

1075 LOVU SANGAM SCHOOL
SOCIAL SCIENCE YEAR 8
LESSON NOTES WEEK ONE

Strand	SS2 – Time, Continuity and Change
Sub Strand	8.2.2 – Continuity and Change
Content Learning Outcome	Explore some significant world events and express their impacts on the lives of people and the history of the world.

Significant World Events

World War II

- **World War II (WWII or WW2)**, also known as the **Second World War** (after the recent Great War), was a global war that lasted from **1939 to 1945**.
- It involved the vast majority of the world's nations—including all of the great powers—eventually forming two opposing military alliances: **the Allies and the Axis**.
- It was the most widespread war in history, and directly involved more than **100 million people** from over **30 countries**.
- In a state of "total war", the major participants threw their entire economic, industrial and scientific capabilities behind the war effort, erasing the distinction between civilian and military resources.
- Marked by mass deaths of civilians, including the Holocaust (during which **approximately 11 million people** were killed) and the strategic bombing of industrial and population centres (during which approximately one million people were killed, including the use of two nuclear weapons in combat), it resulted in an estimated 50 million to 85 million fatalities. These made World War II the **deadliest** conflict in human history.

Causes of World War II

1. Japanese Expansion

In the period before World War II, Japan was growing rapidly. Japan began to look to grow their empire in order to gain new resources. They invaded Manchuria in 1931 and China in 1937.

2. Fascism

With the economic turmoil left behind by World War 1, some countries were taken over by dictators who formed powerful fascist governments. These dictators wanted to expand their empires and began to look for new lands to conquer.

3. Great Depression

The period before World War II was a time of great economic suffering throughout the world called the **Great Depression**. Many people were out of work and struggling to survive. This created unstable governments and worldwide turmoil that helped lead to World War II.

Student Activity Sheet

Section A: Fill in the blanks

1945	1939	deadliest	Allies
Axis	Depression	30	

1. World War II lasted from _____ to _____.
2. The war involved most nations eventually forming two opposing military alliances the _____ and the _____.
3. Massive death and strategic bombing made the war the _____.
4. The most widespread war in history involved more than 100 million people from over _____ countries.
5. It was a time of great economic suffering throughout the world called the Great _____.

Section B: Short Answers

1. When was the World War II?

2. Why was there a War?

3. Why was the War regarded as the deadliest conflict in human history?
