

US History
Origins of World War II

Learning Target:

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

6. The Rise of Militarism – Japan

Japanese Expansion –

- Japanese military leaders wanted to lessen Japan's reliance on foreign imports
- Also wanted to reduce Western influence in the Pacific Region
- The creation of a Japanese empire would give Japan direct control over regions rich in iron, petroleum, rubber, and timber
- Depression economic conditions strengthened the militarists' position

Japan's Invasion of China –

- Japan's army led by Hideki Tojo – trusted by Emperor Hirohito
- Invaded Manchuria in 1931
- July 7, 1937 Japan attacked Chinese troops in Beijing
- Developed into full scale war with China
- The US and League of Nations condemned the Japanese but failed to halt Japanese expansion
- Militarism would not be stopped