

## Notes: Basic Causes of World War II

### 1. Nationalism

- Rise of "super nationalism" - fascism and glorification of the state
- Germany, Italy, Spain, and Japan are examples

### 2. Neo-Imperialism

- "Have not" powers - Germany, Italy and Japan - demanded "Living room" for their overcrowded populations and raw materials for their industries
- Japan wanted a chance to compensate for its lack of "territory"
- The economic situation was further complicated by the collapse of world trade/tariffs after the 1930's.

1933 - Hitler comes to power

### 3. Versailles Treaty - Demand for revisions

- Discontent with the Versailles Treaty and particularly boundary settlements, also led to war
- Germany was extremely resentful and Italy felt badly treated

### 4. The Failure of the League of Nations

- Not a cause, but a reflection of the problems
- It failed to protect all nations and the disarmament negotiations fell apart
- It could do nothing in response to Japan's invasion of Manchuria, Italy's invasion of Ethiopia and Germany's many violations of the Versailles Treaty

### 5. Division in the West

- France and Britain were at odds with each other regarding Germany
- Britain felt that concessions should be made to Germany; that a strong and prosperous Germany was an asset to English industries.
- France wanted to keep the Versailles Treaty in place and keep Germany poor and militarily weak.