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PACT OF STEEL



After signing an agreement which is commonly called the "Pact of Steel," Hitler shows the treaty to Galeazzo Ciano (Italy's Foreign Minister). Leaders of the two countries signed the document at the Reich Chancellory, in Berlin, on 22 May 1939. Image online via <u>German History in Documents and Images</u>.

As an Austrian, Hitler had a special reason to join the country of his <u>birth</u> with the country he now ruled. In March of 1938, as <u>he announced</u> the "peaceful" annexation (<u>Anschluss</u>) of Austria, the Fuhrer was <u>greeted</u> with a rousing ovation. Of course, it was just the <u>first stage</u> of his plan as his forces and <u>equipment</u> made ready to strike terror into the hearts of Europeans everywhere.

Soon Czechoslovakian Sudetenland, a place largely inhabited by German-speaking people, was part of the Nazi's regime. Not everyone in Sudetenland was happy with the change.

After Hitler was in power, he invited Mussolini to visit Germany. While in Munich, the two leaders appeared together. Hitler did his best to influence the Italian.

Not long after *II Duce's* visit, his government began to formulate the basis for anti-Jewish race laws. Those Jews who dared to respond did not always fare well. Neither did the rest of the Jewish population in Italy.

The two dictators cemented an alliance with the <u>Rome-Berlin Axis</u>. Their "<u>Pact of Steel</u>" was signed on May 22, 1939.

Two years later, while the Germans were still celebrating the effects of the <u>Blitzkrieg against London</u>, the men of the Italian Acqui Division landed at Cephalonia.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PACT-OF-STEEL-Captain-Corelli-s-Mandolin

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Media Stream







<u>Hitler Demanded the Sudetenland</u> Image online, courtesy World War II Remembered. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hitler-Demanded-the-Sudetenland</u>

<u>Standing Ovation Following the Anschluss Speech</u> <u>Image online</u>, courtesy U.S. National Archives. Image 208-N-39843. PD View this asset at:

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<u>German Messerschmitt</u> Image online, courtesy warbirdphotos.net website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/German-Messerschmitt</u>