Lecture Notes for the Drive for Empire

Causes of World War 2:

Germany:

* At the Paris Peace conference Germany forced to take total blame for starting world war one. (ask students if they did?) forced to pay reparations (33 billion) and lost colonies.
* Economy in total ruins, Germans become extremely nationalistic
* Nazi party comes to power (hyper nationalism) boy scouts, mother country etc...
* Adolf Hitler becomes leader and unifies Germany to come to greatness once again.
* Stalin-Hitler Pact of 1939: agreed not to attack each
  + Carved out what land they were going to take once war started
  + Brought much speculation to everyone else, they felt something was astray but unsure what. (focus on political cartoon)

Italy:

* The National Fascist Party (PNF) founded in 1921, declared that the party was to serve as a revolutionary militia placed at the service of the nation
* follows a policy based on three principles: order, discipline, hierarchy
* Italian Fascists claim that modern Italy is the heir to ancient Rome
* claims that cultural nationalization of society is necessary to emancipate the nation's proletariat.
* promotes the assimilation of all classes into a proletarian national culture.

Japan:

* The Empire of Japan invaded other parts of China in 1937, precipitating the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945).
* In 1940, the Empire then invaded French Indochina, after which the United States placed an oil embargo on Japan.
* On 7 December 1941, Japan attacked the US naval base at Pearl Harbor and declared war, bringing the US into World War II

Rape of Nanking:

* The **Rape of Nanking**, was a mass murder and war rape that occurred during the six-week period following the Japanese capture of the city of Nanking, the former capital of the Republic of China, on December 13, 1937 during the Second Sino-Japanese War.
* During this period, hundreds of thousands of Chinese civilians and disarmed soldiers were murdered by soldiers of the Imperial Japanese Army.
* Widespread rape and looting also occurred. Historians and witnesses have estimated that 250,000 to 300,000 people were killed.