



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.8.1**

The Drive for Empire in Germany, Italy, and Japan

Specific Objective: Compare the German, Italian, and Japanese drives for empire in the 1930s, including the 1937 Rape of Nanking, other atrocities in China, and the Hitler-Stalin pact of 1939.

Read the summary to answer questions on the next page.

After World War I, Italy, Japan, and Germany all sought to increase their might. Italy and Germany still suffered the effects of the war, and Japan wanted to further the power it had gained during wartime.

By the 1930s, all three were led by military dictatorships in which the state held tremendous power and sought to expand that power by invading neighbor nations.

Italy

Led by: Benito Mussolini

Sought: a “New Roman Empire” of colonial land

Conquests: Ethiopia in 1935; Albania in 1939

- After about seven months of warfare, Italy claimed Ethiopia as its colony.

Japan

Led by: a series of military leaders, with Emperor Hirohito as a figurehead

Sought: natural resources, new markets for its goods, and room for population growth

Conquests: Manchuria, a Chinese province, in 1931; China in 1937

- From December 1937 to March 1938, Japanese troops massacred an estimated 350,000 Chinese civilians in what became known as the Rape of Nanking.
- During the Japanese occupation, millions of Chinese were killed and tens of millions became homeless.

Germany

Led by: Adolf Hitler

Sought: to rebuild its army and assert its strength

Conquests: the Rhineland (between Germany and France) in 1936; Austria in 1938; the Sudetenland area of Czechoslovakia in 1938; Czechoslovakia in 1939

- To the west, France and Britain, desiring peace at any cost, did not at first try to stop German aggression.
- To the east, Russia posed no threat after the **Hitler-Stalin Pact of 1939**, in which Germany and Russia agreed never to attack one another.



PRACTICE

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Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 The German, Italian, and Japanese drive to empire during the 1930s had roots in**
 - A competition for African colonies.
 - B economic expansionism.
 - C tensions between communism and capitalism.
 - D World War I.

- 2 What form of government dominated Germany, Italy, and Japan in the 1930s?**
 - A representative democracy
 - B military dictatorship
 - C military occupation
 - D monarchy

- 3 What was Mussolini’s *main* goal in the 1930s?**
 - A a powerful Italian army
 - B a “new Roman Empire”
 - C more natural resources
 - D room for population growth

- 4 Which country did Hitler claim for Germany in 1938?**
 - A Austria
 - B France
 - C Poland
 - D Yugoslavia

- 5 Which invasion in the late 1930s was followed by the mass murder of civilians?**
 - A German invasion of the Rhineland
 - B German invasion of Czechoslovakia
 - C Italian invasion of Ethiopia
 - D Japanese invasion of China

- 6 What impact did the Hitler-Stalin Pact have on Germany?**
 - A It protected Germany from attack from the east.
 - B It allowed Germany to annex Austria.
 - C Germany was permitted to expand its eastern borders.
 - D Germany gained access to important Soviet resources.