

PAPER 1. KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: Conflict & Tension, 1919-1939

Part 1: Peace-making

Key dates:

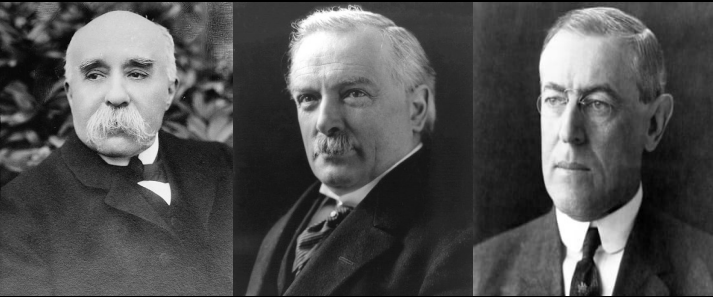
1918 End of the First World War

1919 Treaty of Versailles
Treaty of St Germain
Treaty of Neuilly

1920 Treaty of Trianon
Treaty of Sèvres

1923 Treaty of Lausanne

Key People:



Georges
Clemenceau

David Lloyd
George

Woodrow
Wilson

Part 2: League of Nations

Key dates:

1919 League of Nations formed

1920s Disputes:
Vilna (1920), Aaland Islands (1921),
Corfu (1923) and Bulgaria (1925)

1929 Wall Street Crash

1931-1933 Manchurian Crisis
1935-1936 Abyssinian Crisis

Key People:



Lord
Lytton

Benito
Mussolini

Haile
Selassie

Part 3: Origins and outbreak of the Second World War

Key dates:

1933 Hitler left League of Nations

1935 Rearmament Rally

1936 Remilitarisation of the Rhineland

1938 *Anschluss* (union) with Austria

1938 Munich Agreement

1939 Nazi-Soviet Pact

1939 Outbreak of the
Second World War

Key People:



Adolf
Hitler

Neville
Chamberlain

Joseph
Stalin

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER Part 1: Peace-making

Treaty of Versailles and other treaties

Key words:

Armistice, Paris Peace Conference, Big Three, communism, idealist, self-determination, League of Nations, mandates, disarmament, conscription, demilitarised, reparations

Key Dates

1918	The war against Germany ended with the armistice (agreement to stop fighting) on 11 November 1918. The terms of this agreement were harsh.
1919	The leaders of the victorious countries met at Paris Peace Conference (Palace of Versailles). ⇒ They were to agree the peace terms that were to be imposed on Germany. ⇒ The leaders of America, France and Britain dominated the discussions. The leaders of these countries were known as the 'Big Three.' ⇒ Germany was not allowed to take part in the discussions. ⇒ Russia was not invited as the Western allies did not trust communism .

Germany was humiliated by the peace terms of the **TREATY OF VERSAILLES**. Germans had to agree to the **'diktat'** (dictated peace) or war would have resumed.

Key Terms of the Treaty of Versailles

Territorial (land) changes:

- Alsace and Lorraine returned to France. They had been French before 1870.
- West Prussia given to Poland. This meant East Prussia was separated from the rest of Germany by Polish land (Germany was divided into two).
- All the gains that Germany had made from the defeat of Russia in 1918 were given up, mostly to Poland.
- Germany was forbidden to unite with Austria.
- Germany's overseas empire was taken away. Former German colonies became **mandates** controlled by the League of Nations, which effectively meant that Britain and France controlled them.
- The League of Nations was to control the Saar for 15 years, but France controlled the coalfields.

Military restrictions (disarmament):

- Army limited to 100,000 men.
- **Conscription** was banned; all soldiers had to be volunteers.
- Germany was not allowed tanks, submarines or military aircraft.
- The navy could only have six battleships.
- Rhineland became a **demilitarised** zone. This meant that no German troops were allowed into this area near the French border.

War Guilt and Reparations:

- War Guilt Clause (Article 231) forced Germany to accept responsibility for starting the war.
- This justified the punishments in the treaty.
- Germany had to pay for the damage caused by the war. This is known as **reparations**.
- The sum was not fixed in the Treaty, but later set in 1921 at the huge figure of £6600 million.

Key People Aims

Georges Clemenceau, French Prime Minister	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Became PM (1917) promising to win war and ensure Germany did not invade again. • Germany had invaded France before (1870), and taken Alsace and Lorraine. Wanted this land back. • France suffered enormous damage to land, industry and people in the war. Military losses totalled 1.4 million men. • Wanted to cripple Germany so it could not attack France again. • Clemenceau was under great pressure from the French people to make Germany pay. • French wanted money and land from Germany. • Wanted Germany to lose land on French-German border. Help to make the French feel more secure from possible future attack.
David Lloyd George, British Prime Minister	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understood need to make compromises. • Wanted Germany to be punished, but not too harshly. • Like Wilson, did not want Germany to seek revenge in the future. • But conflicted with view of most British people. Military losses in the war totalled 1 million. Lloyd George won 1918 election promising to 'make Germany pay'. • Wanted to protect British Empire, and therefore disliked Wilson's idea of 'self-determination'. • Wanted Germany to lose its navy and colonies because they threatened the British Empire. • Wanted Britain and Germany to start trading again, so important German economy not crippled.
Woodrow Wilson, American President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idealist (believed in finding perfect solutions). • World peace could only be achieved by countries co-operating. • January 1918 published Fourteen Points. • Included all countries should disarm. • Most important point: self-determination – was the idea countries should rule themselves rather than being ruled by others in an empire. • Wanted all countries to join a League of Nations to keep peace. • Germany should not be punished too harshly, so wouldn't seek revenge in future. • Wanted a more lenient treaty. USA had not suffered much from the war. • Did not join until 1917 and casualties were low. Military losses totalled 100,000.

Key Fourteen Points

1. No secret treaties
3. Free trade between countries
4. Disarmament
8. France to regain Alsace-Lorraine
10. Self-determination
14. A League of Nations to be set up



Map relating to the Treaty of Versailles

Key Strengths of Treaty of Versailles	Weaknesses of Treaty of Versailles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Treaty brought peace in short-term. League set up to keep peace. ◇ Seen to be fair by some countries. Germany had caused a lot of death and damage in the war. ◇ Demilitarisation of Rhineland made France feel more secure. ◇ In the war Germany had made Russia sign a treaty that was even harsher. ◇ Reparations were high, but only 2% of the German annual income. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Treaty was unfair as Germany was not the only country involved in the outbreak of war (1914). ◇ With its economy destroyed by war, reparations crippled Germany even more. ◇ German hatred of the treaty created a general resistance to paying reparations. ◇ Some Germans came under foreign control and feared persecution, especially as Germany had been forced to accept 'War Guilt Clause' ◇ Treaty punished Germany enough to want revenge, but not enough to stop her from recovering. ◇ Many people across the world said that the Treaty was too harsh and that it would lead to another war. ◇ Lloyd George predicted there would be another war in just 25 years.

Key reactions to the Treaty of Versailles

Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson felt treaty was too harsh, Germany would seek revenge, and another war would follow. • League of Nations was created. 42 countries joined in 1920. • <u>BUT</u> American Senate refused to join League. USA followed a policy of isolation.
Lloyd George	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War Guilt Clause pleased British people. Britain got reparations. • Britain gained control of some German colonies. Pleased German navy reduced. • Lloyd George worried treaty too harsh on Germany. • German was not in a strong position to trade with Britain because of reparations.
Clemenceau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War Guilt Clause pleased French. But wanted Germany to be destroyed, not just weakened. • France felt more secure. <u>BUT</u> Clemenceau wanted Germany to have no army. • French wanted an independent Rhineland, demilitarising it simply was not enough. • France got reparations and coal from Saar. But war cost France 200 billion Francs; reparations were far less than this.
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germans outraged, felt treaty unfair, and forced upon them- a 'diktat.' • Hated War Guilt Clause. Felt other countries should share the blame for the war. • War Guilt Clause justified punishments: reparations and having land taken from them. • The Germany economy already in tatters. Reparations made this worse. • Germany lost 10% of its land, along with 12.5% of its population and 16% of its coal-fields. Ruined economy. • Seemed disarmament was only for defeated countries. • Germany insulted not invited to join League.

Other treaties	Country affected	Key terms
St Germain 1919	Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Separated Austria from Hungary. ⇒ Stopped Austria joining with Germany. ⇒ Lost land to Italy and Romania ⇒ Limited Austrian army to 30,000 men; no conscription. ⇒ Created new countries, such as Czechoslovakia.
Trianon 1920	Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Hungarian land was lost to Austria ⇒ Limited army to 30,000 men; no conscription. ⇒ Like <u>Treaty of St Germain</u>, reparations were to be paid, but amount never fixed.
Neuilly 1919	Bulgaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Bulgaria lost land to Greece. But gained some land from Turkey. ⇒ Reparations set at £100 million ⇒ Army limited to 20,000. No conscription. ⇒ No air force; only allowed four battleships.
Sèvres 1920	Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Turkish Empire split up. Lost land to Greece. ⇒ In Europe lost all land, except small area around capital of Constantinople. ⇒ Army limited to 50,000 men. Allies allowed troops in Turkey. ⇒ <u>BUT</u> People in Turkey revolted against treaty and overthrew government. ⇒ <u>Treaty of Lausanne</u> gave Turkey back some of land Greece had taken. Troops withdrawn.

Key Results of the treaties

- Wilson's idea of self-determination was reflected in the Versailles Treaty and other treaties.
- BUT this was not applied fairly, for example West Prussia, where Germans lived, was given to Poland.
- Several new states were created, such as Czechoslovakia and Poland.
- BUT these new states were potentially unstable. They were made up of different national groups.
- Czechoslovakia, for example, had Germans, Slovaks, Hungarians, Poles, Ukrainians, and over 6 million Czechs.
- A lot of the results of these new states being created would be long-term. Czechoslovakia and Poland would be easier targets for Hitler when he started expanding German territory in the 1930s.

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Part 2: League of Nations

Key words (underlined)

Key facts and membership

- ◆ The League was set up in Geneva, Switzerland. Switzerland had not been involved in the war, so it was seen as a peaceful country.
- ◆ The League had a **Covenant** (set of rules) which all members had to agree to. This included the policy of **'collective security.'**
- ◆ When the League was founded in 1919 there were 42 members. This rose to 58 by 1934.
- ◆ Britain and France were the main members, but these countries were weakened by World War I. Both put their own interests before those of the League.
- ◆ America never joined despite the wishes of Wilson. Americans had seen many young Americans die in the war and wanted to **isolate** themselves from Europe. This meant if a country faced economic sanctions it could still trade with America.
- ◆ Countries that had lost the war, including Germany, were not allowed to join the League. This led it to be called the 'League of victors.'
- ◆ Russia was not allowed to join because Britain and France were suspicious of the new **Communist** government in Russia.
- ◆ Germany was allowed to join in 1926 after the **Locarno Treaty** was signed. But when Hitler came to power he took Germany out of the League.
- ◆ Japan and Italy both left after they invaded other countries in the 1930s.

Key Aims of the League of Nations to keep peace

Disarmament by reducing the number of weapons each country had.

Co-operate in trade so it was more beneficial for countries to work together

Improve working and living conditions so people would be happy and less likely to argue

Arbitration by helping countries to talk about their disputes rather than fight.

Collective Security was the policy that all members of the League would work together to help any member that was attacked by another country. All the members would act against the aggressive country.

Peace Keeping Powers

The **Covenant** set out how the League would deal with aggression. This included three peace keeping powers:

1. **Moral Condemnation** All countries would put pressure on the guilty country in order to shame that country so that it stopped being aggressive. At this stage an aggressive country was simply told off.
2. **Economic sanctions** All countries in the League would stop trading with the aggressor, for example not selling them weapons
3. **Military Force** All countries in the League would contribute to an armed force that would act against the aggressor.

Organisation of the League

The Assembly	Like an international parliament. Met once a year. Every country had an equal vote. Decisions had to be unanimous (every country had to agree).
The Council	Governing body of the League. Met more frequently than the Assembly. It had four permanent members, (Britain, France, Italy and Japan). Each member had the right to veto (stop a ruling).
Secretariat	Carried out the day-to-day businesses of the League. Like a civil service.
Permanent Court of Justice	This was made up of judges from the member countries. It was intended to settle disputes peacefully. But it had no way of enforcing its decisions.

Key Agencies of the League to improve working and living conditions

Commission for Refugees Millions of people had fled their homes during the war. This Commission helped to resettle them. They also helped free over 500,000 prisoners of war and returned them to their homelands.

Slavery Commission This did not end slavery altogether, but it had success in many countries. It organised raids on the camps of slave traders in Sierra Leone, setting 200,000 people free.

The Health Organisation It worked to combat the spread of serious diseases. This included an international campaign to kill mosquitoes, which spread diseases such as malaria.

International Labour Organisation This had success, for example 77 countries agreed to set a minimum wage. But attempts to stop children under the age of 14 from working and putting a limit on the working day failed.

Key weaknesses of the League's membership

- America never joined. Only country with resources and influence to make League work.
- Britain and France were most powerful members, but weakened by the war.
- Britain and France had other priorities.
- Germany and Russia not allowed to join.
- Without a number of major powers, the League lacked authority and sanctions were not effective.

Weaknesses of organisation & powers

- Economic sanctions were difficult to enforce. Members did not want to harm their own trade.
- Economic sanctions would only work if America applied them.
- League did not have an army. Members were unwilling to commit troops because of the cost.
- League met too infrequently. Took too long to make decisions, for example each member of the Council had the right to veto.

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Part 2: League of Nations

Key problems the League tackled	in the 1920s
SUCCESS:	FAILURE:
Aaland Islands (1921) Both Sweden and Finland claimed these islands, which were between the two countries. The League investigated both claims and decided the islands should go to Finland. Finland was not allowed to build forts on the islands so they could not attack Sweden. Both agreed to League's decision.	Vilna (1920) Vilna was the capital of the newly formed Lithuania, but most of the people living there were Polish. A Polish army took control of the city. Lithuania asked the League for help. The League told Poland to remove its army, but was refused. The League did nothing.
Bulgaria (1925) When Greek soldiers were killed on the Bulgarian border, Greece invaded. Bulgaria appealed to the League for help. League condemned Greece and ordered them to withdraw troops. Greece obeyed, but felt the League was being hypocritical. Italy had got away with similar actions in Corfu. The League showed it could <i>only deal with small countries</i> .	Corfu (1923) An Italian diplomat and his team were killed in Greece. Italy invaded and took over Corfu. Greece appealed to the League for help. The League condemned Italy and ordered them to withdraw their troops. Italy ignored the League and demanded compensation from Greece. Italy then withdrew from Corfu. The League showed it could be <i>ignored by a powerful country</i> .

Key agreements and events outside of the League

1924 America agreed to lend Germany 800 million gold marks, as part of the Dawes Plan , to help them rebuild their economy.
1925 Germany and France signed the Locarno Treaties . Improved relations between them. Germany accepted borders the Treaty of Versailles had defined, giving up any claim to land such as Alsace Lorraine. Also agreed to work together to settle disputes peacefully. - Treaty also signed by other countries. Agreed not to go to war with one another and help any country that was invaded.
1928 65 countries signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact . They agreed not to use war as a way of solving disputes. Germany, France and America were the first countries to be involved.
1929 Economic crisis known as the Wall Street Crash hit America hard. Thousands of businesses went bankrupt and banks collapsed. This was called the Great Depression .
The Depression affected rest of the world. Americans stopped buying foreign goods. US demanded back all money it had lent to Germany. German businesses went bankrupt.
1932 Almost 6 million Germans were unemployed, and many lost their homes
1933 Hitler came to power in Germany promising to provide 'work and bread' for people.
Hitler, along with Mussolini, looked to expand the borders of their countries so that their populations would have space, food and resources. This would involve being aggressive and invading other countries.

Why did Japan invade Manchuria?

- Japan was suffering from the Great Depression
- Japan already had influence in Manchuria
- Japan had few natural resources
- The Japanese government was dominated by army Generals.

What were the key events of the crisis?

- ⇒ In 1931 Japan claimed the Chinese had sabotaged the **Manchurian Railway**, which the Japanese controlled.
- ⇒ The Japanese army used the events as an excuse to take over Manchuria.
- ⇒ Japan attacked and by February 1932 they had brutally conquered Manchuria.
- ⇒ China appealed to the League of Nations to investigate.
- ⇒ The League set up a Commission under Lord Lytton. The **Lytton Report** was issued over a year after the crisis had started. It condemned the Japanese invasion.
- ⇒ The League ordered Japan to withdraw from Manchuria, but Japan just left the League. It went on to invade another Chinese province, Jehol. **The League took no further action (economic sanctions and military force were not used.)**

Why did the League fail?

- ⇒ The League was based in Europe and so the crisis was too far away to be a real concern.
- ⇒ Japan was a powerful member of the League (member of the Council).
- ⇒ Japan's main trading partner was America, which was not in the League, so economic sanctions would not work.
- ⇒ Members of the League, like Britain and France, were suffering from the Great Depression so did not want to use economic sanctions, as it would damage their own trade. They were also not prepared to send troops.
- ⇒ The nearest country to Japan who could have sent troops was Russia, but they were not in the League.

Why did Italy invade Abyssinia?

- Mussolini wanted to build a great empire like the old Roman Empire.
- Italy was suffering from the Great Depression. Mussolini wanted to gain access to Abyssinia's resources.
- Italy already owned small colonies in Africa that bordered Abyssinia.
- Mussolini was confident as the League had failed to stop him bullying Greece in the Corfu Crisis in 1923.
- In 1934 Mussolini used the excuse of Italian soldiers being killed in a border dispute, at Wal Wal, to invade Abyssinia.

What were the key events of the crisis?

- ⇒ Italy invaded using modern weapons, against which the Abyssinians had little defence.
- ⇒ The Abyssinian leader, **Haile Selassie**, went to Geneva and appealed to the League for help.
- ⇒ The League decided Italy was the aggressor.
- ⇒ Members of the League were forbidden from buying Italian goods and from selling weapons to both sides. This hurt Abyssinia a lot more, leaving it defenceless against Italy's modern weapons.
- ⇒ It took two months to decide what else to ban. Economic sanctions were applied (but not on coal, oil and steel).

Why did the League fail?

- ⇒ The British and French owned **Suez Canal** was not closed to Italian ships. This was the easiest route to Abyssinia. Britain and France did not want to lose Italy as an ally against Hitler.
- ⇒ Economic sanctions did not include coal as Britain feared it would damage their mining industry.
- ⇒ Economic sanctions did not include oil as America supplied oil to Italy.
- ⇒ In secret the British and French foreign ministers put together the **Hoare-Laval Pact** (1935). This planned to give Italy two-thirds of Abyssinia. The Pact was leaked to the press and there was an outcry. The foreign ministers were forced to resign. Britain and France were shown to be willing to undermine the League for their own self-interest.
- ⇒ In 1936 Italy captured the capital, Addis Ababa. Italy left the League. Sanctions were withdrawn.
- ⇒ **The League took no further action.** The Abyssinian Crisis marked the end of the League as a means of keeping peace.

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Part 3: The origins and outbreak of the Second World War

Key words (underlined)

Key aims in Hitler's foreign policy

Overturn the Treaty of Versailles	Hitler felt the treaty humiliated Germany and had to be abolished. This would allow him to achieve his wider aims in foreign policy.
Rearmament	To build up the German army and defences. This would make Germany militarily strong again. It would also create jobs in munitions factories and the armed forces.
Lebensraum	To take <u>living space</u> in the East. The Treaty of Versailles took 10% of German land so Hitler wanted to make sure Germans had enough land to live on and to farm.
Unite German-speaking people	12.5% of the German population found themselves living outside Germany after 1919. Hitler wanted to reunite all German people. Hitler also wanted to unite Germany and Austria (<u>Anschluss</u>), which had been forbidden in the Treaty of Versailles.
Destroy Communism	A Jewish man named Karl Marx had developed the idea of Communism. Hitler hated Jews and felt that they were ruining Germany, so he believed that Communism would destroy Germany if he did not destroy it first. Russia was Communist.

Key events in Hitler's foreign policy between 1933 and 1935

1933 Hitler left the League of Nation's Disarmament Conference	Hitler said he would <u>disarm</u> as long as every other country would too. If other countries would not do this then he wanted Germany to have an army equal in size to France's. France refused to co-operate. This gave Hitler the excuse to leave the conference. Germany then left the League and started to <u>rearm</u> . This was Hitler's first step in overturning the Treaty of Versailles.
1934 The Dollfuss Affair	Aware of Hitler's aim to achieve <u>Anschluss</u> , the Austrian Chancellor Dollfuss banned the Nazi Party in Austria. Hitler responded by telling Austrian Nazis to create havoc in the country. They murdered Dollfuss. However, Hitler was unable to achieve <u>Anschluss</u> because the Italian leader Mussolini moved his troops onto the Austrian border. Mussolini promised to stop Hitler's <u>Anschluss</u> .
1935 The Saar plebiscite (a vote by people on a question of national importance).	The industrial area of the Saar was given to the League of Nations under the Treaty of Versailles. A plebiscite was to be held in the Saar after 15 years to decide whether it should be returned to Germany. In 1935 90% of the population voted in favour of returning to Germany. The result was never in doubt, as most people who lived in the Saar were German. The Nazis used the victory as propaganda to show German-speaking people wanted to be united.
1935 Rearmament	Hitler showed off weapons and troops he had been secretly building up at a rally. He announced he was reintroducing conscription, expanding his army to one million men and building a <u>Luftwaffe</u> (air force). This showed Hitler was openly defying the Treaty of Versailles and no countries stopped him!
1935 Stresa Front	Britain, France and Italy agreed to stop Hitler breaking any more terms of the Treaty of Versailles.
1935 Anglo-German Naval Agreement	Britain felt the Treaty of Versailles was too harsh and the League of Nations was powerless to stop Hitler. As a result, Britain signed an agreement with Germany saying Hitler could build his navy to 35% of the size of the British navy. This was intended to protect Britain's <u>naval supremacy</u> . However, it suggested Britain was encouraging Hitler to rearm and accepted Germany could break the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

The remilitarisation of the Rhineland (1936)

Key events:

- ⇒ The Rhineland was demilitarised under the Treaty of Versailles. It was still part of Germany, but Germans were not allowed to have soldiers or weapons there.
- ⇒ In March 1936 German soldiers marched into the Rhineland and so went against the Treaty of Versailles.
- ⇒ Hitler ordered his generals to withdraw immediately if there was any French opposition. There was none.
- ⇒ The remilitarisation was popular with Germans, restoring national pride and making them feel more secure.

Results:

- ⇒ Hitler had successfully overturned part of the Treaty of Versailles, giving him the **confidence to go further**.
- ⇒ The League of Nations, Britain and France did nothing. They all showed they were unwilling to stop Hitler.
- ⇒ The League of Nations was more concerned with Mussolini's invasion of Abyssinia.
- ⇒ The British government believed Hitler was doing nothing wrong. Germany was only moving troops into its own territory and protecting its borders.
- ⇒ French politicians were more concerned with a general election in France.
- ⇒ Mussolini decided Hitler was a force to be reckoned with and agreed to sign the Rome-Berlin Axis.
- ⇒ Italy and Germany cooperated in their support for General Franco in the Spanish Civil War of 1936-9. This gave Hitler the chance to test his army, weapons and tactics.
- ⇒ Hitler strengthened his western border. He could now concentrate on uniting German-speaking people and gaining Lebensraum in the East.

The Anschluss (union) with Austria (1938)

Causes:

- ⇒ Austria and Germany had a shared language. The two countries had united in World War I.
- ⇒ Hitler was born in Austria. He felt the two countries belonged together and so wanted Anschluss.
- ⇒ Anschluss would allow Hitler to achieve foreign policy aims: unite German-speaking people and overturn the treaty.
- ⇒ By 1938 Mussolini was allied with Germany in the Rome-Berlin Axis, so unlikely to help Austria.

Key events:

- ⇒ In 1938 Hitler ordered the Austrian Nazi Party to campaign for Anschluss. Riots and demonstrations followed.
- ⇒ The Austrian Chancellor, Schuschnigg, tried to arrange a plebiscite.
- ⇒ Fearing the vote would be against the union, Hitler moved German troops to the Austrian border.
- ⇒ Hitler forced the Austrian Chancellor to call off the plebiscite and resign from office.
- ⇒ A leading Nazi, who had been put in charge of the Austrian police, claimed Austria was in a state of chaos and invited the Germans into Austria to restore order.
- ⇒ The German army imprisoned over 80,000 opponents of Hitler. Anschluss was then established.
- ⇒ A plebiscite was held and over 99% agreed with the Anschluss. The result was a great success for Hitler, but clearly influenced by Nazi pressure.

Results:

- ⇒ A triumph for Germany- Hitler now had the resources of Austria. This included the Austrian army of 100,000 men. Austria was also rich in natural resources such as iron and steel, which could be used for German rearmament.
- ⇒ Hitler had overturned another 'injustice' of the Treaty of Versailles without anyone trying to stop him. Hitler's **confidence continued to grow!**
- ⇒ Mussolini had not interfered because of the Rome-Berlin Axis.
- ⇒ Britain and France followed the policy of appeasement. Hitler was allowed to do what he wanted, as long as his actions were reasonable. This was to 'right the wrongs' of the Treaty of Versailles and avoid war.
- ⇒ Germany now had land on three sides of the western part of Czechoslovakia- the Sudetenland- where 3 million German-speaking people lived. Hitler also had better access to the East, where he wanted to gain Lebensraum.

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Part 3: The origins and outbreak of the Second World War

Key words (underlined>

Hitler's takeover of Czechoslovakia

The Sudetenland Crisis (1938):

- Czechoslovakia had been set up under the Treaty of Versailles.
- There were 3 million German-speaking people in the Sudetenland. Hitler used this as an excuse for taking land from Czechoslovakia.
- Hitler really wanted to take over the Sudetenland because it was rich in coal and had the valuable Skoda factory, which made tanks.
- By gaining the Sudetenland and its resources, Hitler could then takeover the rest of Czechoslovakia. This would 'right the wrongs' of another term of the treaty.
- Hitler told German-speaking people in the Sudetenland to riot against the Czech government.
- Hitler made it clear he would fight for the Sudetenland, claiming the German-speaking Sudetens were being persecuted by the Czechs.
- The British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain intervened to avoid war.
- Chamberlain met Hitler twice, but refused to agree to his demands. Hitler wanted the Sudetenland to be handed over to Germany immediately. He also wanted Hungary and Poland to gain Czech land.

Munich Agreement (September 1938):

- Hitler met Chamberlain, Mussolini and the French Prime Minister Daladier at Munich, in Germany.
- The Czechs were not invited to the meeting, but forced to withdraw troops from the Sudetenland and hand the area over to Hitler.
- Hungary and Poland also gained land from Czechoslovakia.
- Hitler signed a separate agreement with Chamberlain. Both promised never to go to war against each other. Hitler also promised he did not want the rest of Czechoslovakia.
- Chamberlain returned to Britain a hero. He claimed to have achieved 'peace for our time' as he had avoided war. The policy of appeasement seemed to be working.

The takeover of the rest of Czechoslovakia (March 1939):

- As a result of the Munich agreement, Hitler had gained the Sudetenland without fighting.
- Czechoslovakia had lost the Sudetenland, which was its defensive frontier and so become vulnerable to invasion. Czechoslovakia was also weakened with the loss of land to Poland and Hungary.
- Germany had gained the weapons and mineral resources of the Sudetenland.
- There was chaos in Czechoslovakia and the Czech government was forced to hand the country over to Hitler.
- Hitler marched into Czechoslovakia, in March 1939, claiming to restore order. Most of the country came under German rule.
- Chamberlain **ended the policy of appeasement** because he realised Hitler could not be trusted.
- Hitler could not justify taking over Czechoslovakia, as there were no German-speaking people outside of the Sudetenland. Hitler had also broken the promises he made in the Munich Agreement.
- Poland was clearly Hitler's next target. Britain and France signed an agreement with Poland promising to help Poland if it was invaded by Germany.



Territory added to Germany by Hitler between 1935 and 1939.

Nazi-Soviet Pact

Causes (reasons Germany and Russia signed the agreement):

- Poland was made up of land Germany and Russia lost at the end of World War I.
- Hitler demanded the return of the port of Danzig and the Polish Corridor.
- Hitler wanted to overturn the Treaty of Versailles, reunite German-speaking people and gain *Lebensraum* in the East. Invading Poland would help him achieve all of these aims.
- The leader of Russia, Joseph Stalin, was also determined to reclaim land.
- But Stalin was also increasingly alarmed by Hitler's foreign policy. The *Anschluss* and takeover of Czechoslovakia meant Hitler controlled countries closer to Russia.
- Russia became an easy target to be invaded by Germany, which seemed very likely as Hitler's aims in foreign policy included the destruction of Communism.
- Russia had lost faith in Britain and France. They had not involved Russia in the Munich Agreement. Britain and France also delayed agreeing an alliance with Russia.

Details of the Nazi-Soviet Pact:

- In August 1939 Germany and Russia signed an agreement that they would not fight each other in the event of a war.
- In secret both countries agreed to divide Poland between them. Russia would gain land it had lost at the end of the war and Germany would gain the west of Poland, including Danzig and the Polish Corridor.
- Stalin did not really trust Hitler, but the Pact gave Russia time to rearm so it would be ready for war against Germany.

Results of the Nazi-Soviet Pact:

- The Pact made war inevitable. It gave Hitler the **confidence** to invade Poland on 1 September 1939, as he was supported by Russia.
- Hitler prevented a war on two fronts, which had been the downfall of Germany in World War I.
- Hitler assumed Britain and France would appease him as they had at Munich, especially as Danzig was clearly German and the Polish Corridor separated Germany from East Prussia.
- But the policy of appeasement was over.
- On 3 September 1939 Britain declared war on Germany.



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Part 3: The origins and outbreak of the Second World War

Key words (underlined>

Timeline: Policy of Appeasement

1937	Neville <u>Chamberlain</u> became British Prime Minister. He followed a policy of <u>appeasement</u> . This involved giving Hitler what he wanted, as long as his demands were reasonable, to avoid war. France also followed the policy.
1938	Britain and France did not stop Hitler's <u>Anschluss</u> (union) with Austria. Austria was German-speaking and 99% of the Austrian people voted in favour of the <u>Anschluss</u> in a <u>plebiscite</u> , so it only seemed right to let Hitler unite with Austria.
1938	Hitler demanded the <u>Sudetenland</u> become part of Germany. This seemed reasonable as it was made up of 3 million German-speaking people. Chamberlain gave in to Hitler's demands at the <u>Munich Conference</u> . Hitler guaranteed he would not invade the rest of Czechoslovakia. It seemed Chamberlain had prevented a war.
1939	Hitler took over the rest of <u>Czechoslovakia</u> . Britain and France did nothing, but it was clear the policy of appeasement had failed. Hitler could not justify taking over Czechoslovakia, as there were no German-speaking people outside of the Sudetenland. Hitler had also broken the promise he made at Munich.

Key arguments in favour of appeasement

Many people felt the Treaty of Versailles had been too harsh on Germany and that it was only fair to allow Hitler to overturn parts of it.

People in Britain wanted to avoid another war at all cost. They remembered the loss of life in World War I. The Spanish Civil War showed any future war could be even more horrific.

The collapse of the League of Nations meant there had to be another way to keep peace. Chamberlain wanted to show Hitler reasonable demands could be met by negotiation, rather than by force.

When Chamberlain returned to Britain after the Munich Conference, he was greeted by the general public as a hero. They did not want war and Chamberlain had to represent the wishes of the British people.

Many people in Britain feared Communist Russia more than Nazi Germany. A strong Germany would stop the spread of Communism from Russia.

The Great Depression meant that Britain could not afford to fight. Britain was also not ready to fight. Appeasement delayed war so Britain had time to rearm.

Key arguments against appeasement

People misjudged Hitler. They thought Hitler's demands would be reasonable, but he had set out his aggressive aims in foreign policy in Mein Kampf in the 1920s.

Britain and France missed opportunities to stop Hitler. If the French had opposed the remilitarisation of the Rhineland, Hitler would have backed down and not had the confidence to achieve other aims in his foreign policy.

The more Hitler was given the more confident he grew and the more he took. When he was given the Sudetenland he was in a stronger position to take the rest of Czechoslovakia.

Appeasement alienated Russia. Britain and France had not stopped Anschluss, allowed Hitler to have the Sudetenland and took no action when he occupied the whole of Czechoslovakia. This meant Hitler controlled countries closer to Russia.

Russia had not been invited to the Munich Conference. It felt it could not rely on or trust Britain and France. This led Russia to sign the Nazi-Soviet Pact.

Appeasement gave Hitler the confidence to invade Poland. Hitler thought Britain and France would appease him, as they had done at Munich.

Key events

Countries that helped Hitler achieve his aims in foreign policy

Anglo-German Naval Agreement (1935)	Britain agreed Hitler could build the German navy to 35% of the size of the British navy. It suggested Britain supported German <u>rearmament</u> and that Hitler could <u>break the terms of the Treaty of Versailles</u> , as Germany was only meant to have six battleships.
Spanish Civil War (1936)	Hitler and Mussolini sent troops and weapons to help the <u>Fascist General Franco</u> in the Spanish Civil War. This let Hitler <u>test out new weapons</u> such as his <u>Luftwaffe</u> (air force). His <u>troops</u> also <u>gained experience</u> of fighting in a war.
Rome-Berlin Axis (1936)	The <u>Italian leader Mussolini</u> agreed to work more closely with Hitler. He did not stop Hitler's <u>Anschluss</u> (union) with Germany. This helped Hitler <u>unite German-speaking people</u> .
Anti-Comintern Pact (1936)	Germany and <u>Japan</u> agreed to work together against Communism. Mussolini later joined the Pact. Germany, <u>Italy</u> and Japan are referred to as the Axis Powers who fought together in World War II. This would give Hitler the confidence to try and <u>destroy Communism</u> by invading Russia in 1941.
Munich Conference (1938)	Hitler met Chamberlain of <u>Britain</u> , Daladier of <u>France</u> and Mussolini of <u>Italy</u> . It was agreed the Sudetenland would be given to Germany. This helped Hitler to <u>unite German-speaking people</u> . It also put him in a stronger position to take over the rest of Czechoslovakia in 1939.
Nazi-Soviet Pact	Germany and <u>Russia</u> agreed they would not fight each other in the event of a war. Neither side trusted the other, but in secret they agreed to divide Poland between them. This gave Hitler the confidence to invade Poland in 1939 and gain <u>lebensraum</u> (living space) for the German people.

Key people

Adolf Hitler

Dictator of Nazi Germany from 1933 to 1945.



General Franco

Dictator of Fascist Spain from 1939.



Benito Mussolini

Dictator of Fascist Italy.



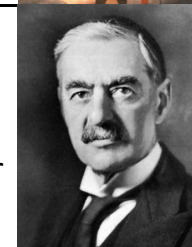
Édouard Daladier

President of France for much of the 1930s.



Neville Chamberlain

British Prime Minister from 1937 to 1940.



Joseph Stalin

Dictator of Communist Russia (USSR).

