SHOWA 12 (1937): ITALY FORMALLY JOINS THE ANTI-COMINTERN PACT.

The alliance broadens into the Tripartite Pact. By SHOWA 13 (1938).
THE SIGNATORIES ATTEMPT TO ALLAY FEARS THAT THEY ARE FORMING AN ANTI-SOVIET FASCISM BLOCK.

THEY FOOL NO ONE.
IN THE FAR EAST, FASCISM FINDS A READY PARTNER IN JAPAN.

OCTOBER, SHOWA 10 (1935): NAZI FOREIGN MINISTER JOACHIM VON RIBBENTROP APPROACHES JAPANESE MILITARY ATTACHÉ COLONEL OSHIMA HIROSHI IN BERLIN.

RIBBENTROP PROPOSES A DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE AGAINST THE SOVIETS. IN NOVEMBER, SHOWA 11 (1936), THEY SIGN THE ANTI-COMINTERN PACT.*

BUT A SECRET CLAUSE OUTLINES A MILITARY ALLIANCE AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION.

OSTENSIBLY, THE PACT ONLY CONCERNS THE SPREAD OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM.

* SEE NOTE ON PAGE 524.
Mussolini commands the National Fascist Party and maintains a dictatorial regime until 1943. In 1935, he wages war with Ethiopia and annexes the country by the following year.

The Ethiopian War begins the German-Italian Alliance. Next, they set sites on the Republic of Spain.

In Spain, General Francisco Franco* leads a revolt. With the support of German and Italy, Franco crushes the Popular Front government.

Fascism sweeps over Europe like a typhoon.

* See note on page 524.
After WWI, Germany is exhausted and in ruin. Hitler* appears like a savior. Germans remember what it is like to be proud.

His affect on the populace is like a drug. By Showa 9 (1934) he rises as the Fuhrer and holds absolute power. He stays in control until the end of WWII.

He follows the path of Benito Mussolini,* who rose in Italy in 1922.

* See note on page 524.
SEPTEMBER 1, SHOWA 15 (1940): DANZIG PORT, POLAND.

German Warships bombard a Polish military facility, followed instantly by a swarm of modernized land and air troops.

German troops penetrate the Western border of Poland. WWII officially begins.

The global conflict absorbs the fifteen-year Second Sino-Japan War.
THINGS ARE FINALLY GOING THE WAY THEY SHOULD BE.
UMMMM...THAT'S GOOD.

WHAT'S UP WITH SHIGERU?

AGAIN? WHAT'S WITH THAT KID.

HE GOT FIRED FROM THE NEWSPAPER JOB.

EVEN YUKIO IS IN HIGH SCHOOL.

SOHEI IS STUDYING AT OSAKA COMMERCIAL SCHOOL.

JUST SHIGERU. HE'LL NEVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING...

WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THOSE TWO...
Father had set up a house in KoshiEnguchi.

I'm a rich man! Rich at last!!

aren't you a little old for all this?

Just expressing my happiness!!

Look! We have coffee and sugar in the cupboard. All thanks to Java!
All of the Japanese in the South Islands want life insurance.

With the clouds of war gathering overhead...

I'm raking it in! I'm up to 5,000 yen!

So? How's it going?

Grandfather read the signs. He palmed off his printing company to some Chinese merchants and came back to Japan with our father.

Don't get too comfortable. Money has a way of leaving as fast as it comes.