Crisis and Control

Trace how economic crisis, dictatorship, and militarism shaped the 1930s

SS24.WH.9 "Summarize the conditions of the global Great Depression and explain how they led to the rise of totalitarian states and the weakening of democratic nations..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline a cause of lost trust in democracy and circle two methods leaders used to tighten control. Number three military actions that pushed countries toward war.

Different Roads Through the 1930s

1. After the 1929 stock market crash in the United States, banks failed and international trade shrank. Factories closed, and unemployment spread across many countries. Governments struggled to provide relief, while some voters lost faith in democratic parties that seemed unable to end the crisis. The Soviet Union was less tied to world markets, but its people faced different hardships under Joseph Stalin. Beginning in 1928, Stalin ordered Five-Year Plans to expand heavy industry and forced peasants onto collective farms. Collectivization brought fierce resistance and devastating famine, especially in Ukraine. During the Great Purge of 1936 to 1938, arrests and executions removed real and imagined rivals, strengthening Stalin's personal control.

2. Germany's democratic Weimar Republic faced mass unemployment after the Depression hit. Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party promised jobs, national strength, and an end to the humiliation many Germans associated with the Treaty of Versailles. Nazi propaganda filled posters, radio broadcasts, and rallies with slogans that presented Hitler as Germany's savior and falsely blamed Jews for the nation's problems. After Nazi election gains, President Paul von Hindenburg appointed Hitler chancellor in January 1933. Hitler then used emergency powers and the Enabling Act to crush political opposition. Nazi ideology promoted a supposed racial hierarchy, excluded Jews from public life, and aimed to seize territory in eastern Europe.

3. Militarism meant giving armed forces greater power and using force to pursue national goals. Italy's dictator Benito Mussolini, in power since 1922, invaded Ethiopia in 1935. In Japan, economic strain helped military leaders dominate policy. Japanese forces seized Manchuria in 1931 and launched a wider war in China in 1937. Hitler rebuilt Germany's armed forces in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles and invaded Poland in 1939. Britain and France had tried to avoid another war by accepting some earlier German demands, but they declared war after the invasion of Poland. The League of Nations failed to stop aggression.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Depression weaken confidence in democratic government?

2. How did Stalin's economic policies and the Great Purge strengthen his rule?

3. How did Hitler gain power, and how did propaganda help advance Nazi goals?

4. How did military actions by Italy, Japan, and Germany spread conflict in the 1930s?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A museum sign claims, “The Great Depression created every dictatorship and directly started World War II.” Write a five-sentence replacement label that corrects this claim. Use evidence about Stalin and Hitler, then connect two military actions to the spread of war.

ANSWER KEY

Crisis and Control

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline a cause of lost trust in democracy and circle two methods leaders used to tighten control. Number three military actions that pushed countries toward war. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Depression weaken confidence in democratic government?	**Bank failures, shrinking trade, and unemployment created hardship. When democratic parties struggled to provide relief, some voters lost faith in them.**
2	How did Stalin's economic policies and the Great Purge strengthen his rule?	**Five-Year Plans and collectivization put industry and farming under state control. During the Great Purge, arrests and executions removed real and imagined rivals.**
3	How did Hitler gain power, and how did propaganda help advance Nazi goals?	**Nazi election gains preceded Hitler's appointment as chancellor in 1933. Propaganda presented him as a savior and falsely blamed Jews for Germany's problems, promoting Nazi political and racial goals.**
4	How did military actions by Italy, Japan, and Germany spread conflict in the 1930s?	**Italy invaded Ethiopia, Japan seized Manchuria and began a wider war in China, and Germany invaded Poland. These actions expanded fighting; the invasion of Poland led Britain and France to declare war.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Great Depression weakened some democracies, but it did not create every dictatorship. Stalin was already ruling the Soviet Union when the crisis began, and he tightened his control through forced collectivization and purges. In Germany, mass unemployment helped Hitler's party gain support before he became chancellor. Italy's invasion of Ethiopia showed how military force could expand a dictator's reach. Germany's invasion of Poland spread the conflict further because Britain and France responded by declaring war.

Accept other accurate examples from the passage, including Japan's attacks in Manchuria and China. Look for a distinction between the Depression's effects and the separate decisions leaders made to seize power or use military force.