

Immediate impact of Great Depression

Protectionism

Countries try to protect their home industries by putting up tariffs (taxes) on imported goods- encouraging people to buy from their country but ending international co-operation.

Rearmament

Countries begin rearmament to help boost jobs at home (e.g. conscripting people into the army, making weapons, sewing uniforms etc. This causes other surrounding countries to rearm also.

Rise in Extreme Parties/ Suspicion

Economic crises cause extreme parties to rise as they offer radical solutions to an unhappy population. This leads to an increase in suspicion between the nations who may have different political beliefs- especially if they feel that they are being ganged up on by countries with other beliefs.

Communism: a left wing political system where no-one owns private property and the state controls the economy.

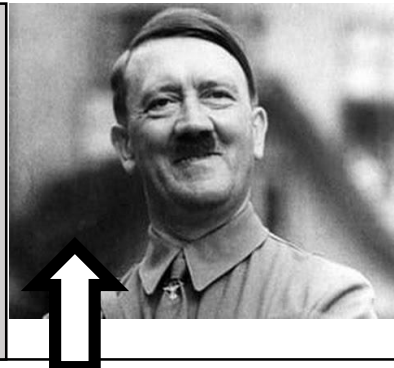
One of the reasons that Britain and France did not stop Hitler's actions was because they wanted a potential ally against Stalin's Communism in the USSR.



STALIN- USSR: The USSR had an organisation called COMINTERN (Communist International) where it tried to spread Communist ideas- which were more attractive to many people because of the Depression- frightening Britain, France, Italy and Germany. Stalin was concerned that non-communist states would try to crush the communist USSR so he began to get ready for future war. International relations were not looking good.

There was so much suspicion between these different groups.

One of the reasons that Britain and France did not stop Italy's actions in Abyssinia was because they wanted a potential ally against Germany where Hitler was beginning his extreme policies.



HITLER- GERMANY: The Nazis believed in aggressive nationalism- the German people and Germany came before international co-operation. Hitler offered radical solutions, breaking the Treaty of Versailles (rearmament, ending reparations, reclaiming lost land, lebensraum) and destroying Communism. These were attractive to people because of the Depression and it ended Germany's international co-operation.

Fascism: a right wing political system where the state control all aspects of society. Based on a belief in racial/ national superiority

One of the reasons why France start worrying about international affairs was because Germany, Italy and Spain were all fascist nations and France was becoming encircled.

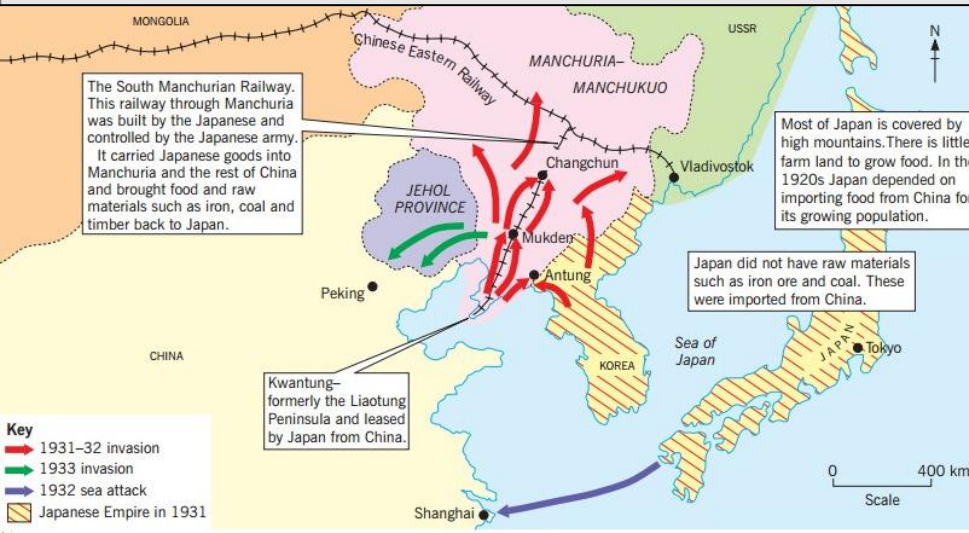


MUSSOLINI- ITALY: Like Germany, aggressively nationalist. Mussolini used the Depression to get control of the banks and industries. Mussolini wanted to build an empire, like the old Roman Empire and particularly wanted territory in Africa. He and Hitler had many similarities in their world view, and it was this that was particularly problematic for world peace.

The Rise of the Dictators

MANCHURIA: The Great Depression led to disrupted trade in Japan. The Japanese government lost control of Japan to the military. The military won public support by promising to invade new territories. Japan already had control of the South Manchurian Railway- so Manchuria (controlled by the Chinese) was a good choice. An explosion on their railway gave them an excuse to invade Manchuria. The League, under Lord Lytton, investigated and took a year to find that the Japanese had acted wrongly and Manchuria should be returned to China.

Japan disagreed and announced they would invade more of China and as the area was unstable, the invasion was necessary. League approved the report, Japan left the League and invaded China. Sanctions were not possible because the USA was Japan's main trading partner and Britain and France could not risk war with Japan.



ABYSSINIA: The Depression had affected Italy badly. Mussolini wanted to return Italy to the glory of the Roman Empire and Abyssinia- with its rich farmland and mineral wealth- was his target (especially as Italy had territory close by). Mussolini used a dispute over who owned the land around the Wal-Wal Oasis as his opportunity to invade.

Haile Selassie (Abyssinian leader) appealed to the League and Britain and France should have helped- they had interests in Africa and it was a clear case of aggression. Britain and France were publicly negotiating between Mussolini and Abyssinia but privately negotiating the Stresa Pact with Italy against Germany that was rising under Hitler at the time. The League reported some territory should be given to Italy, but Italy rejected this and invaded Abyssinia.

Disputes over sanctions (both Britain and France were worried they would end up at war with Mussolini, and Britain was worried 30,000 British coal miners would lose their jobs if they could no longer export coal) allowed Mussolini to build up his war materials. Britain and France kept the British and French owned Suez Canal open to Mussolini to provide for his troops to avoid war with Italy. The final betrayal of the League was the Hoare-Laval Pact (secretly negotiated by French and British foreign secretaries) which clearly favoured Italy discredited the League which never recovered its credibility- even though it never happened it became apparent that the League no longer had any authority.