

GED
Social Studies
Day 7



COMUNIDADES LATINAS
UNIDAS EN SERVICIO





The Great Depression

The 1920s had been characterized by exceptional economic growth, the development of a consumer society, an expansion of the middle class, and rapid social change. While many Americans revealed these “ballyhoo” years, ominous signs showed an impending financial catastrophe. The resulting depression—and the government and society’s response to it—revealed much about the American character, broke new ground in terms of social legislation and centralized control of the economy, and changed the way in which people conceptualized what the role of federal government should be—all legacies which persist to this day.



Many Americans were unable to eat regularly during the Depression years unless they could get a free meal from a charity soup kitchen or breadline. Gangster Al Capone funded the Chicago soup kitchen shown in this slide.

Fundamental Causes of the Depression

- Drop in farm prices
- Massively uneven distribution of income
- “Get rich quick” schemes in real estate and especially in stocks
- Overextension of credit
- Increased inventories of goods
- Immediate cause: October 1929 stock market crash



Many consumers in the 1920s bought items such as this ironer on credit

Top 5 Causes of the Great Depression

Adapted from: <https://www.thoughtco.com/causes-of-the-great-depression-104686>

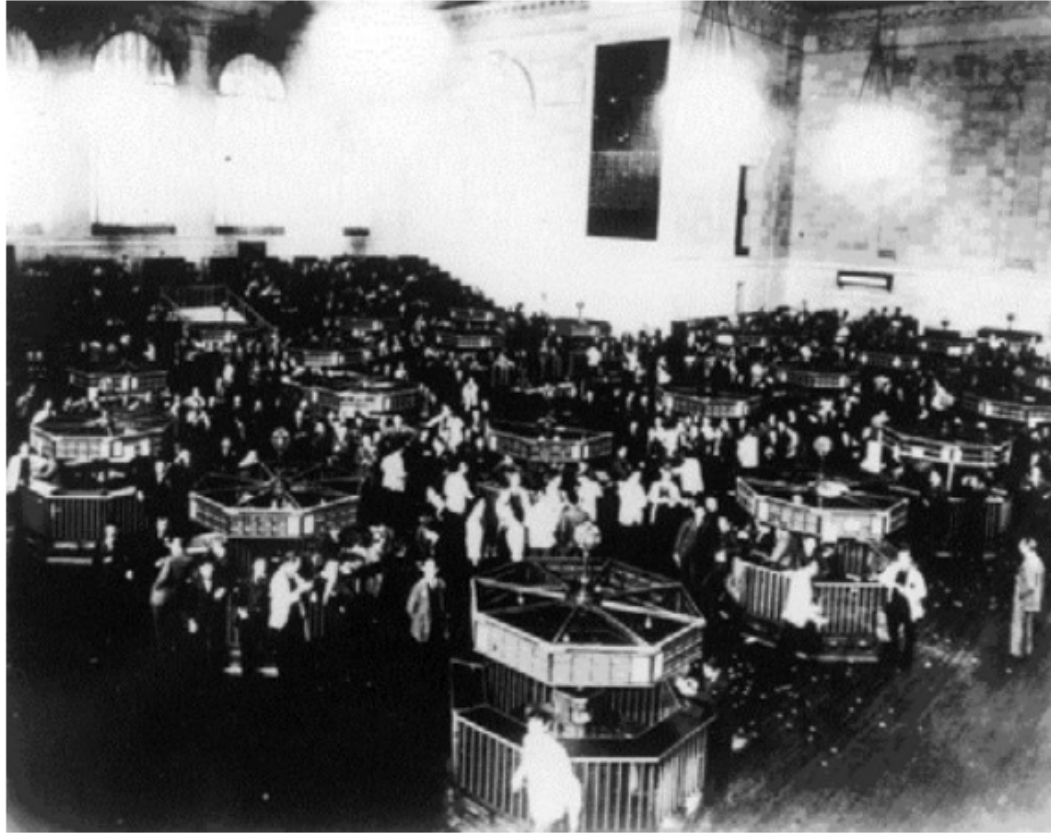
by Martin Kelly

Updated June 06, 2017

The Great Depression lasted from 1929 to 1939 and was the worst economic depression in the history of the United States. Economists and historians point to the stock market crash of October 24, 1929, as the start of the downturn. However, many things caused the Great Depression, not just one single event.

There were other causes of the Great Depression, but these five factors are considered by some history and economics scholars as the most significant:

01 The Day the Bubble Burst



The trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange in 1929

- October 29, 1929
- More than 16 million shares traded in one day
- Stock market lost \$30 billion
- Beginning of the “Great Depression”

02 **Banking System Collapse**

- Banks invested heavily in the market
- Collapse of market led to bank failures
- Many depositors panicked, leading to even more bank failures



Worried depositors wait outside a bank hoping to withdraw their savings

03 REDUCTION IN PURCHASING ACROSS THE BOARD



Unemployed men waiting in line for coffee and bread at a soup kitchen run by the Bahai Fellowship at 203 East 9th Street, New York, circa 1930.

With their investments worthless, their savings gone, and credit not available, spending by both consumers and companies practically stopped. As a result, large numbers of workers were laid off. As people lost their jobs, they were unable to continue paying for items they had bought through installment plans; repossessions and evictions were commonplace. The *unemployment rate* rose above 25 percent, which meant even less spending to help the economic situation.



04 AMERICAN ECONOMIC POLICY WITH EUROPE

As the Great Depression worsened, the government was forced to act. Promising to protect U.S. industry from overseas competition, Congress passed the *Tariff Act of 1930*, better known as the *Smoot-Hawley Tariff*.

The law imposed extremely high tax rates on many imported goods. A number of other countries retaliated by imposing tariffs on U.S.-made goods. As a result, world trade fell by two-thirds between 1929 and 1934.



05

DROUGHT CONDITIONS

The economic devastation of the Great Depression was worsened by environmental destruction. A years-long *drought* combined with bad farming practices created a vast region in the Central U.S. that came to be called *the Dust Bowl*. There were massive dust storms that killed crops and livestock, sickened people, and caused millions of dollars in damage. Thousands fled the region as the economy collapsed, something *John Steinbeck* wrote about in his masterpiece novel "The Grapes of Wrath." It would be many years before the region's environment recovered.

Comprehension Question

1. When was the Great Depression?

2. Where did it take place?

3. What are the five reasons the author lists as causes of the Great Depression?

4. Define the following terms:

- “Black Tuesday”:
- Bank Runs:
- Unemployment Rate:
- Tariff:
- Drought:

- +
 -
 - What Was World War 2?

Essential Questions

How and why does a nation decide to go to war?

How do wars shape alliances and contribute to national identities?

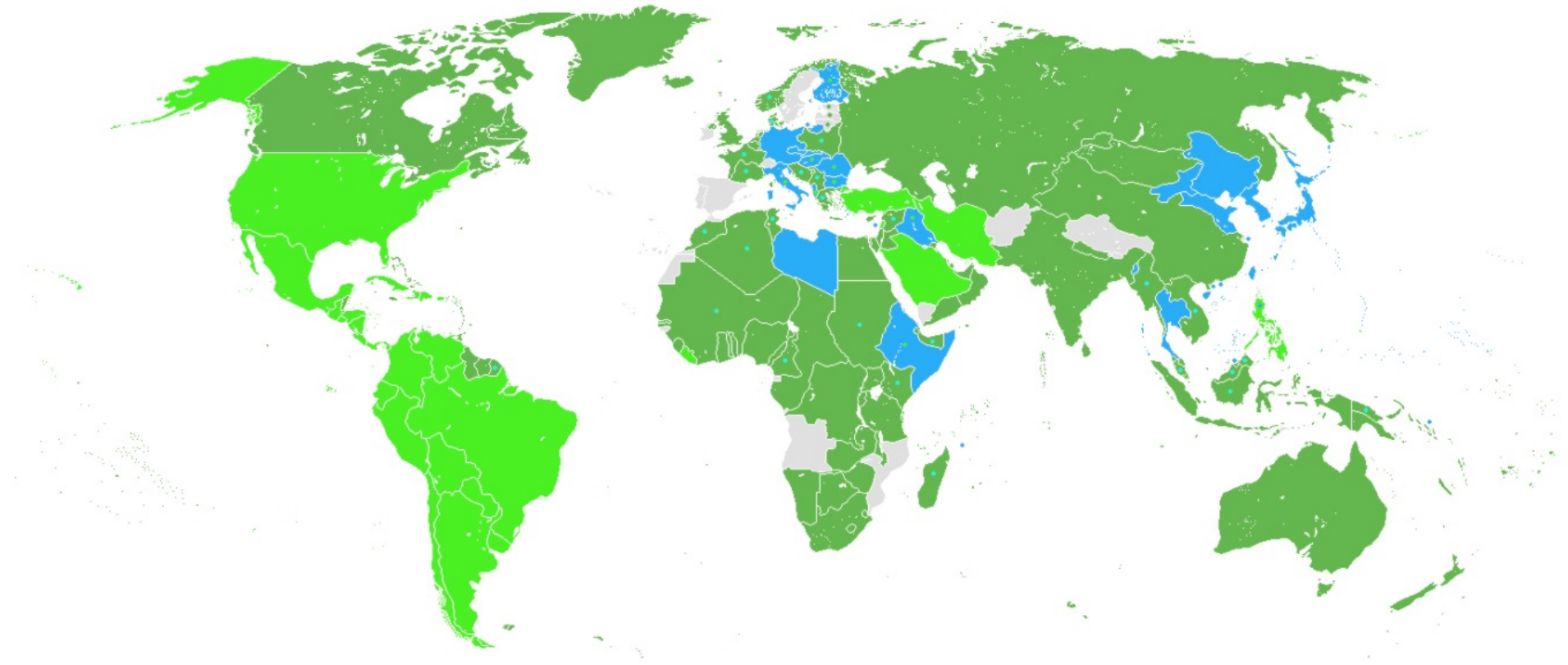
What are indicators that a war has ended? For example, in World War II, how did everyone know the war was over?

Could a war such as World War II occur again? How and why?

World War 2 (commonly abbreviated: WWII) was the deadliest war in human history- in total, around 70 million people were killed. It was called a “world war” because most of the countries in the world were involved in some way, and “2” because there had already been a First World War about 20 years earlier.

WWII was fought between an alliance known as the Axis Powers (including Germany, Italy, and Japan) and another group known as the Allied Powers (including the United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union). The Axis countries all supported fascism (dictatorship), while the Allies were a mix of democracies and communist governments.

There were many causes of WWII, but the war started after Axis countries began expanding their territory by attacking neighboring countries, and the Allies joined together as a defense against the Axis.



WWII (1939-1945)

By Joaopais; See below., CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=505749>

Blue: Axis Powers

Dark Green: Allied Powers at the start of WWII

Light Green: additional Allies after Pearl Harbor (1941)

Grey: Neutral countries



Economic Conditions That Helped Cause World War II

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- While World War II was certainly a geopolitical event, some of its underlying causes have been revealed to be economic.
- Reparations imposed on Germany following WWI left the country poorer and economic woes caused resentment amongst its population.
- The Great Depression of the 1930s and a collapse in international trade also worsened the economic situation in Europe, allowing Hitler to rise to power on the promise of revitalization.

Timeline Activity: name the events of WWII

January 1933 *Title for Event:* _____

The Holocaust begins in Nazi Germany. It continues until the defeat of Germany in 1945. In total, possibly 15 million Jews, Soviet citizens, and other civilians were murdered.

July 1937 *Title for Event:* _____

Japan invades China, starting World War II in the Pacific.

September 1939 *Title for Event:* _____

Hitler invades Poland, starting World War II in Europe. Britain and France declare war on Germany. The Soviet Union also invades Poland from the east.

May 1940

Title for Event: _____

Germany invades Belgium and the Netherlands. France surrenders to Germany and Italy in June.

Summer 1940

Title for Event: _____

The Soviet Union occupies much of Eastern Europe and the Balkans by August. In September, Italy begins fighting Britain in North Africa.

June 1941

Title for Event: _____

Germany and the Axis invade the Soviet Union. By December, the Soviets begin to counterattack.

December 1941

Title for Event: _____

Japan bombs Pearl Harbor. The United States declares war against Japan.

Summer 1942 *Title for Event:* _____

British and US planes begin devastating bombing of German cities in May. The Japanese navy is defeated in the Battle of Midway in June.

May 1943 *Title for Event:* _____

The Axis forces surrender to the Allies in North Africa, ending the fighting there.

July 1943 *Title for Event:* _____

The Soviet Union begins to attack German territory from the east. The United States and Britain attack from the south and invade Italy.

June 1944 *Title for Event:* _____

The Allies conquer Italy and invade the Germans in Normandy, France.

Early 1945 *Title for Event:* _____

The German army retreats from the United States and Britain in the west, and the Soviet Union in the east. Japan has also lost most of its territory in the Pacific.

April 1945 *Title for Event:* _____

The Soviets capture Berlin and Hitler commits suicide. Germany surrenders shortly thereafter.

August 1945 *Title for Event:* _____

The United States drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing hundreds of thousands of people. Japan surrenders in September and World War II ends.

Is it a Primary Source?

Determine if the examples below are primary sources. Answer **Yes/No**

- ❖ A **Primary Source** is information that was created at the same time as an event or by a person directly involved in the event.

Diaries, speeches, letters, official records, and autobiographies are all examples of primary sources.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1) A play about the start of the American Revolutionary War. | Y / N |
| 2) A short story describing the discovery of electricity. | Y / N |
| 3) Anne Frank's diary of her life during World War II. | Y / N |
| | |
| 4) A cartoon about Christopher Columbus. | Y / N |
| 5) A text book describing the civil rights movement. | Y / N |
| 6) A news report about the opening of a power plant. | Y / N |
| 7) A scientist explaining what it is like to walk on the moon. | Y / N |
| 8) A YouTube video describing how the pyramids were built. | Y / N |
| 9) An interview with Barack Obama about being president. | Y / N |
| 10) A radio broadcast from 1990. | Y / N |
| 11) An autobiography about the 40th president, Ronald Reagan. | Y / N |
| 12) A book describing Christopher Columbus sailing to America. | Y / N |
| 13) The United States Constitution. | Y / N |

Eyewitness Account #1: Dorothea von Schwanenfluegel – The Fall of Berlin

Dorothea von Schwanenfluegel was a twenty-nine-year-old wife and mother living in Berlin, Germany.

After Berlin was defeated

“[T]hat night a horde of Soviet soldiers returned and stormed into [our neighbor’s] apartment house. Then we heard what sounded like a terrible orgy with women screaming for help, many shrieking at the same time. The racket gave me goosebumps. Some of the Soviets trampled through our garden and banged their rifle butts on our doors in an attempt to break in. Thank goodness our sturdy wooden doors withstood their efforts. Gripped in fear, we sat in stunned silence”

- **Eyewitness #1**
- What is her name?
- What is her background (who is she/ where is she from)?
- How does she feel about the events (what is her viewpoint)?

Eyewitness Account #2: Marie-Louise Osmont – The Invasion of Normandy

Marie-Louise Osmont lived in a house near the Normandy beaches in France. German soldiers were using her house as a base.

During the attack

"In the trench in the farmyard [...] we find three or four Germans: Leo the cook, his helper, and two others, crouching [...] We ask them 'Tommy come?' They say yes, with conviction. Morning in the trench, with overhead the hisses and whines that make you bend even lower. [...] Each time a shell hisses by too low, I cling to the back of the cook's helper, it makes me feel a little more secure, and he turns around with a vague smile. The fact is that we're all afraid."

- **Eyewitness #2**

- What is her name?
- What is her background (who is she/ where is she from)?
- How does she feel about the events (what is her viewpoint)?

Eyewitness Account #3: Dr. Michihiko Hachiya – The Bombing of Hiroshima

Dr. Michihiko Hachiya lived through the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

The bomb suddenly explodes

"The hour was early; the morning still, warm, and beautiful. [...] Suddenly, a strong flash of light startled me - and then another. [...] Moving instinctively, I tried to escape, but rubble and fallen timbers barred the way. [...] A profound weakness overcame me, so I stopped to regain my strength. What had happened? All over the right side of my body I was cut and bleeding. [...] Embedded in my neck was a sizable fragment of glass [...] stunned and shocked I studied it and my blood-stained hand.

- **Eyewitness #2**

- What is his name?

- What is his background (who is he/ where is he from)?

- How does he feel about the events (what is his viewpoint)?

Homework!

Active Assignments



Week 7

To begin, select an activity from All Activities

[Select New Activity](#) 



All Activities

Completion: 0/5 (0%)



No Due Date