



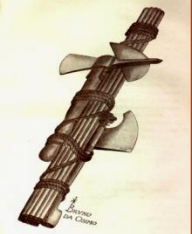
# Origins of WWII

From Appeasement to War

# Italian Aggression

Italy suffered terribly in WWI.

- 600,000 soldiers died
- National economy never fully recovered
- Italy found itself shut out of the division of the spoils of war from France and Great Britain.



# Italian Aggression

**Benito Mussolini** promised to bring glory to Italy through the acquisition of territories.

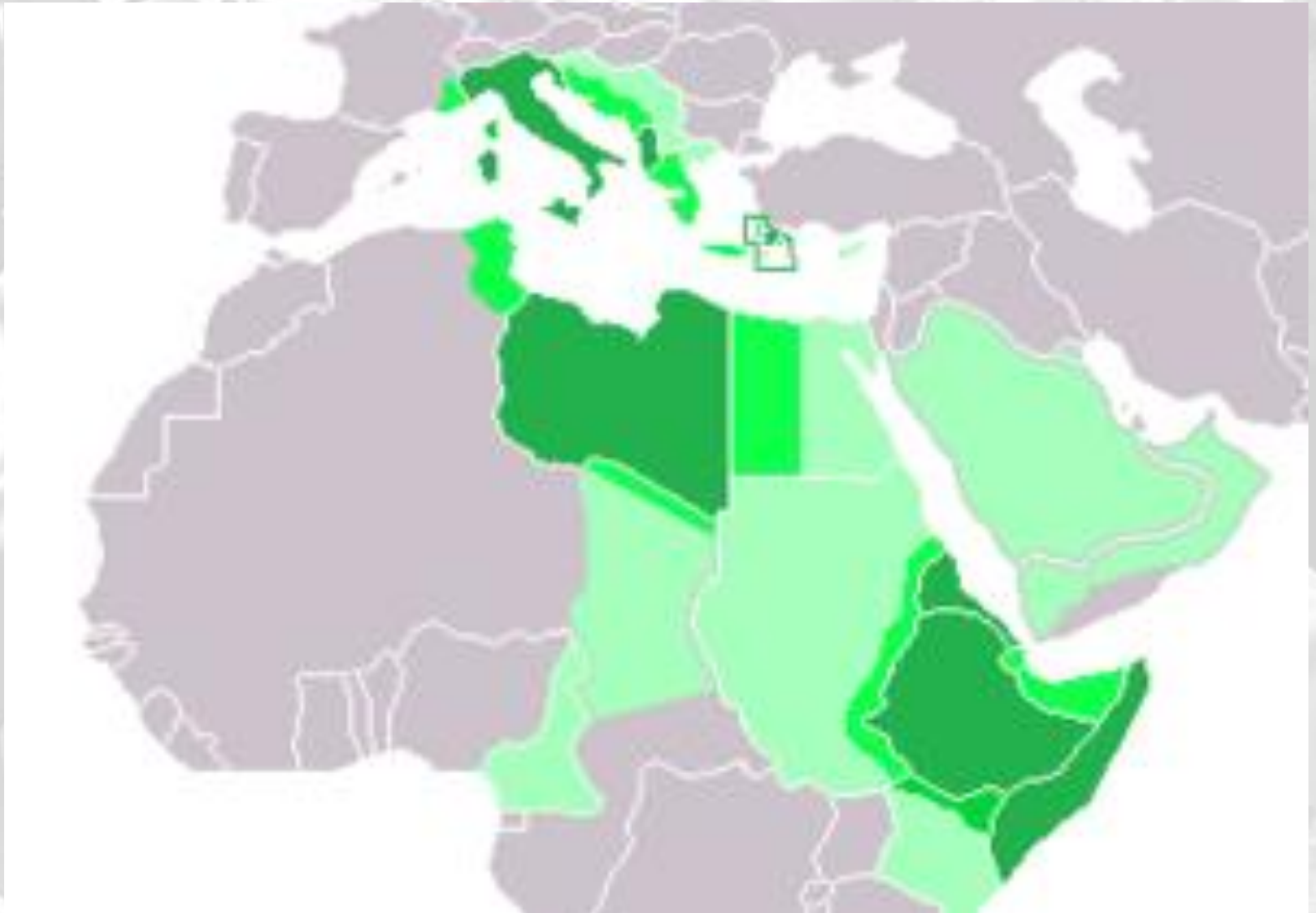
- Italy had annexed Libya in 1911
- Conquered Ethiopia (1935-1936)
- Intervened in the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939)
- Annexed Albania in 1939

Similar to Japan's invasion of Manchuria, the League of Nations did nothing.



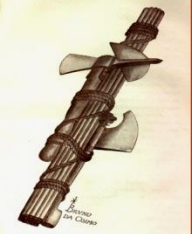


# Italian Aggression



# Spain Collapses into Civil War

- General **Francisco Franco** led a revolt that touched off civil war.
- **Hitler & Mussolini** backed Franco.
- Other nations joined in – both sides
- Soviets backed “Loyalists”
- U.S., France & Britain stayed neutral.
- This ended up as a “dress rehearsal” for WWII because Nazis used this to test new weapons.



# German Aggression

Germany systematically undid the Treaty of Versailles through revisionist powers.

Hitler's plan for reasserting Germany's power was **remilitarization**.

He abandoned diplomatic efforts and asserted an aggressive foreign policy.

- Withdrew from the League of Nations in 1933
- Strengthened armed forces 1935
- Sent troops into the Rhineland
- Joined Italy in the Spanish Civil War



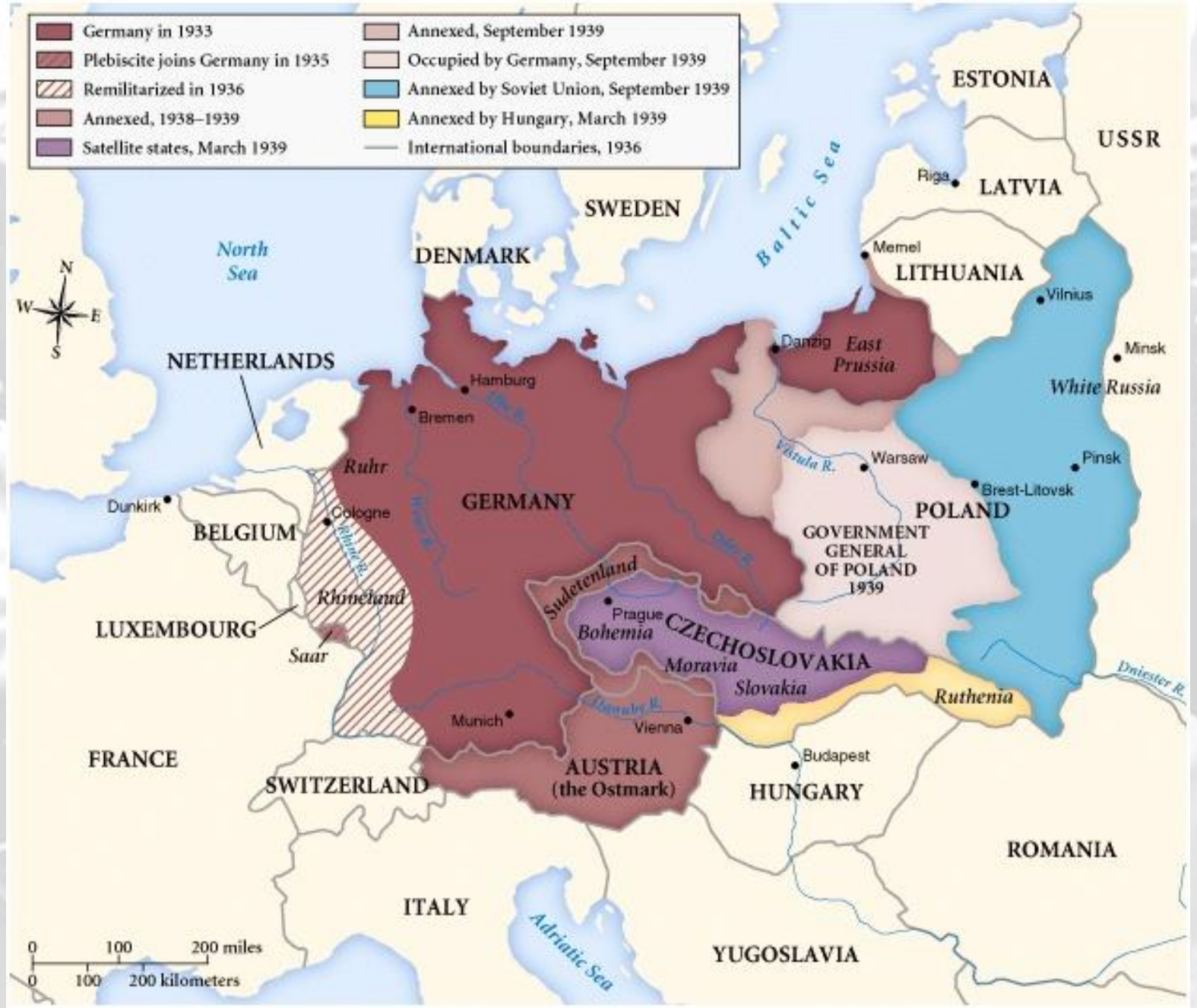


# German Aggression

Hitler forced **Anschluss** (“union”) with Austria in 1935

- Justified as a means of reintegrating all Germans into a single homeland.
- Soon after, did the same thing with Sudetenland
- Neither the French nor the British were willing to risk a military confrontation.







# Munich Conference

September 1938: European leaders from Italy, France, Great Britain and Germany met in Munich.

- Appeasement policy was formalized
- Hitler promised to cease further efforts to expand Germany
- Known as the “**Munich Accord.**”

Neville Chamberlin announced the meeting had achieved “Peace for our time.”



# Nazi-Soviet Pact

- March 1939 Hitler broke the Munich Accord promise and took the rest of Czechoslovakia.
- August 1939 Hitler announced a nonaggression pact with Stalin
- The two agreed not to fight if the other went to war, and to divide Poland between them.
- September 1, 1939 Hitler invaded Poland; Britain & France declared war on Germany.

