Hitler rose on:

1) Hopes of economic recovery.
2) Denunciation of the Peace Treaty of Versailles. Hitler hated this Treaty, as well as all of Germany because they were treated unfairly. All the European powers viewed Germany as the villain.
3) Denunciation of the Jews.
4) The fear of Communism.

The 1930s paved the way to World War II (referred to as the dark era of European history). Europeans did not stand tall to the threats posed by the three challenges to the status quo (the order that was outlined by the Versailles Treaty):

1) Lies of Japan
   a) Japan wanted to create its own imperial sphere in East Asia- “prosperity sphere”
   b) Thrusted forces into Korea and Taiwan; began to move towards China
2) The rise of fascist Italy
   a) Fascism: an authoritarian and nationalistic right-wing system of government and social organization
3) The rise of Hitler in Germany

The Monroe Doctrine
- a principle of US policy that any intervention by external powers in the politics of the Americas is a potentially hostile act against the US

Militant Nationalism: expansionist; desiring an empire;

In the face of aggression against China, the League of Nations was totally impotent
- China withdrew from the League of Nations

Benito Mussolini
- the fascist prime minister of Italy, with dictatorial powers, from 1922 until he was overthrown in 1943. In May 1938, Mussolini promised to fight alongside Adolf Hitler in any war against the democracies of the world
- came into power in 1922 through a coup d’etat
  - coup d’etat: a quick and decisive seizure of governmental power by a strong military or political group

Occupation of Albania in 1939.
Aggression in modern-day Libya.

In 1937, he withdrew from the League of Nations.

Issues at this time are centered in the far east and have not spread to Europe yet.

Nazi: National Socialist Party (inverted form of socialism)

Hitler rose to power in 1933.

These three regimes were controlled by dictators; they were non-democratic.

Victory is no guarantee of peace (Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam).

The Treaty of Versailles was destroyed piece-by-piece very slowly. Hitler did this by:

1) Hitler rearmed Germany.

2) Hitler reoccupied Horande Land (the land between Germany and France) and militarized it.
   ● Treaty of Versailles called for demilitarization

3) Created a coup in Austria
   ● under the pretext of the ingathering of the Germanic in their own place

This was the beginning of the Reich.

Hitler took over all of Czechoslovakia.

No efforts were made to stop his expansionist, militant tendencies.

1939- took over Poland.

Why didn’t the Western countries/European powers respond forcefully to Hitler's moves?

● The Policy of Appeasement
  ○ premised on the fact that a nation would pursue a policy that would attempt to appease and buy off a potential aggressor through making repeated concessions
  ■ these concessions could run contrary to the country’s principles
  ○ all done under the fallacy of trying to avoid world war
  ○ appeasement only put off the date of the conflagration
  ○ the more you appease a dictator, the more they desire to expand
  ○ these repeated concessions were a manifestation of European timidity, weakness, and lack of resolve to stand up and challenge Hitler’s moves
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- these repeated concessions were creating concrete facts on the ground
- delays conflict
- what were the reasons for this appeasement?
  - the World War I devastation and the losses were still fresh in memory
  - the chief architect of the Treaty/New World Order was US President Woodrow Wilson
    - we rejected joining the League of Nations
    - we left a vacuum in the balance of power in Europe
      - who was responsible? the US withdrawal
    - you cannot reason with a dictator

- **The Economic Wars in Europe**
  - in times of economic crisis, democratic countries become more and more inward looking and concentrating on their economic problems *
  - dictatorships try to thrust outside to divert attention from inside as well as gather resources

- **The Strategy of the Impenetrable Defensive Line**
  - Maginot Line
  - World War I trench warfare

Summer of 1940, Germans found themselves in Paris.

In 1937, rise of conservative party in Great Party under Prime Minister Chamberlain
  - surrendered land to Hitler; later won a Nobel Peace Prize

Peace Treaty was in 1919.

In the 1930s, Europeans started having a feeling of guilt towards Germany for it being maltreated (revisionist history).

Pacifist Sentiments.

Hitler used this to promote his quest for recovery and revival.

All of these factors lead to the conflagration in 1939.

On the eve of the war, there was a contest between the western powers and Hitler over each one trying to have Russia on its side. Germany won.

The Soviet - German/Nazi Pact (Convergence).

Both Germany and Russia feared the ghost of a two-front war.

The German armed forces thrusted eastward towards Poland.
In a matter of 6 months, Germany would crush Norway, all Scandinavian states, occupy Paris, and grew to its height of power in 1940.

The British upper-lip resolve.

In the summer of 1941, Germany dropped daily air attacks on London.

The leadership of significance in hours of need: Winston Churchill.

- Winston Churchill gave the British the resolve and determination to bear and sustain the blows and still remain strong.

Dictators get caught in their own game. They become rash and unthoughtful.

Out of frustration with his British campaign, Hitler invaded Russia and moved towards the eastern front.

The same thing that happened to Napoleon happened to Germany.

- When Russians are attacked, they move inward and wait for winter (vast land).

By December 1941, the German army started experiencing reverses.

Germany’s ally in the far east: Japan. Japan committed a fatal error: Pearl Harbor.

- This brought the United States in.

The emperor is the embodiment of the nation.

Germany was interested in completely getting rid of the status quo.

It was the US that would pursue a different course in how they treated other nations compared to how they treated Germany. We helped rebuild the broken countries with a new constitutional framework.