

Origins of World War II

Class 2

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More on Hitler's World Views

- Hitler was a racist who saw history as a sequence of Darwinian struggles for existence in which the superior race survived and the inferior races became extinct
- Racial survival and progress meant territorial expansion
- For Germany, geographic expansion meant war and conquest of Eastern Europe and Russia
 - But first France had to be conquered and Britain neutralized
- After the defeat of France (and Britain) and the conquest of Russia, the next war would be with the United States

More on Hitler's World Views - 1

- Hitler was a racist who saw history as a sequence of race struggles
 - Progress in both the animal and human world was the result of selective breeding of the fit and elimination of the undesirable and inferior
 - Nations rose as a result of the dominance and efforts of racially pure Aryans
 - Nations fell when pure Aryans lost their dominance
 - Since nations and empires fell when their elites and populations saw their superior racial traits diluted or eliminated by marriage or sexual contact with racial inferiors, laws must be passed to prevent such dilution
- Since races were engaged in a continual struggle for existence (i.e. for living space which to Hitler meant agricultural land), war followed as a logical corollary in which Inferior races in turn would be eliminated

More on Hitler's World Views - 2

- To Hitler, racial progress implied territorial expansion
 - People could either adjust the population to a given space or adjust the space to the population
 - Adjusting population to a limited space meant emigration, birth control, and abortion which meant racial decay
 - Adjusting space to population meant wars of conquest with the native but racially inferior population being either expelled or exterminated, not assimilated

More on Hitler's World Views - 3

- Given Germany's location, initial geographic expansion should most logically take place in eastern Europe and Russia west of the Urals
- This view was reinforced by the notion that, except for the ethnic Germans residing in eastern Europe and the Volga Germans, the area was inhabited by racially inferior Slavs and Jews
- Territorial expansion meant war, especially war with Russia
 - Hitler saw the Russian Revolution as a boon to Germany since it had eliminated Russia's Germanic-origin ruling classes
 - As a result, Russia was now being ruled by Jews and Slavs who could easily be defeated

More on Hitler's World Views - 4

- To Hitler, the problem with attacking eastward was France
- To Hitler, France was the great strategic enemy
 - To Hitler, the enmity between France and Germany was based on much more than the hatreds arising from World War I
 - To Hitler, France was an Aryan nation that had betrayed its Aryan heritage – i.e. was a race traitor
 - France, via the French Revolution, had contributed the concept of “égalité” to European culture
 - It had emancipated and granted equality to the Jews
 - It had introduced Blacks into Europe during World War I
 - France had to be defeated before Russia was attacked

More on Hitler's World Views - 5

- To Hitler, Britain was a fellow Aryan nation to which he felt a mixture of admiration and hate
 - He saw the British as fellow Aryans dominated by an upper class that was the product of selective breeding
 - He saw British rule in India as a model for his own schemes of conquest
 - He saw Jews as having great influence in Britain
 - It was a democracy, which by definition destroyed responsibility and leadership
 - It was a predominantly industrial and commercial society which Hitler saw as occupationally unhealthful and socially debilitating
- He was both frustrated, puzzled, and enraged that Britain aligned itself with Hitler's enemies rather than with Germany

More on Hitler's World Views - 6

- While the U.S. had a large number of Aryans, it had become a mongrelized nation largely dominated by Jews and Blacks
- After the defeat of France (and Britain) and the conquest of Russia, Hitler saw the next war as a fight between a German-dominated Europe and the United States
 - Thus preparing Germany for war with the U.S. was one of the tasks of the Nazi movement
- The problem in defeating the U.S. was in engaging American forces on American soil
 - It was the Atlantic Ocean and the large American fleet that were the problems

Hitler's World Views and Global Strategy

- From his world views followed Hitler's strategy for global conquest
- Conquest would take place in stages, with each stage allowing Germany to acquire the strength and resources necessary to succeed at the next stage
- The stages:
 - Incorporating the Germans of Austria, the Sudetenland, and Poland into the Reich – This meant conquest of Czechoslovakia and Poland
 - Conquest of France
 - Either the surrender of, or a negotiated peace with, Great Britain
 - Conquest of Russia
 - War with, and invasion of, the United States
 - Eventual war with Japan followed by a world under German rule

Nazi Preclusive Diplomacy - 1

- To preclude a preventive strike against Nazi Germany before she could fully rearm
 - The Nazis launched a peace propaganda campaign and exploited people's fear of another war
 - Hitler spoke continuously of the desire of Germany to live in peace with its neighbors
 - The Nazis saw negotiations and treaties as a way of postponing troubles considered dangerous at the moment
 - Hence, the Nazis often made major concessions since they assumed that they would violate or abrogate the treaty when conditions were right

Nazi Preclusive Diplomacy - 2

- Peace propaganda and diplomatic concessions had their own dangers
 - The first danger was that the German people would take the peace propaganda seriously
 - The second danger was that German rearmament would put the German government under time pressure
 - German rearmament would set off an arms race with its potential enemies
 - Germany would have a limited window in which to strike since its potential enemies had a greater resource base at its disposal and, starting later, would more likely have more advanced weapons systems
 - Thus ,Germany would have to strike before its enemies were fully rearmed
 - The third danger was that once countries lost faith in German professions of peace, it would be impossible to get them again to the negotiating table

Key Events on the Path to War in Europe

Italian Conquest of Ethiopia

- Violated the Covenant of the League of Nations
- This outraged much of the British and French publics who demanded sanctions against Italy
- British and French governments wanted Mussolini as an ally against Hitler
- Result – ineffectual sanctions. These
 - Discredited the League of Nations and the concept of collective security
 - Made Mussolini an ally of Hitler rather than a potential enemy
 - Convinced Hitler that a policy of boldness pays
 - Demonstrated to Hitler that Britain and France lacked resolve
- It gave Mussolini delusions of power
 - Later led him into disastrous military operations against better-armed opponents
 - The Greeks
 - The British in North Africa

Why Mussolini Invaded Ethiopia

- To erase the stigma of the defeat of the Italians by the Ethiopians at Adowa in 1896
- Mussolini believed that only an imperial power could be great
 - Ethiopia did not belong to any other imperial power
 - It bordered the Italian colonies of Somalia and Eritrea
 - Conquest of Ethiopia would be a triumph for Mussolini
- Ethiopia could do for Italy what Manchuria had done for Japan
- Divert attention from domestic economic problems
- Mussolini feared that Haile Selassie would transform Ethiopia from a prospective colony into a modern nation
 - Pose a potential threat to Somalia and Eritrea

Remilitarization of the Rhineland

- Using the French ratification of the Franco-Soviet Pact, Hitler on 7 March 1936 sent a token force of 22,000 troops into the Rhineland
 - Demilitarized as a result of both the Treaty of Versailles and the Locarno Pact of 1925
- France had made no contingency military plans for dealing with a German remilitarization
 - The French had only prepared for a general mobilization and General Gamelin, the French Army CIC, saw such a move as dangerous, too slow, and too costly
- As Winston Churchill noted in *The Gathering Storm*, action now would have made the Second World War unnecessary.
 - The reason for inaction was, as Conor Cruise O'Brien noted, not the military risk but the political risk

The Anschluss

- Post-World War I Austria suffered because it had lost many of its markets to newly-erected tariff barriers
 - The country was polarized between urban, socialist Vienna and the rest of Austria which was largely rural, Catholic, and conservative.
- The Great Depression made matters even worse
 - As a result, Austrian democracy broke down
- What prevented Anschluss before 1938 was Mussolini's opposition
- Between 1935-38, this opposition melted away
- As a result, Hitler moved against Austria

The Anschluss - 1

- Post-World War I Austria was an artificial state created by the Treaty of Versailles which suffered because of that fact, having lost many of its markets to newly-erected tariff barriers
 - The country was polarized between urban, socialist Vienna and the rest of Austria which was largely rural, Catholic, and conservative.
- The Great Depression made matters even worse
 - The failure of the Rothschild Creditanstalt Bank seriously hurt the already-ailing Austrian economy and exacerbated an already poisonous anti-Semitism
 - A third of the workforce was unemployed and susceptible to the appeals of both Communists and Nazis

The Anschluss – 2

- In the context of polarization and depression, Austrian democracy broke down
 - All major parties developed their own paramilitary organizations – the Social Democratic Workers Party (the *Republikaner Schutzbund*), the Christian Social Party (the *Heimwehr*) and the Austrian Nazis had their own paramilitary SA
 - With parliament at an impasse, Chancellor Engelbert Dollfus on March 4, 1933 suspended parliament, refused to reconvene it, and began ruling by decree
 - On 12 February 1934, a *Heimwehr* search of a Social Democratic building provoked a violent response, touching off a mini-civil war which led to several hundred deaths and provoked the intervention of the Austrian Army
 - This resulted in the outlawing of the Social Democratic Workers Party

The Anschluss - 3

- To Hitler, annexation of Austria had always been a high priority
 - He complained that at the Berghof, he had to view his native land through field glasses
- When Dollfuss began to crack down on the Austrian National Socialist Workers Party (the Austrian Nazis), he was assassinated on July 25, 1934
- The assassination of Dollfuss outraged Mussolini who was both friends of Dollfuss and feared that Hitler had claims on the South Tyrol
 - Mussolini promised Austria military support, thus precluding any Anschluss in 1934

The Anschluss - 4

- Between 1934 and 1938, several factors led Mussolini to withdraw his opposition to Austrian Anschluss with Germany
 - Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia alienated Britain and France, forcing them to apply sanctions against Italy
 - Italy's and Germany's intervention in the Spanish Civil War in support of Franco
 - Count Galeazzo Ciano, who favored close ties with Germany, became Italian Foreign Minister
 - In January 1937, Goring visited Rome, told Mussolini that Germany had no designs on the South Tyrol, and invited Mussolini to visit Germany
 - That visit, in the Fall of 1937, convinced Mussolini that Germany had a glorious future ahead of it and that Italy should ally itself with Germany

The Anschluss - 5

- With Mussolini now willing to accept Anschluss, Hitler now proceeded to move against Austria
 - Aware that he was losing his protector, Kurt von Schuschnigg made a “gentleman’s agreement” with Hitler that in exchange for a guarantee of Austrian independence, Austria “recognized itself to be a German state
 - In 1938, Hitler felt he could move against Austria
 - Hitler invited Schuschnigg to Berchtesgaden and launched into a tirade, presenting an ultimatum that Schuschnigg had to sign
 - Hitler followed with a speech denouncing Germans who opposed union with the Reich as race traitors
 - Schuschnigg announces a plebiscite to be held on March 13th

The Anschluss - 6

- Hitler reacted to the plebiscite announcement with fury, by mobilizing troops and threatening invasion
- Unable to get help from abroad, Schuschnigg cancelled the plebiscite and resigned
- Arthur Seyss-Inquart, a Nazi, now became Chancellor
- Acting on Goring's long-distance phone instruction, Seyss-Inquart requested that Germany send troops into Austria to reestablish law and order
 - Even though it was the Austrian Nazis who were causing the violence
- The Wehrmacht marches into Austria without any resistance
- On March 13th, Hitler returns to Vienna in triumph

Conservatism & Fascism

Conservatism & Fascism - 1

- Conservatives were authoritarian pluralists
 - Committed to the defense of the status quo
 - Believed that social hierarchies were inevitable and beneficial and that the lower classes should defer to their superiors
 - Did not believe in equality
 - Did not believe power should be invested in any single person or institution
 - Believed In a plurality of institutions – churches, regions, corporations, aristocracies, monarchies – each with its own proper sphere of authority
 - Were authoritarian but willing to allow freedom outside the political arena
 - Were committed to legality
 - Were defenders of the Church and traditional religion
 - Were strongly anti-communist
 - Were willing to resort to violence and war but regarded it as a necessary evil with often unpredictable and unintended consequences

Conservatism & Fascism - 2

- Fascists believed in the concentration of power in the charismatic leadership of a single individual and the concentration of power in a single party in a strong state
 - Like the conservatives, they believed that social hierarchies were inevitable and beneficial
 - Like the conservatives, they did not believe in equality
 - Like the conservatives, they were strongly anti-communist
 - Tended towards Totalitarianism
 - Believed that violence and war were good in themselves as well as necessary means to the ends they sought
 - While they believed in elite rule, they were not committed to the defense of the existing political order
 - Were often racist and anti-Semitic
 - Were often anti-clerical and hostile to traditional religion
 - Believed in mass political mobilization of the population but not democracy

Munich - 1

- After Austria, Hitler's next target was Czechoslovakia
- Czechoslovakia was a successful democracy with a strong industrial base, but it was an ethnically- and linguistically-diverse country which included 3 million ethnic Sudeten Germans
 - The Nazis denounced the Czechs as a "vile race of dwarfs without any culture"
- Hitler's plan was to attack Czechoslovakia, penetrate its frontier defenses, and quickly conquer the whole country
 - Hitler's excuse was the alleged plight of the Sudeten Germans
 - To carry out his plan, Hitler ordered Konrad Henlein, the leader of the Sudeten Nazis, to make demands that the Czech government could not satisfy

Munich - 2

- The Czech President, Edvard Benes, granted all of Henlein's demands, even though it gave the Sudeten Germans virtual autonomy within Czechoslovakia
 - He did so in response to pressure from the Western democracies who felt that by appeasing Hitler they could avoid war
- As a result, Hitler became more bellicose, personally abusing Benes when they met and threatening war.
- Prompted by the French, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain intervened, flying to Berchtesgaden to meet with Hitler
 - Hitler convinced Chamberlain that he was willing to precipitate a major war over the Sudetenland, but that if the ethnic German areas were ceded to the Reich, there would be peace

Munich - 3

- When Hitler and Chamberlain met again at Bad Godesburg, Hitler escalated his demands, saying that his forces had to occupy the Sudetenland by the end of the month
- As Britain and France prepared to fight, Chamberlain made two final appeals – one to Hitler and one to Mussolini
 - Mussolini, feeling that Italy was not ready for a war, told Hitler that a deal could be made that would give Hitler everything he wanted except the war he wanted
- Two considerations led Hitler to opt for a negotiated settlement
 - Goring, Goebbels, and the German generals opposed going to war, saying Germany was not ready for war, especially one on two fronts
 - Hitler became aware that the German people did not want war

Munich - 4

- The result was a 4-power conference at Munich with Hitler, Mussolini, Chamberlain, and Daladier present and both Czechoslovakia and Russia excluded
 - Mussolini put forward the Bad Godesberg demands as his own which Chamberlain and Daladier accepted
 - Czechoslovakia was to surrender not only the Sudetenland but also vital industrial areas and vital fortifications
 - Benes was forced to accept the settlement, leaving it defenseless

Why Munich?

The Roots of Appeasement

England's Strategic Dilemma

- The British Government gave their highest policy priority to the preservation of the British Empire – an empire which they saw as the source of British power and greatness
- The British (and especially the dominions) saw the major threat to this empire as coming from Japan, not Nazi Germany.
- Policies aimed at stopping or defeating Japanese aggression in Asia were incompatible with policies likely to lead to war with Germany or Italy
- The Military force structure needed to confront Japan was far different from the force structure needed to fight Nazi Germany

The Bombers Will Get Through

- Accepting the strategic bombing theories of Generals Emilio Douhet and Billy Mitchell,
 - The British Cabinet felt that the complex infrastructure and supply & water systems of a modern city would be destroyed by large-scale bombing
 - They also believed the inability of governments to defend civilian populations would adversely affect public morale, forcing the government to make peace
- For a British Cabinet situated in London, this was a major consideration
- The fact were that cities turned out to be very durable entities that could still function despite massive bombing and that bombing civilians enraged them, making them more supportive of the war effort

Neville Chamberlain

- Born in 1869; died 7 November 1940
- Son of a noted British politician and MP – Joseph Chamberlain
- Was apprenticed as an accountant and became a businessman
- Director of National Service (1916-17) – head of the organization charged with coordinating conscription and draft deferments for essential workers
- Elected to Parliament in 1919
- Chancellor of the Exchequer (1931-1937)
- Prime Minister (28 May 1937-10 May 1940)

Notes on Chamberlain - 1

- As Director of National Service, he had responsibility for the conscripting into the military many of the young men who were to die in the trenches of the Western Front
 - It is hard to think that this did not haunt him and his commitment to peace and the avoidance of war
- As Chancellor of the Exchequer (our equivalent to the Secretary of the Treasury) and a former businessman, Chamberlain was committed to balanced budgets and the reduction of the debt (and interest due on same) inherited from World War I
 - He thus saw rearmament as threatening balanced budgets and so rearmed much slower than did Germany

Notes on Chamberlain - 2

- Chamberlain wanted no more Passchendaeles or Sommes
- Chamberlain believed that peace could be purchased by righting the injustices of the Treaty of Versailles
- Chamberlain could not believe that Hitler, despite his bellicose posturing and wild rants, wanted war
- Chamberlain believed that a large-scale and fast defense buildup would jeopardize exports, deplete foreign exchange reserves, and create a boom that would be followed by a slump and political defeat
 - This would put an incompetent Labor Party in power

Chamberlain waving the signed Munich Agreement



Consequences of Munich - 1

- Hitler realized that a massive propaganda campaign was necessary to prepare the German people for war
- Hitler became more determined than ever to deprive the rump Czechoslovakia of its independence
- Munich, by postponing war, shaped its future course
 - It led Stalin to make a deal with Hitler rather than form a united front with Great Britain and France against Hitler
 - it ensured the defeat of France by enhancing German military power through its acquisition of Czech tanks and the Czech armaments industry
 - It almost led to the defeat of England since Chamberlain limited expenditures on armaments due to both a desire to balance the budget and the belief that the danger of war had passed

Consequences of Munich - 2

- If Hitler had gone to war over Czechoslovakia
 - He would have had a war on two fronts since Russia had a treaty with Czechoslovakia and France to come to Czechoslovakia's defense provided that France also do so.
 - He would not have had the 10 armored divisions that he had in 1940 in the invasion of France
 - It was quite possible that the German generals, who opposed going to war over Czechoslovakia, would have overthrown him

Hitler seizes Czechoslovakia

- The rump Czechoslovakia, having yielded over the Sudeten Germans, had to give autonomy to Slovakia and Ruthenia.
 - It also had to yield a substantial portion of Slovakia to Hungary and territory to Poland
 - Finally, it had to absorb 30,000 German and 115,000 Czech refugees who fled the German-occupied Sudetenland
- In November 1938, Emil Hacha succeeded Benes as President
- Hitler, intent on war against Poland after it refused German demands, decided it was time to eliminate Czechoslovakia

Hitler Seizes Czechoslovakia - 2

- Hitler summoned Hacha to Berlin and told him of the coming German invasion, persuading him to order the surrender of the Czech army
- On March 15th, German troops entered Bohemia and Moravia, meeting practically no resistance
- On March 16th, Hitler visited Prague and declared Bohemia and Moravia to be German protectorates
 - Goring started using Czech resources to reinvigorate the flagging Four Year Plan
- By seizing Bohemia and Moravia, Hitler had done something he said he would never do – incorporate non-Germans into the Reich

Consequences

- It provided hard evidence that Hitler was both predatory and untrustworthy – that his promises meant nothing
 - Led Chamberlain to give a guarantee of Poland's independence
- It prevented any possible accommodation between Hitler and Great Britain
 - Hitler and von Ribbentrop never realized that what for them was a pretext was for London a real issue
- Skeptical of England's and France's willingness to really stand up to Hitler's aggression, it led Stalin to engage in a dual-track negotiation with both Hitler and the Western democracies to see who would provide the best deal

Stalin & Russia

The Theoretical Bases of a Soviet Dictatorship

- Marx saw Capitalism as an unstable system that would inevitably give rise to a proletarian revolution
- Marx predicted that the proletarian revolution would give rise to a dictatorship of the proletariat that would smash the power of the bourgeoisie, paving the way for the classless society of Communism
- Lenin, as a disciple of Marx in an autocratic society, believed that only a tightly-controlled elitist revolutionary organization that could evade the repression of the Czarist police could gain power
 - This was distinct from a mass-membership political party run on democratic lines so that once in power it was prone to dictatorship

Stalin's Personality

- Stalin was the son of a tyrannical and abusive father
 - Thus, Stalin learned to hate and also how to suppress hostility until the opportune moment
- The rigorous discipline of the seminary along with his upbringing led to a deep hatred of those in power
- When he came into contact with Communist ideology, he embraced it with the fanaticism of a true believer
- Life in a revolutionary underground intensified Stalin's paranoia, ruthlessness, and guile

Notes on Paranoia

- Paranoids tend to be suspicious of other people
 - They tend to feel that others, if not out to get you, at least have something that they want in their dealings with you
 - They have a relatively high degree of hostility but they can be good at concealing it
 - They are prone to conspiracism – if something is going wrong in either their personal lives or in society as a whole, then some conspiracy is behind it
 - They are prone to scapegoating – and the hatred is intensified if the scapegoat can be identified with a conspiracy
 - They tend to project onto others traits or failings they have in themselves
- There are degrees of paranoia – its on a continuum
- Paranoids can be highly intelligent and often highly successful in many lines of endeavor
 - They often win out in conspiratorial environments
- They have a need for adulation

The Struggle for Power

- In 1922, Stalin was appointed General Secretary of the Communist Party's Central Committee
 - This position had control over the composition of the various party committees, including the key Central Committee, thus enabling Stalin to fill key positions with his supporters and loyalists
- After Lenin's death in 1924, there was a struggle for power in the Kremlin
- Stalin, used his control of the Central Committee and influence in the Politburo to oust Trotsky and Kamanev from the Politburo in 1926
- By 1929, Stalin had achieved control of the Communist Party and through it control of the Soviet state
 - One thing that helped Stalin was gaining major influence over the Lenin Institute at the Party's Sverdlov University
 - His *The Foundations of Leninism* in which he explained Lenin's ideology to the new Party members established Stalin as the authoritative interpreter of Lenin

Collectivization of Agriculture

- As a paranoid and a Communist, Stalin felt that Capitalist powers would eventually attack Russia, taking advantage of her economic backwardness
 - Unless Russia caught up with the West within a decade, it would be crushed
- In order to both feed the industrial workers and have grain to export for Western technology, Russia had to either greatly increase agricultural production or decrease the rural standard of living
 - Since Soviet investment was directed toward heavy industry, this meant few consumer products so the peasants had little incentive to increase production
- Stalin chose to collectivize agriculture as a means of extorting grain from the peasants

Collectivization of Agriculture - 1

- As both a paranoid and a Communist, Stalin felt that the capitalist powers would gang up on the Soviet Union in order to divert their attention from their internal problems
- Stalin also felt that Russia's economic and technological backwardness invited aggression against her
 - Unless Russia caught up within a decade, it would be crushed
- In order to obtain the Western technology needed for crash industrialization, Russia needed to export
 - In the 1920s and 1930s, this meant the export of grain
- In order to feed the workers now pouring into the industrial towns and cities, grain had to be gotten from rural areas

Collectivization of Agriculture - 2

- Unfortunately, Russia did not produce enough grain to both feed city workers and export *en masse* to the outside world
 - This meant either increasing agricultural production or decreasing the rural standard of living
 - Since Soviet investments were directed toward heavy industry and arms-related industries, there were few consumer products to buy.
 - Hence, the peasants had little incentive to increase production since there was little to buy
 - This left the option of collectivizing agriculture, which by decreasing the food available to the collective farms would increase the food available for export

Collectivization of Agriculture – 3

- The peasants resisted giving up their farms and their grain
- Stalin interpreted peasant resistance to collectivization as the result of a conspiracy of class enemies against the state
 - The conspirators being the wealthier and most productive farmers – the Kulaks
- As a result, Stalin directed that contingents of OGPU, Red Army soldiers, and workers from the towns go to the countryside to drive the peasants onto the collective farms, deport them to the Gulag, and sometimes even shoot them
 - The peasants retaliated by active resistance and killing their farm animals
- The end result of this was a major famine (most severe in the Ukraine) as grain was confiscated and the resisting peasants left to starve

Collectivization of Agriculture - 4

- Despite intense peasant resistance, agriculture was collectivized and the peasants turned into poorly-paid farm laborers
- Collectivization destroyed the nation's best farmers and disrupted the agricultural production system
 - As a result the Soviet standard of living declined
 - By 1930, bread and other foodstuffs were rationed in a nation that was once Europe's breadbasket
- Collective farms, however, were effective in exploiting the collective farmers and diverting grain to the state

Industrialization

- By depressing living standards, the Soviets were able to divert a significant portion of GNP to capital investment
 - Most of the investment went into heavy industrial capital goods, such as steel, construction materials, mines, and railroads. As time went on, an increasing amount of investment went into military-related production
 - Unfortunately, a lot of investment was wasted since there was no market mechanisms to tie production to demand.
 - Thus, the Soviet economy did very poorly in meeting consumer demand
 - Soviet production, however, could be very efficient in areas where the demand was monopsonistic – there was only one user or consumer for the goods produced
 - Monopsonistic products are typically military-related products like tanks, aircraft, ships, guns, etc.

The Purges - 1

- Given Stalin's paranoia, his penchant for seeing conspiracies against his rule, and his tendency to scapegoat
 - The purges of the 1930s seem as logical consequences
 - Another consequence was an expansion of the power of the OGPU (Secret Police) and the creation of networks of informers so that every factory, office, apartment building, and organization had its informers
- The purges involved three major public show trials
- The purges also affected large segments of the political, military, diplomatic, and intellectual leadership of Russia

The Purges - 2

- 3 of the 5 Army Marshals (5-stars), 13 of 15 Army Commanders (4-stars), 50 of 57 Corp Commanders, and 154 out of 186 division commanders. 4% to 8% of all Red Army officers, and 8 of 9 Admirals
- 10 of the 11 presidents of the non-Russian Soviet republics. Of 175 commissars in the People's Republics, 150 lost their lives. At least 44 percent of all senior diplomats were purged.
- There were also other extensive purges of writers, journalists, and scientists (especially biologists and astronomers)
- People with foreign connections, such as returning emigres, diplomats, secret agents, athletes who had competed abroad, volunteers who had fought in Spain, and Communists from other countries who had sought sanctuary in the Soviet Union
- Up to 4 million people, possibly more were purged. Some 750,000 of these were shot. Most of the others went to the Gulag

Consequences of the Purges - 1

- Economic growth fell from 12% to 2% as managers, engineers, technical experts, and workers were purged and the remaining workers were demoralized
- Everyday life was disrupted
 - Street and place names kept changing
 - Libraries had to remove the books of those who had fallen out of favor
 - School textbook had to be constantly revised
 - Public posters and photos had to be changed to remove purged individuals (and this in an age before Photoshop)
 - People became guarded in what they said to others
 - You never knew who might be an OGPU informer

Consequences of the Purges - 2

- Discredited Russia and, to some extent Communism as an ideology, in the eyes of Western elites, intellectuals, and publics
- Impoverished Soviet art, science, and intellectual life
 - Stalin's support of Lysenkoism crippled genetics and the biological sciences in the Soviet Union
- Created a pervasive climate of intellectual and personal mistrust
 - Soviet citizens learned to avoid contact with Westerners, even those fluent in Russian

Consequences of the Purges - 3

- Isolated Stalin and the Soviet leadership from what was really going on in the country
 - Fearful sychophants told them what they thought Stalin and the leadership wanted to hear rather than what was true
- Greatly weakened for a time the Soviet Army
 - This showed up in the Soviet occupation of eastern Poland after the Nazi-Soviet Pact and Hitler's invasion of Poland
 - It showed up more egregiously in the Soviet Army's performance in the Russo-Finnish War
- Led both Hitler and the West to greatly underestimate the ability of the Soviet Union to withstand a German invasion

The Rise of a Militaristic Japan

Notes on Japanese Culture - 1

- The dominant religion was Shinto influenced by Buddhism
- According to the Shinto creation myth, the Japanese home islands were created by gods for the Japanese people who in turn were created by greater or lesser gods (*kami* or *ujigami*)
 - The most significant goddess was *Amaterasu*, the goddess of the Sun or of the universe. From her, the Japanese emperor traced his descent and divinity
- The status of the clan or family depended upon the closeness or distance of its *kami's* relationship to *Amaterasu* which meant the clan's or family's closeness or distance to the Imperial family.
 - Each Japanese clan was descended from a god (*ujigami* or *kami*)
 - Non-Japanese were not descended from a god and thus of inferior status

Amaterasu



Notes on Japanese Culture - 2

- The role of the family and individual was to offer worship to the *kami* or *ujigami* at either a public or a home shrine
- The individual was of little significance in comparison with the family, the clan, or the Japanese people since individuals lived only briefly while the other entities were potentially immortal
 - Thus the focus was not on the individual but on the family and the clan
- Thus society was more important than any individual and could demand any sacrifice from that individual
- Men are by nature unequal and should serve loyally in the particular status into which they had been born
 - Thus traditional Japanese culture was hierarchical and patriarchal

Notes on Japanese Culture - 3

- Unlike Abrahamic religions, Shinto was not linked to a code of ethical behavior.
 - Its concept of an afterlife is similar to that the Greek *Hades*.
- With the Meiji Restoration in 1868 (and especially from the late-1920s to 1945), traditional Shinto became State Shinto
- What State Shinto did was take certain aspects of traditional Shinto and place a strong emphasis upon these aspects
 - It also incorporated into Shinto other concepts as well

Notes on Japanese Culture - 4

- State Shinto emphasized the following:
 - The divinity of the Emperor
 - The uniqueness (*kokutai*) of the Japanese people as descended from divine beings
 - The obligation of Japanese to “offer yourselves courageously to the State and thus guard and maintain the prosperity of Our Imperial Throne”
 - The concept of *Bushido* (“the way of the warrior”)
 - Strong sense of loyalty
 - Strong sense of honor
 - In the context of World War II, it led to the *kamikazes*
 - Strong sense of shame

Hirohito

