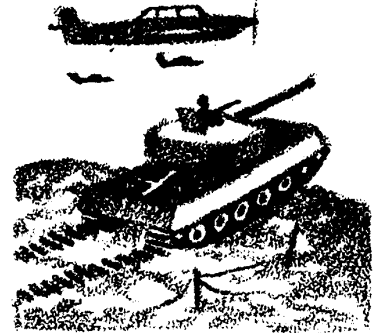


**U.S. HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT
HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS
DUE FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009**

I. Writing Assignment

Pretend it is September 1941. World War II has been raging in Europe for two years now. The United States has not yet entered the war, choosing instead to remain neutral. The Axis Powers — Germany, Italy, and Japan — have won victory after victory and hold a clear advantage over the Allied Powers. Germany and Italy control all of Europe except for Great Britain and Russia, both presently under attack. And Japan has taken possession of considerable territory in the Far East.



The many German victories particularly worry Americans, who wonder what might happen if all of Europe is conquered. Some people fear that Germany might then attack the United States.

Assume you are the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt. You have just concluded an emergency meeting with Cabinet members, and have decided to make a major radio address to the nation. Write a speech that has four parts:

- (1) A description of steps taken to keep peace in the world during the years following World War I.
- (2) Reasons why World War II began.
- (3) A description of the present war situation after two years of fighting.
- (4) Your decision whether or not the United States should enter the war at this time (September 1941), including reasons for your decision.

Your speech will be based on information on the timeline which follows. The timeline summarizes important world events occurring between 1919 and 1941. Include facts from these descriptions in your address to the nation. The number in parentheses following each heading is the part of your speech where that event should be mentioned. Read through all of the events before you start writing. Begin the speech with a brief introductory paragraph explaining to the American people why you are talking to them on this occasion. Then continue with the four parts of the address listed above.

- 1919: Treaty of Versailles (1):** The peace treaty which ended World War I punished Germany for starting the war. Germany was not allowed to have tanks, heavy guns, military airplanes, or warships. The German government was forced to give up its colonies in Africa, a number of islands in the Pacific Ocean, and considerable territory in Europe. For having caused the war, Germany was ordered to pay \$33 billion to the Allies for war damages.
- 1920: League of Nations (1):** This organization was formed to prevent future wars. Member nations decided that a unanimous vote was needed to settle important problems.
- 1922: Washington Conference (1):** The United States, Great Britain, Japan, Italy, and France agreed to scrap all battleships currently under construction, and promised not to build any new ones for ten years.
- 1922: Mussolini comes to power in Italy (2):** Benito Mussolini and his followers — called “Fascists” — gained control of the Italian government. They promised to increase the power and greatness of Italy. Large sums of money were spent to build an army, navy, and air force. People who opposed Mussolini and the Fascists were jailed, killed, or forced to leave the country.
- 1928: Kellogg-Briand Pact (1):** Sixty-two nations eventually signed this agreement. They promised to settle disputes peacefully.
- 1930: London Naval Conference (1):** The ban on construction of battleships, agreed to at the Washington Conference, was continued. In addition, limits were placed on the building of submarines, cruisers, and destroyers.

- 1931: Japan invades Manchuria (2):** In order to increase its land and resources, Japan invaded and captured Manchuria, a province in northern China. This action violated the principles of the League of Nations and the Kellogg-Briand Pact, which called for peaceful relations between nations. The League of Nations protested, but could take no real action to stop the Japanese invasion.
- 1933: Hitler comes to power in Germany (2):** Adolf Hitler and his followers — the “Nazis” — seized power in Germany. Hitler promised to win back lands lost by Germany in the Treaty of Versailles, and make the country strong again. He said the Germans were a “master race” that was meant to rule over other peoples. In violation of the Treaty of Versailles, he ordered factories to begin making war materials, and strengthened the army, navy, and air force. People who disagreed with the actions of Hitler and the Nazis were put in prison, tortured, killed, or forced to leave the country.
- 1935: Italy attacks Ethiopia (2):** Benito Mussolini sent Italian troops to Africa and captured Ethiopia. He declared that this was the first step in a plan to develop an Italian empire. Once more, the League of Nations failed to take effective action.
- 1935: Japan begins shipbuilding program (2):** After withdrawing from the League of Nations, Japan announced it would no longer abide by the Washington and London naval agreements. Instead, the Japanese began building a larger navy. This prompted other countries to expand their navies as well.
- 1937: Japan invades China (2):** For the second time in six years, Japan attacked China. This time, most of China and its resources fell into Japanese hands.
- 1938-1939: Germany occupies Austria and Czechoslovakia (2):** Germany, seeking to increase its territory, took control of Austria and Czechoslovakia, two weak neighboring countries.
- 1939: Italy annexes Albania (2):** Backed by Germany’s promise of support, Italy invaded and occupied Albania.
- 1939: Germany attacks Poland, and World War II begins (2):** Next, Hitler’s armies swept into Poland. Germany’s “blitzkrieg,” or “lightning warfare,” combined air power, artillery, and tank assaults. Great Britain and France decided to come to Poland’s aid, and declared war on Germany. Up to this time, the British and French had followed a policy of “appeasement.” They had let Germany and Italy seize territory in order to avoid an armed conflict. But now, World War II, the worst war in history, was underway.
- 1940: Germany conquers Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Holland, and France (3):** In quick succession, German forces overran several countries in Western Europe. British and French soldiers, who were trying to defend France, barely escaped across the English Channel to safety in Great Britain. The German air force, the “Luftwaffe,” then began a series of massive air strikes against London and other British cities.
- 1940-1941: More gains for the Germans and Italians (3):** Romania, Greece, and Yugoslavia fell into the hands of Hitler and Mussolini.
- 1941: Japan invades Indochina (3):** To strengthen its position in Southeast Asia, Japan moved its forces into Indochina, an area made up of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.
- 1941: Lend-Lease Act (3):** Congress passed legislation giving the President the right to sell or lend war materials to nations fighting against the Axis Powers — Germany, Italy, and Japan.
- 1941: Germany attacks Russia (3):** Hoping to win another quick victory, Hitler ordered German forces to attack Russia. By September, the Germans were several hundred miles inside Russian territory.

II. Reading in *U.S. History and Government*

You are responsible for reading the section on World War I in Chapter 11 (pages 308-329) and Chapter 12 “War and Prosperity” and Chapter 13 “The Great Depression” in *U.S. History and Government* (pages 331-379). Make sure you have read. These readings support what we learn in class. If you do not have a book, let me know at your earliest convenience. *I’m also offering tutoring if you need additional help after school Monday through Thursday. Please show up!*