

Name _____ Date _____



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.8.1**

The Drive for Empire in Germany, Italy, and Japan

Specific Objective: Compare the German, Italian, and Japanese drives for empire in the 1930s, including the 1937 Rape of Nanking, other atrocities in China, and the Hitler-Stalin pact of 1939.

After World War I, Italy, Japan, and Germany all sought to increase their might. Italy and Germany still suffered the effects of the war, and Japan wanted to further the power it had gained during wartime.

By the 1930s, all three were led by military dictatorships in which the state held tremendous power and sought to expand that power by invading neighbor nations.

Italy

Led by: Benito Mussolini

Sought: a “New Roman Empire” of colonial land

Conquests: Ethiopia in 1935; Albania in 1939

___ After about seven months of warfare, Italy claimed Ethiopia as its colony.

Japan

Led by: a series of military leaders, with Emperor Hirohito as a figurehead

Sought: natural resources, new markets for its goods, and room for population growth

Conquests: Manchuria, a Chinese province, in 1931; China in 1937

___ From December 1937 to March 1938, Japanese troops massacred an estimated 350,000 Chinese civilians in what became known as the Rape of Nanking.

___ During the Japanese occupation, millions of Chinese were killed and tens of millions became homeless.

Germany

Led by: Adolf Hitler

Sought: to rebuild its army and assert its strength

Conquests: the Rhineland (between Germany and France) in 1936; Austria in 1938; the Sudetenland area of Czechoslovakia in 1938; Czechoslovakia in 1939

___ To the west, France and Britain, desiring peace at any cost, did not at first try to stop German aggression.

___ To the east, Russia posed no threat after the **Hitler-Stalin Pact of 1939**, in which Germany and Russia agreed never to attack one another.