

# Kentucky Class Notes

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859.252.NOTE*

**HIS 109 Chamberlin  
Fall 2010  
Test 1**

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Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>

Prof. Chamberlin did not say if these notes will be on the midterm.

## World War II

- The Road to War
- Appeasement
- American Neutrality
- **WORLD WAR TWO**
  - First GLOBAL war; WWI was not truly global
  - Brought about a total change of American perceptions in the world
    - U.S. security depended on Pacific and Atlantic Oceans before WWII
- Road to War
  - Resentment remained after WWI
    - Germans upset over punishments, other countries upset too
- **INVASION OF MANCHURIA**
  - 1931 Japan invades Chinese province (Manchuria)
    - **RAPE OF NANJING** Japanese massacred 300,000 Chinese prisoners
- **BENITO MUSSOLINI AND ADOLPH HITLER**
  - Mussolini appealed to Italian nationalists
    - Called for modern Roman Empire, resurrection of Roman Empire
    - Embodied new Fascist party: used violence to create single party state, dominated by middle class and big business
  - Hitler came to power at head of Nazi party, Socialist party
    - Promised to unite all Germans in Europe
    - Sought a greater 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich
    - Hitler moved to reconstruct German power in Europe, violated Treaty of Versailles
      - Built up German military forces
    - 1936 sent troops to the **RHINELAND** (Land between France and Germany, demilitarized by Treaty of Versailles)
    - Hitler wanted to use Spain as testing ground for new weapons

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- Helped Mussolini win war against Spain
    - Western European countries falling to Fascist party
  - **APPEASEMENT – MUNICH 1938**
    - U.S. reluctant to oppose Hitler; wanted to avoid large scale conflict
    - British and French leaders took action of appeasement
      - Wanted to let Hitler get what he wanted, avoid major war
    - Americans wanted to avoid war too
      - Rising tensions in Europe, Asia seemed far away
      - Admired Hitler as a strong leader, pulling Germany out of depression
      - American businesses had factories in Germany, didn't want war there
      - Communist rise threatened Americans, they wanted Hitler to "counterbalance" the Communist threat
      - U.S. provided oil to Japan, didn't want war there
      - Americans saw U.S. entry in to WWI as a mistake, unnecessary
    - Isolationism in the U.S.
      - Congress passed **NEUTRALITY ACTS**
        - Designed to keep U.S. out of foreign conflict
        - Prohibited selling armor overseas, provided military aid, etc.
  - **OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR II**
    - Fascists hated Communists
    - British and French hated Stalin, Communism
    - Stalin signed an agreement with Hitler
      - Said German and Soviet Union would not go to war with each other
      - Allowed Hitler to invade Poland; angered Britain, France
    - Britain and France declare war on Germany
      - Nazi's were unstoppable, used Blitzkrieg warfare (used tanks, new weapons)
    - Germany took Poland, Netherlands
    - France fell to Germany
    - Hitler dominates most of Europe and North Africa
    - Germany, Japan, Italy formed the **AXIS** alliance
    - British alone, Churchill (Prime Minister) called upon the U.S.

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- Roosevelt saw Hitler as mad gangster, aware that Nazi victories increase threat to U.S.
  - Americans thankful for oceans isolating them
  - FDR authorized sales of weapons to Britain, rebuild of military forces
    - British ships but pick up weapons – U.S. will not send them
  - Roosevelt won 3<sup>rd</sup> term in office
    - Only president to serve more than 2 terms
  - LEND-LEASE PROGRAM
    - U.S. “lent” billions of dollars worth of weapons to Britain, Soviet Union
    - Cut off all trade with Germany, no more American oil going to Japanese
  - U.S. intercepted signals of Japanese attack on U.S.
    - Japanese wanted to seize oil fields
    - Unsure of where or when attack will be
  - **ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR**
    - Japanese warplanes bomb Hawaiian base
    - Massive destruction
    - American aircraft carriers are not docked in Pearl Harbor, were not destroyed
    - Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941 Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan
  - U.S. declared war on Japan
    - Japan in alliance with Germany, so Germany declares war on U.S.
    - U.S. finally joined war, no longer isolated