Connor Johnson

World War II recitation

1. Theodor Lohse sees the people that believe in democracy and the Jews as the “enemies” within Europe. In the aftermath of World War I, the Allies wanted to bring democracy to all of Europe and avoid authoritarian governments. This left a large power vacuum and caused many countries to have weak governments. Many Germans believed that democracy doesn’t create a strong enough government and will always cause problems in Germany. They believed that a strong authoritarian government was needed. Because of this, many Germans hated those who believed in democracy. Also, people began to believe that many of the economic problems they were having were a result of Jewish people. As a result, large feelings of anti-Semitism grew within Germany.
2. After World War I, the map of Europe was redrawn to create many smaller democratic countries. Because there were so many new governments being created, there was a large power vacuum in Europe. Also, the people of Germany and Italy were not happy with the aftermath of the war. Italy didn’t get the land they thought they deserved and Germany was angry after the punishment they received from the Allies. This made it easy for political parties to gain a large amount of support. This support along with the power vacuum in Europe caused the rise of dictatorships in Europe.
3. Hitler would describe all the problems going on in Germany in his political theories. He would often use the Jews as the people to blame for these problems. For example, he explained that the Jews were at fault for the German economic problem. He said that they would keep all the poor people down while reaping the benefits of being in the upper class. He told people that they were being taken advantage of by the Jews. This can be seen in *Spider’s Web* when Theodor joins the right-wing group. He starts to hate Jewish people and blame them for his problems. He especially hated the Efrussi family and blamed them for his problems directly after the war.
4. After World War I, Lohse’s life is in disarray. He was humiliated about himself and Germany after the German monarchy fell during the revolution. Since he was at a such a rough point in his life and was angry about many things in Europe, he was easily convinced to join a right-wing group. They would give people scapegoats for their problem and something to believe in. These groups took advantage of many people broken and in disarray after World War I and the revolution.