**The New Bullies in the Neighborhood**

**Adolf Hitler - Germany**

Hitler believed that Germany had been “stabbed in the back” by its leaders following World War I. The German military leaders never surrendered, so in Hitler’s mind, Germany should have continued on to win the war. Hitler became leader of the National Socialist German Worker’s Party, which was also known as the NAZI Party. Hitler tells Germans that the only way the nation can become great is to rid Germany of all “undesirables”. People listened to him because of the inflation and unemployment found throughout the country. They were looking for an answer and thought that Hitler could lead them to a better life. Hitler’s autobiography was titled “Mein Kampf”, which means my struggle. He plainly outlined his plans for a dictatorship and how Germany in 1933 and was in total control of the nation by 1934. He broke the Treaty of Versailles by re-arming Germany and pit into place laws against the Jewish population. In 1936, Hitler sent German troops in to reoccupy the Rhineland (the area between France and Germany). Two years later, Hitler forced Austria to unite with Germany. Next, he wanted part of Czechoslovakia known as the Sudetenland region. A conference took place between Germany, France, Italy, and Great Britain. Germany was given this region with the understanding that he would leave the rest of Czechoslovakia alone. Hitler was not a man to be trusted and took over the rest of Czechoslovakia in March of 1939. Germany then invaded Poland on September 1st, 1939 – this action prompted Great Britain and France to declare war on Germany.

1. List at least 3 warning signs that should have let the world know they needed to put a stop to Hitler.
2. Why did the German people do along with Hitler?
3. What places (in order) did Hitler take over leading up to WWII?

**Benito Mussolini - Italy**

Mussolini and other veterans of World War I created the Fascist Party in Italy. He promised to restore Italy to the “glory and power of ancient Rome” by fixing the economy and restoring order. When he took over in 1922, he created a militia that used terrorist tactics to take care of any opposition. His secret police force was known as the Black Shirts. He used his power to end democracy and set up a fascist state. Under fascism, the government glorifies the state about the individual and calls for an all-powerful dictator that is backed by the military. In 1935, Mussolini attacked and conquered Ethiopia. It was one of the few nations left in Africa that had not been colonized. A pact called the Rome-Berlin Axis was signed in 1936 between Italy and Germany. Italy did not enter the war until June 10, 1940 when Mussolini was positive that France was about to fall.

1. List and describe two ways that Mussolini got the Italians to follow him.
2. What is fascism?

**Joseph Stalin – Soviet Union**

After the death of Vladmir Lenin, Joseph Stalin came to power. Stalin forced a type of totalitarianism on the Soviet Union that many called Stalinism – a brutal form of communism led by a small group of leaders. Stalin forcibly purged (removed by execution or imprisonment) anyone who went against the Communist Party. His main goal was to change the Soviet Union from an agricultural economy to an industrial economy. Under Stalin, people who resisted were shot, sent to labor camps, or denied grain (which led to the starvation of millions of peasants). The Soviet Union grew strong during this time, but it was at a high human cost.

1. How did Joseph Stalin take control of the Soviet Union?
2. How did Stalin deal with those who opposed the Communist Party?
3. Why would Stalin want to change the Soviet Union from an agricultural (farming) to an industrial economy?

**Emperor Hirohito - Japan**

By the 1920s, Japan had already industrialized due the Meiji Restoration. Emperor Hirohito took the throne in 1926. He is often blamed for Japan’s aggressive expansion, but he had limited powers as emperor and served as more of a “figurehead”. Military leaders, such as Hideki Tojo, controlled the government throughout the 1930s (militarism). They set out to build a huge Japanese Empire in Asia with the goals of acquiring power, territory, and the ability to further industrialize.

1. How would you describe the Emperor of Japan?
2. Why did Japan need to expand?
3. What type of government was found in Japan?

**Reflection**

1. What do these four bullies have in common?
2. How are these four bullies different?
3. How do you think the League of Nations should have handled these countries?