

### The Second World War

#### Causes of the Second World War

1. **Dissatisfaction with the Treaty of Versailles:**
  - o Harsh terms imposed on Germany after WWI, such as war indemnity and territorial losses, led to dissatisfaction, particularly in Germany and Italy.
  - o These conditions contributed to militant nationalism and a desire for retribution.
2. **Rise of Fascism and Nazism:**
  - o Fascism in Italy and Nazism in Germany promoted totalitarian regimes opposed to democracy.
  - o Italy aimed to revive the Roman Empire, and Germany sought to restore its international prestige through warfare.
3. **Policy of Appeasement:**
  - o Britain and France adopted a policy of appeasement toward Germany and Italy, hoping to avoid further conflict.
  - o They overlooked violations such as the militarization of the Rhineland and the annexation of Austria and Czechoslovakia.
4. **Japanese Expansionism:**
  - o Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931, and its aggressive expansion in China went unchecked by the League of Nations.
  - o Japan joined the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis, strengthening its position in Asia.
5. **Failure of the League of Nations:**
  - o The League failed to take action against aggressions by countries like Japan, Italy, and Poland.
  - o Many small nations lost faith in the League, leading to alliances to protect their interests.
6. **Invasion of Poland (Immediate Cause):**
  - o Hitler's invasion of Poland in September 1939 led to Britain and France declaring war on Germany, marking the official start of WWII.

#### Spread of the War

- Germany, Italy, and Japan formed the Axis Powers, while Britain, France, and the USA formed the Allies.
- Key events:
  - o Germany quickly conquered Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Belgium.
  - o The Battle of Britain saw extensive air raids between Germany and Britain.
  - o In 1941, Hitler broke his non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union, initiating the invasion of the Soviet Union.
  - o The Battle of Stalingrad in 1942 resulted in a decisive defeat for Germany.

#### The Entry of the USA into the War

- Japan's attack on the American fleet at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941 led to the USA's entry into the war.

# ICSE Class 10<sup>th</sup>

## Chapter: - The Second World War

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### Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

- The US dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima (6 August 1945) and Nagasaki (9 August 1945), forcing Japan to surrender and ending the war.

### Damages Caused by the War

- Over 50 million people died, including civilians and soldiers.
- Many countries suffered heavy economic losses, and some, like Poland, lost a significant portion of their population.

### Consequences of the War

1. **Defeat of the Axis Powers:**
  - Germany was divided into East and West, with East Germany controlled by the Soviet Union and West Germany by the Allies.
  - Japan's military power was significantly reduced, and it was occupied by the US until 1952.
2. **Formation of the United Nations:**
  - The UN was created in 1945 to maintain peace and prevent future wars, following the leadership of the US, UK, and USSR.
3. **Independence of Many Asian and African Nations:**
  - Several colonies gained independence after WWII, including India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Ghana.
4. **The Cold War:**
  - Tensions between the US (capitalist) and the Soviet Union (communist) escalated after the war, leading to the Cold War.
  - The world was divided into two blocs:
    - **Western Bloc (Capitalist):** Led by the USA, including countries like Britain, France, and Italy.
    - **Eastern Bloc (Communist):** Led by the USSR, including countries like Poland and Romania.
  - Though the two superpowers never fought directly, political tensions and proxy wars dominated the period.