

US History
Origins of World War II

Learning Target:

I can examine the rise of fascism and militarism in Europe prior to WWII.

5. The Rise of Militarism – Franco & Spain

Spanish Political Reform –

- 1931 a new constitution was drafted
 - Limited the power of the military and Catholic Church
 - Instituted universal suffrage
 - Nationalized public utilities and land for peasants

Spanish Civil War –

- Conservative military men united under the leadership of General Francisco Franco
 - Felt threatened by the new constitution
- July 1936 Franco tried to overthrow the Spanish government
 - Started the Spanish Civil between the Fascists & the Loyalists
 - After three years of fighting the Fascists & Franco won

The Fascists –

- Received German & Italian military aid
- Forged a close relationship between Hitler & Mussolini

The Loyalists –

- Received Soviet aid but none from the US or western nations
- Stalin declared fascism and communism were incompatible
- Blamed the lack of western support for losing the war