Connor Johnson

World War II Week 6 Questions

1. When Germany went to war with Great Britain and France, the colonies of these countries became much weaker because they were using most of their resources and man power for the war. Hitler took advantage of the way they allocated their soldiers. There is an example of this in the textbook. When Hitler invaded the Balkan area, Britain pulled soldiers from Africa to help fight back the Germans. They didn’t bring enough soldiers so Hitler still took over Yugoslavia and Greece. This made it easier for the Germans to take over the colonies on Africa because there weren’t enough British soldiers defending it now.
2. During this period, the technology wasn’t advanced enough to spread information to everyone quickly. This allowed Hitler to create the “myth” about the size and strength of the Wehrmacht. Today, this would be impossible because countries would be able to gain and spread intelligence quickly about the enemy’s army. This “myth” cause the Allies to fear the Germans and have a defensive approach. The Germans also believed they had the strongest armed forces in the world, so they were much more confident and aggressive in attacking. If Hitler didn’t spread this “myth”, the Allies would’ve been more aggressive in their strategy, and the war would’ve been much shorter. A clear of this is the Battle of Britain. The British could’ve prevented the German aggression if they had attacked their air force first instead of just building up their defense.
3. From Fuchs’ letters, we learn that the Nazi propaganda was very effective. The people followed Hitler because they believed everything he was saying, not because they feared an authoritarian government. The Nazi propaganda was very important to the people and soldiers of Germany. Fuchs mentions many times in his letters that the world is going to be a much better place after Germany gets power. This made the armies of the Reich much stronger because the soldiers had a reason to fight. They believed in what they were fighting for.
4. The Nazis believed that they had to spread their ideology to the younger generation. They used propaganda and education to raise children believing in the Nazis’ goals. This can be seen in Karl Fuchs’ letters. When he is writing to his wife, he talks about the importance of molding the youth and educating them in the heroism of their brothers and fathers. He also talks about how he wants to stand in front of an elementary school class. This shows that the Nazis believed it was their duty to educate the youth in their beliefs.
5. I agree with this statement. World War I was a direct cause of World War II. The rise of fascism and Nazi Germany would’ve never happened if it weren’t for the problems caused by World War I and the Treaty of Versailles. The beliefs of Germany were very similar in both wars. In both, Germany wanted to become a stronger state. This can be seen in Hitler’s speeches. His beliefs are very similar to the beliefs of Germany in World War I. Many of the letters show that shadow of World War I in Germany still existed, but it was much stronger in World War II.
6. Great Britain had made a treaty with Poland before the invasion. Once Germany invaded, they were forced to respond. Also, Hitler agreed that after Germany got, Czechoslovakia, he wasn’t going to obtain more land. France and Great Britain had to respond once he broke this agreement. War became much more strategic after Germany’s invasion. Instead of trench warfare, Germany was much more aggressive. New technology such as tanks and planes allowed for different approaches of war. It was easier to cover more land in a shorter amount of time especially when countries could easily attack from the air too.