

US History Origins of World War II

Learning Target:

I can identify and examine the international response of appeasement to the growing move towards fascism and militarism in Europe.

7. Global Response To Fascism & Militarism

Changing Diplomatic Relations –

- Spread of Fascism in Europe & Asia shook up international diplomatic relations
- Most surprising was the shift in US-Soviet relations

U.S.-Soviet Relations –

- The US was concerned about fascism in Europe and wanted a strong ally
- Soviets were concerned about stopping the Japanese
 - Japan had moved troops in huge numbers to nearby Manchuria
 - Hoped to avert the Japanese threat by mending US relations
- November 1933 the U.S. formally recognized the Soviet Union after years of hostility

Fascist Relations –

- Fascist powers were also formalizing their ties
- 1936 – Germany & Italy formed a military alliance known as the Axis Powers
 - Japan would later join also

The Munich Conference & Appeasement –

Munich Conferences –

- President Roosevelt called for European leaders to meet and resolve their conflicts peacefully
- Hitler (Germany), Mussolini (Italy), Chamberlain (Britain), & Daladier (France) met in Munich, Germany in 1938 at the Munich Conferences
- Signed a pact at the conferences giving Germany control of the Sudetenland
- Indicated that European leaders had adopted a policy of appeasement

Appeasement –

- Giving in to demands in an attempt to avoid a larger conflict.
- Most politicians underestimated Hitler's expansionist goals and believed he only wanted to remedy the wrongs of the Treaty of Versailles
- Some worried appeasement would only encourage Hitler to expand more
- Britain and other European nations sped up rearmament in case

The United States Response To Fascism –

Neutrality Laws –

- Passed by Congress between 1935 and 1939
- Prohibited the shipment of US munitions to warring nations
- Required warring nations that bought US goods to transport them themselves
- Forbade Americans from traveling on vessels of warring nations