Compass Life Adult Sunday School

Pastor Pete

February 3, 2019

**“World War II, The Beginning of the Bloodshed”**

**I. What Caused World War II?**  
The Treaty of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ended World War I between Germany and the Allied Powers. Because Germany had lost the war, the treaty was very \_\_\_\_\_\_ against Germany. Germany was forced to "accept the responsibility" of the war damages suffered by the Allies. The treaty required that Germany pay a huge sum of money called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The problem with the treaty is that it left the German economy in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. People were starving and the government was in chaos. In the period before World War II, Japan was growing rapidly. However, as an island nation they did not have the land or the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to sustain their growth. They invaded \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 1931 and China in 1937. With the economic turmoil left behind by World War 1, some countries were taken over by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who formed powerful fascist governments. These dictators wanted to expand their empires and were looking for new lands to conquer. The first fascist government was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which was ruled by the dictator Mussolini. Italy invaded and took over Ethiopia in 1935. In Germany, Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party rose to power. The Germans were desperate for someone to turn around their economy and restore their national pride. In 1934, \_\_\_\_\_\_ was proclaimed the "Fuhrer" (leader) and became dictator of Germany. Hitler resented the restrictions put on Germany by the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler began to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Germany. He allied Germany with Mussolini and Italy. Then Hitler looked to restore Germany to power by expanding his empire. He first took over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 1938. When the League of Nations did nothing to stop him, Hitler became bolder and took over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 1939. After World War 1, the nations of Europe were weary and did not want another war. When countries such as Italy and Germany became aggressive and began to take over their neighbors and build up their armies, countries such as Britain and France hoped to keep peace through "appeasement." (Peace for our time)

**II. Understanding the Social Darwinism in Germany, Japan and Italy**

But the nationalist leaders who formed the Tripartite Pact—Hideki Tojo, and Yosuke Matsuoka for Japan, Hitler and Mussolini for Germany and Italy—would never have succeeded in mobilizing their peoples for war if significant portions of those populations had not accepted, at some basic level, the intuitive appeal of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Social Darwinist thinkers of the late nineteenth century also added a twist to this logic, an intriguing moral tone. If you have succeeded at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ everyone else, then this is a sign that you deserve to be the leader, the privileged arbiter of everyone else's destinies. By exercising \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over others, by mercilessly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out the weak and unfit, you are performing a higher service to the species as a whole. You are keeping the species strong and vigorous, primed for successful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against other species. This process may appear cruel at times, but the logic of natural selection looks to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not to the individual. Weak and unfit individuals place an unacceptable burden on the rest of their group, and though it may appear heartless, they must be periodically selected and cast away, if the collective organism is to remain dynamic and healthy. Once one had accepted this line of argument, it became easy to apply the logic to entire \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ groups. In the millennial struggle, the Social Darwinists argued, some races had clearly emerged as superior competitors. How do you tell which races are better suited to rule and to dominate than others? Simply look and see who's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the heap. By definition, they are the fittest, and therefore the ones who are also \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in exercising control over all the rest. It is worth noting that this ideology was not born in Germany, Italy, or Japan, but rather in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Thinkers like Gustave Le Bon in France or Herbert Spencer in England—or, in the United States, the popular writer William Graham Sumner—were among the key proponents of this ideology during the late nineteenth century. Social Darwinism proved attractive for many reasons. At one level, it was refreshingly simple and straightforward, so that just about anyone could grasp it: “Either dominate or be dominated; it may not be pretty, but that's the way life is.” At a more visceral level, it was also \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to think of oneself (or one's social group) as King of the Hill. The Nazi racial policy divided humankind into four levels: the master race on top, calling the shots; Aryan but non-German peoples like the Swedes, British, or Dutch (and to a certain extent the Italians and French) in the second tier, who would be allowed a relative autonomy; a third level comprising Slavs, like the Russians and Poles, provide \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; and finally, at the bottom, Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, and anybody infected by left- to wing ideology, who would be systematically \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Adolph Hitler and Joseph Stalin Ideologies**

Hitler’s societal goals comprised three basic phases: 1. Consolidation of domestic power base; rearmament. In order to project German power effectively on a global scale, the nation first had to overcome the internal divisions of the democratic but chaotic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ era of the 1920s. This process came to be known in Nazi terminology as Gleichschaltung—getting all parts of German society firmly behind the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leadership, with the entire Volk marching in lockstep toward a common set of goals. At the same time, the Nazi government would cast off the restrictions of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ treaty and pursue a vigorous program of rearmament. 2. War with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; coordination with Britain and Italy. Hitler regarded England with a measure of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, as a country whose people were rather close to the Teutonic Aryans in many ways. Perhaps, he hoped, the British might be induced to recognize the inevitability of German dominance over the European continent, and a historic deal might be struck: Germany would leave Britain her far-flung empire over the seas, and Britain would accept the emergence of a German empire over the lands of Europe. The primary obstacle here was France. Hitler assumed that, once the British had been persuaded to remain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, German armies would defeat the French in a swift and decisive war—leaving Northern Europe under German hegemony and Southern Europe under the dominance of Germany's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ allies. 3. Expansion to the \_\_\_\_\_\_. The path would then lie open for the great onslaught against the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—a war for increased \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the German people, a war to liberate Europe from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ threat. Hitler believed that despite the size and resources of Russia, this war would prove relatively \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Germany because of the inherent superiority of the Aryan race over the Slavic and Jewish Bolsheviks. From this expanded Eurasian power base Germany could then play its historic role as a leading world power. The Americans might seek to intervene at some point, but Hitler dismissed them as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people whom the Germans and their allies would inevitably come to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Central to this expansionist plan—indeed, inseparably interwoven with it—was the Nazi \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ doctrine. Precise policies and methods for the implementation of this racial hierarchy—including the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the bottom tier—were not clearly established in advance; they were improvised as the Nazis went along. The killing began in the late 1930s with a euthanasia program in Germany, aimed at strengthening the Aryan race by weeding out the feebleminded or the severely disabled—Lebensunwertes Leben, or “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of life,” in the Nazi parlance.

**IV. Ethical Issues of World War II**

The moral dimension of the war revealed itself in three distinct ways: in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and military policies adopted (or rejected) by the belligerent governments; in the sometimes-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_decisions made by individual civilians and soldiers; in the broader patterns of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, everyday choices—relatively isolated choices that were seemingly less consequential in themselves, but that became highly significant when cumulatively played out and repeated across large numbers of people. When the United States Army Air Force first began setting up bases in Britain in the spring of 1942, preparing to launch largescale bombing attacks against Germany, it faced a fundamental choice: whether to bomb by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The Hungarian scientist Leo Szilard conceived the principle of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reaction in 1933, but made a carefully reasoned moral decision to keep it secret for as long as possible; he then changed his mind in 1939, revealing his secret to President \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and assisting in the launch of the Manhattan Project. A French pastor, André Trocmé, decided in 1940 to lead his village in sheltering \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the Gestapo, and ultimately helped save the lives of thousands of men, women, and children. Pope Pius XII, while personally abhorring German anti-Semitic practices, concluded that a policy of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would be best for the Vatican to follow: he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ throughout the war from issuing any explicit condemnation of the Nazi racial deportations and atrocities, and did \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to stop the devoutly Catholic governments of France and Slovakia from direct collaboration in the roundup of Jews. Many Europeans had a decision to make when dealing with the Jewish question. When they came to take my Jewish neighbors away, I closed my door and kept silent, hoping to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for myself and my family. Nevertheless, this seemingly rather small and isolated moral choice, repeated in literally millions of day-to-day episodes throughout the Continent over the course of six years, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to a collective phenomenon that ultimately allowed a genocide to proceed unimpeded. The story of Henry Gerecke: Would you share the Gospel with Hitler’s worst henchmen?

**2/10 “Nazi Germany Invades Europe”**