When Armies Advanced

Trace how militarism turned expansion into war.

SS24.WH.9c "Analyze the rise of militarism in Germany, Italy, and Japan in the 1930s and explain how it led to war."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action by armed forces in each paragraph. Circle a response to that action, then consider how the response affected what happened next.

The Road to Wider War

1. In 1933, Adolf Hitler took power in Germany. He promised to rebuild its armed forces, even though the Treaty of Versailles limited them. The Nazi government expanded the army and taught that war could restore German power. In 1936, German troops entered the Rhineland, a region the treaty said must remain free of German troops. Britain and France did not fight back. Their lack of resistance encouraged Hitler to demand more land. Germany invaded Poland in 1939, and Britain and France declared war.

2. In Italy, Benito Mussolini had ruled since the 1920s. During the 1930s, his Fascist government praised soldiers and built up its forces. Mussolini wanted an empire around the Mediterranean and in Africa. In 1935, Italian troops invaded Ethiopia, an independent country. The League of Nations condemned the invasion and imposed limited economic penalties, but Italy conquered Ethiopia. The victory showed Mussolini that using force could bring land with little outside resistance. Italy later invaded Albania in 1939 and entered the war alongside Germany in 1940.

3. In Japan, military leaders gained growing influence over the government in the 1930s. They argued that Japan needed land and raw materials to become stronger. In 1931, Japanese troops seized Manchuria, a region of China, without their government's prior approval. Civilian leaders failed to stop them. Japan left the League of Nations after it criticized the takeover. In 1937, Japan launched a wider war against China. Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 brought the United States into the war.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Germany's move into the Rhineland help set the stage for war?

2. How did the outcome in Ethiopia affect Mussolini's use of military force?

3. How did military leaders' growing influence in Japan contribute to a wider war?

4. What was similar about the responses to Germany in the Rhineland and Italy in Ethiopia? How might those responses have encouraged further attacks?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are advising world leaders in 1938. Write a three-sentence warning that uses one specific event from each of two countries in the passage, recommends a response, and predicts what could happen if aggression continues.

ANSWER KEY

When Armies Advanced

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.9c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action by armed forces in each paragraph. Circle a response to that action, then consider how the response affected what happened next. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Germany's move into the Rhineland help set the stage for war?	**Britain and France did not fight back, which encouraged Hitler to demand more land. Germany later invaded Poland, prompting Britain and France to declare war.**
2	How did the outcome in Ethiopia affect Mussolini's use of military force?	**Italy conquered Ethiopia despite limited penalties. The victory showed Mussolini that force could gain land with little outside resistance, and Italy later invaded Albania.**
3	How did military leaders' growing influence in Japan contribute to a wider war?	**Troops seized Manchuria without prior government approval, and civilian leaders failed to stop them. Japan later launched a wider war against China.**
4	What was similar about the responses to Germany in the Rhineland and Italy in Ethiopia? How might those responses have encouraged further attacks?	**Neither response stopped the expansion: Britain and France did not fight Germany, and the League's limited penalties did not stop Italy. Both governments could see that using force might bring land without strong opposition.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Leaders should act together to oppose armies that take land by force. Germany sent troops into the Rhineland without a fight, and Italy conquered Ethiopia despite limited penalties. If other countries keep responding weakly, both governments may attack again and draw more nations into war.

Accept other accurate cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. The warning must use events from two countries, recommend a response, and make a plausible prediction from a 1938 viewpoint.