

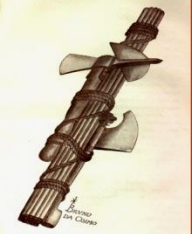


Origins of WWII

From Appeasement to War

Aggression goes unchecked

- The totalitarian leaders we have studied took aggressive action during the 1930s.
- Their actions were met with verbal protest – no action.
- A policy of ***appeasement*** was adopted – countries giving in to their demands in order to keep peace.



Japan's War in China

- The global conflict opened with Japan's attack on China between 1931-1932.

- They exercised **revisionist powers*** in their conquest of Manchuria.

* Revising the terms of the Treaty of Versailles after WWI



Japan's War in China

- The League of Nations condemned Japan's invasion, but Japan simply withdrew from the League and continued pursuing an ultranationalist and militarist policy.



Japan's War in China

Why did Japan invade Manchuria?

- Crowding due to its limited size and increasing population.
- The Great Depression hit Japan hard.
- Needed natural resources
- Japan had invested heavily in Manchuria and wanted to protect its investments.



Japan's War in China

Japan launched a full-scale invasion of China and captured Beijing, Shanghai & Nanjing by December 1937.



Japan's War in China

- China became the first nation to experience the horrors of WWII: Brutal warfare against civilians.



Japan's War in China

- The **“Rape of Nanjing”** over 2 months
 - Soldiers raped over 7,000 Chinese women
 - Hundreds of thousands of unarmed soldiers and civilians murdered
 - 1/3 of homes burned
 - 400,000 Chinese used as bayonet practice or executed by machine gun.



Japan's War in China

- Chinese resistance groups arose
 - Nationalists ([Chiang Kai-shek](#))
 - Communists ([Mao Zedong](#))
- Mostly hit-and-run or guerrilla warfare

