Chapter 21, Section 2

* Adolf Hitler was popular in Germany because he criticized the Treaty of Versailles. He promised the people he would not obey the treaty.
* He planned to build a new air force and increase the size of the army.
* British leaders chose a policy of **appeasement** to “deal” with Hitler’s and Germany’s behavior.
* Appeasement – the idea that if you meet another government’s demands, you can avoid war.
* Benito Mussolini, Italy’s dictator was Hitler’s ally.
* World War II began when Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, leading France and Britain to declare war.
* Prime Minister of Britain, Winston Churchill, declared, “We will never surrender.”
* German’s air force tried to destroy Britain’s Royal Air Force. The battle is known as The Battle of Britain.
* Britain used a new technology, **radar**, to detect incoming German airplanes; allowing the British to escape invasion. Churchill stated, “Never…was so much owed by so many to so few.”
* The United States stayed neutral during the early years of the war. Congress passed the **cash-and-carry policy** which let Britain buy goods from American businesses as long as they paid cash and carried the goods to Britain in their own ships.
* US Congress also passed the **Lend-Lease Act** which allowed the US to lend weapons to Britain.
* Japan moved into and conquered Asia (colonies of France, Britain and America).
* In an effort to help Britain defeat Germany, President Roosevelt prevented the Japanese from withdrawing money they had in American banks. He also stopped the sale of natural resources that Japan lacked and needed.
* Angered by these actions, Japanese warplanes carried out a surprise attack on the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; killing more than 2,300 soldiers, sailors and civilians.
* Roosevelt called this attack on December 7, 1941 “a date which will live in infamy [disgrace].”
* Roosevelt asked congress to declare war against Japan; three days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the US.