

Origins of World War II

Could World War II have been prevented?

Key Content Terms	
As you complete the Reading Notes, use these Key Content Terms in your answers:	
Munich Pact	neutrality acts
Nazism	blitzkrieg
Spanish Civil War	Lend-Lease Act

READING NOTES

Section 2

Copy this diagram onto a page in your notebook.

Soviet Union Joseph Stalin	Italy Benito Mussolini	Germany Adolf Hitler	Japan Hideki Tojo

Read Section 2 and follow these steps to complete the diagram.

1. In the first empty row of boxes, write the name of the political system or movement (fascism, militarism, Nazism, or totalitarianism) that corresponds to each leader or group. List two or three important characteristics of each political system or movement.
2. In the second empty row, list tactics that each leader or group used to gain and keep political power.
3. In the last row, describe one or more decisions or actions by the United States (or other countries) that might have prevented the rise to power of one or more of these leaders. In a few sentences, explain why you think the United States (or other countries) did not act at the time.

Sections 3 to 5

1. Copy the diagram below onto two facing pages in your notebook. Leave space in each box for notes.
2. Read Sections 3 to 5. Then write a summary of each event in the appropriate “Action” column.
3. In the “Reaction” column, write a brief summary of how Britain, France, or the United States reacted to each action.
4. When you have completed *all* the boxes, color code them to organize your notes as follows:
 - Outline in black action boxes that you would categorize as aggressive.
 - Outline in green reaction boxes that you would categorize as weak or demonstrating appeasement.
 - Outline in red reaction boxes that you would categorize as strong.
5. Create a key that indicates what each color stands for.

PROCESSING

Respond to this chapter’s Essential Question: *Could World War II have been prevented?* Write a clear thesis statement and at least one paragraph to support your thesis.

Make sure your supporting paragraph includes

- a clear topic sentence that connects to your thesis statement.
- two actions or reactions from your notes that support your thesis statement.
- a few sentences for each action or reaction that explain *how* each supports your thesis.

Hint: If your thesis is that World War II could have been prevented, you might explain how a *different* reaction would have prevented World War II.

Action	→	Reaction
1935–1936 Germany remilitarizes	→	
1935 Italy invades Ethiopia	→	
1936–1939 Germany and Italy aid nationalists in Spanish Civil War	→	
1937 Japanese troops massacre civilians in Nanjing	→	
1938 German <i>Anschluss</i> (union) with Austria	→	

Action	→	Reaction
1939 Germany invades Czechoslovakia	→	
1939 Germany attacks Poland	→	
1940 Germany invades Low Countries and France	→	
1940 Germany attacks Britain (Battle of Britain)	→	
1941 Japan attacks Pearl Harbor	→	