

Development and Significance of World War II:

- Aggressive nationalism, arms races, racial and Fascist ideologies, and the lack of collective security were major causes of World War II.
- In the 1930's Japanese expansionism in Asia triggered open warfare in China and Fascist expansionism in Europe resulted in open warfare in Europe. The Japanese attack of Pearl Harbor in 1941 enlarged the conflict to include the United States.
- During the war years, communism and nationalism made major gains among peoples seeking independence from colonial rule.
- New technologies of both individual and mass destruction were both a cause and a result of the increasingly global nature of modern warfare.
- The Holocaust had both unique and universal implications for the modern world, writing a new chapter in human destruction.
- The divisions which developed among the allies at the end of the war made it impossible to reach an overall settlement and laid the foundations for the coming Cold War.