Chapter 12: Military Policy Between the Two World Wars, 1919-1939

Bracketed by the two world wars, the military policy of the 1920s and 1930s has been studied as postlude or prologue to war rather than as a typical peacetime phenomenon. The best introductions to the era are Louis Morton, "War Plan 'Orange': The Evolution of a Strategy," *World Politics* 11 (January 1959), 221-250; Fred Greene, "The Military View of American National Policy, 1904-1940," *American Historical Review* 66 (January 1961), 354-377; and John Braeman, "Power and Diplomacy: The 1920's Reappraised," *The Review of Politics* 44 (July 1982), 342-369.


The development of the Army Air Corps and its strategic doctrine may be followed in four fundamental interpretations: R. Earl McClendon, *Autonomy of the Air Arm* (Air University USAF Documentary Research Study, 1954); Thomas H. Greer et al., *The Development of Air Doctrine in the Army Air Arm, 1917-1941* (Air University USAF Historical Studies, no. 59,


The experience of talented officers in the interwar Army may be sampled in three biographies: A. J. Bacevich, Diplomat in Khaki: Major General Frank Ross McCoy and

World War II (often abbreviated to WWII or WW2), also known as the Second World War, was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945. The vast majority of the world's countries—including all the great powers—eventually formed two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis. A state of total war emerged, directly involving more than 100 million people from more than 30 countries. The major participants threw their entire economic, industrial, and scientific capabilities behind the war effort.

1919-1939: Interwar Years

- Germany is forced by the Treaty of Versailles to adopt a new government known as the Weimar Republic.
- The rest of the world begins to change:
  - Japan: Doubles population, and puts its trust in the military.
  - Germany: Nazi party comes to rule, Adolf Hitler to power, and military is rebuilt.
  - Italy: Benito Mussolini comes to power promoting Fascism.