

Lesson 5

Student Handout 5

- International Organization: League of Nations agreements on not bombing civilians
- Shanghai, China, January 1932: Chinese boycott of Japanese goods
- Ethiopia, December 1935 - May 1936: mustard gas, air power, and indiscriminate bombing including Red Cross units; the League of Nations imposed minor sanctions against Italy, and Italy resigned in protest. More than 700,000 Ethiopians were killed during the fighting, while just 2,000 Italians soldiers were lost.
- Guernica, Spain, April 26, 1937: massive air raid by 43 German Luftwaffe on the Basque town of Guernica in Northern Spain killed almost a thousand people and destroyed 70 percent of the buildings
- Shanghai, 1937: 200,000 residents of the city were killed
- Dresden, Germany, February 1945: Five raids, with over 650,000 incendiaries dropped, created a firestorm that covered eight square miles, totally destroying 4,200 acres. Around 135,000 people died. The city center was buried under 18 million cubic meters of rubble. So many people died that the corpses had to be burned in mass piles.

Source : http://www.dresden.de/de/02/110/01/c_13.php

- Tokyo, Japan, March 9-10, 1945: 300 American B-29s used low level incendiary bombing runs over Tokyo to create firestorms that destroyed 15 square miles of the city, killing 83,000 and injuring 102,000. All of the raids on the Japanese islands destroyed over two million buildings, made nine million homeless, killed 260,000, and injured 412,000. From July 1945 on, the Allied fleets closed in on Japan, using their heavy guns to bombard the coastal cities from close range.

Source: Paul Johnson, *Modern Times* (New York: Harper Collins, 2001): 424.

- London, 1940-1941: “Beginning on September 7, 1940, and for a total of 57 consecutive nights, London was bombed. ... Other British cities targeted during the Blitz included Portsmouth, Southampton, Plymouth, Exeter, Bristol, Bath, Cardiff, Birmingham, Coventry, Nottingham, Norwich, Ipswich, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool, Hull, Middleborough, Sunderland, Newcastle, and also Glasgow, Scotland, and Belfast, Northern Ireland. ...

By the end of 1940, German air raids had killed 15,000 British civilians. One of the worst attacks had occurred on the night of November 14-15 against Coventry, an industrial city east of Birmingham in central England. In that raid, 449 German bombers dropped 1,400 high explosive bombs and 100,000 incendiaries which destroyed 50,000 buildings, killing

568 persons, leaving over 1,000 badly injured. The incendiary devices created fire storms with super-heated gale force winds, drawing in torrents of air to fan enormous walls of flames. .

In London, on the night of December 29-30, the Germans dropped incendiaries, resulting in a fire storm that devastated the area between St. Paul's Cathedral and the Guildhall, destroying several historic churches. Other famous landmarks damaged during the Blitz included Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, and the Chamber of the House of Commons. The Blitz climaxed in May of 1941, leaving 375,000 Londoners homeless.”

Source: <http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/about-blitz.htm>

“By May 1941, 43,000 had been killed across Britain and 1.4 million had been made homeless.”

Source: http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/blitz_and_world_war_two.htm