



How did life in Britain change as a result of World War 2?

The outbreak of war

- The Germany leader, Adolf Hitler, wanted to take over other countries.
- March 1938 - Germany invaded Austria.
- September 1938 - British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty called the Munich Agreement. This allowed Hitler to annex the Sudetenland (an area of Czechoslovakia) if he agreed not to invade anywhere else. August 1939 - Hitler broke the agreement and invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia, followed by Poland on 1st September.
- Britain, France and Poland had made a pact to support each other, so Britain and France declared war on Germany.



The changing role of women



- Before the war, most women stayed at home and didn't go out to work. Those who did work were paid less than men and were generally restricted to 'women's jobs', such as nursing or working as a shop assistant.
- When men were called up for active service, women were needed to do jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or shipbuilding. Some joined the armed forces themselves.
- After the war, many women lost their jobs. However, their experiences led them to campaign for equal working rights and pay so that they could carry on leading more independent lives.

The Holocaust

- The Holocaust is the term for the killing of over six million Jewish people before and during World War II.
- Hitler wanted to blame the Jews for the problems in Germany and used propaganda to promote widespread public hatred of them.
- Many Jews were sent to concentration camps where they were forced to work like slaves. Many died through infection, starvation or exhaustion.
- Some were sent to death camps where they were killed in gas chambers. This form of mass killing is called genocide.

