubles on the Jews and others. The Nazis believed the Germans were a “master race.” Jews were not part of the “master race.” So the Nazis took away the Jews’ businesses and jobs. Jews could not go to school or get medical care. They were no longer allowed to vote or to walk along the streets after eight o’clock. They had to wear a yellow six-pointed star on their clothing. The lives of the Jews would continue to worsen.
The Road to War  Soon Germany and its allies, Italy and Japan, began to threaten world peace. In 1935, the Italians, bitter about not getting enough land after World War I, invaded Ethiopia. The League of Nations was not able to stop them. Hitler announced that his goal was to unite all the German people. He sent German troops into the Rhineland, a disputed area, in 1936. Then, in March 1938, his army marched into Austria. Then he demanded that the Germans living in Czechoslovakia be placed under German rule. The British and the French were afraid of another war. So they decided to follow a policy of appeasement, or giving in to demands. They did nothing while Czechoslovakia was first divided and then made a part of Hitler’s Germany in March 1939.

In Japan, the military that ran the country felt that Japan needed more land and natural resources to make its economy stronger. In 1931 Japan invaded Manchuria, in northern China. In 1937, Japanese troops invaded the main part of China. That same year, Japan signed a friendship treaty with Germany and Italy.

In August 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union signed a treaty agreeing not to attack each other. Now Hitler felt safe to take more land. On September 1, 1939, the German army attacked Poland. German troops overran the western part of the country, while the Soviets occupied the rest. The British and the French realized they had made a mistake in not resisting Hitler’s aggression, or attacks, earlier. Both France and Great Britain declared war on Germany.

Section 2 Assessment

1. Define: depression, garrison, soviets, heavy industry, collectivization, social security laws, dictatorship, chancellor, swastika, appeasement.

2. How did Peter the Great reform Russia?

3. What were the goals of Stalin’s Five-Year Plans?

4. Why did Great Britain and France declare war on Germany?

Critical Thinking

5. Understanding Cause and Effect

   How did the policy of appeasement contribute to the start of World War II?

6. Draw this diagram, and use it to write a headline showing the importance of each of these dates in Russian history: 1613, 1682, 1762, 1825, 1861, 1905, 1917, 1921.

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For the second time during the 1900s, the world was at war. World War II caught the Allied Powers—including Great Britain, France, and, later, the Soviet Union and the United States—unprepared. The Axis Powers—Germany, Italy, and, later, Japan—were prepared. The war would end with the Allied Powers victorious, but not before a terrible cost was paid.

Early Axis Victories Germany had developed a new way of fighting called **blitzkrieg** (blits’ krēg), or “lightning war.” German airplanes would first bomb enemy cities, roads, and airfields. Then soldiers and civilians alike would be machine-gunned from the air. Finally, armored tanks would roll through the countryside, wiping out all defenses.

Using the blitzkrieg, Germany crushed Poland in three weeks. In 1940, German forces overran most of western Europe, except for Great Britain. Hitler tried to bomb the British into surrendering. The British, however, under the leadership of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, fought back for 10 months. Finally, British pilots and anti-aircraft guns shot down so many German planes that Hitler gave up the idea of invading Great Britain. In the meantime, however, German and Italian troops overran much of southeastern Europe and North Africa.

**Radar** Radar, invented by physicist Robert Watson-Watts in 1935, gave the British a powerful new weapon against the German air force during the Battle of Britain. By 1939, a chain of radar stations had been built along England’s southern and eastern coasts, detecting incoming aircraft and providing an early-warning system. **BLITZKRIEG** Germany’s bombing of European cities was a devastating new method of attack in World War II. Many parts of London, as shown here, were destroyed. **Why was Germany’s blitzkrieg of Great Britain unsuccessful in allowing Germany to invade that country?**
At the same time, the Japanese made conquests in Asia. They took over much of China and Southeast Asia. Then they turned their attention to the United States, which had military forces in the Pacific. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese made a surprise air attack on Pearl Harbor, the American naval base in the Hawaiian Islands. The United States, followed by most of Latin America, immediately entered the war on the side of the Allied Powers.

**War in Europe** The entry of the United States helped the Allies win the war in Europe. The United States was the greatest

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**Then... & Now**

**Blitz** As bombs rained down on London, Britons shortened the German word *blitzkrieg* to *blitz*. Today the word *blitz* is used for a defensive maneuver in American football, in which one or more defensive linebackers charge through the offensive line and try to tackle the quarterback before the ball can be passed.

**MAP STUDY**

**PLACES AND REGIONS** By 1942, the Axis Powers had seized control of much of Europe and part of Africa. Which European nations chose to be neutral during the war?
industrial power in the world. Soon its factories were turning out thousands of planes and tanks. Ships were built in large numbers. Other supplies the Allies were lacking were provided by the United States.

Earlier, Hitler had decided that Germany needed the resources of the Soviet Union. He ignored the treaty he had signed and attacked the Soviet Union in 1941. However, Hitler had underestimated the size of the Soviet Union, the bitterness of its winters, and the Russian people’s fighting spirit.

In defense, Soviet troops used a scorched-earth policy. They burned cities, destroyed their own crops, and blew up dams that produced electric power. Though the Russians sustained great losses, the tide of battle turned in 1943. The Red Army surrounded German forces at Stalingrad (stah’ lin grad) and forced them to surrender. From then on, Soviet forces kept pushing the Germans back all along the eastern front. That same year, American and British armies drove the Axis forces out of North Africa and invaded Italy.

In 1944, under the command of American General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Allied troops crossed the English Channel from Great Britain and landed on the beaches of Normandy in France. About 155,000 Allied soldiers landed on the first day, June 6, known as D-Day. Another 2 million landed later. By August the Allied forces had retaken Paris and were moving eastward.

German armies were now caught between the Soviets in the east and the Americans, British, French, and Canadians in the west. In April 1945, the Allied forces joined together at the Elbe

Fun Facts

PLUTO After D-Day, the Allies installed PLUTO—Pipe-Line Under the Ocean. The pipeline ran under the English Channel and supplied 700 tons of gasoline a day for Allied trucks and tanks advancing across Europe.

NORMANDY Landing craft and supply ships crowded the Normandy coast when Allied troops landed on June 6, 1944. What name was given to this date?
(el’ buh) River in Germany. Hitler and the Germans realized they could not win. Hitler killed himself, and on May 7, Germany surrendered. The next day, the war in Europe was officially over.

**War in Asia and the Pacific**  The war in Asia and the Pacific was fought at the same time as the one in Europe. At first the Japanese were victorious everywhere. They captured the Philippines and various other islands in the Pacific, including three islands off the coast of Alaska. They also captured Indochina (now Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia), Malaya, Singapore, Hong Kong, Burma, Thailand, and the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). Then, in June 1942, a great sea and air battle took place at Midway Island. The battle changed the course
of the war in favor of the Allies. Over the next three years, Allied forces moved from island to island, pushing their way toward Japan.

President Harry S Truman (tru’ muhn), who became President after Roosevelt died in April 1945, did not want to invade Japan. He knew that an invasion would cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of American and British soldiers. So, hoping for a Japanese surrender, he approved the use of a new weapon — the atomic bomb.

On August 6, 1945, the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima (hir ō she’ muh), Japan. It destroyed most of the city and killed about 100,000 people. Thousands more died later from radiation poisoning. When the Japanese refused to surrender, a second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki (nah guh sah’ kē), Japan. About 75,000 people were killed. On August 14, Japan surrendered. The peace treaty was signed on September 2 aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. World War II was over.

**The Aftermath of War**  
After the war ended, Allied armies in Europe found German concentration camps, or camps where Germans had kept those they thought were enemies. There the Nazis had carried out a program of genocide (jen’ uh sīd), or the mass murder of a people, against the Jews and others. This pro-
gram became known as the Holocaust (hol’ uh kahst). At the start of World War II, German forces shot hundreds of thousands of Jews in Poland and the Soviet Union. However, Hitler felt that Jews were not being killed fast enough. So he ordered six concentration camps to be equipped with poison gas chambers and cremation (kri ma’ shuhn) ovens, or places to burn dead bodies. The Nazis then rounded up all the Jews in the areas of Europe they controlled and shipped them in sealed cattle cars to the camps. There, most of the Jews were gassed to death. By the end of World War II, the Nazis had killed more than 6 million Jews. About 1.5 million of them were children under the age of six.

The Jews were not the only ones who died at the hands of the Nazis. The Nazis used the people they conquered as slave laborers in German factories and on German farms. Poles, Ukrainians, Russians, gypsies, and those people considered mentally ill or whom the Germans thought were inferior were treated worst of all. By the end of the war, about 6 million had died from starvation, overwork, and torture. More than 3 million of these were Soviet prisoners of war.

The Japanese, too, had killed men, women, and children in the countries they conquered. Many Allied prisoners of war, both soldiers and civilians, died because of poor treatment from the Japanese army.

The Allied governments felt that the cruel acts of the Nazis and the Japanese could not be excused as normal occurrences of war. So the Allied governments put German and Japanese leaders on trial for war crimes.

Making the Peace One result of World War II was the formation of the United Nations (UN), an organization like the League of Nations. In 1945, the United Nations was approved by 50 countries. UN responsibilities were to prevent war, lend money to poor countries, and provide them with medical care and better education.

Following the war, Germany was divided into four zones. Each was occupied by one of the major Allied powers—the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union. The German capital of Berlin, located in the Russian zone, was also divided. In addition, German territory in the east was given to Poland. This was in exchange for the Soviet Union’s acquiring western Ukraine, which had been occupied by Poland since 1923. In fact, the Soviet Union acquired most of the land it had lost after World War I, including Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Japan was occupied by the United States for nearly seven years. Under American General Douglas MacArthur, the Japanese military lost power in the government and Japan became a democracy. Laws were passed giving women the right to vote and allowing trade unions. The secret police was abolished.

Photograph of Holocaust Victim
Large farms were divided and sold to farm workers at low prices. Loans were made to help rebuild the economy. Japan turned its efforts to building a strong economy rather than a strong military.

Section 3 Assessment

1. **Define:** blitzkrieg, concentration camps, genocide, Holocaust, cremation ovens.
2. Why did Germany attack the Soviet Union in 1941?
3. Why did the United States decide to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

Critical Thinking

4. **Demonstrating Reasoned Judgment**
   If you were living in 1945, would you have supported or opposed the use of the atomic bomb against Japan? Why?

Graphic Organizer Activity

5. Draw this diagram, and use it to show some of the results of World War II for Germany, Japan, and the Soviet Union.

Chapter Summary & Study Guide

1. In 1914, a conflict between Serbia and Austria-Hungary began World War I.
2. World War I involved more nations, used more technological weapons, and resulted in more deaths than any other earlier war.
3. The United States entered the war in 1917 and helped defeat Germany and its allies.
4. President Woodrow Wilson was unable to prevent the passage of treaties aimed at punishing Germany.
5. Despite efforts by Peter the Great and Catherine the Great to modernize Russia, Russian serfs and workers continued to suffer, leading to a series of revolts against the czars and the final overthrow of the government in 1917.
6. Under the leadership of Lenin and then Stalin, Russia became a Communist nation known as the Soviet Union.
7. A worldwide depression aided the rise of dictatorships and paved the way for a second world war.
8. World War II began in 1939 when Germany broke an agreement and invaded Poland. The United States entered the war in 1941 after Japan bombed the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
9. World War II ended after the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan.
10. After World War II, the United Nations was formed, Germany was divided into four zones, and the United States occupied Japan.

HISTORY Online

Self-Check Quiz

Visit the Human Heritage Web site at humanheritage.glencoe.com and click on Chapter 37—Self-Check Quiz to assess your understanding of this chapter.
Using Key Terms

Sort the following list of words into three columns under one of the following headings: World War I, Between Wars, or World War II. Then write a descriptive paragraph about something in each period using all the words.

- mobilize
- trench warfare
- artillery
- armistice
- mandate
- soviets
- collectivization
- dictatorship
- appeasement
- genocide
- Holocaust

Understanding Main Ideas

1. How did nationalism contribute to World War I?
2. What kind of peace plan did European Allied leaders want after World War I?
3. What happened to the world economy in 1929?
4. Why did the British and French give in to Hitler’s demands at first?
5. What major events led to the defeat of Germany in World War II? To the defeat of Japan?
6. Why was the United Nations formed?

Critical Thinking

1. What do you think might have happened if the United States had not entered World War I?
2. Why do you think so many Soviet peasants resisted collectivization?
3. What do you think could have been done to stop Hitler from invading neighboring countries?

4. Do you think the United States would have entered World War II if Japan had not bombed Pearl Harbor? Explain.

Graphic Organizer Activity

Citizenship Create a diagram like the one on this page, and use it to compare President Wilson’s Fourteen Points with the Treaty of Versailles.

Geography in History

The World in Spatial Terms Refer to the map on page 619. Several small island groups in the Pacific Ocean were the sites of battles between the United States and Japan. Why do you think the battles occurred on these islands rather than on the Japanese mainland?

Using Your Journal

Review any details you may have noted about the changes that occurred in Europe in the first half of the 1900s. Review the reasons and events that led to the two world wars. Write a plan describing how you think world wars might be prevented in the future.