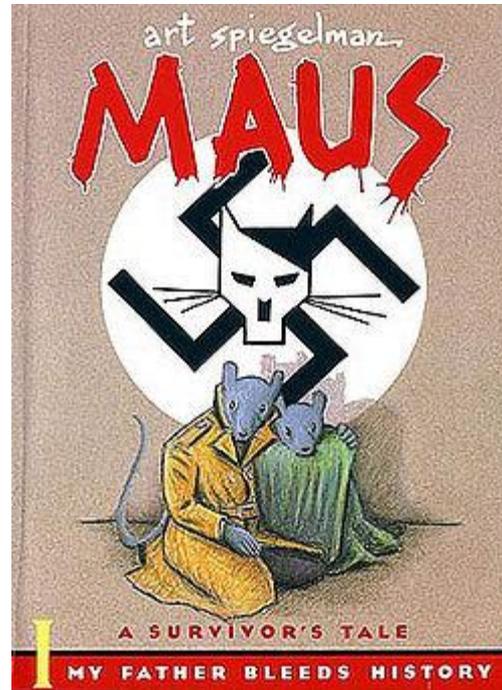


Maus

A Survivor's Tale



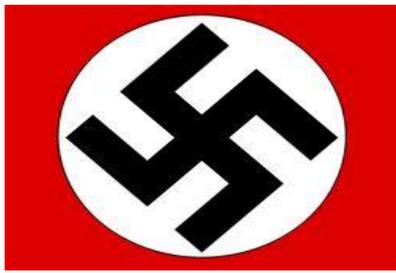
A Graphic Novel
By
Art Speigelman

Vocabulary

- Anti-Semitism
 - A prejudice against Jews
- Aryan
 - A term used by the Nazis to describe the Master Race of people in Europe
- Concentration Camp
 - A camp where civilians, enemy aliens, political prisoners, and sometimes prisoners of war are detained and confined, typically under harsh conditions.
- Crematorium
 - An establishment containing a furnace, usually for burning bodies
- Dictatorship
 - a country, government, or the form of government in which absolute power is exercised by a dictator.

Vocabulary

- Dowry
 - The money, goods and estate that a woman brings to her husband in marriage
- Gestapo
 - The official Secret Police of Nazi Germany
- Ghetto
 - A quarter of a city in which members of a minority group live especially because of social, legal, or economic pressure
- Pogrom
 - An organized massacre of helpless people
- Sanitarium
 - An institution for rest and recuperation



World War II Facts



- World War II (WWII) was the most geographically widespread military conflict the world has ever seen
- The Rise of Nazi Germany
 - Adolf Hitler formed the National Socialist German Workers Party in 1932 (Nazi Party), and after becoming the Chancellor of Germany, decided to attack Poland in 1939 and start a war to take over most of Europe
- WWII and German Aggression
 - Germany started to invade many countries, including Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, and France
 - WWII proceeded with many attacks from Germany onto other countries, and lasted for 5 years
 - In May, 1945, after a long time of fighting and many innocent people being killed, Germany finally surrendered shortly after the suicide of Hitler





The pictures on these two pages were taken by Pl. Britton Sanders, 1st Lt. 1st Cavalry, at one of the concentration camps in Landsberg shortly after the city's capture by the 41st.

World War II Facts



- Germany Under Hitler
 - By 1938, Germany was a total dictatorship
 - By the end of 1941, German Jews and Western European Jews were sent to concentration camps
 - There were 7 designated extermination camps
 - These existed only for the purpose of killing and most prisoners taken to them were dead within hours of their arrival



Causes of World War II

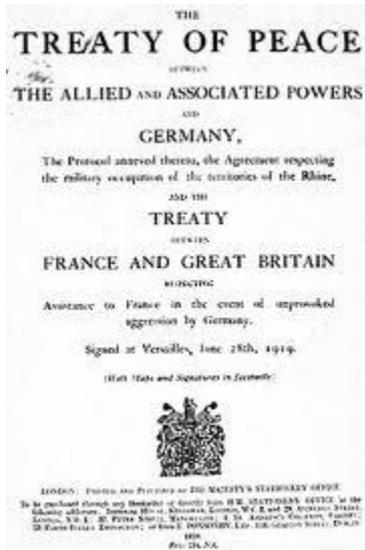


The Treaty of Versailles



- 1919

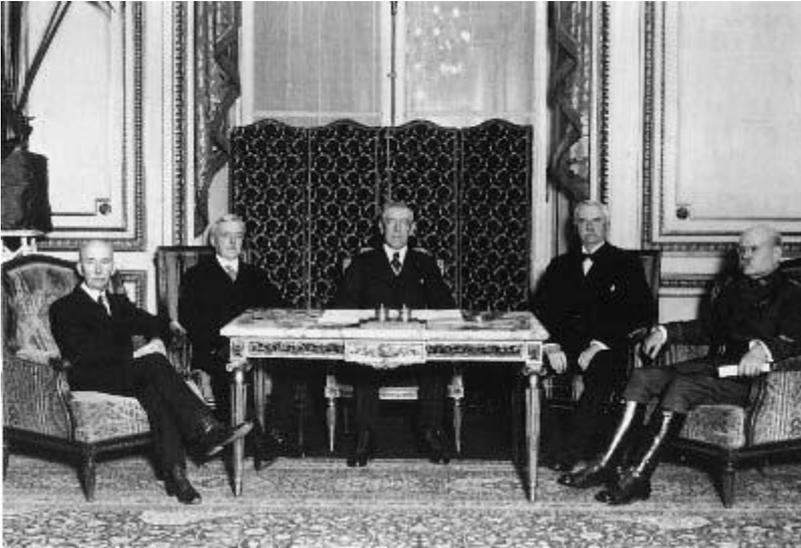
- Leaders from England, Italy, France and the US met to decide how to deal with Germany's role in WWI



Woodrow Wilson, the President of the United States, wanted to put a 14 point plan into effect, which he thought would bring peace to Europe

Georges Clemenceau, of France, wanted revenge

The Treaty of Versailles



- Because of these terms, the German people were unhappy with the government, and voted Hitler to power

- Main Terms
 - War Guilt Clause
 - Germany had to accept blame for WWI
 - Reparations
 - Germany had to pay \$6.6 million for damages
 - Disarmament
 - Germany was allowed only a small army and Naval ships
 - Territorial Clauses
 - Land was taken away and given to other countries

Hitler's Actions

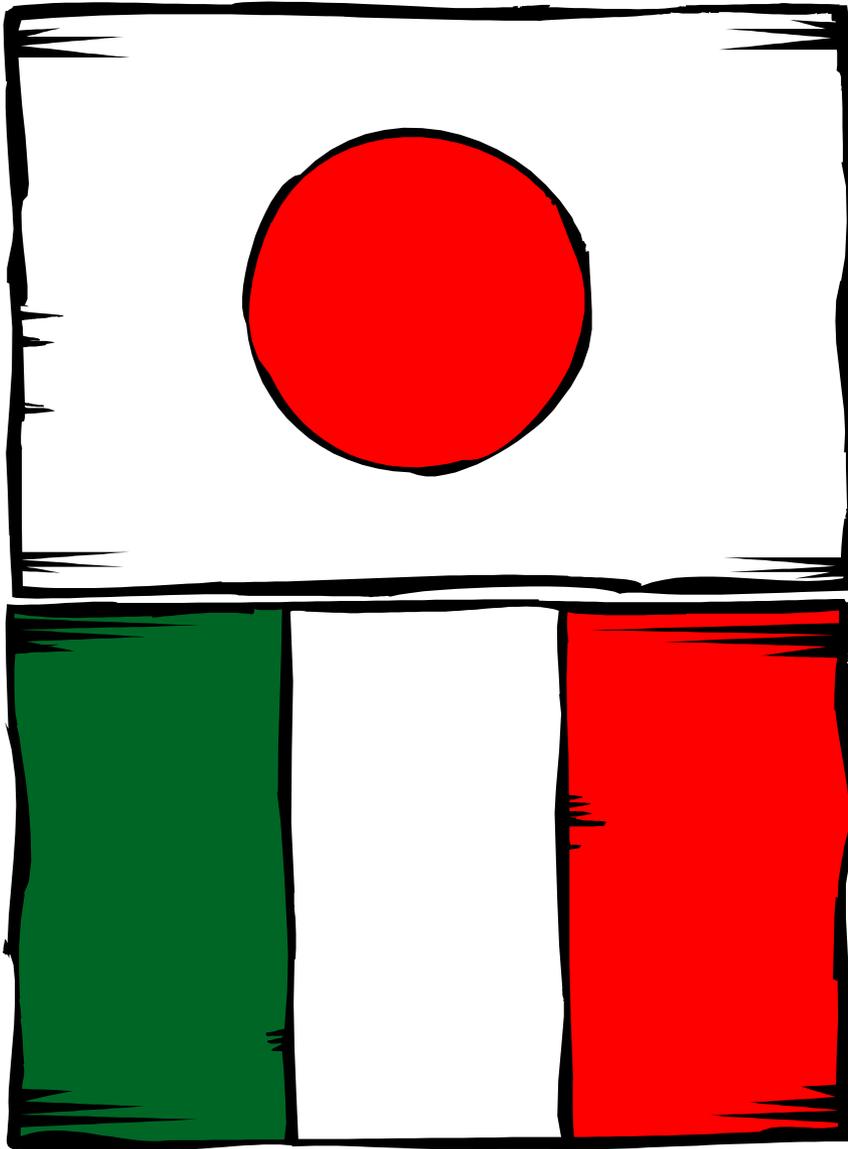


When Hitler became the leader of Germany, he started to stockpile weapons

- In 1934, he increased the Army, created an air force, and built warships
- Britain and France thought these actions may stop the spread of Communism



Hitler's Actions



- Alliances with Japan and Italy were made
- Hitler began to take back land that had been taken away in the Treaty of Versailles
- Hitler continued to invade countries throughout the late 1930's
- The invasion of Poland in September 1939 started WWII

Failure of the League of Nations

- When Japan fell into the Great Depression in 1931 and started invading countries, the league called for trade to be stopped with Japan
- In 1935, Italy invaded Abyssinia and they asked the League for help
 - The League of Nations condemned the attack, and imposed trade restrictions on Italy

Failure of the League of Nations

- Main reasons for the failure:
 - Not all countries joined the League of Nations
 - The United States new government wouldn't join
 - Germany wasn't allowed to join
 - Russia was excluded because of Communism
 - The League had no power
 - Main weapon was to ask members to stop trade with aggressive countries
 - The League had no Army
 - Soldiers were supplied by member countries, but members failed to provide troops due to fear of aggression
 - They were unable to act quickly
 - Only met 4 times per year
 - If help was needed, they had to set up an emergency meeting

Key People in World War II



- Adolf Hitler
 - Austrian born Chancellor of Germany, wanted to take over Europe and kill all Jews



- Franklin D. Roosevelt
 - 32nd President of the United States; President for 12 years. He died in April, 1945 right before the war ended

Key People in World War II



- Harry S Truman
 - Vice President of Roosevelt; took over after his death



- Winston Churchill
 - Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Key People in World War II



- Joseph Stalin
– Premier of the Soviet Union

- Benito Mussolini
– Il Duce of Italy (Fascist leader)



Nuremburg Laws Background

- 1935
 - Anti-Semitic laws in Nazi Germany
 - Divided people into groups depending on their ancestry
 - 4 German Grandparents=“German blood”
 - 3 or 4 Jewish Grandparents=Jews
 - 1 or 2 Jewish Grandparents=Mixed blood
 - Anyone with any Jewish grandparents was deprived of German Citizenship

Nuremburg Laws

“The Laws for the Protection of German Blood and Honor”

- 5 September 1935: “The purity of German blood is essential to the further existence of the German people....”
 - Section 1
 - Marriages between Jews and Germans are forbidden
 - Section 2
 - Extramarital sex between Jews and Germans/or related blood is forbidden
 - Section 3
 - Jews will not be permitted to employ female citizens under the age of 45 of German or kindred blood as domestic workers

Nuremburg Laws

“The Laws for the Protection of German Blood and Honor”

– Section 4

- Jews are forbidden to display the Reich flag and National flag, or the national colors
- They are permitted to display the Jewish colors

– Section 5

- People who do not follow Section 1 will be punished with hard labor
- A person who does not follow Section 2 will be imprisoned or punished with hard labor
- A person who does not follow Sections 3 or 4 will be punished with up to a year in jail and a fine, or one of these penalties

Nuremburg Laws

“The Laws for the Protection of German Blood and Honor”

– Section 6

- The Reich Minister in agreement with the Deputy Fuhrer will issue the regulations required for the enforcement of this law

– Section 7

- The law will become effective on the day after its announcement, section 3 to become effective 1 January 1936

Effects of the Nuremburg Laws

- The Nuremburg laws were a method for discrimination and to figure out who was and who was not a Jew.
 - People defined as Jews could not be lawyers, doctors, or journalists
 - Jews were prohibited from using state hospitals or from being educated past the age of 14
 - Public parks, libraries, and beaches were closed to Jews.



Effects of the Nuremburg Laws

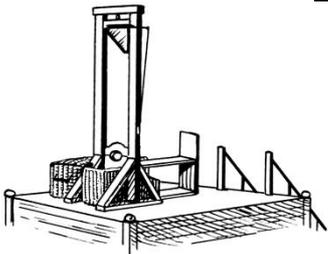
- War memorials were to have Jewish names removed
- Jews couldn't win the lottery
- Passports of German Jews must have a J stamped on it
 - Could leave Germany, but not return



- “Regulation of Name Changes”, 17 August 1938
 - Jews with non-Jewish first names had to change their middle names to Sara or Israel
- Obligation to wear yellow badge
 - September, 1939 in Poland
 - September, 1941, the rest of the Nazi Empire

Effects of the Nuremburg Laws

- Death penalty applied
 - Example
 - A Jewish businessman was accused of having a sexual relationship with a young German woman
 - He and his girlfriend denied it
 - He was sentenced to death and guillotined in 1942
- November, 1935
 - Blood Protection Law
 - Included Romani (Gypsies) and Negroes
 - Threat to German Blood
 - Nazi laws banning inter-marriage were set



The End of World War II



Europe



Main Characters

- **Vladek Speigelman**
 - Born in Poland in 1906, husband of Anja and later of Mala' father of Richieu and Art. Survivor of the Holocaust. He uses the abilities that he has in order to make opportunities to stay alive. He is portrayed as a miserable, cheap, demanding old man
- **Anja Zylberberg Speigelman**
 - Born in Poland in 1912, wife of Vladek, mother of Richieu and Art. She was born into a wealthy family. She was often depressed, especially after the Holocaust and the death of her son. She committed suicide in 1968
- **Art Speigelman**
 - Cartoonist, author of Maus and Maus II. Son of Vladek and Anja, husband of Francoise
- **Richieu Speigelman**
 - Born in Poland in 1937, son of Vladek and Anja, brother of Art. Did not survive the Holocaust
- **Mala Speigelman**
 - Vladek's second wife, who is also a Holocaust survivor
- **Francoise Mouly Speigelman**
 - Art's wife. She is French, but converts to Judaism

Overview of Maus

- This book is a memoir by Art Spiegelman. It recounts the struggle of his father to survive the Holocaust as a Polish Jew
- This book also follows the author's relationship with his father and the way that war affects families, generation by generation

Overview of Maus

- The characters are all presented as various types of animals, according to nationality or race. These are symbolic representations:
 - Jews are represented as mice. They can be seen as weak and helpless victims
 - Germans are represented as cats, which suggests power over the Jews
 - Americans are represented as dogs because the dogs chase the cats away
 - Polish are represented as pigs
 - French are represented as frogs
 - Child of a German and a Jew is represented as a mouse with cat stripes

Themes/Issues

- Family conflict
 - There is conflict :
 - between Art and Vladek
 - between Vladek and Mala
 - between Art and his dead brother, Richlieu
- Racism
 - German racism,
 - Vladek's racism,
 - Art's possible racism in portraying races and nationalities as animals))
- Guilt
 - Art's
 - about surviving when his brother did not
 - about not being worthy as the child of parents who went through so much
 - about putting Vladek's personal stories in print when Vladek had asked him not to
 - about not treating his father as well as he should
 - about how he treated his mother when she turned to him for love just before committing suicide)

Themes/Issues

- Survival
 - Vladek's
 - Anja's
 - Art's
 - Mala's
- Dominance: racial and personal
 - Vladek is as dominant to Mala and Art as the Germans were to him
 - dominance of favored prisoners over those less fortunate
 - dominance of cats over mice
- Depression and suicide
- Prisons and prisoners
 - including POW camp, concentration camp
 - more figurative experiences in which characters feel like prisoners
- Artistic process
 - Art's various struggles with telling this story both in words and pictures

Themes/Issues

- Irony
 - Anja survives the Holocaust only to commit suicide
 - Vladek dominates everyone just as the Germans dominated him
 - Richieu is sent to a relative to be safe, but the relative poisons him so he won't be taken by the Germans
 - Vladek makes racial comments about an African-American though he was the victim of racism
 - the success of Maus makes Art feel guilty