Focus Question: What events unfolded between Chamberlain’s declaration of “peace in our time” and the outbreak of a world war?

A. As you read “Aggression Goes Unchecked” and “Spain Collapses into Civil War,” complete the chart below to record the sequence of events that led to the outbreak of World War II.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acts of Aggression</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. As you read “German Aggression Continues” and “Europe Plunges Toward War,” complete the timetable below to recognize the sequence of German aggression.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>German Aggression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1939</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Throughout the 1930s, dictators took aggressive action. Yet, they met only verbal protests and pleas for peace from Western powers. For example, when the League of Nations condemned Japan’s invasion of Manchuria in 1931, Japan simply withdrew from the League. A few years later, Japanese armies invaded China, starting the Second Sino-Japanese War. Meanwhile, Mussolini invaded Ethiopia in 1935. The League of Nations voted sanctions against Italy, but the League had no power to enforce its punishment of Mussolini. Hitler, too, defied the Western democracies by building up the German military and sending troops into the “demilitarized” Rhineland. This went against the Treaty of Versailles. The Western democracies denounced Hitler but adopted a policy of appeasement. Appeasement developed for a number of reasons, including widespread pacifism. The United States responded with a series of Neutrality Acts. The goal was to avoid involvement in a war, rather than to prevent one. While the Western democracies sought to avoid war, Germany, Italy, and Japan formed an alliance. It became known as the Axis powers.

In Spain, a new, more liberal government passed reforms that upset conservatives. General Francisco Franco, who was opposed to the new government, started a civil war. Hitler and Mussolini supported Franco, their fellow fascist. The Soviet Union sent troops to support the anti-Fascists, or Loyalists. The governments of Britain, France, and the United States remained neutral, although individuals from these countries fought with the Loyalists. By 1939, Franco had triumphed.

German aggression continued. In 1938, Hitler forced the Anschluss, or union with Austria. Next, Hitler set his sights on the Sudetenland. This was a part of Czechoslovakia where three million Germans lived. At the Munich Conference, which was held to discuss the situation, British and French leaders chose appeasement and allowed Hitler to annex the territory.

In March 1939, Hitler took over the rest of Czechoslovakia. Months later, Hitler and Stalin signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact. They agreed not to fight if the other went to war. This paved the way for Germany’s invasion of Poland in September of 1939, which set off World War II.

Review Questions

1. How did the United States respond to the aggressive action of dictators in the 1930s?

2. What was the result of the Munich Conference?
Focus Question: Which regions were attacked and occupied by the Axis powers, and what was life like under their occupation?

A. As you read “The Axis Attacks,” “Germany Invades the Soviet Union,” and “Japan Attacks the United States,” use the chart below to record the sequence of events.

B. As you read “Life Under Nazi and Japanese Occupation,” use the concept web to identify supporting details about the occupations.
In September 1939, Nazi forces launched a blitzkrieg against Poland. First the Luftwaffe, the German air force, bombed. Then, tanks and troops pushed their way in. At the same time, Stalin invaded from the east, grabbing land. Within a month, Poland ceased to exist.

Then, in early 1940, Hitler conquered Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Belgium. By May, German forces had bypassed France’s Maginot Line. British forces that had been sent to help the French were trapped. In a desperate scheme, the British rescued their troops from Dunkirk. However, in June, the French were forced to surrender. Germany occupied northern France and set up a puppet state, the Vichy government, in the south.

The British, led by Winston Churchill, remained defiant against Hitler. In response, Hitler launched bombing raids over British cities that lasted from September 1940 until June 1941. Despite this blitz, Hitler was not able to take Britain. Meanwhile, Hitler sent one of his best commanders, General Erwin Rommel, to North Africa. Rommel had a string of successes there. In the Balkans, German and Italian forces added Greece and Yugoslavia to the growing Axis territory. At the same time, the Japanese were occupying lands in Asia and the Pacific.

In June 1941, Hitler nullified the Nazi-Soviet Pact by invading the Soviet Union. Stalin was unprepared, and the Soviet army suffered great losses. The Germans advanced toward Moscow and Leningrad. During a lengthy siege of Leningrad, more than a million Russians died. The severe Russian winter finally slowed the German army.

As they marched across Europe, the Nazis sent millions to concentration camps to work as slave laborers. Even worse, Hitler established death camps to kill those he judged racially inferior. Among many others, some six million Jews were killed in what became known as the Holocaust.

The United States declared neutrality at the beginning of the war. Yet many Americans sympathized with those who fought the Axis powers. Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act of 1941, allowing the United States to sell or lend war goods to foes of the Axis. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor. Four days later, Congress declared war on Japan.

Review Questions

1. What countries were conquered by Germany in 1939 and 1940?

2. What was the purpose of the Lend-Lease Act?
**Focus Question:** How did the Allies begin to push back the Axis powers?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the chart below to record the sequence of events that turned the tide of the war in favor of the Allies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Allies increase production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Jan.—Germans surrender at Stalingrad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To defeat the Axis powers in World War II, the Allies devoted all their resources to the war effort. Governments took a greater role in the economy. For example, governments ordered factories to make tanks instead of cars. Consumer goods were rationed, and wages and prices were regulated. A positive result was that the increase in production ended the Great Depression. However, governments also limited citizens’ rights, censored the press, and resorted to propaganda. At the same time, women, symbolized by "Rosie the Riveter," replaced men in factories. Women also played a more direct role in some military operations.

The years 1942 and 1943 marked the turning point of the war. In the Pacific, Allied forces won the battles of the Coral Sea and Midway. In both battles, attacks were launched from enormous aircraft carriers. In North Africa, British and American forces, led by General Dwight Eisenhower, soon trapped Rommel’s army, and he surrendered in May 1943. With North Africa under their control, the Allies crossed the Mediterranean and landed in Sicily. Allied victories in Italy led to the overthrow of Mussolini, but fighting continued in Italy for another 18 months. On the Eastern front, a key turning point was the Battle of Stalingrad. After a German advance on the city and brutal house-to-house fighting, the Soviet army encircled the German troops. Without food or ammunition, the Germans surrendered.

On June 6, 1944, the Allies launched the D-Day invasion of France. Allied troops faced many obstacles, but the Germans finally retreated. As the Allies advanced, Germany reeled from incessant, around-the-clock bombing. A German counterattack, the Battle of the Bulge, resulted in terrible losses on both sides. However, with Germany’s defeat seeming inevitable, the “Big Three”—Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin—met to plan for the end of the war. Key features of this Yalta Conference were the Soviet agreement to enter the war against Japan and the division of Germany into four zones of occupation. However, growing mistrust at Yalta foreshadowed a split among the Allies.

Review Questions
1. Name three ways in which Allied governments took a greater role in the economy during World War II.

2. During the battles of the Coral Sea and Midway, from where were attacks launched?
Focus Question: How did the Allies finally defeat the Axis powers?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the timeline below to sequence the events that led to the defeat of the Axis powers.
Chapter 29
Section Summary
VICTORY IN EUROPE AND THE PACIFIC

In Europe, World War II officially ended on May 8, 1945, or V-E Day. The Allies were able to defeat the Axis powers for many reasons. Because of their location, the Axis powers had to fight on several fronts at the same time. Hitler also made some poor military decisions. For example, he underestimated the Soviet Union’s ability to fight. The huge productive capacity of the United States was another factor. At the same time, Allied bombing hindered German production and caused oil to become scarce. This nearly grounded the Luftwaffe.

Although Germany was defeated, the Allies still had to defeat the Japanese in the Pacific. By May 1942, the Japanese had gained control of the Philippines, killing thousands during the Bataan Death March. However, after the battles of Midway and the Coral Sea, the United States took the offensive. General Douglas MacArthur began an “island-hopping” campaign to recapture islands from the Japanese. The captured islands served as steppingstones to the next objective—Japan. The Americans gradually moved north and were able to blockade Japan. Bombers pounded Japanese cities and industries. At the same time, the British pushed Japanese forces back into the jungles of Burma and Malaya.

In early 1945, bloody battles on Iwo Jima and Okinawa showed that the Japanese would fight to the death rather than surrender. Some young Japanese became kamikaze pilots who flew their planes purposefully into U.S. ships. While Allied military leaders planned to invade, scientists offered another way to end the war. They had conducted research, code-named the Manhattan Project, that led to the building of an atomic bomb for the United States. The new U.S. president, Harry Truman, decided that dropping the bomb would save American lives. The Allies first issued a warning to the Japanese to surrender or face “utter and complete destruction,” but the warning was ignored. On August 6, 1945, a U.S. plane dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, instantly killing more than 70,000 people. Many more died from radiation sickness. When the Japanese did not surrender, another bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9. The next day, Japan finally surrendered, ending World War II.

Review Questions
1. What were two reasons why the Allies were able to defeat the Axis powers?

2. Why did Truman decide to drop the atomic bomb on Japan?
Focus Question: What issues arose in the aftermath of World War II and how did new tensions develop?

As you read this section in your textbook, sequence the events following World War II by completing the outline below.

I. The War’s Aftermath
   A. Devastation
      1. As many as 50 million are dead.
      2. ____________________________
   B. ____________________________
      1. ____________________________
      2. ____________________________
      3. ____________________________
   C. ____________________________
      1. ____________________________
      2. ____________________________

II. ____________________________
   A. ____________________________
      1. ____________________________
   B. ____________________________
      1. ____________________________
      2. ____________________________
   C. ____________________________
      1. ____________________________
      2. ____________________________

III. ____________________________
   A. ____________________________
      1. ____________________________
      2. ____________________________
   B. ____________________________
      1. ____________________________
      2. ____________________________

(Outline continues on the next page.)
Note Taking Study Guide

THE END OF WORLD WAR II

CHAPTER 29
SECTION 5

(Continued from page 271)

3. _____________________________________________

IV. _____________________________________________

A. _____________________________________________
   1. ____________________________________________
   2. ____________________________________________
   3. ____________________________________________

B. _____________________________________________
   1. ____________________________________________
   2. ____________________________________________
   3. ____________________________________________

C. _____________________________________________
   1. ____________________________________________
   2. ____________________________________________
   3. ____________________________________________
   4. ____________________________________________

D. _____________________________________________
   1. ____________________________________________
   2. ____________________________________________
   3. ____________________________________________

E. _____________________________________________
   1. ____________________________________________
   2. ____________________________________________

F. _____________________________________________
   1. ____________________________________________
   2. ____________________________________________
While the Allies enjoyed their victory, the huge costs of World War II began to emerge. As many as 50 million people had been killed. The Allies also learned the full extent of the horrors of the Holocaust. War crimes trials, such as those at Nuremberg in Germany, held leaders accountable for their wartime actions. To ensure tolerance and peace, the Western Allies set up democratic governments in Japan and Germany.

In 1945, delegates from 50 nations convened to form the United Nations. Under the UN Charter, each member nation has one vote in the General Assembly. A smaller Security Council has greater power. It has five permanent members: the United States, the Soviet Union (today Russia), Britain, France, and China. Each has the right to veto any council decision. UN agencies have tackled many world problems, from disease to helping refugees.

However, conflicting ideologies soon led to a Cold War. This refers to the state of tension and hostility between the United States and the Soviet Union from 1946 to 1990. Soviet leader Stalin wanted to spread communism into Eastern Europe. He also wanted to create a buffer zone of friendly countries as a defense against Germany. By 1948, pro-Soviet communist governments were in place throughout Eastern Europe.

When Stalin began to threaten Greece and Turkey, the United States outlined a policy called the Truman Doctrine. This policy meant that the United States would resist the spread of communism throughout the world. To strengthen democracies in Europe, the United States offered a massive aid package, called the Marshall Plan. Western attempts to rebuild Germany triggered a crisis over the city of Berlin. The Soviets controlled East Germany, which surrounded Berlin. To force the Western Allies out of Berlin, the Soviets blockaded West Berlin, but a yearlong airlift forced them to end the blockade.

However, tensions continued to mount. In 1949, the United States and nine other nations formed a new military alliance called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The Soviets responded by forming the Warsaw Pact, which included the Soviet Union and seven Eastern European nations.

Review Questions
1. What was the purpose of the post-World War II war crimes trials?

2. Why did the United States offer aid under the Marshall Plan to European countries?