

History

for the IB Diploma

The Move to Global War

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Dedication

For Karen

Contents

1 Introduction	1
Case Study 1: Japanese Expansion in East Asia, 1931–41	18
2 Causes of Japanese Expansion	18
2.1 How significant was the impact of nationalism and militarism on Japan's foreign policy?	19
2.2 What impact did Japan's main domestic issues have on foreign policy?	35
2.3 How significant was China's political instability?	43
3 Japan's Actions	55
3.1 What happened in Manchuria and northern China, 1931–36?	56
3.2 What were the main aspects of the Second Sino-Japanese War, 1937–41?	61
3.3 Why did Japan attack Pearl Harbor in 1941?	68
4 International Responses to Japanese Expansionism	81
4.1 How did the League of Nations respond to Japan's expansionism?	82
4.2 What political developments occurred within China as a result of Japanese aggression?	87
4.3 What was the international response to Japanese aggression?	88
Case Study 2: German and Italian Expansionism, 1933–40	100
5 Causes of German and Italian Expansion	100
5.1 What was the impact of Fascist and Nazi ideology on expansionist foreign policies in Italy and Germany?	101
5.2 What was the impact of economic issues on expansionist foreign policies in Italy and Germany?	120
5.3 How did conditions in Europe in the 1930s contribute to the collapse of collective security?	130
6 Germany's and Italy's Actions	142
6.1 How did Germany challenge the post-war settlements, 1933–38?	143
6.2 What were the main aspects of Italy's foreign policy, 1935–39?	151
6.3 How did Germany expand, 1938–39?	158
7 International Responses to German and Italian Expansionism	169
7.1 What was the international response to German aggression 1933–38?	170
7.2 What was the international response to Italian aggression 1935–36?	180
7.3 What was the international response to German and Italian aggression in 1939?	183

Contents

8 The Final Steps to Global War, 1939–41	193
9 Exam Practice	199
Paper 1 exam practice	199
Paper 2 exam practice	216
Further Information	220
Index	223
Acknowledgement	227

Introduction

1

This book is designed to prepare students taking the Paper 1 topic, *The Move to Global War* (Prescribed Subject 3) in the IB History examination. It will examine the history of military expansionism and the move to global war in the period between the two World Wars, by looking at two case studies, from two different regions of the world.

Both of these case studies must be studied. The first case study focuses on Japanese expansionism in East Asia from 1931 to 1941; the second case study explores German and Italian expansionism in the period 1933–39.

Each case study will examine **three** main aspects relating to these two examples of military expansionism in the period 1931–41:

- causes
- actions/ events
- international responses.

In particular, these case studies will examine the significance of nationalism and militarism, and the rise of right-wing and fascist regimes in Japan, Italy and Germany. In addition, economic developments will be examined, including the impact of the Great Depression. These case studies will also consider the problems arising from the peace settlements of 1919–20; and the various responses of the League of Nations, and of the main democratic states, to these developments which eventually led to the outbreak of the Second World War.

Overview

Themes

To help you prepare for your IB History exams, this book will cover the main themes and aspects relating to *The Move to Global War* as set out in the *IB History Guide*. It will also briefly examine some of the main political, economic, military and diplomatic developments in the period after 1919 which led to military expansionism in the years 1919–41. The major focus areas of the two case studies are shown below:

Japanese expansionism

- the political, economic and social problems of Imperial Japan in the years immediately before 1919 and, especially, between 1919 and 1941
- the rise of nationalism in Japan, and how this affected military affairs and expansionism in Asia after 1919
- the impact of the Great Depression on Japan, and the political instability in China after 1919

1

Introduction

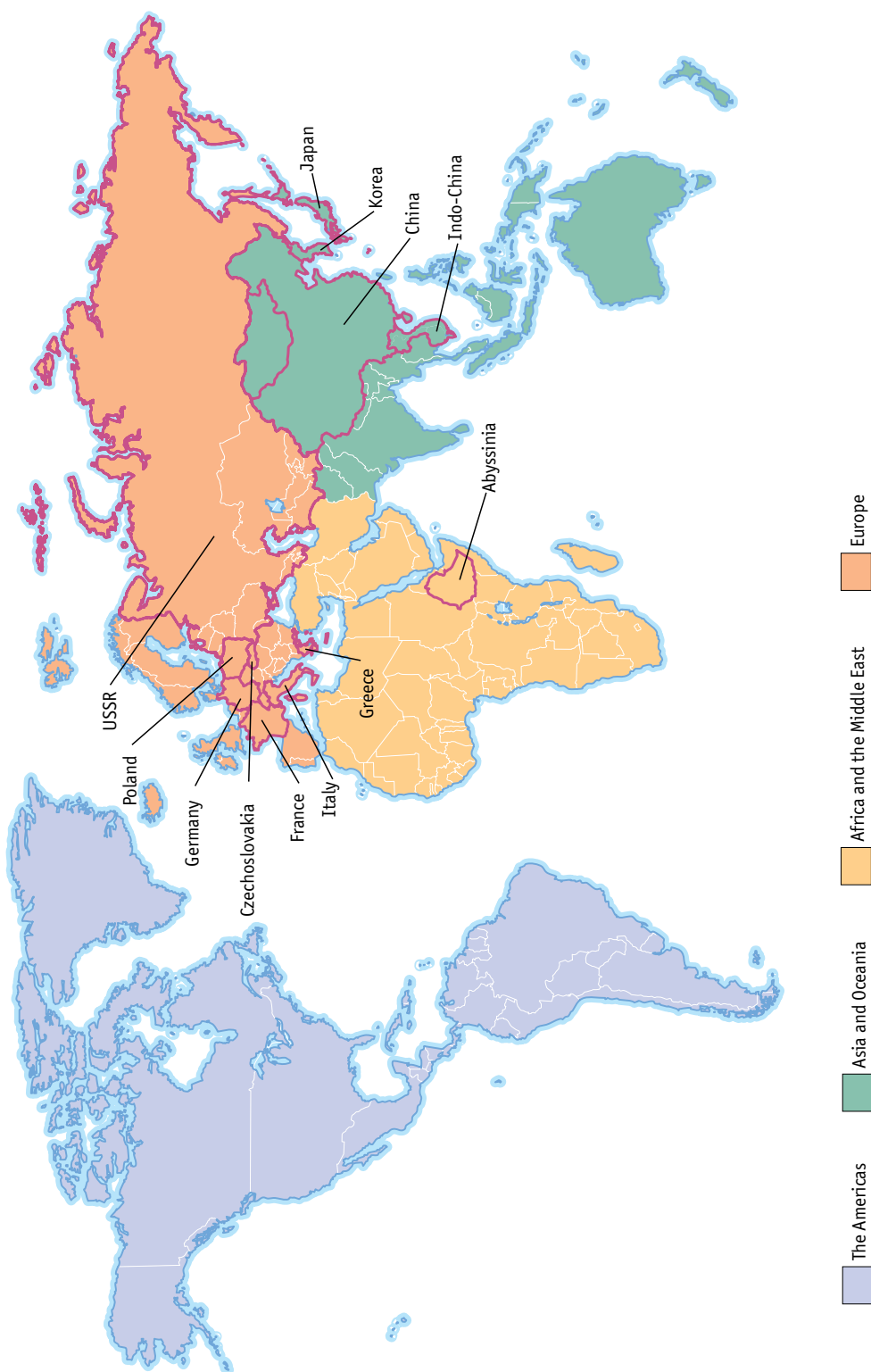


Figure 1.1 A map of the world, showing expansion by Germany, Italy and Japan in the period 1931–41

- Japan's military expansion in Manchuria 1931–36, and the Sino-Japanese War of 1937–41
- the responses of the League of Nations, China and the US to Japan's military expansionism in Asia during this period

German and Italian expansionism

- the political, economic and social problems of Italy and Germany in the years immediately before 1919 and, especially, between 1919 and 1939
- the rise of fascism in Italy and Nazism in Germany, and how this affected military expansionism in Europe and elsewhere after 1919
- the impact of the Great Depression on Italy and Germany, and the resulting European situation in the 1930s
- Italian and German challenges to the post-1919 peace settlements, and the development of the Axis alliances
- the responses of the League of Nations and the major states to Italian and German expansionism

Final steps to war

- how Japanese, Italian and German expansionism during the period 1919–41, and the international responses to it, finally led to the outbreak of war

Key concepts

Each chapter will help you focus on the main issues and compare the main developments relating to the two case studies. In addition, at various points in the chapters, there will be questions and activities which will help you focus on the six Key Concepts – these are:

- change
- continuity
- causation
- consequence
- significance
- perspectives.

Sometimes, a question might ask you to address two Key Concepts, for instance:

Why did Japan attack the US Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor? What were the immediate consequences of this action for the countries in South East Asia?

It is immediately clear with this question that the Key Concept of Consequences must be addressed in your answer. However, it is important to note that although the word 'causes' doesn't explicitly appear in the question, words such as 'why' or 'reasons' are nonetheless asking you to address Causation as well.

To help you focus on the six Key Concepts, and gain experience of writing answers that address them, you will find a range of different questions and activities throughout these chapters.