

Lesson 1

Student Handout 1.1

Armaments Production of the Powers, 1940-1943 (in billions of 1944 dollars)

Allies

Year	1940	1941	1943
Great Britain	3.5	6.5	11.1
USSR	5.0	8.5	13.9
United States	1.5	4.5	37.5
Total	3.5	19.5	62.5

Axis

Year	1940	1941	1943
Germany	6.0	6.0	13.8
Japan	1.0	2.0	4.5
Italy	0.75	1.0	-
Total	6.75	9.0	18.3

Source: R. Wagenfuhr, *Die Deutsche Industrie im Kriege, 1939 - 1945* (Berlin: Duncker & Humblot, 1945): *passim*.

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Student Handout 1.2

National Income of the Powers in 1937 and Percentage Spent on Defense

	National Income (billions of dollars)	Percentage on Defense
United States	68	1.5
Great Britain	22	5.7
France	10	9.1
Germany	17	23.5
Italy	6	14.5
USSR	19	26.4
Japan	4	28.2

Source: S. Mintz (2007), *Digital History*, available at <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/historyonline/us35.cfm>

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Student Handout 1.3—Primary Sources

The following excerpt is from a letter that General Giichi Tanaka, the prime minister of Japan, is believed to have written to the Japanese emperor in 1927.

Letter of General Tanaka, 1927

England can afford to talk about trade relations only because she has India and Australia to supply her with foodstuff and other materials. So can America because South America and Canada are there to supply her needs. ... But in Japan her food supply and raw materials decrease in proportion to her population. If we merely hope to develop trade, we shall eventually be defeated by England and America, who possess unsurpassable capitalistic power. In the end, we shall get nothing. A more dangerous factor is the fact that the people of China might some day wake up. Even during these years of internal strife, they can still toil patiently, and try to imitate and displace our goods so as to impair the development of our trade. When we remember that the Chinese are our sole customers, we must beware, lest one day China becomes unified and her industries become prosperous ... our trade in China will be ruined. ... Our best policy lies in the direction of taking positive steps to secure rights and privileges in Manchuria and Mongolia ... The way to gain actual rights in Manchuria and Mongolia is to use this region as a base and under the pretense of trade and commerce penetrate the rest of China. Armed by the rights already secured we shall seize the resources all over the country. Having China's entire resources at our disposal we shall proceed to conquer India, ... Asia Minor, Central Asia, and even Europe. But to get control of Manchuria and Mongolia is the first step.

Source: "Japan and the Next World War, Secret Memorial." *The China Critic*, IV (September 24, 1931). Available at: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs/depts/socialst/Cohen/ww2pacific/tanaka.html>



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Tanaka_Giichi.jpg

Speech of Adolf Hitler, 1930

If the German people does not solve the problem of its lack of space, and if it does not open up the domestic market for its industry, then 2,000 years have been in vain. Germany will then make its exit from the world stage and peoples with more vigor will come into our heritage. Space must be fought for and maintained. People who are lazy have no right to the soil. Soil is for him who tills it and protects it. If a people disclaims soil, it disclaims life. If a nation loses in the defense of its soil, then the individual loses. There is no higher justice that decrees that a people must starve. There is only power, which creates justice ... Parliaments do not create all of the rights on this earth; force also creates rights. My question is whether we wish to live or die. We have more right to soil than all the other nations because we are so thickly populated. I am of the opinion that in this respect too the principle can be applied: God helps him who helps himself.

Source: Völkischer Beobachter, May 7, 1930. Available at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs/depts/socialst/Cohen/ww2pacific/tanaka.html>



Joseph V. Stalin
“On the Industrialization of Russia.” Speech to Soviet Industrial Managers,
February 1931.

It is sometimes asked whether it is not possible to slow down the tempo somewhat, to put a check on the movement. No, comrades, it is not possible! The tempo must not be reduced! On the contrary, we must increase it as much as is within our powers and possibilities. This is dictated to us by our obligations to the workers and peasants of the USSR. This is dictated to us by our obligations to the working class of the whole world.

To slacken the tempo would mean falling behind. And those who fall behind get beaten. But we do not want to be beaten. No, we refuse to be beaten! One feature of the history of old Russia was the continual beatings she suffered because of her backwardness. She was beaten by the Mongol khans. She was beaten by the Turkish beys. She was beaten by the Swedish feudal lords. She was beaten by the Polish and Lithuanian gentry. She was beaten by the British and French capitalists. She was beaten by the Japanese barons. All beat her because of her backwardness, military backwardness, cultural backwardness, political backwardness, industrial backwardness, agricultural backwardness. They beat her because to do so was profitable and could be done with impunity. ... It is the jungle law of capitalism. You are backward, you are weak—therefore you are wrong; hence, you can be beaten and enslaved. You are mighty—therefore you are right; hence, we must be wary of you.

That is why we must no longer lag behind.

In the past we had no fatherland, nor could we have one. But now that we have overthrown capitalism and power is in our hands, in the hands of the people, we have a fatherland, and we will defend its independence. Do you want our socialist fatherland to be beaten and to lose its independence? If you do not want this you must put an end to its backwardness in the shortest possible time and develop genuine **Bolshevik** tempo in building up its socialist system of economy. There is no other way. That is why Lenin said on the eve of the October **Revolution**: “Either perish, or overtake and outstrip the advanced capitalist countries.”

We are fifty or a hundred years behind the advanced countries. We must make good this distance in ten years. Either we do it, or we shall be crushed.

Source: J. V. Stalin, *Problems of Leninism* (Moscow: Foreign Languages Publishing House, 1953). Available at: <http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/Stalin--industrialization.htm>.

