



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **11th Grade** | Unit 8

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 1108

A NATION AT WAR

INTRODUCTION | 3

1. **WORLD WAR II** **5**

WORLD WAR II: CAUSES OF THE WAR | 7

WORLD WAR II: THEATERS OF OPERATION | 12

SELF TEST 1 | 21

2. **KOREAN CONFLICT** **24**

COMMUNIST THREAT: WORLD UNREST | 25

KOREAN CONFLICTS: THE COLD WAR BECOMES HOT | 30

SELF TEST 2 | 36

3. **VIETNAM CONFLICT** **39**

VIETNAM: FIGHTING COMMUNISM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA | 40

WITHDRAWAL BY THE UNITED STATES | 47

SELF TEST 3 | 50



LIFEPAC Test is located in the center of the booklet. Please remove before starting the unit.

Author:

Alpha Omega Staff

Editor:

Alan Christopherson, M.S.

Media Credits:

Page 7, 8: © Photos.com, Thinkstock; **9, 17:** © akirkman, iStock, Thinkstock; **26:** © mizoula, iStock, Thinkstock; **27:** © SteveAllenPhoto, iStock, Thinkstock; **33:** © McIninch, iStock, Thinkstock; **42:** © Frank-Andree, iStock, Thinkstock; **43:** © April Sims, iStock, Thinkstock; **48:** © rorem, iStock, Thinkstock.



**804 N. 2nd Ave. E.
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759**

© MM by Alpha Omega Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.
LIFEPAC is a registered trademark of Alpha Omega Publications, Inc.

All trademarks and/or service marks referenced in this material are the property of their respective owners. Alpha Omega Publications, Inc. makes no claim of ownership to any trademarks and/or service marks other than their own and their affiliates, and makes no claim of affiliation to any companies whose trademarks may be listed in this material, other than their own.

A Nation at War

Introduction

The Depression that hit the United States during the early 1930s was not experienced by the United States alone. The effects of the economic disaster were felt world-wide and resulted in widespread hunger, unemployment, and desperation. Because of that desperation, some European nations built large military forces to combat the economic situation. As jobs became more numerous because of the increase in military troops, this buildup increased production and lowered unemployment. The subsequent military expansion, however, caused growing tensions as smaller nations were overcome by the threat of the great military power. This tension would eventually result in a second global confrontation, World War II. After the war, disputes over occupied territories gave way to a Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. Each nation sought the victory of its political philosophies on a world-wide scale. The eventual involvement of the United States in fighting the growth of communism and totalitarianism throughout the world brought divisiveness and frustrations to its own people.

In this unit you will learn about the mounting tension on the European scene as nations overstocked their military might and sought to expand and to conquer. You will also examine the role of the United States and the strategies of the Allies in World War II on both the European and the Pacific fronts that ended in victory over the determined Axis powers. Next, you will observe how the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union arose over the occupation of nations following the war and how the Soviets later branched out with repeated outbreaks of communist infiltration throughout the world. Also, you will learn why the United States assumed the role of “the world’s policeman” against communism and why it determined to help smaller nations against the threat of a Communist takeover. Finally, you will study the effect of the overseas involvement of the United States and the subsequent frustrations from the problems this involvement brought to America and its people.

Once steeped in isolationism, the United States stepped out boldly in the 1950s and 1960s to become the staunch opponent of communism wherever it threatened the freedom of others. Hopefully, by studying this unit, you will better understand the price this country paid in terms of freedom—not only here but also for the freedom of people around the world.

1. WORLD WAR II

The 1930s were years of desperate struggle for the citizens of the United States as they strove to keep their heads above the deep waters of the Great Depression. The positive actions of President Franklin D. Roosevelt had put a large number of people back to work and had inspired a discouraged United States. Economic recovery, however, had a long way to go to put the United States back on its feet. A world conflict played a major role.

World War II caused more deaths, cost more money, damaged more property, affected more people, and probably caused more far-reaching changes than any other war in history. The Second World War introduced the atomic age and brought sweeping changes in warfare. Trucks sped infantrymen to the battlefield after aerial bombings; giant tanks and pinpoint artillery weakened the enemy. Bombers and ballistic missiles rained death and destruction upon the armed forces and civilians alike. Airplanes, warships, and men worked together with split-second timing in **amphibious** attacks and paratroopers dropped from airplanes or landed in gliders to seek out the enemy.

The number of men killed, wounded or missing between September 1939 and September 1945, is impossible to accurately count. It is estimated that more than 10 million Allied troops and nearly 6 million Axis troops died during the Second World War. The war cost more than \$1,000 trillion. More than fifty countries took part in the war with the entire world feeling the effects in one way or another. Fighting erupted in almost every part of the world. The chief battlefields of World War II were located in Asia, Europe, North Africa, the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, and both in and around the Mediterranean Sea.

World War II began on September 1, 1939 when Germany attacked Poland by using the *blitzkrieg*, or lightning warfare. Soon after this successful attack, the German war machine defeated Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and France. Surprisingly, the Germans required only three months to conquer these countries. However, Adolf Hitler, the dictator of Germany, failed in his prolonged attempt to defeat Great Britain with bombing missions and with submarine blockades. Nevertheless, by 1941 Hitler's armies had also conquered Yugoslavia and Greece and had marched into the Soviet Union.

Japan's plans for expansion in the Far East included a surprise attack on the United States' naval fleet at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Finally, after a series of serious disasters, the Allies took the offensive. Totally committed and determined, the Allies halted the Axis advances at El Alamein in North Africa, off Midway Island in the Pacific, and at Stalingrad in the Soviet Union. Allied amphibious invasions leapfrogged across the Pacific Islands and brought the Allies to the doorstep of Japan. In Europe, Allied troops landed in Italy and France and methodically pushed on into Germany. Italy surrendered on September 3, 1943; Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945; and, after the dropping of the atomic bomb on two Japanese cities, the Japanese surrendered on September 2, 1945, bringing an end to the terrible conflict known as World War II.

In this section you will study the economic and military causes of World War II and the factors that caused the United States to become involved in this global conflict.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Explain the economic and military causes of World War II.
 - 1.1 Describe the buildup of power in Germany, Italy, and Japan in the 1930s.
 - 1.2 Name two advantages of war on a nation's economy.
 - 1.3 Outline the seizure of land and power by the Germans and the Italians.
 - 1.4 Describe Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.
2. Describe the Allied victories on the European front that led to the end of the war in Europe.
3. Describe the strategies and victories of the United States in the war on the Pacific front.
 - 3.1 Describe Doolittle's raid.
 - 3.2 Outline General MacArthur's strategies.
 - 3.3 Describe the bombing of Japan.

Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

amphibious	Debarking from ship to land.
armada	A fleet of ships or large force of moving things.
chancellor	In some European countries, a chief minister of state.
dictator	One ruling absolutely and often oppressively.
fascism	A political philosophy supporting an autocratic government headed by a dictator.
Fuhrer	A title applied to Hitler by his followers; German for "leader".
guerrilla	Irregular fighting forces often operating at the rear of the enemy and using unconventional tactics.
mobilize	To assemble and prepare for war or combat.
premier	Chief minister of state.
reprisal	The application of force by one nation against another in retaliation for acts committed.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

WORLD WAR II: CAUSES OF THE WAR

During the early 1930s Europe also felt the effects of the Great Depression. Hunger and unemployment were observed everywhere. In desperation the people of the Eastern Hemisphere, lacking strong leadership, capital, and equipment allowed things to occur that in better times they would have vigorously opposed. Hopelessly and tragically the people fell under the leadership of ruthless dictators and **fascism**.

Economic causes. In Germany during the early 1930s, a sense of despair and helplessness prevailed. Germany's democratic tradition was deeply undermined when President Paul von Hindenburg asked Adolf Hitler to become **chancellor**. Many prominent Germans backed the appointment in hopes that this move would help to strengthen and to unite the country. As promised, Hitler did reduce unemployment. However, he accomplished this reduction by building up the military and by establishing various branches of his National Socialist Party's (Nazi) youth movement. Industrial jobs became numerous especially in factories producing military products. With the growth of industry, the economy improved. By building up its army, navy, and air force, the Germans were directly violating the Versailles Treaty that prohibited military growth. Hitler's ideas concerning the military were not confined to defensive purposes alone. A nation that banks its economy so heavily on its military strength becomes a dangerous nation that eventually requires an outlet such as war.

Meanwhile, in Italy, Benito Mussolini was in power as the **premier** and **dictator** from 1922 to 1943. Mussolini also limited unemployment by stressing military duty. Although not nearly as productive as German industry, the Italian economy was also based on a large military buildup, thus presenting another dangerous potential.

By the late 1930s, Japan had also become more and more ambitious. For economic reasons, the Japanese were determined to take control of the various islands in southeast Asia. The natural resources of these islands, especially rubber and oil, were greatly needed by the Japanese. Control of these islands would also provide better trade and an advantage in fishing rights. With 90 million people living on four major islands and many smaller ones, Japan needed tremendous imported resources to fuel its modern industries. Because of a depressed economy and international politics, raw materials and

trade in Japan were at dangerously low levels. The United States had created a sensitive situation with Japan because of the strong competition it was giving them in the race for natural resources and for increased Pacific trade.

Each of these nations—Germany, Italy, and Japan—desired and needed a better economic situation. Each nation put heavy emphasis on its military status. A military buildup would not be evil if it were used for defensive purposes; however, these nations had an ulterior purpose in mind. As their needs grew, their greed also grew. The trio used their strong military power to take the things they wanted by force. With the growth of military might, an unquenchable desire for power grew also. If Germany, Italy, and Japan had been patient, trade and commerce would have gradually improved their economic conditions. Unfortunately, some powerful nations operate on the theory that they can simply take whatever they need or want, especially from the weak.



| Adolph Hitler

The economy of the United States was growing slowly but steadily and, by the late 1930s, trade and commerce were rapidly developing. Though some of Franklin D. Roosevelt's programs failed, many turned out to be very successful. As the world moved toward the brink of war, however, the economies of the major nations reflected a surge in growth. As soldiers were **mobilized**, civilian jobs were left vacant for others and industry boomed in preparation for war. Not only were more jobs available, but numerous people were also called upon to work extra hours to meet production demands. That wars prevent depressions is an unfortunate truth, but is an economic fact. When World War II began in 1939, the world quickly pulled out of the Depression. Unfortunately, the disasters, sacrifices, and heartaches of such a global conflict for most would make the economic poverty of the Depression times seem like good years. As unemployment continued to drop, the United States was about to experience this economic phenomenon in the inevitable conflict to come; war pulled the United States out of the Great Depression.

Military causes. After President von Hindenburg died in 1934, both Germany and the world soon realized that Adolf Hitler was obsessed with a desire for personal power. After disposing of his opponents, the former Austrian wallpaper hanger, artist, and army corporal declared himself dictator.

Mussolini had led Italy with military-backed expansion techniques similar to Germany's. In October of 1935 Italian troops marched on Ethiopia. This defiant act by the Italians went unchecked by the European powers. The League of Nations could not even gather support for trade sanctions against Italy. The weak truly were at the mercy of the strong. The Ethiopians under Emperor Haile Selassie fought courageously; but their weapons were too few and too old. Mussolini's boast to make the Mediterranean Sea an "Italian lake" looked quite possible in the late 1930s.

By 1935 Hitler was publicly and blatantly breaking numerous restrictions imposed on Germany by the Versailles Treaty following World War I. His mobilization of the military and land stealing went unchallenged by other nations in Europe. Britain, France, and the Soviet Union did all they could to avoid the coming conflict with Germany. Yet the more Hitler was allowed to get away with, the bolder he became. Finally, after the Nazis seized Austria in 1938 and Czechoslovakia in 1939, the nations of Europe realized they had to resist with force or



| Benito Mussolini

risk being swallowed up by the dictators one nation at a time. Something had to be done about this brazen aggression. It was the Germans invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939 that touched off the most devastating global war this world had ever seen. Though the Poles fought bravely with inferior weapons, they were soon defeated. The British, who had earlier signed an agreement to help Poland, declared war immediately. France soon joined Great Britain, but Italy later aligned with Hitler.

The last nation to join Italy and Germany in an alliance known as the Axis powers was Japan. Having a long history of aggression, Japan was already in a war with its archenemy, China. The hostilities ground to a deadlock on the mainland. Although the Japanese occupied major cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Canton, they could not totally defeat the Chinese. This Japanese failure resulted from the combined efforts of China's President Chiang Kai-shek in Western China and the Chinese Communist leader of **guerrilla** warfare, Mao Zedong.

As the Japanese watched the fighting in the European arena, they determined to turn the inevitable German victory to their profit. The Japanese furthered their expansion in the Far East by invading additional island nations. Such moves brought

protests from both the United States and the British. Japanese-American relations had been unsettled for some time, mainly because of their trade competition in the Pacific area. As Japanese diplomats met in Washington, D.C., to negotiate problems between the two countries, Japanese pilots were setting their sights on Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands where the naval power of the United States was based. The Hawaiian harbor held the strongest ships and air force support planes the United States possessed. On December 7, 1941, at 8:00 a.m., American sailors awoke to bombs and bullets, ironically, made of scrap iron from the United States.

A balmy Sunday morning was turned into a black, smoke-filled nightmare for thousands of American servicemen. Over three thousand sailors and soldiers lay dead. Numerous ships and planes were left in smoking ruin. President Franklin Roosevelt, upon hearing of the attack, correctly stated that “this is a day that shall live in infamy.”

Arguments for staying out of the war were now futile—the United States had no choice but to declare war on Japan. By an act of Congress on December 8, 1941, the United States went to war



| U.S.S. Arizona memorial in Pearl Harbor

with the Empire of Japan and the nation was soon at war with Italy and Germany as well. With its navy crippled, the United States was poorly prepared for the naval battle that war with Japan would necessitate. Therefore, the United States entered the war at a distinct disadvantage, for adequate preparation often saves lives and builds both respect and confidence. As a large country in world affairs, this nation was woefully lacking all three aspects in December, 1941.

Complete the vocabulary matching.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------|------------|--|
| 1.1 | _____ | chancellor | a. Irregular fighting forces often operating at the rear of the enemy |
| 1.2 | _____ | amphibious | b. One ruling absolutely and often oppressively |
| 1.3 | _____ | dictator | c. Debarking from ship to land |
| 1.4 | _____ | fascism | d. To assemble and prepare for war or combat |
| 1.5 | _____ | guerrilla | e. A political philosophy supporting an autocratic government headed by a dictator |
| 1.6 | _____ | mobilize | f. Chief minister of state |
| 1.7 | _____ | premier | g. In some European countries, a chief minister of state |

Answer true or false.

- 1.8 _____ The German president in the 1930s was Paul von Hindenburg.
- 1.9 _____ Adolf Hitler was made chancellor of Germany by Mussolini.
- 1.10 _____ Benito Mussolini was the German emperor in the late 1930s.
- 1.11 _____ The German military buildup by Hitler violated the Versailles Treaty.
- 1.12 _____ The Italian economy, like the British, was centered around the military.
- 1.13 _____ The nation expanding its power in the western Pacific was Japan.



804 N. 2nd Ave. E.
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

800-622-3070
www.aop.com

HIS1108 - Sept '17 Printing

ISBN 978-1-58095-228-6



9 781580 952286