

CALIFORNIA CONTENT STANDARD 10.8.2

## The United States and Europe Before World War II

**Specific Objective:** Understand the role of appearement, nonintervention (isolationism), and domestic troubles in Europe and the United States prior to World War II.

Read the graphic organizer to answer questions on the next page.

## Conditions in Europe and the United States in the 1930s

- Great Britain, France, and the United States are suffering severe economic depressions.
- Great Britain and France, remembering World War I, are determined to keep the peace.
- Germany and Italy, seeking power, move to conquer other nations.

## **German and Italian Aggression**

1935 Italy invades Ethiopia.

**1936** Germany invades the Rhineland, an area between France and Germany.

**1938** Germany annexes Austria and claims the Sudetenland area of Czechoslovakia.

## British, French, and U.S. Reaction

# Appeasement—giving in to a potential enemy in order to keep the peace

- Great Britain and France, trying to preserve the peace, do not move to stop German and Italian aggression.
- At the Munich Conference of 1938, Great Britain and France agree to let Germany claim the Sudetenland.

## Isolationism—policy of avoiding political or economic ties to other countries

 The U.S. Congress, wishing to stay out of European affairs, passes three Neutrality Acts, beginning in 1935.

#### **German and Italian Aggression Continue**

**1939** In March, Germany occupies Czechoslovakia; in April, Italy invades Albania; On September 1, Germany invades Poland; on September 3, Great Britain and France declare war on Germany, and **World War II** officially begins.

# **PRACTICE**

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## The United States and Europe Before World War II

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

- 1 In the 1930s, Great Britain and France followed a policy of appeasement toward German and Italian aggression because they
  - A did not want to be involved in conflict or war.
  - believed this was the best way to control Hitler and Mussolini.
  - had governments similar to Germany and Italy.
  - **D** had a political alliance with Germany and Italy.
- U.S. isolationists in the 1930s wished to avoid
  - A political ties.
  - B foreign aid.
  - economic dependence.
  - association with Nazis.
- At the Munich Conference of 1938, Great Britain and France agreed to let Germany have
  - A Austria.
  - B Ethiopia.
  - the Rhineland.
  - the Sudetenland.

- 4 What nation did Italy invade in 1935?
  - A Austria
  - **B** Ethiopia
  - Greece
  - **D** Switzerland
- 5 One reason why Great Britain, France, and the United States did not respond immediately to German and Italian aggression in the 1930s is that all three were
  - **A** distracted by leisure activities.
  - focused on domestic anti-war movements.
  - concerned about the threat of communism.
  - **D** suffering from economic depressions.
- World War II broke out two days after Germany invaded which country?
  - A Albania
  - Czechoslovakia
  - France
  - **D** Poland