

What were the steps to war?

- 1933 – Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.
- 1935 – Germany rebuilds its army, ignoring Versailles.
- 1936 – Germany remilitarises the Rhineland.
- 1938 – Austria is annexed (**Anschluss**).
- 1938 – Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia given to Germany (Munich Agreement).
- 1939 – Germany invades **Czechoslovakia**, breaking Munich Agreement.
- 1939 – Germany signs **Nazi-Soviet Pact** with USSR.
- September 1, 1939 – Germany invades **Poland** → Britain and France declare war → World War II begins.

Was appeasement the right thing to do?

- **Appeasement** – Letting Hitler take certain actions to avoid war.
- Britain and France allowed Germany to:
 - **Reoccupy the Rhineland** (1936), which was supposed to be demilitarized.
 - **Annex Austria** (Anschluss, 1938).
 - **Take the Sudetenland** in Czechoslovakia (Munich Agreement, 1938).
- **Reasons for appeasement:**
 - Countries wanted to **avoid another war** after the horrors of WW1.
 - Belief that **Versailles had been too harsh** and Germany had legitimate grievances.
 - Britain and France were **not ready militarily** for another major war.
- **Criticism of appeasement:**
 - Allowed Hitler to gain confidence and take **further aggressive actions**.
 - Seen as **encouraging aggression** because Germany faced no real consequences.
- **Supporters of appeasement** argue it **bought time** for rearmament and preparation.

Why did the Germans vote for Hitler?

- **Economic hardship:** Hyperinflation and the Depression made people desperate.
- **Treaty of Versailles resentment:** Germans felt humiliated.
- **Propaganda:** Hitler promised jobs, national pride, and strong leadership.
- **Fear of Communism:** Many saw Nazis as a way to stop communists taking power.
- **Weak Weimar government:** People lost faith in democracy.

What was the impact of WW1 on Germany?

- Germany lost the war and signed an **armistice** (peace agreement).
- **Political instability:** Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated, and a new **Weimar Republic** was created.
- **Economic problems:** Cost of war and reparations caused huge debts.
- **Social unrest:** Strikes, riots, and uprisings by workers and soldiers were common.
- **Loss of territory:** Germany lost land in Europe, including Alsace-Lorraine to France.
- **Military restrictions:** The army and navy were reduced; no air force allowed.

The rise of the dictators, how the world changed in the 20s and 30s

- After WW1, many countries faced economic and political problems.
- **Italy – Benito Mussolini**
 - Created a **fascist government** with strict control over politics and society.
 - Promised law and order, national pride, and a strong army.
 - Banned opposition parties and used propaganda to control people.
- **Germany – Adolf Hitler**
 - Leader of the **Nazi Party**, promised to fix the economy, restore pride, and get revenge for Versailles.
 - Blamed **Jews, Communists, and the Treaty of Versailles** for Germany's problems.
 - Created a **totalitarian state** with propaganda, secret police (Gestapo), and youth indoctrination.
- **Soviet Union – Joseph Stalin**
 - Took control after Lenin, creating a **totalitarian communist state**.
 - Eliminated rivals through purges and secret police (NKVD).
 - Introduced **5-Year Plans** to industrialize and control agriculture.
- Worldwide: **Great Depression (1929)** caused unemployment, poverty, and fear, helping dictators gain support.

Why is the Treaty of Versailles so important in world history?

- Treaty officially ended World War I (1919).
- **Blamed Germany** for the war ("War Guilt Clause").
- **Reparations** – Germany had to pay **£6.6 billion** to the Allies.
- **Territorial changes** – Germany lost **10% of its land**, including Alsace-Lorraine to France and parts of Upper Silesia to Poland.
- **Colonies** – Germany's overseas colonies were taken and given as **mandates** to Britain, France, and other countries.
- **Military restrictions** – Army reduced to **100,000 men**, navy limited, no air force, and no tanks or submarines.
- Caused **resentment in Germany**, setting the stage for World War II.
- First time in history a country was punished so severely in an international treaty.

What is hyperinflation and why did it happen in Germany, 1923?

- **Hyperinflation** – When money loses value very quickly, prices rise dramatically.
- German government printed more money to pay **reparations** to France and Britain.
- Citizens needed **wheelbarrows of money** to buy basic items like bread.
- Savings of ordinary people were wiped out.
- Caused **social unrest** and loss of trust in the Weimar government.

Impact of WW1 on Germany	
Key word	Definition
Armistice	Agreement to stop fighting; ended WW1 for Germany.
Weimar Republic	The democratic government set up in Germany after WW1.
Abdicate	When a king or ruler gives up the throne; Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated.
Political instability	A situation where the government is weak or changes frequently.
Social unrest	Strikes, riots, and protests caused by dissatisfaction.
Reparations	Money Germany had to pay the Allies; £6.6 billion .
Territorial losses	Germany lost 10% of its land , including Alsace-Lorraine and parts of Upper Silesia.
Military restrictions	Army limited to 100,000 men , navy reduced, no air force.
November Criminals	Name given by Germans to politicians who signed the armistice, blamed for Germany's defeat.
Rise of Dictators	
Key word	Definition
Fascism	A political system with strict control over society, nationalism, and no opposition (e.g., Hitler in Germany).
Communism	Political system where everyone should be treated equally so the state controls everything; used by Stalin
Totalitarian	A government where the leader controls every aspect of life (e.g., Hitler in Germany, Stalin in USSR).

Treaty of Versailles	
Key word	Definition
War Guilt Clause	Germany had to accept full responsibility for WW1.
Colonies	Germany's overseas territories were taken and given to Britain, France, and other countries.
League of Nations	International organisation created to prevent future wars.
Demilitarised	Areas where Germany was not allowed to station troops (e.g., Rhineland).
Resentment	Anger caused by harsh punishments, which helped Hitler gain support.
Diktat	Germans' term for the Treaty of Versailles, meaning "dictated peace," because they had no choice in signing it.
Economic Issues	
Key word	Definition
Hyperinflation	When money loses value very quickly; people needed wheelbarrows of cash to buy basic items.
Depression	A period of extreme economic hardship with high unemployment and poverty.
Unemployment	People without jobs; very high in Germany during the 1920s and 30s.
Savings wiped out	Money people had saved lost its value during hyperinflation.
Wall Street Crash	Stock market crash in 1929 in the USA that caused a worldwide economic depression, worsening Germany's economy.
Stock Market	A place where people can buy and sell shares (parts) of companies. Prices can go up or down depending on how well the company is doing and how many people want to buy or sell shares.

Propaganda	Information, often biased or misleading, used to influence people's opinions or behaviour.
Secret Police	Forces used to remove opposition and enforce government rules.
Gestapo	Hitler's secret police in Nazi Germany; used fear, arrests, and torture to eliminate opposition and control the population.
5-Year Plans	Stalin's plans to industrialise the Soviet Union rapidly.
Indoctrination	Teaching people, especially children, to accept ideas without question.
Dictator	A leader with total power.
Steps to War	
Key word	Definition
Nazi-Soviet Pact / Molotov-Ribbentrop Agreement	Agreement between Germany and USSR not to fight each other; secretly divided Eastern Europe into spheres of influence.
Invasion of Poland	Germany's attack on Poland that triggered WWII.
Munich Agreement	Deal allowing Germany to take the Sudetenland.
Rearmament	Germany rebuilding its army in defiance of Versailles.
Rhineland remilitarisation	Germany sending troops into the previously demilitarised Rhineland.
World War II begins	Britain and France declare war on Germany after the invasion of Poland.
Important figures	

Why Germans voted for Hitler	
Key word	Definition
Treaty of Versailles resentment	Many Germans felt humiliated and wanted revenge.
Fear of Communism	Nazis were seen as a way to stop communists taking over.
Weak Weimar Government	Failed to solve economic and social problems.
Promises of the Nazis	Jobs, national pride, and restoring Germany's power.
Voting	The act of choosing leaders; Germans voted Hitler into power.
Democracy	System where people have a say in government, e.g., through voting; the Weimar Republic was democratic.
Appeasement	
Key word	Definition
Appeasement	Allowing Hitler to take certain actions to avoid war.
Rhineland	Area Germany was not allowed to militarise; Hitler sent troops there.
Anschluss	Germany's annexation of Austria.
Sudetenland	Part of Czechoslovakia given to Germany (Munich Agreement).
Criticism of appeasement	Allowed Hitler to gain confidence and take more aggressive actions.

Key word	Definition
Adolf Hitler	Leader of Nazi Germany.
Benito Mussolini	Fascist dictator of Italy.
Joseph Stalin	Dictator of the Soviet Union.
Kaiser Wilhelm II	German Emperor who abdicated after WW1.
Neville Chamberlain	British Prime Minister who supported appeasement with Hitler.

Support for appeasement	Gave Britain and France time to prepare for war.
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