

# Unit 4 SL/HL: World War II

## Unit 4 HL: World War II and the Americas

The purpose of this unit is to examine the underlying causes, course and the major outcomes of World War II. You will learn how the failure of the League of Nations and the rise of dictators, such Adolf Hitler, led to another global confrontation. Appeasement proved to be an empty, hopeless policy. When war broke out in Asia and Europe, it lasted for years, it was increasingly brutal, and it resulted in at least 50 million deaths.

The world that emerged from the ashes of Berlin and Hiroshima was radically different from that which had gone to war in 1939. Europe was no longer the centre of the world. A bipolar world dominated by the USA and the Soviet Union emerged after the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The second half of the century would be dominated by the Cold War between these two new superpowers, in which every crisis could mean the total destruction of humanity.

World War II is recommended for detailed study under topic 1: causes, practices and effects of wars in IB History. WWII also counts for a war of two regions: the war in the European Theatre, and the war in the Pacific Theatre.

Approximate time: 4 cycles.

Students taking HL will more closely examine World War II and the Americas from 1933 to 1945 and attempt to understand its reaction to the events of Europe; the role the USA and Canada would play in the War; the impact of the war on minorities; the impact of technology; and the economic and diplomatic effects of the war on the USA.

Approximate time: 4 cycles

While **not meant** to be an exhaustive list, especially in terms of key people, the boxes below provide some terms and names to help in your study of this unit. Some of the terms from the previous unit are also relevant, too.

### SL/HL Key Terms

Communism  
Fascism  
Classical Liberalism  
Reform Liberalism  
Conservative  
Socialism  
Marxism  
Comintern  
National Socialist German Workers Party (NAZI)  
S.A. (Brown Shirts)  
Corporate state  
Holocaust, "Final Solution"  
Gestapo  
SS  
Third Reich  
"Black Shirts"  
Aryan race  
Fuhrer  
Nuremberg Laws  
"Night of the Long Knives"  
Great Depression  
Kristallnacht  
*Mein Kampf*, 1923  
Lebensraum  
Article 231  
Treaty of Versailles  
Locarno Pact, 1925  
League of Nations  
Kellogg-Briand Pact, 1928  
Manchuria, 1931  
Manchukuo  
Ethiopia, 1935 (Abyssinia)  
Rome-Berlin Axis  
Rhineland, 1936  
Sudetenland  
*Blitzkrieg*  
Pearl Harbor  
Operation Sealion  
Operation Barbarossa  
Operation Overlord  
The Manhattan Project, "Trinity" – July 16, 1945

### SL/HL Key Terms

Appeasement  
Lytton Commission Report (1932)  
Maginot Line  
Stresa front (1935)  
Hoare-Laval Pact (1935)  
Spanish Civil War  
Anschluss, 1938  
Munich Conference  
Polish Corridor, Danzig  
German-Soviet Non-aggression Pact  
Vichy France  
Radar  
Atlantic Charter  
Lend-Lease  
Wannsee Conference  
El Alamein  
Stalingrad  
D-Day  
Battle of the Bulge  
Hiroshima, Nagasaki  
Tehran Conference, 1943  
Yalta Conference, 1945  
Potsdam Conference, 1945  
Tripartite Pact, 1940  
Battle of Britain  
Royal Air Force (RAF)  
Luftwaffe  
Phony war  
Internment camps  
Kamikaze  
Bretton Woods:  
i. The International Monetary Fund  
ii. The World Bank  
autarky

### SL/HL Key People

**French**  
Aristide Briand  
Charles de Gaulle

**Russia**  
Vladimir Lenin  
Joseph Stalin  
Vyacheslav Molotov  
Leon Trotsky

**Italian**  
Benito Mussolini, *Il Duce*

**Abyssinia**  
Ras Tafari -> Haile Selassie I

**Canadian**  
R.B. Bennett  
Mackenzie King

**British**  
Neville Chamberlain  
Winston Churchill  
Stanley Baldwin  
Lord Halifax  
Anthony Eden  
Neville Henderson  
Samuel Hoare  
Thomas Edward Lawrence

**Japan**  
Hirohito

**German**  
Adolf Hitler  
Gustav Stresemann  
Joachim von Ribbentrop  
Paul von Hindenburg  
Heinrich Himmler  
Joseph Goebbels  
Herman Goring

**Austrian**  
Chancellor Schuschnigg

**American**  
Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Dwight Eisenhower  
Douglas MacArthur  
Harry Truman

**Spain**  
Francisco Franco

### HL Lessons: WWII, 1933-45

1. USA and the Road to WWII
2. USA and WWII: Home front, Japanese Americans, Reaction to Holocaust, Economic and Diplomatic Effects.
3. Canada and the road to WWII
4. Canada and WWII domestic and overseas in the USA

### SL/HL Lessons: WWII

1. Extreme Ideologies
2. Background: The Roads to War
3. Steps to War
4. World War II European Theatre
5. World War II Pacific Theatre
6. Impact of World War II