THE GLOBAL CONFLICT: AXIS ADVANCES - **Early Axis Gains**
- *blitzkrieg* - German for "lightning war" - 3 stages: 1. German bombers 2. tanks
   3. infantry - within one month, Poland fell to Germany + USSR
- Baltic states - Stalin's armies took over Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and part of Finland
The "Phony War" - Britain, France waited behind the Maginot Line - no attack occurred
- April 1940 - Norway + Denmark fell - April/May 1940 - Netherlands + Belgium fell
Miracle at Dunkirk - May 1940 - Allied forces were trapped in France between Germans
and the English Channel - 100s of British ships/boats came to rescue 300,000 troops
across the Channel - this heroic rescue greatly raised British morale
France Falls - Germany attacked from the north, Italy from the south
- June 22, 1940 - Hitler forced from to surrender - Germany occupied the north,
   southern France became Vichy France (a puppet state that collaborated with the Nazis)
Africa and the Balkans - Sept. 1940 - Italy attempted, failed to invade Egypt (British
colony)
- Germans sent in General Erwin Rommel (the "Desert Fox") - pushed the British back
   to Cairo, Egypt - British worried Germans would capture the Suez Canal
- Oct. 1940 - Italian forces invaded Greece - 1941 - German forces provided
   provided reinforcements again - Greece + Yugoslavia added to Axis empire - Bulgaria
   and Hungary joined the Axis alliance
The Battle of Britain and the Blitz - Aug. 12, 1940 - German bombers attacked
England's southern coast - Royal Air Force (RAF) battled the German air force
(*Luftwaffe)*
The London Blitz - Sept. 7, 1940 - Germans began bombing London - continued for
57 nights - much of the city was destroyed, 15,000 killed - London and other cities
bombed off and on until June 1941
- Hitler hoped to break the will of the British, but morale remained high
- Operation Sea Lion (German invasion of Britain) failed, Hitler shifted his focus
   to Russia

Operation Barbarossa - June 1941 - conquest of the Soviet Union (named for Holy Roman emperor Frederick Barbarossa, medieval German leader who won great victories in the East) - Hitler's reasons for attack: 1. living space for Germany (*lebensraum*)
2. gain raw materials   3. desire to crush communism + Stalin
- German advance - June 1941 - Stalin unprepared because of the Great Purge
- 2.5 million Russian soldiers killed trying to fend off the invaders
- Russians burned everything as they retreated (scorched earth) - though some Germans
  believed victory would come soon, winter weather stalled German advance
- Siege of Leningrad - Sept. 1941 - 2 1/2 years of fighting, food was scarce, 1 million
  residents of the city died - Stalin wanted Britain to open up a second front in W. Europe
  to relieve pressure
American Involvement Grows - "The Arsenal of Democracy"
- 1941 - The Lend Lease-Act - allowed FDR to send or lend equipment to any nation
   whose defense was vital to U.S. national security
- Atlantic Charter - Aug. 1941 - FDR + Churchill met secretly in the Atlantic - charter set
  goals for the war: 1. destroy the Nazi regime   2. people of all nations should choose
  their own govt. (self-determination)   3. permanent system of general security (would
  become the United Nation)
Japan Attacks - Dec. 1941 - Japan took over French Indochina and the Dutch East Indies - to stop them, U.S. banned the sale of war materials to Japan - Japan + U.S. held talks to ease tension - General Hideki Tojo (military leader and prime minister of Japan) wanted to seize lands in the Pacific and Asia, but U.S. was interfering with the plan
Attack on Pearl Harbor - December 7, 1941 - General Tojo ordered surprise attack on the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii - 19 ships destroyed or damaged, 2,400 killed

- FDR asked Congress to declare war on Japan on Dec. 8 - on Dec. 11, Germany + Italy declared war on the U.S.

Japanese Victories - seized American possessions including the Philippines and overran British colonies of Hong Kong, Burma, and Malaya
- Japanese empire stretched from Southeast Asia to the western Pacific Ocean
- summer 1942 - high point of Axis success (both in Pacific and European theaters)

Mar 10-9:18 AM