

USH.6a

Causes of World War II

Political and Economic conditions in Europe following World War I led to the rise of fascism and to World War II

Political instability and economic devastation in Europe resulting from World War I

Worldwide depression

High war debt owed by Germany

High inflation

Massive unemployment

The Rise of fascism threatened peace in Europe and Asia

Rise of Fascism

Fascism is a political philosophy in which total power is given to a dictator and individual freedoms are denied.

Fascist dictators included Adolph Hitler (Germany), Benito Mussolini (Italy), and Hideki Tojo (Japan). These dictators led the countries that became known as the Axis Powers.

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the major causes and effects of American involvement in World War II by a) identifying the causes and events that led to American involvement in the war, including the attack on Pearl Harbor.