

## Ch 24 Section 2 War in Europe

### Austria and Czechoslovakia Fall

#### Union with Austria

- Post WW I division of Austria-Hungary creates fairly small Austria
- Majority of Austrians are German, favor unification with Germany
- 1938, German troops march into Austria unopposed, union complete
- U.S., rest of world do nothing to stop Germany

#### Bargaining for the Sudetenland

- 3 million German-speakers in Sudetenland
- Hitler claims Czechs abuse Sudeten Germans, masses troops on border
- 1938, Prime Ministers Daladier, **Neville Chamberlain** meet with Hitler
- Sign Munich Agreement, hand Sudetenland over to Germany
- **Winston Churchill** condemns appeasement policy, warns war will follow
- **Appeasement**—giving up principles to pacify an aggressor

#### The German Offensive Begins

#### The Soviet Union Declares Neutrality

- March 1939, German troops occupy rest of Czechoslovakia
- Hitler charges Poles mistreat Germans in Poland
- Many think he's bluffing; invading Poland would bring two-front war
- Stalin, Hitler sign **nonaggression pact**—will not attack each other
- Sign second, secret pact agreeing to divide Poland between them

#### Blitzkrieg in Poland

- Sept. 1939, Hitler overruns Poland in *blitzkrieg*, lightning war based on surprise and overwhelming force.
- Germany annexes western Poland; U.S.S.R. attacks, annexes east
- France, Britain declare war on Germany; World War II begins

#### The Phony War

- French, British soldiers on Maginot Line face Germans in *sitzkrieg*
- Stalin annexes Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania; defeats Finland
- 1940, Hitler invades Denmark, Norway, then Low Countries

#### France and Britain Fight On

#### The Fall of France

- German army goes through Ardennes, bypassing French, British
- British, French trapped on Dunkirk; ferried to safety in UK
- 1940, Italy invades France from south; Germans approach Paris
- France falls; Germans occupy northern France
- Nazi puppet government set up in southern France
- General **Charles de Gaulle** sets up government-in-exile in England

#### The Battle of Britain

- Summer 1940, Germany prepares fleet to invade Britain
- Battle of Britain—lasts 2 months, German planes bomb British targets
- Britain uses radar to track, shoot down German planes
- Hitler calls off invasion of Britain
- Germans, British continue to bomb each other's cities