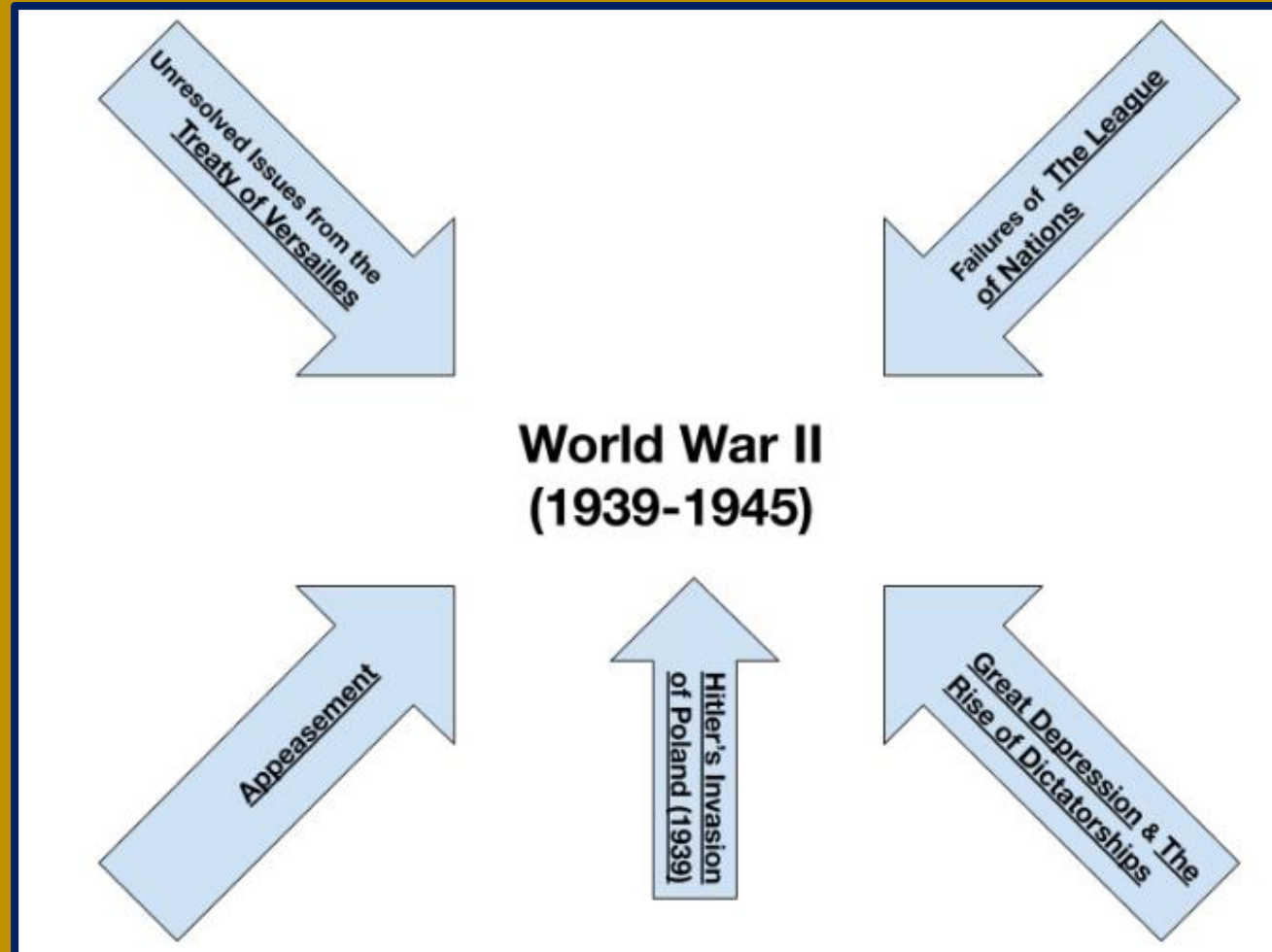


What was World War II?

- A global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945 involving over 30 countries.
- Fought between Two opposing military alliances.
 - The Allies
 - the Axis.
- Total War
 - deadliest conflict in human history
 - loss of an estimated 50 to 85 million lives.
- Mass death was caused by the Holocaust and the atomic bombings at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Causes of World War II



Turning Points and Major Battles

<https://wwiimaps.homestead.com/world39.html>

Turning Points of World War II

- June 1941 - Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union.
 - Battle of Stalingrad (1942)
- December 7, 1941 - Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (Hawaii) → U.S. Entry.
- Battle of Midway (1942) – First Japanese defeat
- June 6, 1944 - Invasion of France at Normandy: D-DAY
 - Operation Fortitude

FALL OF THE AXIS POWERS

- July 1943 – Invasion of Italy (Britain & France) – Mussolini overthrown
- Battle of the Bulge (Dec. 1944-Jan. 1945) – Allies defeat Germans in Belgium and invade Germany.
- April 30th, 1945 – Hitler commits suicide
- May 7, 1945 – Germany accepts unconditional surrender
- May 8, 1945 - V-E Day – “Victory in Europe” Day

The Holocaust

Holocaust: the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of eleven million (six million Jewish) people by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.

Genocide: wiping out an entire group of people

Concentration camps: large prison camps

Final Solution: the Nazi policy of exterminating European Jews



Number of Deaths

- Jews: up to 6 million
- Soviet civilians: around 7 million
- Soviet prisoners of war: around 3 million
- Non-Jewish Polish civilians: around 1.8 million (including between 50,000 and 100,000 members of the Polish elites)
- Serb civilians (on the territory of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina): 312,000
- People with disabilities living in institutions: up to 250,000
- Roma (Gypsies): 196,000–220,000
- Jehovah's Witnesses: around 1,900
- Repeat criminal offenders and so-called asocials: at least 70,000
- German political opponents and resistance activists in Axis-occupied territory: undetermined
- Homosexuals: hundreds, possibly thousands (possibly also counted in part under the 70,000 repeat criminal offenders and so-called asocials noted above)