Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Aggressions, Appeasement, and War**

**Directions:** For each scenario, read the description and then decide what action you believe should be taken. Circle the number of your choice and then explain why in the space provided.

**Germany Remilitarizes:**

On March 16, 1935, in clear violations of the Treaty of Versailles, Hitler ordered the remilitarization of Germany, including the reactivation of the *Luftwaffe* (air force). Under Hitler, the German army grew through conscription.

**What action should be taken?**

1. Voice minimal protest as you are more concerned with enforcing the economic aspects of the treaty.

2. In a move that tacitly endorsed Hitler’s violation of the treaty, Great Britain decides to sign the Anglo-German Naval Agreement in 1935. This will allow Germany to build a fleet one-third the size of the Royal Navy and will end British naval operations in the Baltic.

3. Call a meeting of the League of Nations, condemn Germany’s actions, and begin to mobilize your troops.

**Why?**

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**Japan on the Move:**

Japanese military leaders and ultranationalists thought that Japan should have an empire equal to those of the western powers. In pursuit of this goal, Japan seized Manchuria in 1931. Japan’s easy success strengthened the militarists. In 1937, Japanese armies overrun most of eastern China.

**What action should be taken?**

1. Western powers should protest and condemn the aggression.

2. Send troops to China to force the Japanese out.

**Why?**

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**Italy Invades Ethiopia:**

Italy’s defeat by the Ethiopians at the battle of Adowa in 1896 still rankled the Italians. In 1935, Italy invaded Ethiopia. Although the Ethiopians resisted bravely, their outdated weapons were no match for Mussolini’s tanks, machine guns, poison gas and airplanes.

**What action should be taken?**

1. None, its only Ethiopia.

2. As a member of the League of Nations vote for sanctions against Italy for having violated international law.

3. Send Ethiopia weapons to protect themselves.

**Why?**

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**Hitler’s Challenge:**

Two years after beginning the expansion of the military, Hitler further violated the Treaty of Versailles by ordering the reoccupation of the Rhineland by the German Army. Proceeding cautiously, Hitler issued order that the German troops should withdraw if the French intervened.

**What action should be taken?**

1. Impose economic sanctions on Germany.

2. Oppose Hitler, encourage the French to intervene, mobilize troops and head to the Rhineland.

3. Not wanting to become involved in another major war, you adopt a policy of appeasement, thus accepting that German troops may stay in the Rhineland.

**Why?**

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**The Anschluss:**

In 1938, Hitler began to move forward with his plan to unite all German-speaking peoples under one “Greater Germany.” Again operating in violation of the Treaty of Versailles, Hitler made overtures regarding the annexation of Austria. While these were generally rebuffed by the government in Vienna, Hitler was able to orchestrate a coup by the Austrian Nazi Party on March 11, 1938, one day before a planned plebiscite on the issue. The next day, German troops crossed the border to enforce the *Anschluss*. A month later the Nazis held a plebiscite on the issue and received 99.73% of the vote.

**What action should be taken?**

1. Issue a protest but do no more, as you are unwilling to take military action.

2. Announce your support for the *Anschluss*.

**Why?**

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**The Czech Crisis:**

Hitler insists that the three million Germans in the Sudetenland (a region of Western Czechoslovakia) should be given autonomy. Czechoslovakia is only one of two remaining democracies in Eastern Europe (Finland is the other).

**What action should be taken?**

1. Give the Sudetenland autonomy.

2. Search for another peaceful solution.

**Why?**

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**Czech Crisis PART II:**

Your solution to the Sudetenland question is not quick enough and Hitler has increased his demands. The Sudetenland, he says, must be annexed to Germany. Mussolini suggests a conference to peacefully discuss the future of Czechoslovakia. The Munich Conference takes place in September 1938. Germany, Italy, France and Great Britain are present at the conference. Czechoslovakia is not invited.

**What action should be taken?**

1. France refuses to compromise with Hitler due to their treaty obligations with Czechoslovakia.

2. Great Britain, France, Italy, and Germany agree to let the Germans in the Sudetenland decide their fate.

3. Great Britain and France, led by Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and President Edouard Daladier respectively, choose to follow a policy of appeasement. They cave into Hitler’s demands in order to avoid war. In exchange, Hitler promises to make no additional territorial demands.

**Why?**

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**Stalin and Hitler:**

Angered by what he saw as the Western Powers colluding to give Czechoslovakia to Hitler, Stalin worried that a similar thing could occur with the Soviet Union. In the summer of 1939, he invited Lord Halifax, the British Foreign Secretary to go to Russia to discuss an alliance against Germany. Britain refused. The British feared Russian Communism, and they believed that the Russian army was too weak to be of any use against Hitler. In August 1939, with war in Poland looming, the British eventually sent a minor official to meet with Stalin. He had no authority to make any decisions and the talks eventually broke down. Thus, the Soviet Union began discussions with Nazi Germany regarding the creation of a non-aggression pact. The Nazi-Soviet alliance was offered: Germany and the Soviet Union would not go to war, but would divide Poland and the rest of Eastern Europe between them.

**As Stalin you have two choices:**

1. If you resume talks with Britain and eventually make an alliance with them, you will end up fighting a war with Hitler over Poland.

2. If you make an alliance with Germany, you will get half of Poland, and time to prepare for the coming war with Germany…since you really do not trust Hitler.

**Why?**

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