

Prescribed subject 3: The move to global war

This prescribed subject focuses on military expansion from 1931 to 1941. Two case studies are prescribed, from different regions of the world, and **both** of these case studies must be studied. The first case study explores Japanese expansionism from 1931 to 1941, and the second case study explores German and Italian expansionism from 1933 to 1940. The focus of this prescribed subject is on the causes of expansion, key events, and international responses to that expansion. Discussion of domestic and ideological issues should therefore be considered in terms of the extent to which they contributed to this expansion, for example, economic issues, such as the long-term impact of the Great Depression, should be assessed in terms of their role in shaping more aggressive foreign policy.

Case studies	Material for detailed study
Case study 1: Japanese expansion in East Asia (1931–1941)	<p>Causes of expansion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of Japanese nationalism and militarism on foreign policy • Japanese domestic issues: political and economic issues, and their impact on foreign relations • Political instability in China <p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japanese invasion of Manchuria and northern China (1931) • Sino-Japanese War (1937–1941) • The Three Power/Tripartite Pact; the outbreak of war; Pearl Harbor (1941) <p>Responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • League of Nations and the Lytton report • Political developments within China—the Second United Front • International response, including US initiatives and increasing tensions between the US and Japan
Case study 2: German and Italian expansion (1933–1940)	<p>Causes of expansion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of fascism and Nazism on the foreign policies of Italy and Germany • Impact of domestic economic issues on the foreign policies of Italy and Germany • Changing diplomatic alignments in Europe; the end of collective security; appeasement <p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German challenges to the post-war settlements (1933–1938) • Italian expansion: Abyssinia (1935–1936); Albania; entry into the Second World War • German expansion (1938–1939); Pact of Steel, Nazi–Soviet Pact and the outbreak of war <p>Responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International response to German aggression (1933–1938) • International response to Italian aggression (1935–1936) • International response to German and Italian aggression (1940)

World history topic 10: Authoritarian states (20th century)

This topic focuses on exploring the conditions that facilitated the rise of authoritarian states in the 20th century, as well as the methods used by parties and leaders to take and maintain power. The topic explores the emergence, consolidation and maintenance of power, including the impact of the leaders' policies, both domestic and foreign, upon the maintenance of power. Examination questions for this topic will expect students to make reference to specific authoritarian states in their responses, and may require students to make reference to examples of states from two different regions of the world. In order for students to be able to make meaningful comparisons across all aspects of the prescribed content, it is recommended that a minimum of three authoritarian states should be studied.

Topic	Prescribed content
Emergence of authoritarian states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conditions in which authoritarian states emerged: economic factors; social division; impact of war; weakness of political system Methods used to establish authoritarian states: persuasion and coercion; the role of leaders; ideology; the use of force; propaganda
Consolidation and maintenance of power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of legal methods; use of force; charismatic leadership; dissemination of propaganda Nature, extent and treatment of opposition The impact of the success and/or failure of foreign policy on the maintenance of power
Aims and results of policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims and impact of domestic economic, political, cultural and social policies The impact of policies on women and minorities Authoritarian control and the extent to which it was achieved

Suggested examples

Please note that the examples provided here are **suggestions only**. Teachers are free to use examples from this list or any other appropriate examples, depending on the particular needs and interests of the teacher and students.

Africa and the Middle East: Tanzania—Nyerere; Egypt—Nasser; Iraq—Saddam Hussein; Kenya—Kenyatta; Uganda—Amin

The Americas: Argentina—Perón; Cuba—Castro; Chile—Pinochet; Haiti—Duvalier; Nicaragua—Somoza

Asia and Oceania: China—Mao; Indonesia—Sukarno; Pakistan—Zia ul Haq; Cambodia—Pol Pot

Europe: Germany—Hitler; USSR—Lenin and Stalin; Italy—Mussolini; Spain—Franco; Poland—Pilsudski

World history topic 12: The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)

The Cold War dominated global affairs from the end of the Second World War to the early 1990s. This topic focuses on how superpower rivalries did not remain static but changed according to styles of leadership, strength of ideological beliefs, economic factors and crises involving client states. The topic aims to promote an international perspective on the Cold War by requiring the study of Cold War leaders, countries and crises from more than one region of the world. Examination questions may require students to make reference to examples from two different regions of the world.

Topic	Prescribed content
Rivalry, mistrust and accord	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The breakdown of the Grand Alliance and the emergence of superpower rivalry in Europe and Asia (1943–1949): role of ideology; fear and aggression; economic interests; a comparison of the roles of the US and the USSR The US, USSR and China—superpower relations (1947–1979): containment; peaceful co-existence; Sino-Soviet and Sino-US relations; detente Confrontation and reconciliation; reasons for the end of the Cold War (1980–1991): ideological challenges and dissent; economic problems; arms race
Leaders and nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of two leaders, each chosen from a different region, on the course and development of the Cold War The economic, social and cultural impact of the Cold War on two countries, each chosen from a different region
Cold War crises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cold War crises case studies: detailed study of any two Cold War crises from different regions: examination and comparison of the causes, impact and significance of the two crises

Suggested examples

Please note that the examples provided here are **suggestions only**. Teachers are free to use examples from this list or any other appropriate examples, depending on the particular needs and interests of the teacher and students.

Examples of leaders

Truman, Stalin, Khrushchev, Nixon, Mao, Castro, Brezhnev, Reagan, Gorbachev, Nasser, Brandt

Examples of Cold War crises

Africa and the Middle East: Suez Crisis (1956); Congo (1960–1961); outbreak of Angolan Civil War (1975)

The Americas: Cuban Missile Crisis (1962); US intervention in Chile (1973); Contra War (1981–1990)

Asia and Oceania: Chinese Offshore Island Crises (1954/1958); North Korean invasion of South Korea (1950); Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (1979)

Europe: Berlin blockade (1948–1949), Berlin Wall (1958–1961); Hungary (1956); the Prague spring (1968); the USSR and eastern Europe (1981–1989)