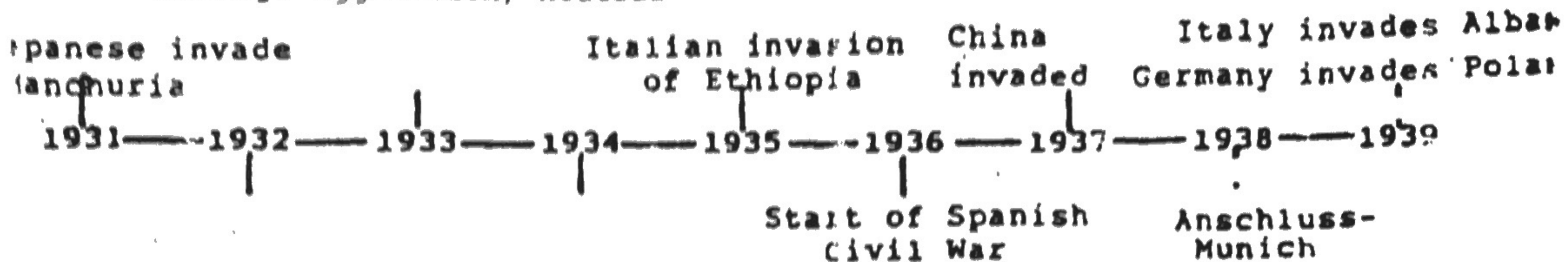


NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE ROAD TO WORLD WAR II

Vocabulary: aggression, neutral



Japan, Italy and Germany were involved in acts of AGGRESSION in the 1930's. These acts led to World War II.

### A. JAPANESE INVASION OF MANCHURIA:

In 1931 Japan invaded the northeastern part of China which is known as Manchuria. The League of Nations found Japan guilty of Aggression. Japan answered by leaving the League of Nations. No military action was taken by the League to stop Japan:

### B. ITALIAN INVASION OF ETHIOPIA:

In 1935 Italy invaded Ethiopia. The League of Nations found Italy guilty of Aggression. Once again, they failed to take military action to stop Mussolini. After a brave fight against the Italians, the Ethiopians were conquered.

### C. GERMANY REARMS:

In 1935, Adolph Hitler ripped up the Treaty of Versailles and he started to arm Nazi Germany. A new navy, a new airforce and a powerful army were started. The League of Nations did nothing to stop the Nazis. In 1936 Hitler sent the German army into the Rhineland (along the French border with Germany). This act was against the Treaty of Versailles. However, once again, neither England, France or the League of Nations did a thing to stop the Nazis.

### D. SPANISH CIVIL WAR:

In 1936, a Fascist, Francisco Franco, started a civil war in Spain. Hitler and Mussolini sent military supplies and troops to help their fellow Fascist. England and France did nothing to help the Spanish government. Only the Soviet Union sent some help to the Spanish government. In 1938 Franco won the war and set up another Fascist dictatorship in Europe.

### E. JAPANESE INVASION OF CHINA:

In 1937, the Japanese invaded China. This is the start of World War II in Asia. England, France and the League of Nations did nothing to stop Japan.



#### **E. ANSCHLUSS:**

In 1938 Hitler invaded Austria without firing a shot. Most Austrians welcomed the Nazis (Hitler was not German. He was an Austrian). After taking over Austria, Hitler made it part of Nazi Germany. The joining of Austria and Germany into one nation was known as the ANSCHLUSS

#### **F. GERMAN INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA:**

In 1938 Hitler announced that the western part of Czechoslovakia was really part of Germany.. He demanded that it become part of Germany. Czechoslovakia prepared for war and they called on France, England and Russia for help. Instead, The French and the English met with Hitler in what became known as the Munich Conference in 1938. Hitler was given western Czechoslovakia if he promised that he would not take any more territory. Hitler made the promise and the French and British told the Czechoslovakians to give up part of their country in order to avoid a war. This policy is known as APPEASEMENT and it is linked with the Munich Conference. The person most associated with appeasement at this time was the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Neville Chamberlain. The Czechs, with nobody to help them, gave away half of their country to the Nazis. Six months later Hitler took the other half of the country!

#### **G. ITALIAN INVASION OF ALBANIA.**

#### **H. GERMAN INVASION OF POLAND.**

On September 1, 1939, World War II in Europe began when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. The English and the French finally realized that appeasement did not work. It only made Hitler hungrier for new territory. On September 3, 1939, France and England declared war on Germany. Stalin and the Soviet Union remained NEUTRAL. Just 10 days earlier they shocked the English and the French when they signed a treaty with Nazi Germany in which they agreed to remain neutral in World War II.

Thus World War II began. The policy of appeasement had allowed the Fascists to take all, or part of, China, Ethiopia, Spain, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Albania before military action was taken to stop them. By that time Nazi Germany was the strongest nation in the world.

QUESTIONS: Answer the following questions on separate paper

1. List three countries invaded by Fascist nations before 1939.
2. Explain what a policy of appeasement means.
3. Why is Neville Chamberlain associated with appeasement?
4. Why didn't appeasement work?
5. What lessons can we learn from this period of history?