

The Rise of Nazism

World War I's Effect on Germany



WWI's Effect on Germany

- Germany had many problems after WWI:
 - Lost lands that contained valuable natural resources,
 - 2 ½ million Germans died,
 - 4 million were wounded,
 - Industry (factories) & farms in the country had been destroyed, and
 - Highways, bridges, & roads were demolished.

Solving Germany's Problems

- Government worked to fix these things, but a major obstacle stood in the way...
- **Treaty of Versailles:**
 - Germany had to pay reparations to the Allied countries for war damages
- Millions of dollars were leaving the country for France & Great Britain
- Also, because Germany was forbidden to have a large army or navy, many military people lost their jobs

Germany's Economic Depression

- Prices went up as goods became scarce.
- Basic items such as food and clothing were not always available.
- Men had trouble finding jobs to support their families.
- The value of German money became extremely inflated...

Adolf Hitler

- As things got worse, people blamed the government...
- Adolf Hitler came on the scene with a promise to fix Germany's problems.
 - He blamed the Treaty of Versailles for many of the problems.
 - He also said that Jews were controlling German banks & money.
 - He blamed Jews for the fact that Germans were not able to make a good living.

A Change in Government

- Hitler was named Chancellor of Germany in 1933.
- He made sure that laws were passed to give him more power and he set up an autocratic government (complete control, dictator).
- Hitler and his followers, called the National Socialists—or Nazis, soon had all the power in Germany.

Hitler's New Power

- What did Hitler & the Nazis do?
 - Began to rebuild the military
 - Opened factories to build weapons
 - Put unemployed people to work building a superior highway system
- The economy improved, but the people lost many of their civil rights...

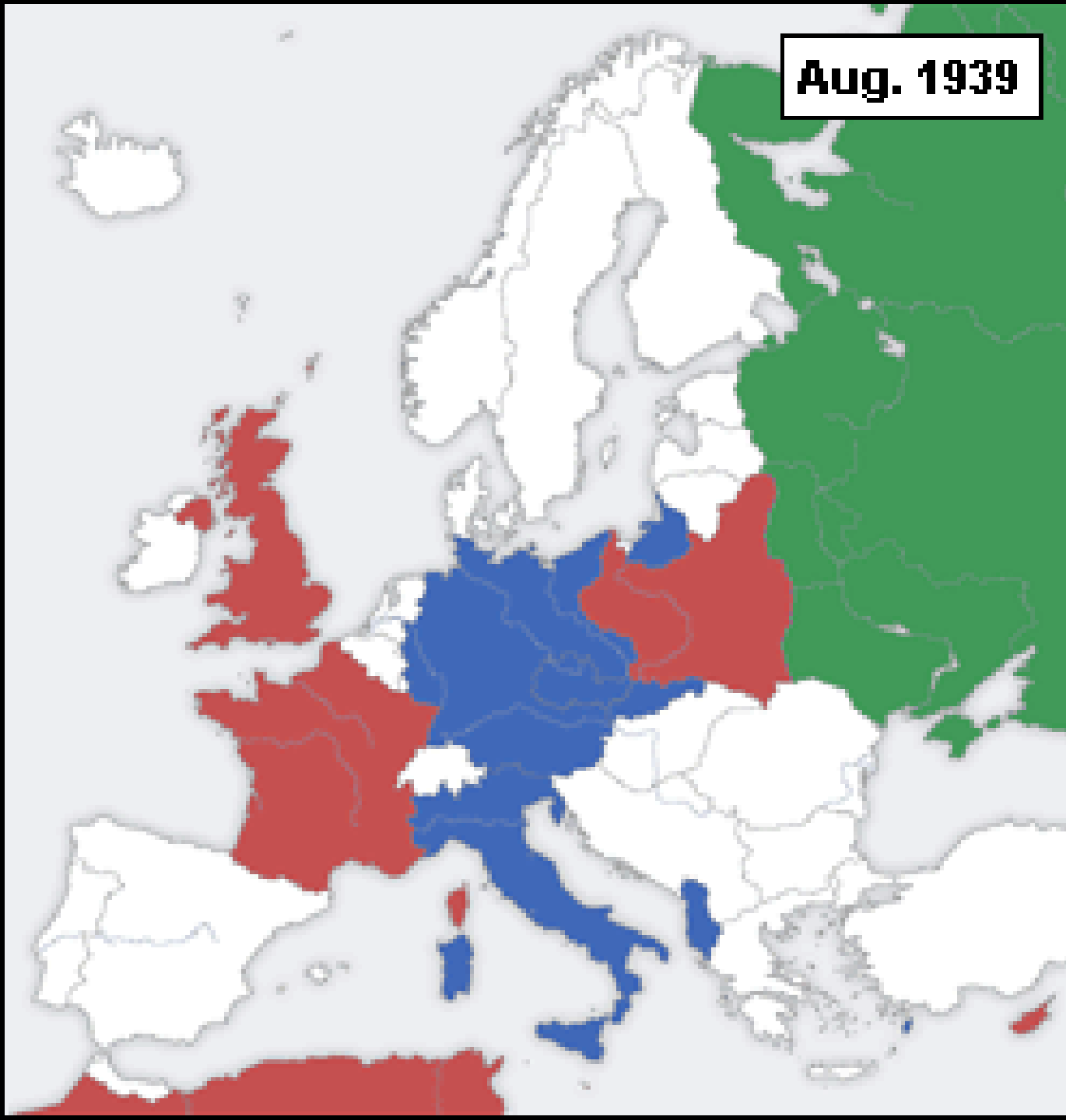
Hitler's Actions

- Germans who spoke against the Nazis were imprisoned or murdered.
- Hitler's military strength grew, and he began to make plans to go to war.
- In 1936, he sent troops into former German territories that were lost in WWI.
- By 1938, German troops controlled Austria & Czechoslovakia.

Europe Reacts

- Other countries protested, but did nothing to stop Hitler.
- In 1939, Germany invaded Poland.
 - France & Great Britain decided something had to be done and declared war on Germany.
- World War II had begun...

Aug. 1939



WW II Europe

- Red countries are Allied or Allied-controlled.
- Blue is Axis or Axis controlled countries.
- The Soviet Union is colored green (prior to joining the Allies in 1941).