**Night Two: A Rising Threat**

Emboldened by his experiences in battle, Adolf Hitler mobilizes membership in the Nazi Party and formulates his plan for a nationalist Germany to regain power. Benito Mussolini rises to the helm in Italy, leading the National Fascist Party. Meanwhile, Franklin Delano Roosevelt ushers the U.S. through the crisis of the Great Depression. In Japan, the quest for expansion and international power leads to increased militarization. Hideki Tojo rises up the ranks. Hitler becomes a chancellor of Germany in 1933 and by 1939 the world explodes into war. After forming a Non-Aggression Pact with Russia, Hitler attempts to conquer Europe, with Japan and Italy as allies. Churchill, now British Prime Minister, does his best to keep Britain from total collapse while the U.S. weighs the consequences of entering the war.

**Critical Thinking Questions**

**Directions:** Choose one of the questions below to answer. Your answer must be in complete sentences and be at least 10 sentences.

1. Why do you think Hitler was so successful in mobilizing others to follow him? What were his main goals and how did he plan to achieve them?
2. Why did FDR choose to curb military funding during the New Deal? Do you think this was the correct decision at the time? Discuss.
3. Why did Mussolini decide to invade Ethiopia? How did this decision tie in with his larger plans for Italy?
4. Why do you think Stalin decided to form a pact with Hitler in August 1939?
5. What was the political strategy known as “appeasement”? Do you think it was effective during World War II? Discuss.
6. How would you describe the differences between Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and Winston Churchill in their approach to leadership during the early years of World War II?
7. Why do you think Roosevelt did not push to involve the U.S. in World War II right away? Do you think this was the right decision? Discuss.
8. What were some of the main goals of Japan in the years before and during World War II? Who was Hideki Tojo and how did he help achieve these goals during this era?
9. This episode ends right before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. At this moment in the war, what would you predict as the outcomes of the conflict? Discuss.