

**History 352**  
**The Second World War**  
**Midterm Exam I**  
**Study Guide**

You should be prepared to discuss the following themes, ideas, and concepts on the midterm exam:

- World War I as a precursor to World War II; its impact on key personalities, societies, and ideologies;
- the centrality of Hitler to Germany's political and military resurgence, and to its strategic thinking and war planning;
- the German political and military challenge during the 1930s; chain of events;
- European political maneuvering during 1938 and 1939, including the Munich conference and the Nazi-Soviet Pact;
- the nature of appeasement; reasons for appeasement and constraints on democratic actions;
- German war plans for the defeat of France;
- the Fall of France and its global implications;
- American isolationism: its nature, causes, and expression;
- the American decision to aid Britain;
- the chronology of Japanese aggression in Asia and Pacific; reasons for Japanese aggression; the strategic thinking of Japanese leadership;
- German planning for war on the U.S.S.R. and the reaction of London, Moscow, and Washington to the impending conflict.

In preparation for the test, you may want to create structured outlines identifying the issues involved in each of the above, making some mention of their historical antecedents and implications.