

Notes: Steps Along the Road To War

1. **October 1933** – Hitler withdrew from the disarmament conference and the Versailles Treaty.
2. **March 1935** – Hitler creates an air force and obligatory military service.
3. **1935** – Mussolini attacked Ethiopia, by May 1936, Ethiopia overrun.
4. **October 1936** – *Rome-Berlin Axis* signed.
5. **November 1936** – *Anti-Comintern Pact* signed with Japan.
6. **November 1937** – Similar pact signed with Italy.
7. **April 1938** – Britain signs agreement with Mussolini – Italy's possession of Ethiopia is recognized and mutual friendship is pledged.
8. **September 1938** – *Munich Conference* - Hitler, Mussolini, Daladier of France and Chamberlain of England met. Agreement is reached – Hitler got 1/5 of Czechoslovakia, the Sudetenland and the Skoda armament works.
9. **March 1939** – Hitler violated the *Munich Pact* and took the rest of Czechoslovakia.
10. **April 1939** – Britain and France guaranteed the defense of Poland, but this agreement did not include Russia.
11. **August 1939** – *Nazi-Soviet Pact* – Hitler's strategy was to assure Russia's neutrality and isolate Poland. Hitler could attack Britain and France in the west without worrying about the eastern front.... Later he could turn on Russia.
12. **September 1, 1939** – The Germany army, ignoring the non-aggression pact signed in 1934, invaded Poland. World War II had begun.