

Pressure to War

Trace how competition and alliances turned crises into world wars.

10.5a "International competition, fueled by nationalism, imperialism, and militarism along with shifts in the balance of power and alliances, led to world wars."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a long-term pressure. Circle a trigger for war in Europe. Mark W beside a decision or event that widened fighting.

From Rivalry to Global War

- ① Before 1914, nationalism, imperial rivalry, and military buildups increased distrust. Germany's growing navy challenged Britain. Germany and Austria-Hungary were allied, while France and Russia had an alliance and Britain had closer ties with both. These relationships made crises dangerous but did not make war automatic. Italy belonged to the Triple Alliance yet initially remained neutral. Leaders still made choices about whether and when to fight.
- ② The assassination of Austria-Hungary's heir Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo in June 1914 triggered a crisis. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia; Russian mobilization and German support for Austria-Hungary widened it. Germany declared war on Russia and France. Its invasion of neutral Belgium helped bring Britain into the war. Imperial territories and forces extended fighting beyond Europe. The assassination was a trigger, not a complete explanation of the war.
- ③ Before World War II, economic crisis and resentment of the postwar settlement aided extremist politics. Nazi Germany pursued racial and territorial domination; Italy and Japan also expanded their empires. Japan's war in China widened in 1937, before war began in Europe. Germany invaded Poland in September 1939 after agreeing a nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union. Britain and France declared war; the Soviet Union also invaded Poland. Japan's attacks on Pearl Harbor and other Pacific territories in 1941 brought the United States into the wider conflict. Rivalry mattered, but aggressive policies and leaders' decisions shaped each war's path.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two long-term pressures before World War I and explain how they made a crisis more dangerous.

2 How did the crisis after Franz Ferdinand's assassination spread beyond Serbia and Austria-Hungary?

3 Contrast the immediate events that set World War I and World War II in Europe in motion.

4 Give two developments showing World War II was broader than Germany's invasion of Poland.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In four sentences, compare the wars: a shared long-term pressure, their European triggers, decisions widening World War I, and evidence that World War II was global.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline a long-term pressure. Circle a trigger for war in Europe. Mark W beside a decision or event that widened fighting. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two long-term pressures before World War I and explain how they made a crisis more dangerous.	Any two: nationalism, imperial rivalry, militarism, Germany's growing industrial and naval power, or armed alliances. These pressures increased distrust, competition, military readiness, and fear among nations.
2	How did the crisis after Franz Ferdinand's assassination spread beyond Serbia and Austria-Hungary?	Russia mobilized for Serbia, Germany backed Austria-Hungary, and France was tied to Russia. Germany's invasion of Belgium brought Britain into the war.
3	Contrast the immediate events that set World War I and World War II in Europe in motion.	World War I followed the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914. World War II in Europe followed Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939.
4	Give two developments showing World War II was broader than Germany's invasion of Poland.	Accept two: Japan's war in China widened in 1937; Britain and France declared war in 1939; the Soviet Union invaded Poland; Japan's 1941 Pacific attacks brought the United States into the war.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nationalism and imperial rivalry contributed to both wars. Sarajevo's assassination triggered the 1914 crisis, while Germany's invasion of Poland began war in Europe in 1939. Mobilization, declarations of war, and Germany's invasion of Belgium widened World War I. Japan was already fighting China before 1939, and its Pacific attacks brought the United States into the conflict in 1941.

Accept accurate comparisons supported by the passage. Distinguish pressures from triggers and decisions, and do not treat alliances as automatic or assume fighting in Asia began after Europe.