**TIMELINE OF WORLD AGGRESSION 1931–1939**

- **1931**
  - **SEPTEMBER 18, 1931**
    - Japanese troops begin occupying Manchuria.

- **1933**
  - **JANUARY 30, 1933**
    - Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.
  - **MARCH 25, 1933**
    - Japan withdraws from League of Nations.
  - **OCTOBER 14, 1933**
    - Germany withdraws from League of Nations.

- **1935**
  - **MARCH 11, 1935**
    - Hitler introduces military conscription in Germany.
  - **MARCH 16, 1935**
    - Hitler reveals existence of a secretly-built air force called the Luftwaffe.
  - **SEPTEMBER 15, 1935**
    - Germany announces the Nuremberg Laws, which exclude German Jews from citizenship and prohibit them from marrying or having sexual relations with persons of “German or related blood.” Ancillary ordinances to the laws disenfranchise Jews and deprive them of most political rights.
  - **OCTOBER 3, 1935**
    - Italy invades Ethiopia.

- **1936**
  - **MARCH 7, 1936**
    - Defying international law, Germany’s military occupies the Rhineland, an area of Germany demilitarized after World War I.
  - **MAY 9, 1936**
    - Italy annexes Ethiopia.

- **1937**
  - **JULY 17, 1937**
    - A civil war erupts in Spain. Germany aids fascist forces seeking to overthrow Spain’s democratically-elected government.
  - **NOVEMBER 6, 1937**
    - Italy joins the Anti-Comintern Pact.
  - **DECEMBER 11, 1937**
    - Italy withdraws from the League of Nations.
  - **DECEMBER 13, 1937**
    - Japanese troops begin a brutal rampage in the Chinese city of Nanking murdering hundreds of thousands of civilians.

- **1938**
  - **MARCH 11, 1938**
    - Germany annexes Austria.
  - **SEPTEMBER 29, 1938**
    - After Hitler threatens to invade Czechoslovakia, Great Britain and France agree to let Germany annex Czechoslovakia’s German-speaking Sudetenland region. In the Munich Agreement, Germany pledges to pursue no further territorial claims against Czechoslovakia.
  - **OCTOBER 5, 1938**
    - Germany occupies the Sudetenland.
  - **NOVEMBER 9-10, 1938**
    - “Kristallnacht” attacks on Jews and their property throughout Germany.

- **1939**
  - **MARCH 14, 1939**
    - Violating the 1938 Munich Agreement, Germany seizes the Bohemia and Moravia regions of Czechoslovakia.
  - **APRIL 7, 1939**
    - Italy invades Albania.
  - **MAY 22, 1939**
    - Germany and Italy sign a military alliance.
  - **AUGUST 23, 1939**
    - Germany and the Soviet Union sign a non-aggression treaty. Secret portions outline a joint effort to invade and divide Poland.