

08-18 - Ratification of the 19th Amendment, (Women get the Vote in the U.S.)
-1920

Nov., - A Republican trounces a Democrat for President, (receiving about
-1920 twice as many votes as the Democrat who endorsed the League of Nations).

By the end of 1937; three “Neutrality” treaties were passed by Congress. I think that was do to the very great resentment of voters over their Government’s misleading them about WW1 and about the prospects.

-----Events 1921 and beyond-----

03-18 - Treaty between Soviet Russia and Poland formally sets borders and
-1921 ends war.

05-20 - Germany signs a treaty with China, seeking relations based on
-1921 “equality”.

07-29 - Adolf Hitler becomes head of the “Nazi” Party (i.e., Germany’s
-1921 National Socialist German Workers’ Party)

1921 - Washington Conference and its various treaties, (A requirement of
-1922 one of the treaties was that Japan withdraw from the Chinese Province of Shandong, aka old Shantung.)

Japan had taken Shandong from Germany during the early part of WW1; and it was now agreed to allow its reversion back to China. Also, China was to get more control over its tariffs; and no Western country or Japan was to enjoy more special privileges in China than another. (Of course, the above did not apply to “British” Hongkong and many other areas deemed as historical exceptions.)

Various Powers were assigned relative ratios of warships--a sort of “balance of power”. ((But I think that it ultimately turned out to be more a ‘balance of stupidity’, as those ratios tended to cause escalating rivalry, jealousy, and creative cheating--as time passed. And also the development of still more efficient weapons. (Optional: And the Universities in each country may as well have offered courses on such topics as “Principles of Un-Principled ...Behavior”; or “Principles and *lack* of Practices” of)

03-10 - The British arrest Gandhi in India, for ‘Sedition’; and he does some
-1922 ‘jail time’. (This happened too many times to list in this timeline—

during India's struggle for independence.)

04-16 - Treaty of Rapallo between Germany and Soviet Russia--i.e., aka USSR.
-1922 Germany becomes the first country to recognize Soviet Russia. They also settle all mutual claims on the basis of "no gains" from WW1.

It was negotiated by Walter Rathenau of Germany, and Chicherin of Soviet Russia. ((Foreign minister Rathenau's reward for it was to be assassinated in Germany by 'Nazi-istic' elements masquerading, as extremely 'nationalistic patriots', as usual. But, of course, the thing these extremists feared most was that Germany would make progress and become an improved country under someone other than themselves (i.e., improved under non-extremist, reasonable leadership)! In the 'Nazi-istic' scheme of things; egotism and ambition took priority over the real well-being of Germany! (If such extremists thought broadly; they would realize that their WW1 war, especially against France, was morally indefensible—which is why they have to assassinate their targets, instead of arguing with them.) And they carried out many assassinations, indeed. And we shall note that fascism escalated around the world.)

06-24 - German Foreign Minister Rathenau of Germany is Assassinated (A
-1922 'Nazi-istic' act against the 'Weimar regime' that governed Germany during the 1920s. Also, see above treaty event, 4-16-1922 .)

10-25 - Japan finally leave Vladivostok.
-1922

10-28 - The fascist, Mussolini, is invited to form a Coalition Government in
-1922 Italy by King Victor Emmanuel III, following Mussolini's famous 'March on Rome'.

Mussolini gradually turned Italy into a fascist dictatorship. He was aided by the general feeling--that Italy was cheated out of its 'fair' share of spoils from WW1, (feelings which he further incited). Also, by impatience over the poor conditions and inefficiencies in Italy—such as the 'trains not running on time'.

According to 'history'; Benito Mussolini was originally a Socialist, opposed to Italy's imperial rule in Libya, and opposed to WW1. He thus regarded WW1 also as merely a war between Imperialists—(as did many other Socialists). Suddenly, he seems to have reversed himself about everything, and was expelled from the Socialist party.

He joined the Italian army; and fought on the side of the "Allies", in WW1, and against Germany and the Axis. ((Therefore, in a sense;

Mussolini was fighting against “Private Hitler’s side”; although they were stationed on different war fronts. That may not make any sense to the reader, nor certainly to me—especially because Hitler and Mussolini would become partners in WW2. But, in those days; there was still a reigning paradigm in wide and ‘distinguished’ circles that“It does not matter what a man fights for, ... as long as he fights for something!” And perhaps Mussolini thought that a ‘Roman’ (unlike a Greek) should ‘Do, Do, Do something’; and not ‘think’, ‘think’, ‘think’.)

((As for Hitler’s habit of pretending to be enraged by the “November Criminals—who ‘surrendered’ to the Allies” (after Ludendorff clearly told the Kaiser that his armies needed an armistice); we will note this: Hitler would later work closely with his “buddy” Mussolini—who actually did go way out of his way to fight against the Axis, during much of in WW1, not just one November month or one day. And as for generals Ludendorff and Hindenburg; they seemed to conveniently forget what they had indicated to the Kaiser—that the German military had, indeed, been militarily defeated. Those evasions were despicable; but I can’t say unpredictable. Those actions were simply an evasion of proper leadership responsibility; and involved lying and seeking a scapegoat, instead. And trying, thereby, to achieve face-savings and to establish one’s own self-serving dictatorship.))

Jan.,
-1923

- France and Belgium occupied the Ruhr River region of Germany (This is done after Germany’s delivery of reparations-related goods to France, i.e., coal, falls short).

The Rhine River flows through much of western Germany, 40 to 100 miles from where Germany touches the southern region of the Netherlands, Belgium, and little Luxembourg. The Rhine River also forms the border between southern France and Germany.

In the north, near the southern end of Netherlands; the “Ruhr” River branches off from the Rhine River, and the Ruhr flows eastward, deeper into Germany. This is a very resource-rich, industrial area. In that vicinity are many important cities such as Duisburg, Essen, Dortmund, and Dusseldorf.

After France and Belgium occupied that region, German labor responded with strikes and non-cooperation; and Germany printed large amounts of money to pay the strikers. This caused runaway inflation; and was utterly destructive to Germany’s economy. And it was made worse by Germany’s having to buy coal from Britain. It increased hatreds for years, and the occupation was expensive for France; which thus gained little.

During those years; instability in Germany fed escalated attempts by “right-wing” (Nazi) elements, to take over Germany. Eventually, an American plan, (i.e., the “Dawes Plan”) was put into effect, to bring a relative ‘peace and prosperity’ of sorts; but we shall see that even that worked only temporarily.

Optional Opinion (may be skipped):

Actually, I think that the non-cooperation by Germany, and their ceasing to even try to pay reparations--were mistakes. (And the Allies’ coarse method of trying to collect it all was also a mistake.) Germany had waged a war for ~ 4 years, involving many millions of low-paid, low ranked soldiers, and bringing much death and injury to them. Would, say, a lesser number of “soldier-workers” (~500,000), toiling less dangerously and less torturously (to mine and supply coal and/or other reparations)—have been too much to ask--by traditional reparations standards? No! And such labor, etc., could have supplied about a billion-dollars-worth of reparations per year, for about 4 years, (the same duration as the previous wasteful fighting, which was even worse). The “coal-related work” would have also “provided” employment. And say, after ~ 4 years -- then appeals might have been made to begin to phase-out reparations requirements. Thus, the tool of real “non-cooperation” could have been reserved for use only after prolonged good-faith cooperative efforts continued to go unappreciated.

11-08
-1923

- Hitler’s “Beer Hall Putsch” (Hitler and Nazis attempt a local takeover by force; and, from there, to take over all of Germany. But it is subdued by Germany forces.)

This occurred in a beer hall in Munich, a city in Bavaria, Germany. The Nazis also captured, there, “von Kahr”, the head of Bavaria, an important region in Southeast Germany. After von Kahr was released, he freely denounced the coup. Hitler and his Nazis were shortly, thereafter, put down by force, resulting in some deaths during the fighting that ensued. And Hitler served nearly one year, of his five-year sentence, for the ‘Putsch’, in jail.

While in jail; Hitler wrote his book, “Mein Kampf”, arguing that the German race was superior to all; and that its failure to gain that standing, and more, was due to international plots by the Jews. It was published 7-18-1925; but not translated into English until near the beginning of WW2.

Despite Hitler’s jail term; he gained fame in those “Weimar” years--

many of which were very hard years for Germans. And during those times; many German were resenting their government and the World Government (the League), and looking for quick face-saving answers and solutions. After the failed coup; Hitler changed his tactics some; and began focusing more on getting a 'political shoe in the door'; instead of 'knocking down the door' with one big paramilitary punch.

01-21
-1924

- Lenin, head of Soviet Russia, Dies, (at ~54 years old, 1870-1924).

Even though Tsar Nicholas II life was ended non-naturally (i.e., by execution)—it was only about 4 years shorter than Vladimir Lenin's 'natural' short life-span. (And, we shall see later, that the Tsar's life span was only 1 year shorter than German foreign minister Stresemann's.)

Lenin and Stresemann probably aged faster than normal due to a hard driving work style, under high-pressure; and perhaps that combined with their not getting enough nutrients under that stress. ((I would speculate it was a lack of enough anti-oxidants (vitamin C, etc.) and vitamins B6, B12, and folic acid.)) Perhaps, Lenin's poor long term prospects were also aggravated by an injurious assassination attempt in August 1918.

One reads that near the end of Lenin's life (or near the last of his many strokes)—that Lenin became very concerned about Stalin's faults. Stalin was known to be a likely successor for Lenin. Lenin felt that Stalin had a propensity to be over-dictatorial, without giving others' ideas fair attention and learning from them. (It seems likely that the problem of satisfactory transfer of power—was one of several problems that Soviet Russia would *not* solve satisfactorily.)

Sept.,
-1924

- The Allies' *Dawes Plan* is launched to help restore Germany's ability to resume Reparation Payments to the Allies. (It helped temporarily.)

Regretfully, most encyclopedias seem vague on details, and I am not a "forensic accountant" nor a forensic investigator of lobbying schemes. The Dawes Plan involved large loans to Germany by Western institutions and maybe individuals. Such things as Germany's railroad system were mortgaged to back the loans. It appears that the German Central bank, some other institutions, and tariff collection powers were turned over to Western control, to expedite payment of interest on the loans, and to help re-start the reparation program again. At least, the Dawes Plan ended the occupation of the "Ruhr" region, (but I think that some of the Rhine region continued to be occupied, per the Versailles treaty). Optional, among the many stories or poems about the Rhine, is the "Lorelei", by Heinrich Heine.

I have read that England and, perhaps, some other European countries, complained that they would love to pay back the U.S. for its loans, etc., incurred during WW1; but couldn't, until Germany completed its reparation payments to them. But I think, that besides the foreign territories Germany gave up after its defeat; that England, etc., had huge numbers of foreign territories, which they could have transferred to the U.S. And the U.S. could have granted these independence much faster, and the U.S. have still received some cash flow from that, lieu of loan repayment. Often (not necessarily excluding the present) I have wondered if U.S. leaders have an "independent" mind (i.e., not controlled by foreign leaders and systems, and for those foreign systems—very different from what Lincoln had in mind at Gettysburg).

Optional Opinion: The *Dawes "Program"* was largely the "brainchild" *Charles* Dawes, (1865-1951). Just a few years earlier, a somewhat similar "*program*" (but for a different application) was devised by *Charles* Ponzi, (1882-1949). And, I'm afraid that *Charles* Dawes and *Charles* Ponzi, would (by chance) have a bit more in common besides their first name, "*Charles*". Both their programs would fail; after, seemingly, impressive initial successes. And although Dawes' plan brought a longer period of apparent success than Ponzi's; both were flawed similarly (in a sense); and both failed spectacularly.

~1925 - Physicist Wolfgang Pauli theorizes that an atomic nucleus "spins".

Pauli, an Austrian physicist, and possibly others, studied ultra fine aspects of the spectrum of light emitted by atoms. They suggested that a nucleus spins (say, like a gyro).

Optional: But suppose the *spin* concept is combined with Rutherford's theory (developed in 1911)--that the nucleus is extremely small? And suppose those concepts are combined with Bohr's useful theory, (published in 1913), that some very small structures have a very high amount of angular momentum? (i.e., a large "quantum's worth"). All that seems to point to the possibility that even the non-hidden energy, which some nuclei have, may be ultra high; (i.e., of magnitude mc^2). So there may be, somehow, ultra-high energies in very small entities of matter and/or in the space surrounding them. (Optional: ref., see my first website article, *What We See and What We Don't See*.)

03-11 - Sun Yat-sen, (head of the Chinese Southern Government) Dies, (at ~59 -1925 years old, 1866-1925).

Sun was visiting Beijing in 1925, probably to try to achieve greater

national unity. And his liver cancer quickly escalated. (Sun, also, was a “workaholic” in pursuit of his strong political beliefs and convictions.) Early in Sun’s career; he had given up a good medical practice, to pursue his convictions, related to other broader, catastrophic national problems that he felt needed be tackled without postponement. Toward the end of his life, Sun was working with Soviet Russia, where possible, to help solve what he considered to be weaknesses in his own party and country. And communists were allowed to join his party, the Kuomintang, to pursue that.

Near the end of his life, he was also plagued with the thoughts and burdens--that China had not achieved a unity even close to that of Soviet Russia’s or the other Powers’; nor had China achieved independence from the imperialism of the Powers. And, perhaps, his own party still had too many anti-progressive elements to succeed in bringing about the big needed national changes. ((Perhaps, a reminder of the validity of that concern came—when Liao Chung-kai, (a progressive party leader) was murdered, about 6 months after Sun died. Liao’s assassination was probably carried out by reactionary elements)).

10-16
-1925 - The “Locarno Pact”; Germany and the Powers recognize borders of of Countries in Western Europe; (My date may be only approximate.)

1926 - Chiang Kai-chek (Sun’s ‘successor’) launches a military-backed “Northern Expedition” to unified China. It is mostly successful.

After that; he expelled the Chinese Communists from ‘his’ party and government; and tried (with some success) to ‘eliminate’ them (1927). The Communists still, however, dominated some regions; and in 1930 Chiang began a more organized war against them.

09-08
-1926 - Germany admitted to the League of Nations

That followed improvement in economic and political relations with the Allies, and the 1925 “Pact of Locarno”.

~Fall,
-1929 - The “Young Plan” replaces the more difficult “Dawes Plan”, easing some Dawes’ requirements. (Stresemann agrees to it--his last major public act before his death.)

It allowed Germany ~58 years to repay reparations, and it made the repayment schedule more flexible. I believe that it reduced somewhat the total reparations required. And it returned various “regulatory institutions” of Germany--back to Germany’s control. However, because of the great economic “Depression” later in 1929; the Young

plan failed quickly. In 1931, President Hoover suspended the reparations requirement until better times (hopefully) returned.

((I have read that the total reparations paid, prior to Hitler's annulling its continuance, was about 3-1/2 billion dollars I do not know how many billion dollars worth of loans had been made to Germany up to that time; nor the value of all the Western projects that had been started or completed in Germany during the Dawes and Young plans periods. But I have read, from several sources, that the West's loans and projects to Germany greatly exceeded the monetary reparations paid by Germany, during this period!))

10-03
-1929

- German foreign minister and Nobel Prize winner, Stresemann, Dies.

Following two strokes and a heart attack; Gustav Stresemann died at only 51 years old, due to years of "stress", work pressures, and concern over the direction of Germany and the World. He plainly saw the weaknesses and fragility of the Dawes and Young Plans, etc. His health had begun to deteriorate even in 1928.

10-28
-1929

- The famous "Stock Market Crash" on 'Wall Street'.

My opinions: According to a 2000 year-old Chinese saying ...
"The fountainhead of a mighty river can not fill a leaking cup!"

Suppose that even at the beginning of 1929—that Germany had handed the "Hoover Government" in the U.S.—a \$10 billion reparations payment. I think that little would have 'trickled down' to common U.S. citizens. And the little that might have—would have been taken from them "by hook or crook", due to a flawed political, economic, judicial, and social system. And, to make matters worse; that was not mainly Hoover's fault; and I think that he was a competent engineer and a "well-meaning fellow for his time".

Of course, many farmers and some others groups were encountering hard times, even before the stock market "crashed". And after the 'crash'; economic problems spread greatly and escalated. ((I believe that was made worse, because, in those days--people's bank deposits were not insured. Also, that access to highly dependable savings instruments (such as short-term government bonds or the like) was probably not as easy for the "middle class" as it is today. Those problems might have contributed to people placing too much of their spare cash in speculative investments, instead. Also older citizens, had seen great and hurtful inflation during WW1; and they may have hoped to lessen its effect on their cash purchasing power by resorting to more speculative investments than otherwise.

Also, the verdict of most historical “experts” is that the Government unwisely responded to the Crash by then “tightened” up the money supply and flow, instead of “loosening” it. And, thus; that “deflationary” action just aggravated the problem or “panic”; instead of dampening it and beginning to correct it. The “Reserve Reserve System” was created by legislation in 1914 (although that is not shown in my above timeline). And most experts think that it failed to respond correctly to lessen the Crash.

Interruption for a bit of philosophizing:

What had really happened in Western History, even before the “Great Depression”, is that their “democracy”, culture, and social systems had failed spectacularly, (whether due to subversion, not enough democracy, or for other reasons). Extremist fascism and militarism would follow the Depression, and escalate over much of the world, and that was a colossal evil! But to give philosophers like Lao Tzu their due; it might be partly seen as evil forces trying to fill a vacuum, made available by default.

- March, -1930 - Weimar Government of Germany falls--as hard times hit Germany. (Shortly thereafter, former German General von Hindenburg rules by decree). Nazi political power continues to grow.
- 01-31 -1931 - Terms of the 1930 “London Naval Conference” go into effect. This limited the number of warships of various Countries’ navies (but not their deadliness). It lasted until 12-31-1936, when Japan refuses to renew it.
- ~April, -1931 - Spanish Monarch Alfonso leaves Spain; ‘liberals’ and ‘conservatives’ vie for powers. (Eventually, a civil war would erupt.)
- 09-18 -1931 - Japan expands further into Manchuria by occupying Mukden (aka as ‘old’ Shenyang).
- This was an escalation of the policy of imperialism and of securing more resources. And in particular, choosing the path of “weakest resistance”. Grabbing Manchuria would not much disturb the other strong naval Powers, nor their close Allies in Asia and the Pacific. So, the ‘interests’ of the other Powers would be left alone—for at least a while, anyway.
- ~1932 - The existence of the “Neutron” is established by James Chadwick, in England. It is a very penetrating, neutral “nucleon”, which can be ejected from an atomic nucleus, under certain circumstances.
- ~Jan., - Indian National Congress declared Illegal by Britain; they arrest the

- 1932 leader of India, Gandhi, again.
- 05-15 - Japanese Premier and party leader (Inukai, Ki Tsuyoshi) is assassinated
-1932 by Japanese naval officers.

That eliminated the last major advocate for civilian authority (instead of military authority) for the governing of Japan.

- 05-29 - Throngs of unemployed former (WW1) soldiers gather in Washington
-1932 D.C., to ask Congress to pay some 'Retiree' benefits early. (i.e., the **Bonus Army**)

In 1924, these former soldiers had been granted promissory certificates granting them benefits (bonuses) payable in 1945. But because of the 'Depression'; they were unemployed, desperate, and in need of something for the depression years. About 20,000 of these unemployed (known as the "Bonus Army") had gathered in Washington at the peak of the protest. A lesser amount dwelled in a "tent-city" which they had built, there. The Hoover administration did little more than offer them a free one-way ticket out of Washington D.C.

Finally (7-28-1932); Hoover had army troops, under General MacArthur, forcefully evict them, out of the city. It is generally conceded that, although that may have increased Hoover's and Mac Arthur's status in some circles, it greatly decreased Hoover's popular support in his coming re-election bid against Roosevelt.

Optional: Traditional pay to Army (at least to non-officers during the Civil War, WW1, and WW2) seems low to me. For "Privates": (Civil War ~\$13/month); (WW1 ~\$40/month); (WW2 ~\$50/month).

- 09-15 - Japanese-Manchukuo Protocol; Manchuria becomes a puppet State of
-1932 Japan.

Some websites also give 9-15-1932 for the date that the Japanese installed Pu Yi as the (puppet) head of "Manchukuo". Pu Yi had been, previously, the last Emperor of the "Manchu" Dynasty, which was the last dynasty to reign over China. It had finally been overthrown in 1911. (Other websites give the end of 1934, or beginning of 1935, for the start of "Pu Yi's reign" over Manchukuo.)

- 11-08 - Franklin D. Roosevelt (i.e., FDR) defeats Hoover, and FDR assumes
-1932 the Presidency in 1933. (Many blamed Hoover and the Republicans for the Great Depression.)

~1933 - Roosevelt diplomatically recognizes Soviet Russia (a.k.a. USSR)

Britain and France had recognized the USSR earlier, in 1924, and even Japan in 1925; but I think that the U.S. has almost always been plagued with a strong, troubling, and mysterious propensity toward “reactionary government”! That goes back at least to the time that Maryland tried to block Union troops from getting to Washington D.C., near the beginning of the Civil War. (In fact, the election victory of Lincoln was a “fluke”, historically, anyway.)

Often, politicians have lagged far behind the public’s desire for progress. Often the U.S. government has devised tricks, such as the 3/5 th rule, to reward the South for its slavery, to retard progress. So, perhaps; the appeal of Indian lands and Slave labor, and/or the like—has usually been the most dominating *political* factor. (And, perhaps, that was Thomas Paine’s worst fear, and the fear of some others, who had continued to favor the old American “Articles of Confederation” instead of the U.S. Constitution.)

Even today (~2003); I suppose that a President could win an ‘election’ by just getting a little more than one third of the popular vote, while ‘his’ challenger got nearly twice that many. But such winner would have to plan smartly--to get at least the bare majority vote in half the “*key*” States. And then it would not matter if his challenger got everyone’s vote in all the remaining States. Such are just a few of the many subtle tricks, schemes, and loopholes in some political systems.

~1933 - Mexico seizes foreign-owned oil property; Britain breaks relations with Mexico. Roosevelt does NOT break off U.S. relations, and seeks to solve disagreements through compromise, and not intimidation.

This “good neighbor” attitude was remembered well beyond 1933; and had positive effects going into WW2. Although Roosevelt did not prove to be a know-it-all Sage; it seems that, perhaps, for the first time since Benjamin Franklin or Lincoln—some ‘big wig’ was *trying* to provide bold, broad-minded, progressive leadership in the U.S.! (A 10-10-1933 Western Hemisphere Agreement was achieved, establishing non-interventionism. (This did not, however, inhibit the rise of various autocratic rulers in some Latin American countries, apparently.) Still, FDR’s “good neighbor” and good faith policies helped encouraged pro-U.S. cooperation from others, in FDR’s coming challenge to world fascism; instead of fanning further mistrust, indifference, or worse, which the Powers’ imperialistic policies had previously fanned.

~1933 - The Repeal of Prohibition of Alcohol gains more support; and the 21st

Amendment is ratified 12-5-1933, repealing the 18th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

01-30
-1933 - Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany. Old President Hindenburg fades into a weaker and weaker 'figurehead'.

Mar.-
July,
-1933 - Hitler's Dictatorship becomes more and more absolute. Persecution and hatred are whipped up against Jews; and, eventually, no one tending to question or impede Hitler's escalating power is safe.

Concentration Camps are set up and opened, to eventually expedite mass murders. ((The above subject could occupy many books and museums (and, in fact, it does); but it is beyond the scope of this timeline--except to mention that.))

Many of Germany's top scientists escaped out of Germany, such as Einstein (~9-9-1933) and Haber (~4-30-1933). Haber (although baptized into the Christian faith and blond)--had Jewish ancestors; and so had to resign from the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute. He wrote to authorities that for over forty years he had selected his colleagues based on their ability, character and merit; and not on the basis of their grandmothers, and that he was unwilling to change. Fermi, whose wife was Jewish, left Italy in 1938.

Mar.,
-1933 - Japan exits the League of Nations.

May,
-1933 - Many former WW1 veterans, the 'Bonus Army', again marches on Washington, pressing for aid. Roosevelt pacifies them sufficiently by offering them paying jobs on various government 'New-Deal' projects.

10-14
-1933 - Germany exits the League of Nations.

07-25
-1934 - Austrian Chancellor Dollfuss killed by the Nazis during a Nazi uprising. Great social unrest was occurring in Austria, aggravated by the Great Depression.

Dollfuss had become more and more dictatorial, but was tending toward the fascist style of Mussolini, instead of the Nazi style of Hitler.

08-02
-1934 - German President Hindenburg, the famous WW1, General, Dies. He had become mainly a "figure head". About two weeks after his death, Hitler becomes "Fuehrer" of Germany.

Sept.,
-1934 - USSR admitted into the League of Nations.

10-16
-1934 - China's leader Chiang kai-chek finally uproots a major Communist foothold in central China, and the Communist begin their famous "Long March" to a more isolated region.

This fifth and most successful of the 'Chiang-Nationalist' offensives against the Communists--was aided by Chiang's capable German military advisors. It involved surrounding the main Communist controlled regions with "block houses" (strongly defended points). The Communists--seeing an eventual defeat coming if they stayed put—broke out; and traveled approximately in a large semi-circle along China's frontiers.

The Communists encountered many challenging problems, but eventually settled in isolated areas in or around "Yan'an", aka Yenan, in the northern region of Shaanxi Province, aka Shensi. They had lost the vast majority of their forces, in route; and had a lot of rebuilding to do. ((The details of the Communist escape (from Chiang's Nationalist forces) are beyond the scope of this timeline; except to mention one episode: They did get across the Yangtse River, using a lightly defended, damaged narrow suspension bridge. (About 70 years earlier; that river had blocked any escape of the anti-Manchu rebel, Shih Ta-k'ai. Shih was the head of the Western faction of "Taiping Kingdom" during the Taiping rebellion, against the ruling Manchu Dynasty. The Manchu Dynasty is also known as the Qing Dynasty; and Shih Ta-k'ai is also known as Shi Dakai,----per the modernistic 'Pinyin' language style of transposing).))

09-15
-1935 - German Jews striped of rights by the Nuremberg Race Laws.

01-27
-1936 - Congress passes a Veterans Bill giving Vets some direct monetary aid, and overrides an FDR veto by doing so.

The U.S. was still in an economic depression, and FDR did not think that the U.S. could afford that extra diversion. Many cuts had already been made in the U.S. defense budget, etc.

03-07
-1936 - Germany occupies the Rhineland, previously occupied by the French, under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

05-09
-1936 - Mussolini's Italian army completes its takeover of Ethiopia. The King of Italy is also proclaimed to be the King of Ethiopia.

The League of Nations condemned Italy for that. Mussolini, who had previously opposed Germany's rearmament and Germany's undue influence in Austria, began to change sides. From that point on, Mussolini more and more supported Hitler.

Historians and diplomats have often debated whether a more accommodating, less rude, response to Mussolini's Ethiopia takeover --would have improved the course of history. I do not see the main problem to be that the League, Britain, etc., "Spoke loudly and carried a little stick". But rather that there was a huge hypocrisy in condemning Italian imperialism while generally ignoring the continued imperialism of the other "Powers" who had defeated the WW1 Axis. In my opinion, this hypocrisy (i.e., a different standard for the Powers vs. the non-powers to follow) continues to be a major problem going into the 21st Century!

07-18
-1936 - Civil War begins in Spain.

This would be a long, tragic, and costly affair. On the one side were the so-called "Nationalists". They favored a rather autocratic rule, under a king, or the like, and courted the former aristocracy. Also, they favored the teaching of "rightwing", conservative religious values in the public schools. They overthrew the elected (although not very popular) government. Franco soon became leader of the Nationalists. The Nationalists received much backing from Germany and Italy.

Opposing them were the "Republicans" (no typologically mistake). (The meaning of terms, used in various countries, often changes with time.) They were a varied, rather non-cohesive coalition consisting of Socialist, "Leftists", Marxists, Anarchists, and pro-democratic advocates. They received significant backing from the Soviet Union.

08-01
-1936 - Olympic Games begin in Germany, although some people fear that will tend to legitimize Hitler's and Germany's behavior.

11-25
-1936 - Germany and Japan agree to the "Anti-Comintern Pact" (directed at combating Soviet Russia's influence, and preserving their own.)

12-11
-1936 - British King (Edward VIII) Abdicates so that he can marry an American, who is "divorced". (British rules are deemed to forbid their King from marrying a "divorced" woman.) Edward VIII's younger brother becomes King.

Optional Opinion: So far as I can determine; the woman that Edward VIII married had been divorced twice, but had not had a child through her previous so-called "marriages". I could be wrong about that. (But

if I am right about *that*; it seems to me possible that Britain locked itself, unnecessarily, into a new paradigm of stubborn snobbery, unnecessary hostility to meritorious non-British cultures, and non-naturalness. And also launched itself and its future “royalty” on a road toward disgrace, embarrassment, and toward making a spectacle of itself. And that sad future would far exceed any embarrassment caused by Edward VIII’s very non-ideal behavior during the slow switchover by Wallis Warfield Simpson—over to Edward. But I could be wrong about Wallis’s *not* having a child by previous marriage. And, anyway, the whole subject of “royalty” above, is a British internal matter, which I do not believe in interfering *with*! (I.e., the above is just how it appears to one American, at a distance.)

12-11
-1936

- Chiang Kai-shek, leader of China, is Kidnapped by forces of Chang Hsueh-liang, leader of Manchuria province, in order to get Chiang to start actively resisting Japan’s expansion into Manchuria, and to curb Chiang’s fighting the Communists, a drain on China’s energy.

That “kidnapping affair” was known as the “*Sian Incident*”. Chang, and many others, believed that Chiang’s main priority should be resisting Japan’s expansion into China, not destroying the Communist Chinese. Many believed Chiang Kai-shek to be overly obsessed with eliminating the Chinese Communists, relative to what realities called for. Although Chiang did not put any promises in writing to procure his release; most experts believe that he and/or his Kuomintang party did indicated that further Japanese encroachment would be challenged with force.

07-07
-1937

- Japanese and Chinese troop clash on the Marco Polo Bridge near Peking (aka Beijing).

In this Timeline, that will be considered **the “START OF WW2”**. The Japanese would shortly execute plans to capture Shanghai and Nanking (aka Nanjiang)--the capital of China under Chiang and the Kuomintang. Before the end of 1937, Japan would successfully capture those cities, and many other Chinese cities and regions, also.

(Japan had become “successfully industrialized” by the time of the Russo-Japanese war, while China remained mostly “underdeveloped”. In fact , China could *not* produce a single airplane or automobile before and even during WW2!)

Shortly after the Japan captured Nanking, Japan would execute over 300,000 people there and nearby. The victims were mostly innocent civilians; and the Japanese militarists carried out that “*Nanking Massacre*” to display their power and terror. Thus, the war in Asia and the behavior of Japan’s military become an even graver matter.

The reader might ask, “How can that be the start of WW2, since such big Powers as Germany, Britain, France, Russia, and the U.S. had not declared war?” (I might add that even China, herself, did not officially declare war until many years later, i.e., until shortly after Pearl Harbor was attacked. China’s postponing a declaration of war—allowed FDR and the U.S. to provide material aid to China without violating a U.S. Neutrality Treaty, which did not allow such aid to countries officially at war against each other.) Also, in the spirit of consistency, we should note that 7-28-1914 is deemed the start of WW1, even though some days followed that before some other Powers were drawn into it. Furthermore, even months followed before still other Powers were drawn into WW1. And even a few years before the U.S. was drawn into it. (We also further note that the population of China and Japan in 1937 was about equal to all the Powers’ population in WW1; so the conflict between the Japan and China certainly involved much of the world’s population.)

-----End of Part II, “History of the World and of WW2”-----

Click: for [beginning of WW1 timeline](#), or [beginning of U.S. Timeline](#),
Forward to: [Part III-A](#), [WW2](#), and [Encyclopedia links](#)

or return to [Homepage](#)