

“Rise of Dictators: The History of WWI”

Parent Night

Mr. Meetze

Welcome to The Rise of Dictators: The History of World War II . The course is a college style (not a college level) is an elective course that covers a wide range of global events beginning with the causes of the ‘Great War’ and ends with the seeds of the ‘Cold War’. Students will see that the men and women of our ***‘Greatest Generation’*** must not be forgotten and deserve all the honor and recognition that they rightfully earned as citizen soldiers when they fought for ideas such as democracy, freedom, justice and a determination to end totalitarian rule throughout the world.

Course Outline

The course is divided into six main units that loosely follow your textbook World War II: A Short History.

I. The Beginning of a Great War through the Rise of Dictators

- ***Did You Know*** that Germany used the ‘Scorched Earth Policy’ on France during WWI?
- ***Did You Know*** that Hitler was democratically elected by the German people?

II. Hitler’s Blitzkrieg through Barbarossa

- ***Do You Know*** that Great Britain allowed Germany to re-arm its military (1935) in violation of the Treaty of Versailles (1919)? * Actually, Britain encouraged it!!*
- ***Did You Know*** that one of the great secrets of WWII, R.A.D.A.R. was invented in Britain? *Hitler had no clue why the British knew exactly where to counter-attack his Luftwaffe.*

III. The Sleeping Giant Awakes

- ***Did You Know*** that Congress didn’t unanimously declare war on Japan after Pearl Harbor?

IV. 1942: Turning Points of World War II

- ***Did You Know*** that in Leningrad civilians ate all their pets, zoo animals, and rats to live?
- ***Did You Know*** that during the Battle of Midway Admiral Nimitz moved the fleet only 5 minutes before the Japanese Fleet arrived which would have annihilated the U.S. Pacific Fleet?

V. The Real Second Front Begins as Hitler Falls Down

- ***Did You Know*** that Only 30% of all bombs landed within 5 miles of their targets?
- ***Did You Know*** that Hitler slept through the first 8 hours of the D-Day? ****Would you wake him?****
- ***Did You Know*** that General Patton was removed twice from command during the war because he wouldn’t follow orders? *But he was quickly re-instated when U.S. newspaper sales declined. *
- ***Did You Know*** that Hitler used doctors, lawyers, and retired police officers as his willing executioners?

VI. Which Island to Hop as the Rising Sun Finally Sets!

- ***Did You Know*** in 1943 U.S. soldiers were ordered to stop wearing human body parts?
- ***Did You Know*** that Nagasaki was actually the 4th city on the target list to drop the Atomic Bomb but the 2nd (Nagano) and 3rd (Akita) were covered by clouds?

“Rise of Dictators: The History of WWI”

Parent Night

Mr. Meetze

Classroom (Mr. Meetze’s) Webpage

In order to access Mr. Meetze’s webpage <https://www.ktufsd.org/page/1233> first access the KW homepage and click under the academic link. Under the title Faculty scroll down to the Social Studies department, find and click on my name which will open my homepage. Once “Welcomed to Mr. Meetze’s World” look to the left side bar where you will find useful links including Homework assignments, WWII page, and a Parents resource page. Each Sunday night the Homework section is updated for the upcoming week explaining the short and long term assignments. Students who forget their agenda or were absent will be able to access assignments from home.

Parents Reminders

(Or topics you can discuss with your children during the week)

- Enrichment tasks are assigned daily and are usually considered long term assignments. You can check your child’s agenda or the webpage to see what the assignment is and when it will be due.

- The course is graded by a point system based on the following categories...

Attendance & Participation Student Rubric	10%
Independent Reading Project	30%
Personal Journals	30%
Activities, Assessments, & Readings	30%

- Parents should expect to see their child working on realistic WWII Journals for the course and an Independent Reading Final Project. Please be aware of both requirements.

“Independent Reading Assignment”

The Independent Reading Project is designed to allow the student the opportunity to choose a topic that occurred during World War II that they are intrinsically interested in giving the student the opportunity to expand their knowledge base on any topic found in the course.. The Project accounts for **30%** of your their grade for the course and is mandatory for course credit by combing both a **Visual and Written** portion determined by the student. Possible ideas include the one of the following.....

- 1) **Power Point Slide Show**
- 2) **Create a Website**
- 3) **Movie with a Typed Script** or a **Radio Program** with a **Typed Script**
- 4) **Build A Model, A Display, a Salt Map, etc.** with a **Journals or Reflections,**
- 5) **A Board Game with Typed Game Rules, Cards**
- 6) **Illustrated Children’s Book, Graphic Novel, or Creative Story.**
- 7) **A Newspaper w/ Pictures & Captions**
- 8) **CD Case /Songs & Book Jacket/Poems**