



# Years of Crisis

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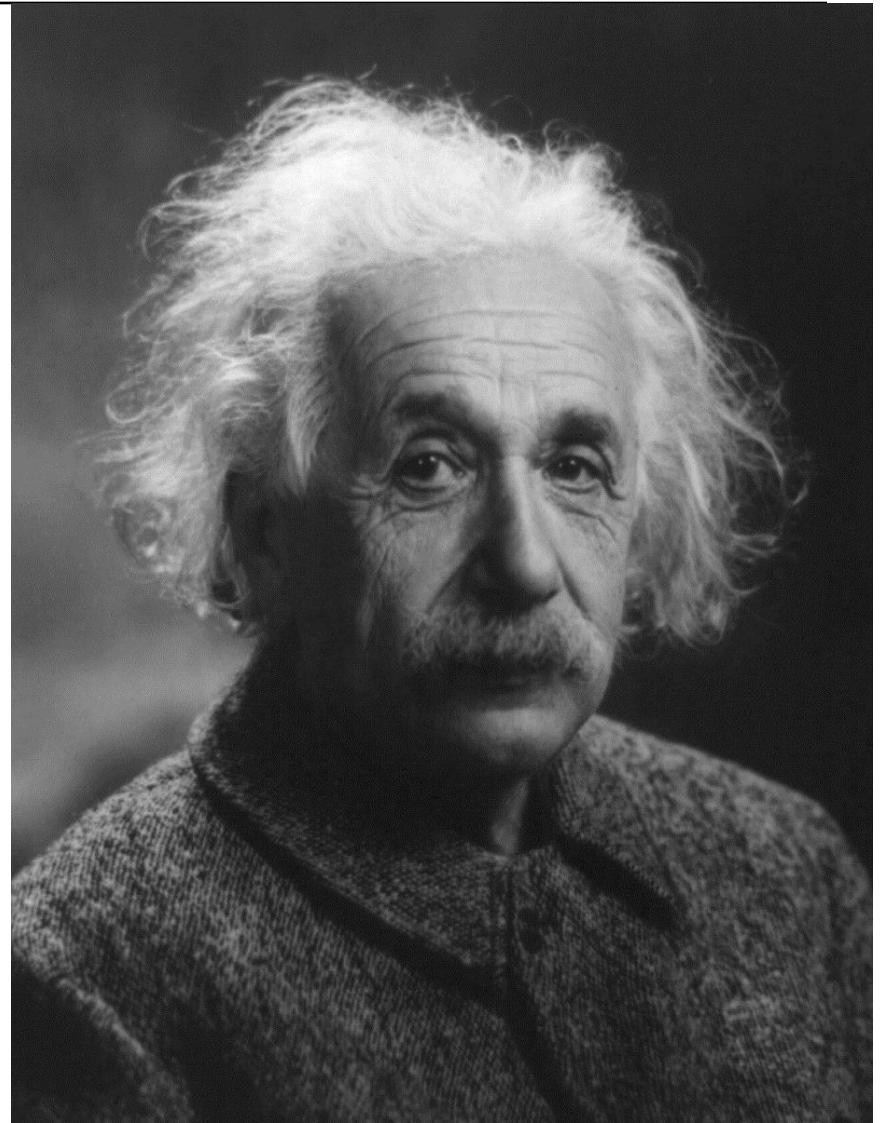
1919 – 1939

Years Between the Wars

# Science Challenges Old Ideas

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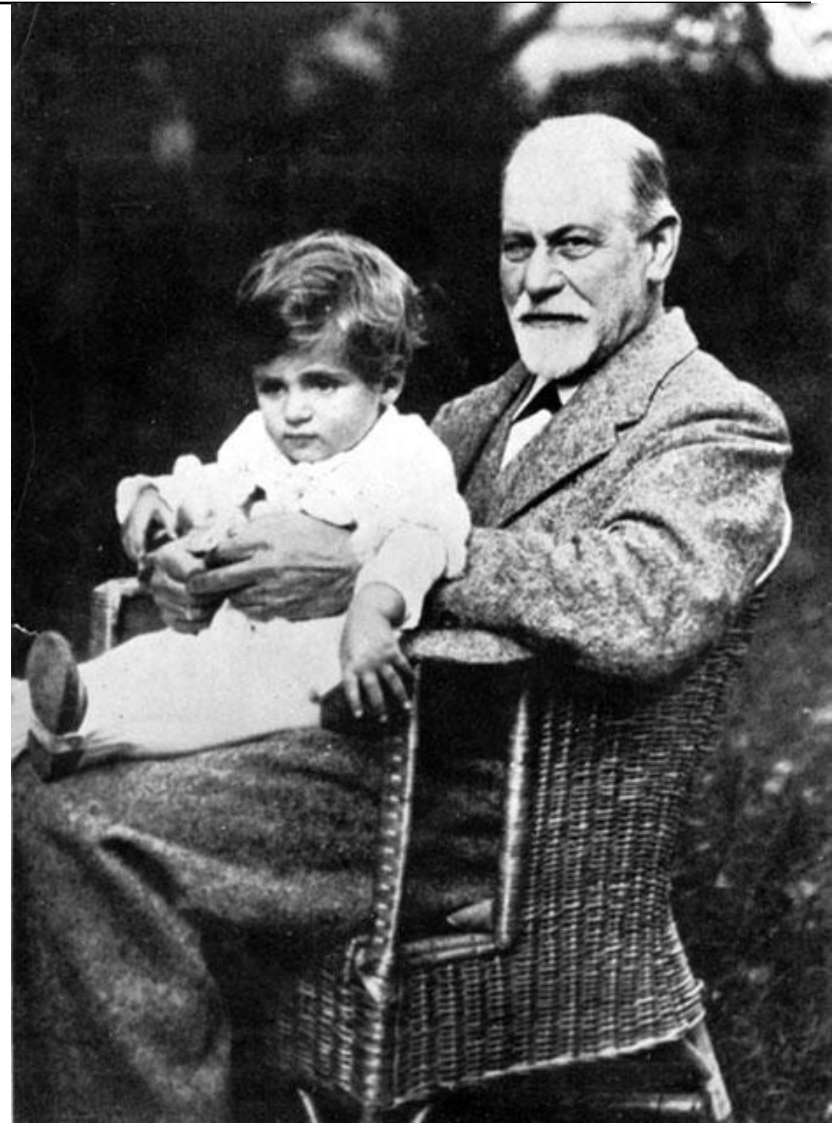
- Albert Einstein
- German-Born physicist
- Offered new ideas on space, time, energy, & matter
- Developed the Theory of Relativity
  - Measured objects moving at speed of light
  - 186,000 miles per second



# Science (cont)

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- Sigmund Freud
- Austrian physician
- Studied human behavior
- Believed humans are irrational thinkers
  - Beyond reason
  - Known as the unconscious
    - Held the pleasure-seeking drives
- Wrote the Interpretation of Dreams (1900)



# Literature in Age of Doubt

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- World War I led to doubt in faith of religion and moral beliefs
- Growth of Existentialism
  - Jean Paul Sartre
    - No universal meaning to life
    - Each person gives their own meaning according to experiences
  - Friedrich Nietzsche
    - Western society had put too much stress on reason, democracy, & progress
    - Individuality & creativity suffered
    - Through willpower & courage some people could become supermen



# New Age Attitude

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- Young people break traditions
  - Young women took on new roles during war
  - Not ready to go back in the home
- Women's suffrage became significant
  - Push for vote in Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, Austria, & United States
    - 1920 → 19 Amendment passed in the U.S.

# Introduction of Flappers\*

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- Young Women
  - Embraced New Fashions
  - Flouted Traditions
    - Discussed Relationships
    - Change view of elders
  - Remain conservative in relationships
- The Look
    - Shopping Bags, Close Fitting Felt Hats
    - Bright & Waistless Dresses (1" Above the Knee)
    - Skin-Toned Silk Stockings
    - Sleek Pumps
    - Strings of Beads & Bracelets
    - Dyed Black Hair Worn Up
    - Rouge on the Cheeks & "Kissproof" Lipstick



# Technology Changes Life

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## ○ The Automobile

- Electric starters, air-filled tires, more powerful engines
- Sleek & brightly polished
- Headlights, chrome bumpers
- Affordable for the middle class

## ○ Airplanes Transform Travel

- Airmail letters
- International travel by 1919
- Charles Lindbergh flies the Atlantic (1927)
  - 33 Hour solo flight
  - New York to Paris





# Technology (cont)

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- Radio Reaches Millions
  - KDKA – Pittsburgh, PA First radio station
  - Live sporting events, news, music
    - Jazz



# A Global Depression

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# New Democracies

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- Only Japan & U.S. came out stronger following WWI
- All absolute rulers had been overthrown
  - Led to democratic governments
  - Citizens had little experience with democracies
- Coalition governments were formed
  - Temporary alliances between parties to form a parliament majority
    - Difficult → France had 40 different governments from 1919 to 1939

# The Weimar Republic

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- Germany's new government 1919
- Named after the city where the national assembly met
- Weaknesses
  - Lacked strong democratic tradition
  - Several major political parties
  - Citizens blamed the Weimar Republic for war losses, not the wartime leaders
    - Signed the treaty of Versailles

# German Problems

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- Germany needed money for war debt
  - Did not increase wartime taxes
  - Germany printed money for debt
    - Led to the loss in value of the mark
- Germany had to pay war reparations
  - Printed money
- More money was needed to buy simple goods
  - Loaf of bread
    - 1918 → Less than 1 mark
    - 1922 → 160 marks
    - 1923 → 200 billion marks
- Money was carried in wheelbarrows
- Money was burned for heat



# Germany Recovery

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- The Dawes Plan
  - Charles Dawes (American Banker)
- \$200 Million loan from American banks
  - Stabilize the German economy
  - Set a more realistic payment plan for the war reparations
- By 1929 German factories were back at pre war production



# A Lasting Peace

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- German's foreign minister (Gustav Stresemann)
- France's foreign minister (Aristide Briand)
- Worked to improve the relations between the countries
  - Met in Switzerland (1925)
  - Signed a treaty that France & Germany would not ever make war again with each other
  - Germany also promised to respect France's borders
- Led to the Kellogg-Briand Pact
  - Frank Kellogg (U.S. SOS)
  - Signed by 62 nations renouncing war
  - Had no means of enforcement



# U.S. Depression

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# Causes

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- Uneven distribution of wealth
  - Wages did not rise to meet growing prices
- Overproduction of goods & agriculture
- Low demand
  - Better goods last longer
  - High prices / low wages
- Buying on credit & speculation
  - Land & stock

# Flawed Economy

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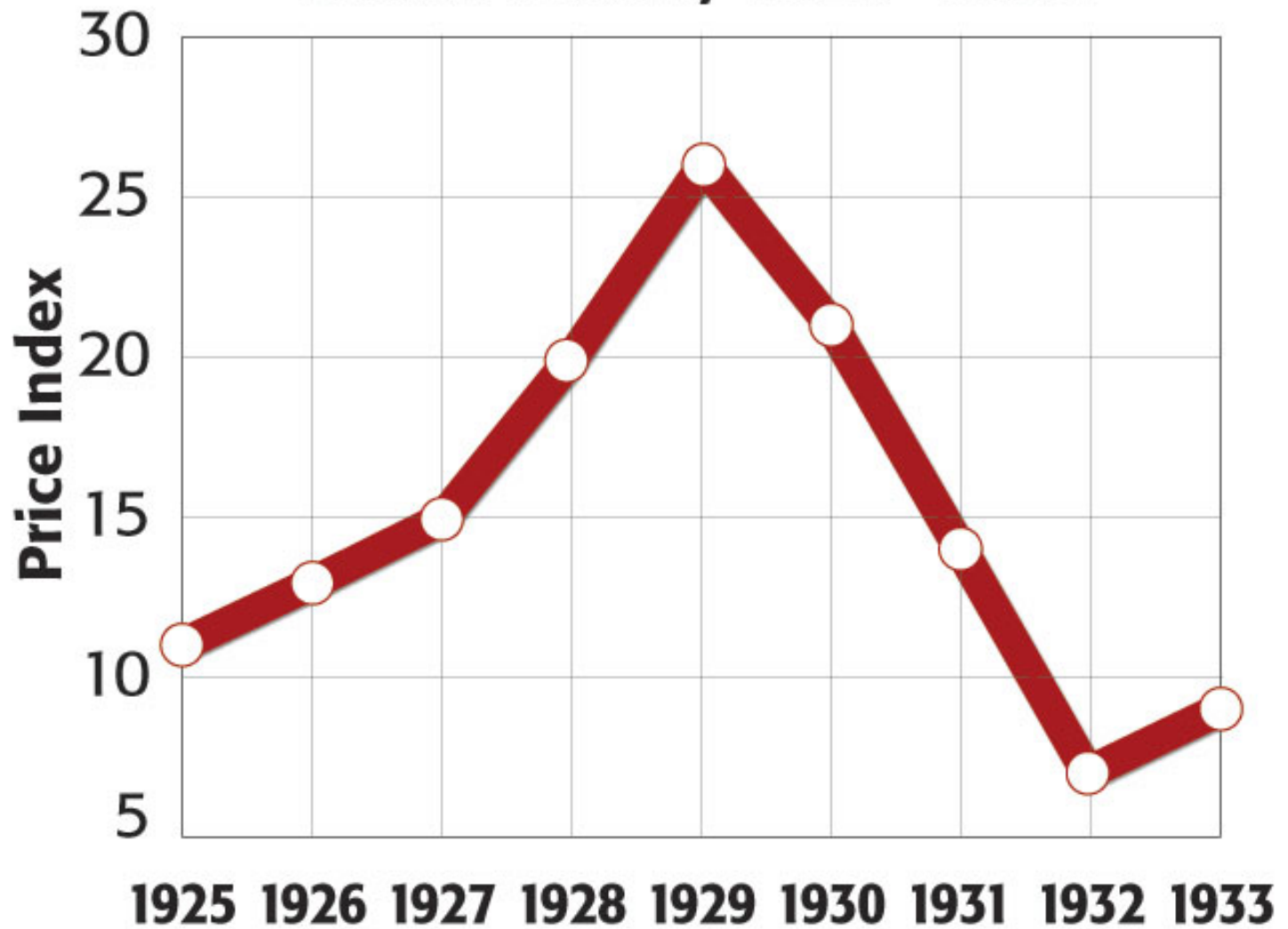
- Producing nearly 50% of world's goods by 1929
  - Led to extreme profits that were not shared
  - Richest 5% received 33% of personal incomes in 1929
- High prices led to overproduction
  - Cut back on factory orders → Cut back on employment
  - Loss of jobs led to decrease in spending
- Better farming techniques lowered prices
  - Cost of farming increased
  - Could not pay off bank loans → Weakened banks

# Stock Market Crash

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- Buying stock ON MARGIN
  - Buyer pays a partial payment & receives a loan from the broker
  - Repay the loan when the stock is sold
    - MARGIN CALL
- September 1929 Investors fear a slow in the economy
  - Begin to sell → Prices fall
- Tuesday, October 29, 1929
  - Black Tuesday → Sell at any price
  - 16 Million stocks were sold

## Stock Prices, 1925–1933



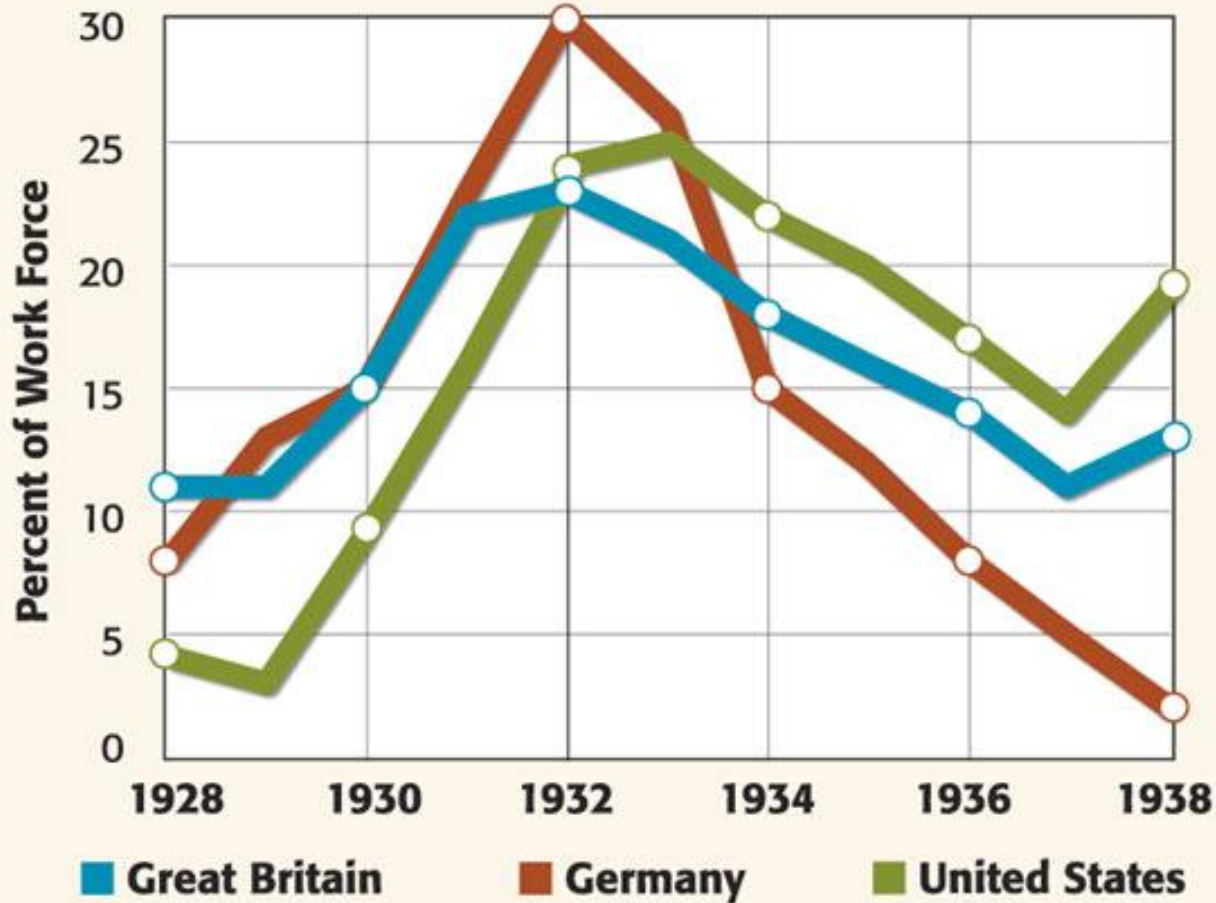
Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*

# Stock Market Crash (cont)

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- Margin calls left people short on loans
- Banks fail
  - Land speculation
    - Buy land & sell it at a higher price for quick profit → Repay the loan
  - Margin calls
    - Buyers were not able to repay loans
  - 5,000 Banks in U.S. fail 1929 – 1932
  - Investors rush the banks & find no money
    - 9 Million people lost their savings accounts
- 1933 ¼ Americans were out of work

## Unemployment Rate, 1928–1938



Sources: *European Historical Statistics: 1750–1970*;  
*Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970*.





## I'll Take the Cash

I was teaching in a small town, and got my monthly paycheck on Good Friday.

I didn't get to the bank until Saturday, and the cashier asked if I wanted to deposit the check or just take the cash. I said, for no particular reason, I would take the cash.

I was lucky to have a month's pay in my hands, because the banks closed that Monday!

*Inez M. Warren*

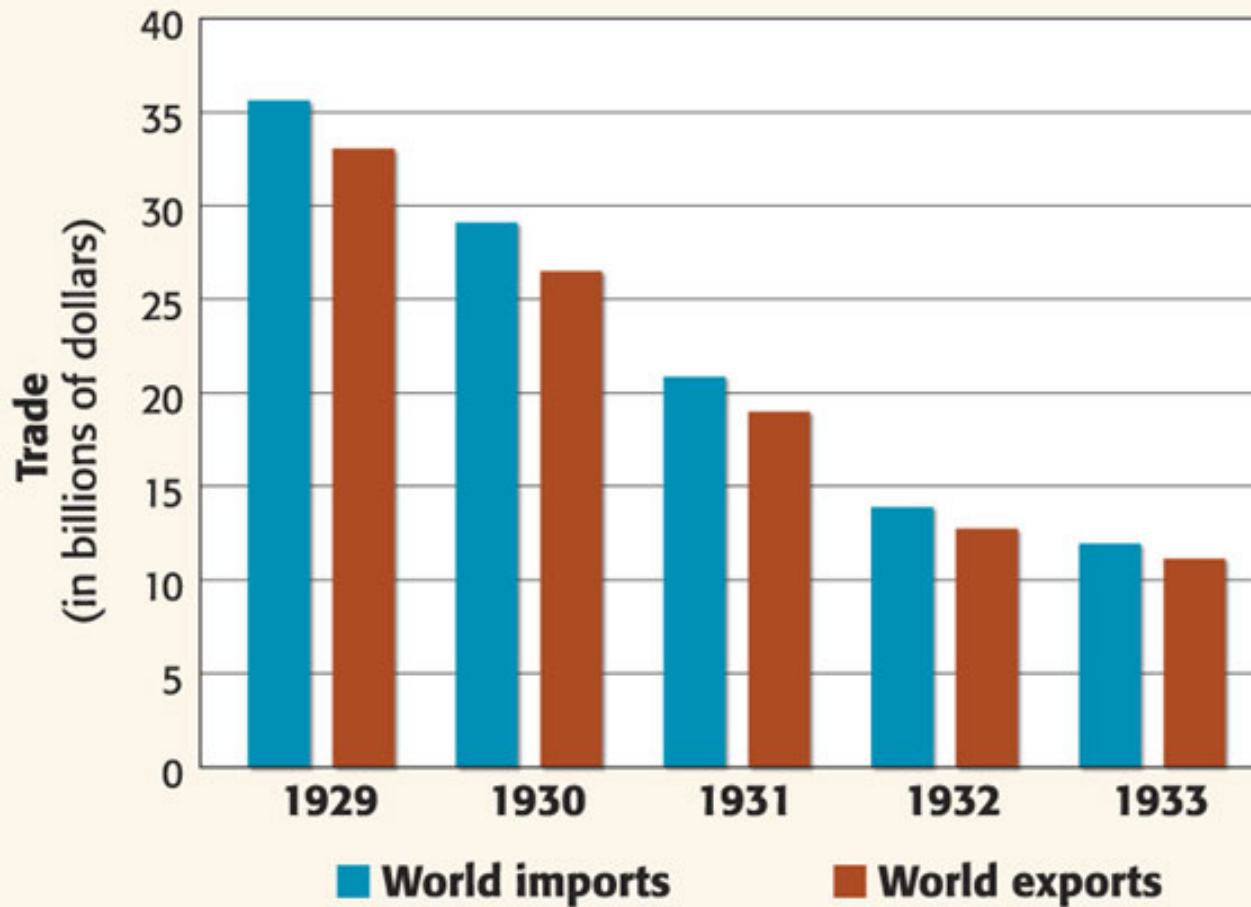
*Syracuse, Nebraska*

# Depression Spreads

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- American investors withdraw money from Europe
- Bankers demand payment for overseas loans
- U.S. Congress enacts the Hawley-Smoot Tariff
  - Raised tariffs on foreign goods
  - Americans had to buy American goods
- World trade dropped 65%

## World Trade, 1929–1933



Source: Kenneth Oye, *Economic Discrimination and Political Exchange*





Archive Photos

## Feed Sacks Helped Stretch the Family Budget

...in these days. Seed usually came in



Harold M. Lambert

**Extra! Extra! Newsboys Earned  
Their Own Cash for 'Kid Stuff'**



AP/WIDE WORLD



Getty Images







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# Lost Toys Were Rediscovered Christmas Morning



# Responses to Economic Problems

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## The Rise of Fascism

# Responding to Crisis

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- Britain Improves its Economy
  - Raised tariffs, increased taxes, & regulated currency
  - Lowered interest rates to encourage spending
- United States Responds
  - Franklin Delano Roosevelt 1932
  - Developed the New Deal
    - Utilized government worker programs to hire men to better the country

# Fascism Rises in Europe

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- Militant political movement
  - Response to the terrible economic conditions
- Emphasized loyalty to the state & obedience to its leader
  - Promoted classes of people to serve society
  - Comprised of strong nationalists
- Fascist Party Promises
  - Revive the economy
  - Punish those responsible for hard times
  - Restore national pride
- Attracted those who suffered from WWI & Depression

# Mussolini Comes to Power

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- Fascism Rises in Italy
  - Failure to win land following WWI fueled fascism
  - Rising inflation & unemployment
  - Feared Russia's communist movement
- Rise of Benito Mussolini
  - Newspaper editor & great orator
  - Modest Height (Short)
    - Chose to give speeches from raised locations
  - Promised to rescue the economy & rebuild Italy's forces
    - Return Italy to "her ancient greatness"



# Rise of Fascism in Italy

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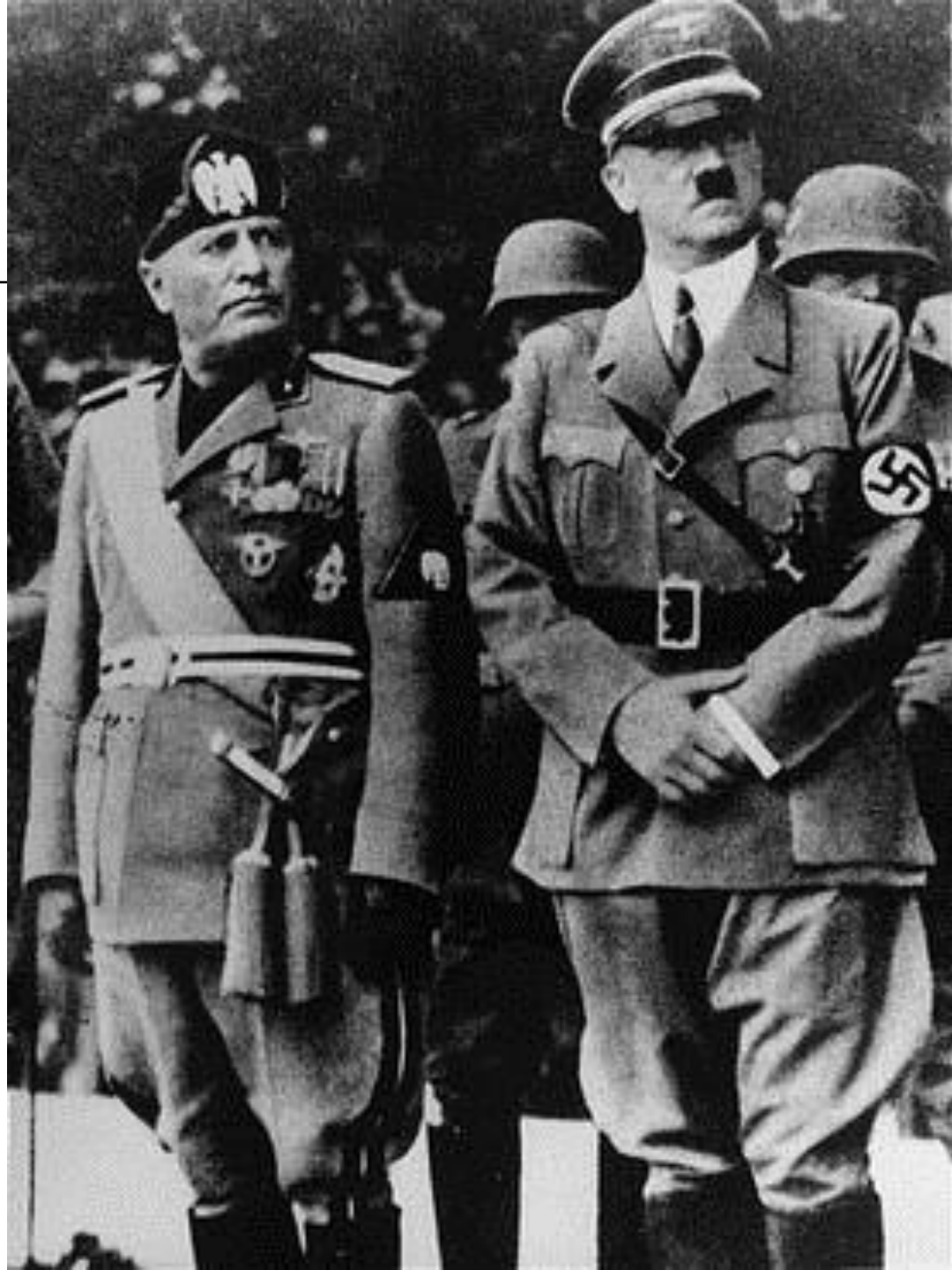
- Mussolini promised strong leadership
  - Founded the Fascist Party 1919
  - Gained popularity as the economy worsened
- Groups of fascists attacked Communists & Socialists on the streets
  - Fascists wore black shirts
  - Campaign of terror
- Won the support of the middle class & aristocrats by playing on fears of people
- 30,000 Fascists marched on Rome in October 1922
  - Demanded King Victor Emanuel III to put Mussolini in charge of government
  - Mussolini was given power by the king to form a government to support Italy



# Mussolini's Leadership

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- Now known as Il Duce
  - The leader
- Outlawed democracy & all political parties
  - Except fascist
- Secret police jailed opponents
- Forced radio stations to promote the fascist doctrine
- Outlawed strikes by workers
- Never had total control like Stalin





# Adolf Hitler

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# Adolf Hitler

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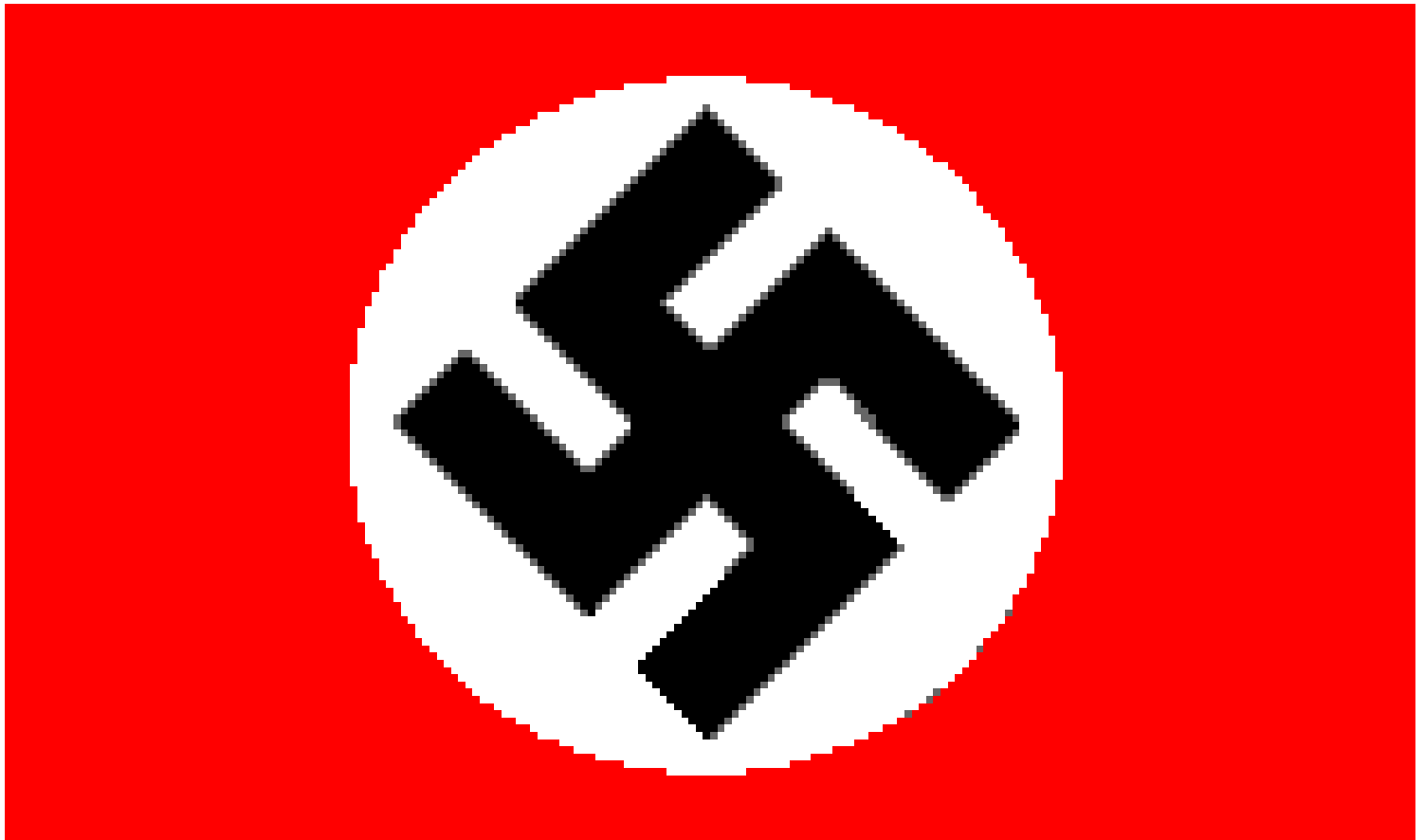
- Fiery orator
  - Rehearsed his speeches
  - Overcame his small appearance
- Born in Austria
- Dropped out of high school & failed as an artist
- Fought in World War I
- Awarded Iron Cross for bravery (Twice)



# Rise of the Nazi Party

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- After WWI Hitler settled in Munich, Germany
- 1920 Hitler joined a small conservative political group
  - Group believed that Germany had to overturn the Treaty of Versailles & combat Communism
  - Group renamed itself National Socialist German Workers' Party
    - Nazi for short (German form of Fascism)
  - Adopted the hooked cross for a symbol
    - Swastika
  - Dressed in brown (Brownshirts)
- Party was supported by the middle & lower class







# Rise of Hitler

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- Chosen as *der Fuhrer*
  - The leader (of the Nazi party)
- Hitler & the Nazi's plotted to seize power of Germany in Munich in 1923
  - Inspired by Mussolini
  - Attempt failed & Hitler was arrested
    - Sentenced to 5 years for treason
    - Served only 9 months
- While in jail, Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf*
  - My struggle
  - Set forth the beliefs & his goals for Germany
  - Blueprint or plan of action for the Nazi party



## Hitler (cont)

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- Believed that blond & blue-eyed were a “master race”
  - Aryans
  - Believed that Jews, Slavs, & Gypsies were subhuman
- Called the Treaty of Versailles an outrage on Germany
  - Vowed to regain lands taken from Germany
  - Promised to conquer eastern Europe & Russia

## Hitler (cont)

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- Ideas were ignored until the depression
  - American loan stopped & factories stopped
- 6 Million Germans were unemployed by 1932 (30%)
- Germans turned to Hitler for support



# Aggressors on the March

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Drifting Towards War

# Japan Drifting Towards War

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- Japan moves from a democracy → fascism
- Move towards war
  - 1920 → Democratic
  - 1922 → Signed a treaty to respect China's borders
  - 1928 → Signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact
- Rise of Militarism
  - Great Depression hurt the democratic gov.
  - Military leaders took control of the country
    - Was not a military dictatorship

# Japan (cont)

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- Japanese chose to keep Emperor Hirohito as leader
- Japan's military leaders were extreme nationalists
  - Believed solving Japan's problems comes through foreign expansion
    - Included the conquering of China
- Japan Invades Manchuria (1931)
  - Area rich in iron & coal
  - The League of Nations protested but had no power to sanction Japan
    - Japan withdrew from the League of Nations (1933)



## Japan (Cont)

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- Japan invades China 1937
- China was defeated
  - Despite having 1 million soldiers
- Conquering of China known as “rape of Nanjing”
  - Thousands of civilians killed



# Aggression in Asia, 1931-1937

0 1,000 Miles  
0 2,000 Kilometers



# Italy on the Move

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- Mussolini wanted a colonial empire in Africa
  - 1935 Italy invades Ethiopia
    - Spears & swords were no match to tanks, planes, guns, & poison gas
- “Italy has at last her empire...a Fascist empire.”
- The League of Nations did not assist Ethiopia
- Italy used the Suez Canal to pass supplies to Ethiopia
  - Controlled by Britain
  - Britain & France did nothing to challenge the Italian growth to keep peace (appeasement)



# Aggression in Africa, 1935-1939

- Italy
- Italian colony
- Invaded by Italy





# Growth of Germany

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# Hitler Defies Treaty of Versailles

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- Hitler begins to defy the treaty in March 1935
  - Began rebuilding the armed forces
  - The League of Nations issued a mild condemnation
  - “Today Germany! Tomorrow the World!”
- Treaty banned Germany from the Rhineland
  - 30 Mile-wide zone on either side of the Rhine river
  - Buffered France & Germany
  - March 7, 1936 Germany marched into the Rhineland
  - France & Belgium were now open to attacks by Germany
  - Britain urged appeasement to avoid war

## Germany (cont)

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- Mussolini was convinced of Hitler's growing strength
  - October 1936 Hitler & Mussolini join together
  - Rome-Berlin Axis
- November 1936 Germany made an alliance with Japan
- Germany, Italy, & Japan became the Axis Powers

# The German Reich Expands

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- Germany's 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich
  - Third Empire
- November 5, 1937 Hitler announces intentions to take Austria & Czechoslovakia
- Annexation of Austria
  - The treaty outlawed alliance with Germany & Austria
  - March 1938 Germany annexes Austria
- Hitler annexes the Sudetenland (Czechoslovakia)
  - 3 Million German-speaking people within the borders
  - Hitler demands the Sudetenland be given to Germany
  - Czechoslovakia asks France for help (military alliance)





# Expansion in Europe, 1931-1939



- Germany, 1935
- German annexations
- Italy, 1935
- Italian annexation



## Expansion (cont)

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- France, Britain, Germany, Italy met in Munich
  - The Munich Conference September 1938
  - Czechoslovakia was not invited
  - Britain & France gave the Sudetenland to Germany
    - Hitler agreed to respect Czechoslovakia's new borders
- 6 Months after Munich conference Hitler took the rest of Czechoslovakia
- Mussolini took Albania

# Expansion (cont)

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- Hitler demanded Danzig (German Port) be returned from Poland
  - Poland developed a treaty with France & Britain for protection
- Hitler was convinced that France & Britain would not support the treaty
- Nazis & Soviets
  - Stalin & Hitler created a pact to avoid aggression between each other
    - Allowed for war on Western Europe with no interference
    - Set a plan to split Poland
- War was inevitable



# Expansion in Europe, 1931-1939



# U.S. Actions

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- United States stays Isolated
  - Believed that political ties with other nations should be avoided
  - Congress creates laws to avoid selling war supplies to other countries