Chapter 36: New Conflagrations: World War II and the Cold War

Chapter Outline

I. Origins of World War II
   A. Japan's war in China
      1. Global conflict began with Japanese invasion of Manchuria, 1931
      2. The Rape of Nanjing characterized war waged against civilians
      3. Chinese resistance movement
      4. Japan's Triple Pact with Germany and Italy, 1940; neutrality pact with Soviet Union, 1941
   B. Italian and German aggression
      1. Italy after the Great War
      2. Germany: deep resentment at Treaty of Versailles
      3. After 1933, Hitler moved to ignore terms of peace settlement
      4. The Munich Conference: Peace for our time?
      5. Russian-German Treaty of Non-Aggression, 1939, shocked the world

II. Total war: the world under fire
   A. Blitzkreig: Germany conquers Europe
      1. Strategy of a "lightening war": unannounced, surprise attacks
      2. September 1939, Nazi invasion of Poland
      3. Battle of the Atlantic: German U-boats (submarines) against British ship convoys
      4. Spring 1940, the fall of France
      5. The battle of Britain
   B. The German invasion of the Soviet Union
      1. Operation Barbarossa: German surprise invasion of Soviet Union, June 1941
      2. Blitzkrieg strategies less effective in Russia
      3. Russian winter caught German troops ill-prepared
   C. Battles in Asia and the Pacific
      1. U.S. support of the Allies before Pearl Harbor
      2. Japanese expansion continued into southeast Asia: Indochina, 1940-1941
      3. 7 December 1941: U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor attacked by Japanese pilots
      4. Japanese victories after Pearl Harbor
   D. Defeat of the Axis Powers
      1. Impact of Soviet Union and U.S. entry in 1941
      2. Allied victories came after 1943
      3. Turning the tide in the Pacific
      4. Savage fighting on islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa
      5. Japanese surrender after devastating assault

III. Life during wartime
   A. Occupation, collaboration, and resistance
      1. Patterns of occupation varied
      2. Both Japan and Germany exploited conquered states, resources, and peoples
      3. Many local people accepted, even collaborated with occupying forces
4. Resistance to occupation took many forms
5. Occupation forces responded to resistance with atrocities

B. The Holocaust
1. Long history of anti-Semitism created tolerance of Nazi's anti-Jewish measures
2. The "final solution"
3. Jewish resistance
4. Altogether, about 5.7 million Jews perished in the Holocaust

C. Women and the war
1. "It's a Woman's War, Too!"
2. Women's social roles changed dramatically
3. "Comfort women"

IV. The Cold War
A. Origins of the Cold War
1. The United Nations
2. Truman doctrine, 1947: United States would support "free peoples resisting subjugation"
4. Military Alliances
5. A divided Germany
7. The Berlin Wall, 1961

B. The globalization of the Cold War
1. The People's Republic of China
2. Fraternal Cooperation
3. Confrontations in Korea
4. Cracks in the Soviet-Chinese alliance
5. Nuclear arms race: terrifying proliferation of nuclear weapons by both sides
6. Cuba: nuclear flashpoint
7. Bay of Pigs fiasco, April 1961

C. Dissent Intervention, and Rapprochement
1. De-Stalinization
2. Soviet Intervention
3. Détente