


Major Causes of WWII

- ❖ **Treaty of Versailles**
- ❖ **Rise of Italian fascism**
- ❖ **Rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party**
- ❖ **Great Depression**
- ❖ **Japanese expansionism**
- ❖ **Anti-communism**
- ❖ **Appeasement**
- ❖ **Militarism**
- ❖ **Nationalism**
- ❖ **U.S. isolationism**
- ❖ **Maps**



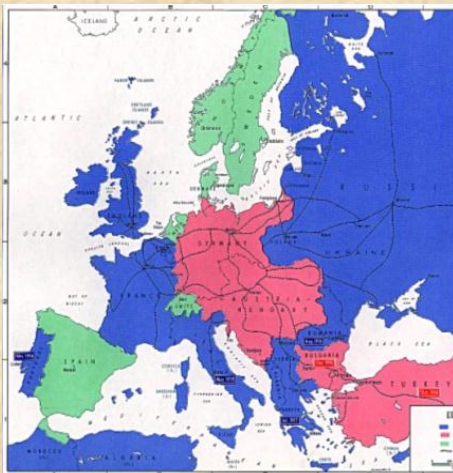
Treaty of Versailles

 After Germany lost WWI, the winning nations drafted a treaty to address issues such as territorial adjustments, reparations, armament restrictions, war guilt and the League of Nations.

 The treaty punished Germany and left bitter feelings.

 Germany was forced to accept all the blame for the war and pay millions in reparations to Britain and France.

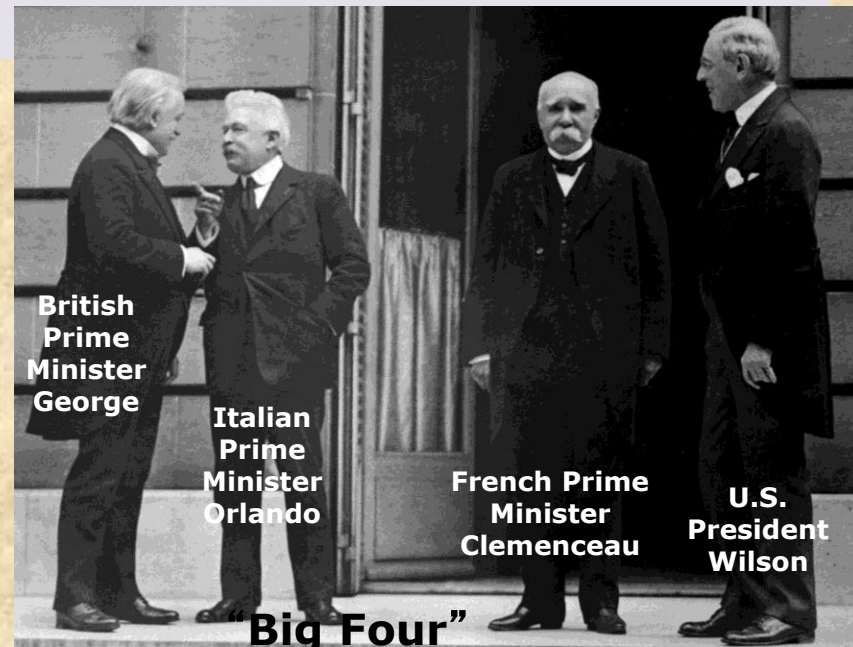
 Italy was disappointed that it was denied territory promised by Britain and France.



1914



1919




The Rise of Fascism in Italy

Fascism is a totalitarian form of government which:

 **Glorifies the state**

 **Has one leader and one party**

 **All aspects of society are controlled by the government**

 **No opposition or protests are tolerated**

 **Propaganda and censorship are widely practiced**

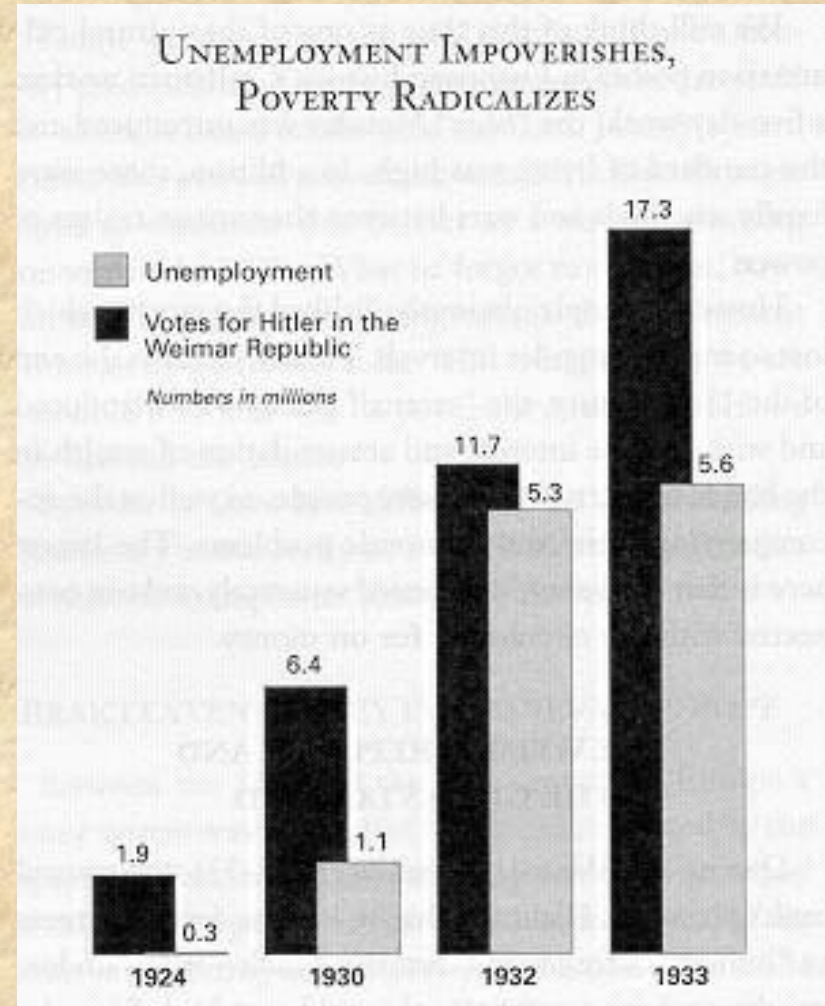


Benito Mussolini came to power in 1922 and helped found the political ideology of fascism. He sided with the Axis powers in 1940.

In Germany, depression, unemployment and hard times led to a dramatic increase in votes for Hitler and the Nazi Party.

Election date	Votes in millions	Share
May 20, 1928	0.81	2.6%
September 14, 1930	6.41	18.3%
July 31, 1932	13.75	37.3%
November 6, 1932	11.74	33.1%
March 5, 1933	17.28	43.9%

Voting for Hitler's party increased as unemployment rates rose



Worldwide Economic Depression

⚡ After WWI many European economies were unstable.

⚡ The boom in the U.S. throughout the 1920s helped sustain worldwide trade.

⚡ The 1929 stock market crash in the U.S. and the resulting Great Depression spread throughout the world. U.S. restrictive tariff policies worsened the depression.

⚡ As economies plummeted and unemployment rose, many people turned to powerful leaders and governments who promised success through military buildup and the conquest of territory.



German breadlines



Japanese children eating radish roots during famine

Japanese Expansionism



In 1931 Japan invaded Manchuria for raw materials.



The same year, Japan began to attack China, with full-scale war breaking out in 1937 in the Sino-Japanese War.




In 1938, war broke out between Japan and the Soviet Union in what were known as the Soviet-Japanese Border Wars.



Anti-Communism



A Battle for Germany: Nazi anti-communist book from 1933

 Under communism, all means of production are controlled by the government, as are property, the media, and all other aspects of society.

 The 1930s saw the rise of many totalitarian regimes; but most people chose fascism over communism.

 Hitler exploited people's fear of a communist takeover in Germany to rise to power in 1933.

Appeasement



Appeasement is the act of giving in to an enemy's demands in hopes of avoiding further conflict.



In 1938, Hitler demanded that Czechoslovakia cede the Sudetenland to Germany. He claimed that the German population living there was being mistreated.



The British and French prime ministers agreed to Hitler's demands without consulting Czechoslovakian leaders, in the hopes that this would avoid a war in Europe.



Militarism



The glorification of war, in which a nation strengthens its military and stockpiles weapons in preparation for war.



An important aspect of militarism is that the glorification of war is incorporated into all levels of society, including education of the nation's youth.



Militaristic societies have existed throughout human history.



Hitler Youth group



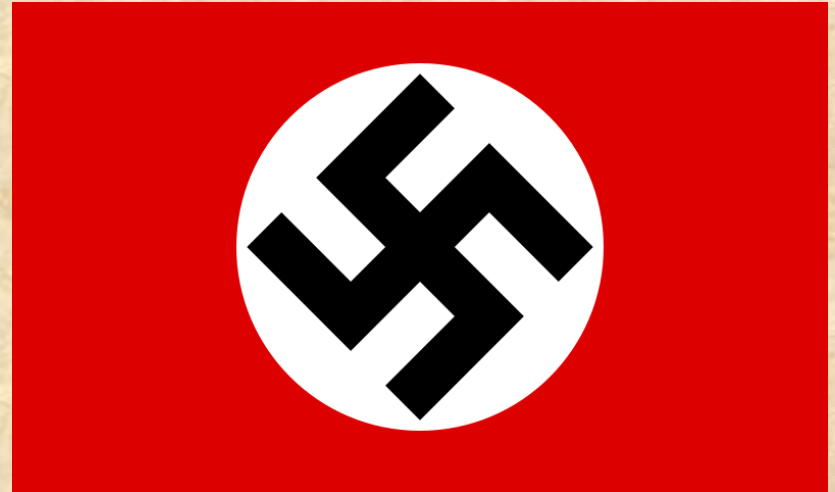
Ancient Sparta is an example of a militaristic society

Nationalism

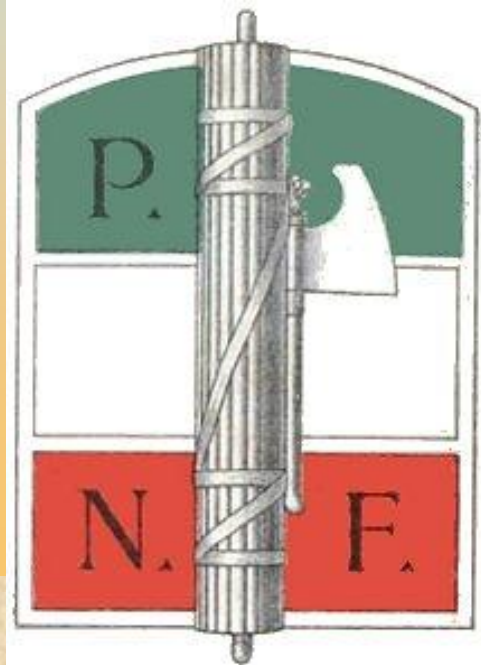
⌘ **Nationalism is the belief in the superiority of one's own nation over all others.**

⌘ **In the extreme, it can lead to major conflicts between nations.**

⌘ **Hitler, Mussolini, and Japan's Tojo each touted their nation's ability to dominate all others in the years leading up to WWII.**



Nazi flag, Italian fascist logo, Japanese flag



American Isolationism



The failure of peace efforts such as the Kellogg Briand Treaty during the 1920s disillusioned many Americans about international involvement.



The U.S. was in a major depression throughout the 1930s and was mostly concerned with its own problems.



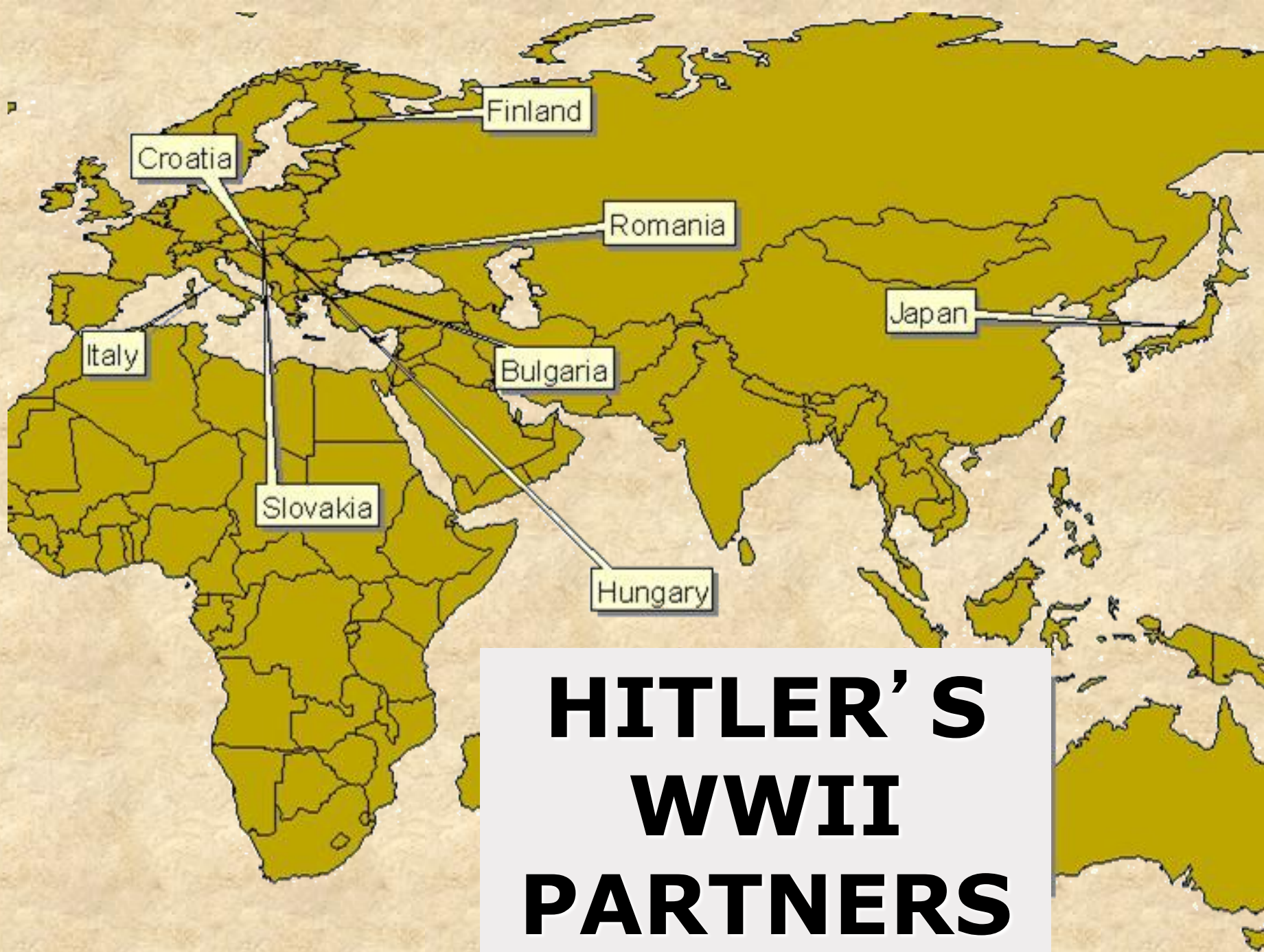
Conflict in Europe seemed distant, and the U.S. tried to remain neutral. This policy weakened the European democracies.



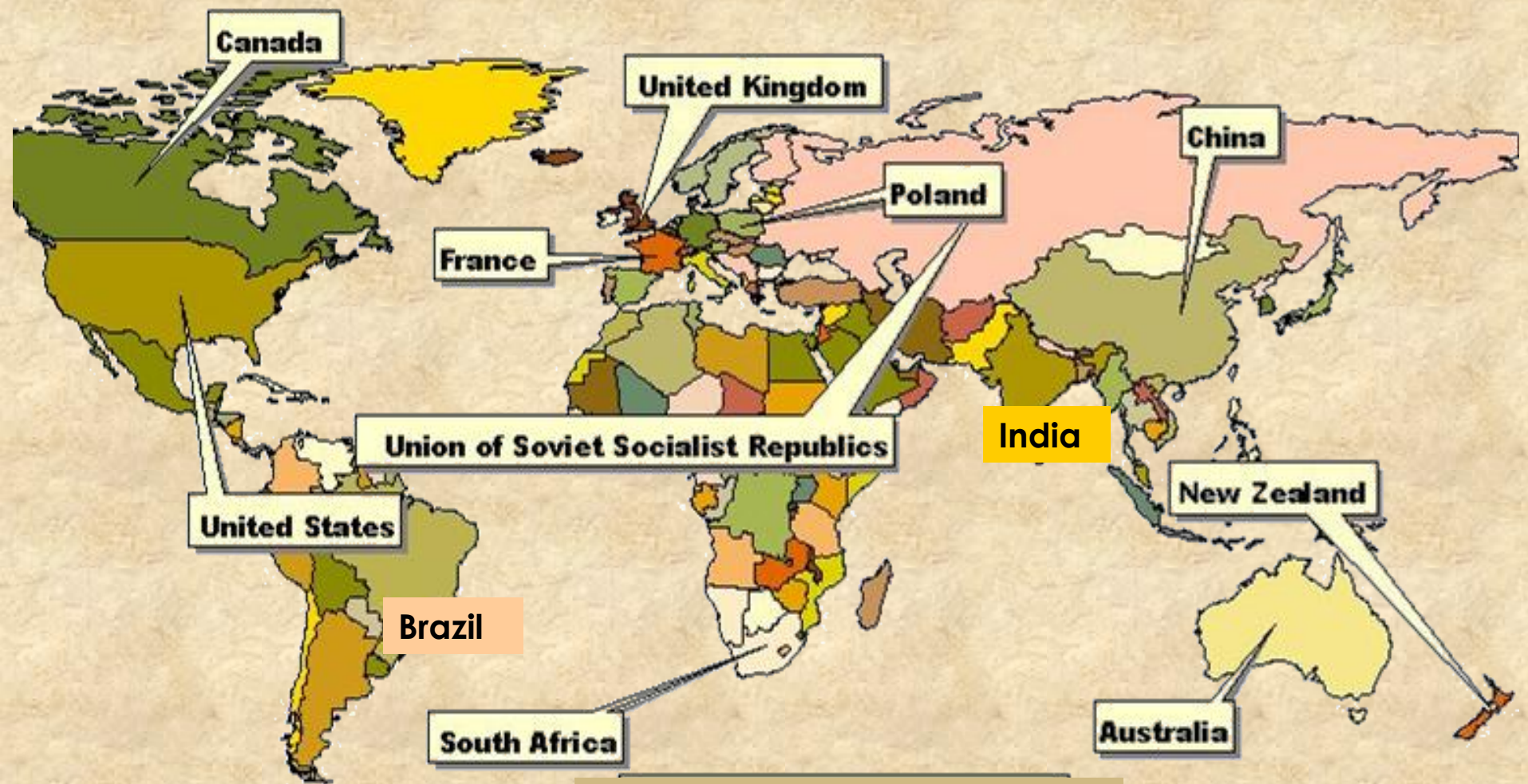
The Nye Committee held congressional hearings in the mid-1930s, concluding that the U.S. was tricked into entering WWI by arms manufacturers and Allied propaganda.

Theaters of War: Where WWII Was Fought





HITLER'S WWII PARTNERS



THE ALLIED POWERS IN WWII