

The Steps toward War in Europe

- ✓ Hitler began the process ending in war as Germany suspended reparation payments and in 1935 began rearming.
- ✓ In 1936 Germany occupied the Rhineland.
- ✓ *Britain and France did nothing to counter the violations of the Versailles treaty.*
- ✓ Mussolini in 1935 attacked and defeated Ethiopia *without significant reaction from the international community.*
- ✓ In 1936 civil war began in Spain between authoritarian and republican and leftist groups. Germany and Italy supported the Spanish right and Russia the left. *The principal democracies remained inert.* The republicans were defeated by 1939.
- ✓ In 1938 Hitler united Austria to Germany and later marched into part of Czechoslovakia.
- ✓ *Britain and France at Munich accepted Germany's move in return for promises of peace.*
- ✓ Hitler went ahead to take the rest of Czechoslovakia in 1939 and signed an alliance with the Soviet Union.
- ✓ When Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, Russia moved into Poland and the Baltic states.
- ✓ Britain and France declared war against Germany.
- ✓ In 1940 Germany, Italy, and Japan concluded an alliance. (War began in China with a Japanese invasion in 1937.)
- ✓ *When the war began the European powers desiring to preserve the status quo were unprepared for conflict.*
- ✓ *The United States wished to remain neutral.*