

Years of Crisis, 1919–1939

Societies undergo political, economic, and social changes that lead to renewed aggression.



Unemployed men in a Chicago soup kitchen during the Great Depression (1930).



Expansion in Europe, 1931–1939



Economic Crisis: Between Two Fires



Expansion in Europe, 1931–1939



Economic Crisis: Between Two Fires

Problems Caused by the Great Depression:

- U.S. stock market crashed and businesses failed
- Widespread unemployment and hunger resulted
- Unpaid debts caused banks to close
- Industrial production fell and U.S. economy collapsed
- World War I left many countries bankrupt or with huge debts
- International trade suffered
- Need for strong, effective leadership felt

How did world leaders respond to the global economic crisis?

Western Democracies

- Avoided political extremes, but many economic measures required centralized control rather than local action
- Regulated stock market and banking system to cure past abuses
- Enacted high protective tariffs and lowered interest rates to encourage industrial growth
- Passed social reforms such as unemployment insurance, housing subsidies, and welfare benefits
- Increased taxes to pay for these social reforms
- Created huge public works projects to provide jobs

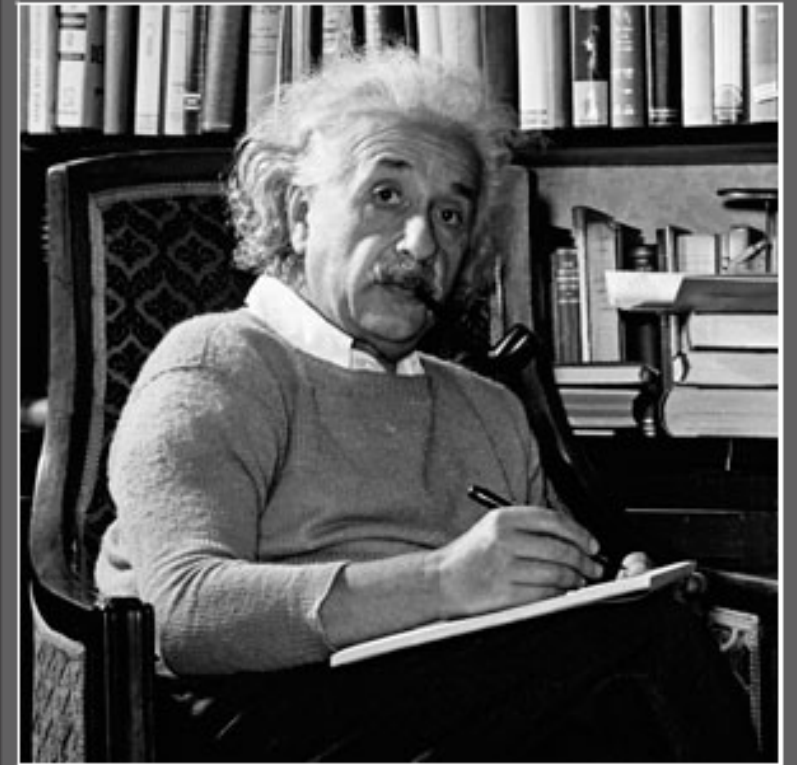
Fascism or Nazism

- Ruled by a charismatic leader through a one-party system
- Urged public sacrifices to cure economic woes
- Centralized government authority over business and labor through state corporations that set wages, prices, and labor conditions
- Outlawed strikes and dissolved independent labor unions
- Saw foreign expansion and militarism as primary solution to economic problems
- Employed workers to build factories, highways, and weapons and to serve in the military

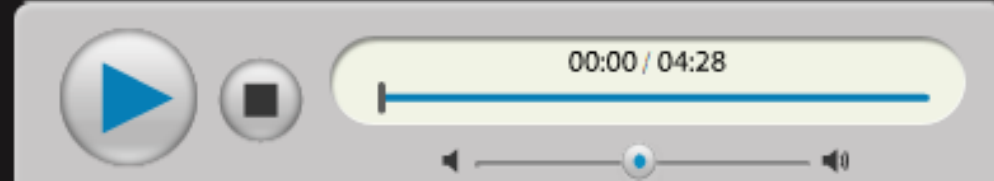
Voices From the Past

Albert Einstein: The Absent-Minded Professor

Albert Einstein, who was famous for his theory of relativity and other scientific discoveries, was also known for his unconventional and absent-minded behavior.



Albert Einstein in Princeton, New Jersey (1940).



Section 1

Postwar Uncertainty

The postwar period is one of loss and uncertainty but also one of invention, creativity, and new ideas.

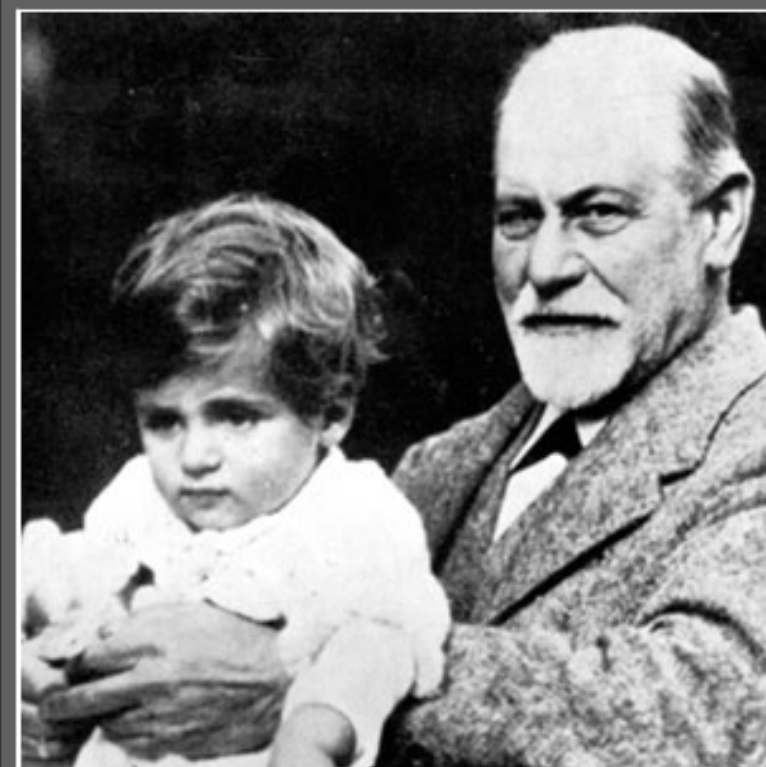
A New Revolution in Science


Impact of Einstein's Theory of Relativity

- **Albert Einstein**—offered radically new ideas in field of physics
- **Theory of relativity**—idea that space and time are not constant
- New ideas make world seem more uncertain than before

Influence of Freudian Psychology

- **Sigmund Freud**—Austrian doctor with new ideas about the mind *[Visual]*
- Claims that human behavior is not based on reason



 Sigmund Freud with his grandson (1922).

Literature in the 1920s

Impact of the War

- Suffering caused by World War I leads many to doubt old beliefs

Writers Reflect Society's Concerns

- Novels of Kafka reflect uneasiness of postwar years
- Novels of Joyce reflect Freud's ideas about the mind

Thinkers React to Uncertainties

- Philosophy of **existentialism**—no universal meaning to life
- **Friedrich Nietzsche** urges return to ancient heroic values

Revolution in the Arts


Artists Rebel Against Tradition

- Artists want to depict inner world of mind
- Cubism transforms natural shapes into geometric forms
- **Surrealism**—art movement that links dreams with real life

Composers Try New Styles

- Composers move away from traditional styles
- **Jazz**—musical style that captures age's new freedom *[Visual]*



 Jazz pianist, composer, and orchestra leader Duke Ellington.

Society Challenges Convention

Women's Roles Change

- Women take on new roles during World War I
- This work helps many win the right to vote
- In 1920s, women adopt freer clothing, hairstyles
- Some women seek new careers

Technological Advances Improve Life


The Automobile Alters Society

- Cars improve after the war
- Cars become less expensive
- Increased auto use changes people's lives

Airplanes Transform Travel

- **Charles Lindbergh** is first to fly alone across Atlantic *[Visual]*



 Charles Lindbergh with the *Spirit of St. Louis*, the plane in which he made his historic transatlantic flight.

Technological Advances Improve Life

Radio and Movies Dominate Popular Entertainment

- In 1920s, commercial radio stations spread across U.S.
- Motion pictures become major industry, art form

Section 2

A Worldwide Depression

An economic depression in the United States spreads throughout the world and lasts for a decade.

Postwar Europe

Unstable New Democracies

- Fall of kingdoms, empires creates new democracies in Europe
- People have little experience with representative government
- Some form **coalition governments**—temporary, multi-party alliances
- Frequent changes in government create instability

The Weimar Republic

Democracy in Germany

- **Weimar Republic**—Germany's democratic government formed in 1919
- Government has serious weaknesses

Inflation Causes Crisis in Germany

- Value of German currency falls dramatically *[Visual]*

Attempts at Economic Stability

- American loans help revive German economy



Woman using nearly worthless German currency as kindling in a stove (c. 1923).



The Weimar Republic

Efforts at a Lasting Peace

- Germany and France sign treaty pledging no more war
- Many nations sign a similar agreement, the Kellogg-Briand pact

Financial Collapse

A Flawed U.S. Economy

- Weaknesses in American economy cause serious problems
- Wealth is distributed unevenly
- Most people are too poor to buy goods produced
- Factory owners cut back on production, lay off workers
- Farmers produce more food than people can eat
- Many farmers cannot repay loans and lose their land

Financial Collapse

The Stock Market Crashes

- Stock prices soar
- Many people buy stocks on credit
- Investors begin selling stocks, which lowers prices
- On October 29, 1929, stock market collapses as prices fall very low *[Visual]*



Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*



Stock prices, 1925–1933

The Great Depression

Economic Downturn

- **Great Depression**—long business slump of 1930s *[Visual 1]*
- Marked by bank failures, loss of savings, unemployment

A Global Depression

- American economic problems create problems in other countries
- World trade falls sharply *[Visual 2]*



Unemployment Rate, 1928–1938



World Trade, 1929–1933

The Great Depression

Effects Throughout the World

- Germany and Austria suffer greatly, as do Asia and Latin America

The World Confronts the Crisis

Britain Takes Steps to Improve Its Economy

- British voters elect coalition government, avoids political extremes
- Government brings about slow, steady economic recovery
- Preserves democracy by avoiding political extremes

France Responds to Economic Crisis

- France has more self-sufficient economy
- Preserves democracy in spite of economic troubles

The World Confronts the Crisis

Socialist Governments Find Solutions

- Public works programs help Scandinavian countries recover

Recovery in the United States

- **Franklin D. Roosevelt**—American president during Depression *[Visual]*
- **New Deal**—Roosevelt's program of government reform to improve economy



 President Franklin D. Roosevelt with his pet dog and a young girl.

Section 3

Fascism Rises in Europe

In response to political turmoil and economic crises, Italy and Germany turn to totalitarian dictators.



Fascism's Rise in Italy

New Political Movement

- **Fascism** is new, militant political movement
- Emphasizes nationalism and loyalty to authoritarian leader

Mussolini Takes Control

- Italians want a leader who will take action
- Fascist Party leader, **Benito Mussolini**, promises to rescue Italy
- Italian king puts Mussolini in charge of government

Il Duce's Leadership

- Mussolini takes firm control of politics and economy in Italy

Hitler Rises to Power in Germany

A New Power

- **Adolf Hitler**—obscure political figure in 1920s Germany

The Rise of the Nazis

- **Nazism**—German brand of fascism
- Hitler becomes Nazi leader, plots to seize national power
- ***Mein Kampf***—Hitler's book detailing beliefs, goals
- Hitler believes that Germany needs ***lebensraum***, or living space
- Germans turn to Hitler when economy collapses

Hitler Becomes Chancellor

Hitler's New Power *[Visual 1]*

- Hitler is named chancellor
- Turns Germany into totalitarian state
- Uses brutal tactics to eliminate enemies
- Nazis take command of economy

The Führer Is Supreme

- Hitler takes control over every aspect of German life

Hitler Makes War on the Jews

- Nazis deprive Jews of rights, promote violence against them *[Visual 2]*



Nazi Party celebration in Nuremberg, Germany (1933).



Nazi troops publicly humiliate a Jewish man in Chemnitz, Germany (1933).

Other Countries Fall to Dictators

World Is Divided *[Visual]*

- Most of eastern Europe falls to dictators
- Only Czechoslovakia retains democratic government
- World splits into two camps—democratic and totalitarian



Aggression in Europe, Africa and Asia, 1930–1939

Section 4

Aggressors Invade Nations

As Germany, Italy, and Japan conquer other countries, the rest of the world does nothing to stop them.

Japan Seeks an Empire

Militarists Take Control of Japan

- Military leaders take control of country
- Want to solve economic problems through foreign expansion

Japan Invades Manchuria

- Japan has investments in Manchuria, Chinese province
- In 1931, Japanese army seizes Manchuria
- League of Nations protests action; Japan withdraws from League

Japan Seeks an Empire

Japan Invades China *[Visual]*

- In 1937, Japan launches war on China



Aggression in Asia, 1931-1937



Aggression in Asia, 1931–1937



European Aggressors on the March

Mussolini Attacks Ethiopia

- In 1935, Mussolini attacks Ethiopia
- League of Nations does not stop aggression

Hitler Defies Versailles Treaty

- In 1935, Hitler begins rebuilding German army
- In 1936, Germany occupies Rhineland
- Britain urges **appeasement**, a policy of giving in to aggression
- Germany, Italy, and Japan—the **Axis Powers**—form an alliance

European Aggressors on the March

Civil War Erupts in Spain

- In 1931, a republic is declared in Spain
- In 1936, General **Francisco Franco** leads rebellion
- Hitler and Mussolini help Franco and his Fascists
- In 1939, Franco wins Spanish Civil War
- Franco becomes Spain's Fascist dictator

Democratic Nations Try to Preserve Peace

United States Follows an Isolationist Policy

- **Isolationism**—avoidance of political ties with other countries
- In 1935, Congress passes Neutrality Acts

The German Reich Expands

- Hitler plans to expand **Third Reich**—German Empire
- In 1938, Hitler annexes Austria *[Visual]*
- Hitler demands the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia
- Czechs refuse, ask France for help



Adolf Hitler is driven through a cheering crowd in Vienna after the German annexation of Austria (1938).




Democratic Nations Try to Preserve Peace

Britain and France Again Choose Appeasement

- Leaders meet at **Munich Conference** to settle Czech crisis *[Visual]*
- Britain and France agree to let Hitler take Sudetenland
- But in 1939, Hitler still takes rest of Czechoslovakia
- Mussolini takes Albania; Hitler demands part of Poland



 British prime minister Neville Chamberlain (*left*) meeting with Adolf Hitler at the Munich Conference (1938).

Democratic Nations Try to Preserve Peace

Nazis and Soviets Sign Nonaggression Pact

- In 1939, Stalin and Hitler pledge never to attack one another

Thanks