Causes of WWII

- Long Term Causes
  - Paris Peace Settlement
    - German resentment
    - Italian and Japanese disappointment
    - Failure of collective security (League of Nations)
  - Balance of Power
    - Power vacuums in Eastern Europe and China
    - British and French power in decline
    - US isolationism
  - Great Depression
    - Rise of Nazi dictatorship in Germany and military dictatorship in Japan
    - Motivation for German, Italian, and Japanese expansion
  - Far-Right Ideologies (Nazism, Fascism, Japanese statism)
    - Characteristics: ultranationalism/racism, authoritarianism, militarism, anti-liberalism, anti-communism
    - Justification for expansion (lebensraum, spazio vitale, etc.)

- Short Term Causes in Europe: German Rearmament
  - Jan 1933: Hitler became Chancellor of Germany
  - Jan 1934: Germany signed non-aggression pact with Poland (created appearance of peaceful intentions as Germany rearmed)
  - Aug 1934: President Hindenburg died and Hitler became Supreme Commander of German military
  - Mar 1935: After successful Saar plebiscite, Germany reintroduced conscription and officially announced its rearmament program