

TIMELINE OF WORLD AGGRESSION

1931-1939

1931

SEPTEMBER 18, 1931
Japanese troops begin occupying Manchuria.

1933

JANUARY 30, 1933
Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.

MARCH 25, 1933
Japan withdraws from League of Nations.

OCTOBER 14, 1933
Germany withdraws from League of Nations.

1935

MARCH 11, 1935
Hitler introduces military conscription in Germany.

MARCH 16, 1935
Hitler reveals existence of a secretly-built air force called the Luftwaffe.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1935
Germany announces the Nuremberg Laws, which exclude German Jews from citizenship and prohibit them from marrying or having sexual relations with persons of "German or related blood." Ancillary ordinances to the laws disenfranchise Jews and deprive them of most political rights.

OCTOBER 3, 1935
Italy invades Ethiopia.

1936

MARCH 7, 1936
Defying international law, Germany's military occupies the Rhineland, an area of Germany demilitarized after World War I.

MAY 9, 1936
Italy annexes Ethiopia.

JULY 17, 1936
A civil war erupts in Spain. Germany aids fascist forces seeking to overthrow Spain's democratically-elected government.

NOVEMBER 25, 1936
Germany and Japan sign the Anti-Comintern Pact. A secret protocol to the pact pledges the two nations to remain neutral if either goes to war with the Soviet Union.

1937

JULY 7, 1937
Japan begins a large-scale invasion of China.

NOVEMBER 6, 1937
Italy joins the Anti-Comintern Pact.

DECEMBER 11, 1937
Italy withdraws from the League of Nations.

DECEMBER 13, 1937
Japanese troops begin a brutal rampage in the Chinese city of Nanking murdering hundreds of thousands of civilians.

1938

MARCH 11, 1938
Germany annexes Austria.

SEPTEMBER 29, 1938
After Hitler threatens to invade Czechoslovakia, Great Britain and France agree to let Germany annex Czechoslovakia's German-speaking Sudetenland region. In the Munich Agreement, Germany pledges to pursue no further territorial claims against Czechoslovakia.

OCTOBER 5, 1938
Germany occupies the Sudetenland.

NOVEMBER 9-10, 1938
"Kristallnacht" attacks on Jews and their property throughout Germany.

1939

MARCH 14, 1939
Violating the 1938 Munich Agreement, Germany seizes the Bohemia and Moravia regions of Czechoslovakia.

APRIL 7, 1939
Italy invades Albania.

MAY 22, 1939
Germany and Italy sign a military alliance.

AUGUST 23, 1939
Germany and the Soviet Union sign a non-aggression treaty. Secret portions outline a joint effort to invade and divide Poland.