

**IB History**  
**Dulwich College (Singapore)**

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

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

### 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"> <li>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</li> <li>The US, USSR and China—superpower relations (1947–1979): containment; peaceful co-existence; Sino-Soviet and Sino-US relations; detente</li> <li>Confrontation and reconciliation; reasons for the end of the Cold War (1980–1991): ideological challenges and dissent; economic problems; arms race</li> </ul>
Leaders and nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The impact of two leaders, each chosen from a different region, on the course and development of the Cold War</li> <li>The economic, social and cultural impact of the Cold War on two countries, each chosen from a different region</li> </ul>
Cold War crises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>

### 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)

## **12: Imperial Russia, revolution and the establishment of the Soviet Union (1855–1924)**

This section deals with modernization and conservatism in tsarist Russia and the eventual collapse of the tsarist autocracy, as well as the revolutions of 1917, the Civil War and the rule of Lenin. There is a focus on the concepts of change and continuity, with examination and consideration of the social, economic and political factors that brought about change.

- Alexander II (1855–1881): the extent of reform
- Policies of Alexander III (1881–1894) and Nicholas II (1894–1917): economic modernization, tsarist repression and the growth of opposition
- Causes of the 1905 Revolution (including social and economic conditions and the significance of the Russo-Japanese War); consequences of the 1905 Revolution (including Stolypin and the Dumas)
- The impact of the First World War and the final crisis of autocracy in February/March 1917
- 1917 Revolutions: February/March Revolution; Provisional Government and dual power (Soviets); October/November Revolution; Bolshevik Revolution; Lenin and Trotsky
- Lenin's Russia/Soviet Union; consolidation of new Soviet state; Civil War; War Communism; New Economic Policy (NEP); terror and coercion; foreign policy

### 14: Inter-war domestic developments in European states (1918–1939)

This section deals with **domestic** developments in certain key European states in the period between the two world wars. It requires the study of **four** European countries: Germany, Italy, Spain and any one other country. The section considers the impact of the end of the First World War, then examines the economic, social and cultural changes in each country during the 1920s and 1930s.

- Weimar Germany: constitutional, political, economic/financial and social issues (1918–1933); initial challenges (1918–1923); “Golden Era” under Stresemann (1924–1929); the crisis years and the rise of Hitler (1929–1933)
- Hitler’s Germany (1933–1939): consolidation of power; Hitler’s pre-war domestic policies, including economic, social and political policies; nature of the Nazi state; the extent of resistance to the Nazis
- Italy (1918–1939): rise of Mussolini; consolidation of power; Mussolini’s pre-war domestic policies, including economic, social and political policies; nature of the fascist state
- Spain (1918–1939): political, social and economic conditions in Spain; the Primo de Rivera regime; polarization and political parties under the Second Republic; Azaña and Gil Robles; causes of the Civil War; foreign involvement; reasons for nationalist victory under Franco
- Case study of domestic political, economic and social developments in **one** European country (other than Germany, Italy or Spain) in the inter-war years.

### 15: Diplomacy in Europe (1919–1945)

This section addresses international relations in Europe from 1919 to 1945 with initial emphasis on the Paris peace treaties: their aims, impact and the problems relating to their enforcement. The section covers attempts to promote collective security and international cooperation through the League of Nations and multilateral agreements (outside the League mechanism), arms reduction and the pursuit of foreign policy goals without resort to violence. This section also addresses the individual foreign policies of Italy, Germany, France, Britain and Russia/Soviet Union, looking at the aims, issues and success of each one. It concludes with a study of the Second World War, looking particularly at the impact of the war and the reasons for Axis defeat and Allied victory.

- Paris peace treaties (1919–1923): Versailles; Neuilly; Trianon; St Germain; and Sèvres/Lausanne—aims, issues and responses
- The League of Nations and Europe: successes and failures; the search for collective security; developments in the successor states of central and eastern Europe
- Italian and German foreign policies (1919–1941): aims, issues and extent of success
- Collective security and appeasement (1919–1941): aims, issues and extent of success; role of British, French and Russian/Soviet foreign policies (1919–1941); Chamberlain and the Munich Crisis
- Causes of the Second World War and the development of European conflict (1939–1941); the wartime alliance (1941–1945); reasons for Axis defeat in 1945 and for Allied victory; role of economic, strategic and other factors
- Impact of the Second World War on civilian populations in any **two** countries between 1939–1945