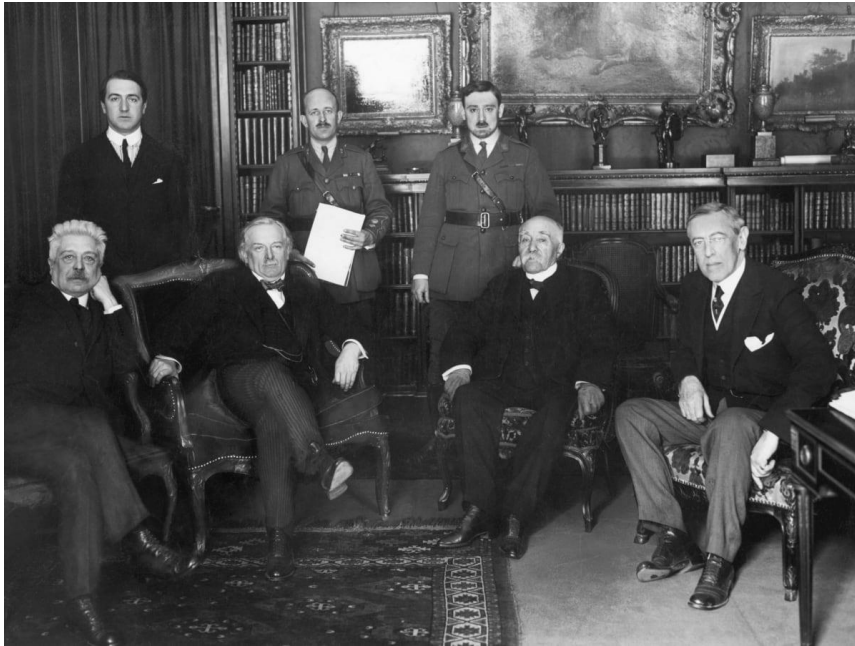


# Year 8 – Term 5

## History



## Inter-War Years, 1919-1939

Name:

Teacher:

Class:

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## Literacy word bank

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Time</b></p> <p>After As a result of At the start Eventually Firstly...secondly Later Meanwhile Next Then</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cause and Effect</b></p> <p>As a consequence As a result of Consequently Inevitably Initiating Precipitating Resulting in The effect of this is The result is This results in This, in turn, causes Triggering</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Emphasis</b></p> <p>Above all Especially In fact In particular Indeed Mainly Most Most significantly Mostly Notably Significantly Unfortunately Usually</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Adding</b></p> <p>And Another As well as Following In addition Moreover So Then Too</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Persuasion</b></p> <p>Certainly Clearly Evidently Obviously Of course Undoubtedly</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Evaluating</b></p> <p>Despite this However Nevertheless On the other hand</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summing Up</b></p> <p>In conclusion On the whole Overall To sum up</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Balancing</b></p> <p>Alternatively Although However Instead of Nonetheless Though Unless Unlike Whereas While</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Contrasting</b></p> <p>Alternatively Although Despite this However Instead of Nevertheless On the other hand Otherwise Though Unless Unlike Whereas While</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Comparing</b></p> <p>Also As with Equally In the same way Like Likewise Similarly</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Logic</b></p> <p>As a result of Because However In fact Therefore This shows</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Examples</b></p> <p>For example For instance In the case of Revealed by Such as</p>			

**What you need to know about this topic**

The aims of the Paris Peace Conference			
The Terms of the Treaty of Versailles			
The structure and organisation of the League of Nations			
Successes of the League of Nations in the 1920s			
The failing of international cooperation during the 1930s			
Hitler and his foreign policy beliefs			
Appeasement			
Arguments for and against appeasement			
How Hitler undid the terms of the Treaty of Versailles			
The significance of the Nazi-Soviet Pact			
The invasion of Poland			
The causes of the Second World War			

## Glossary

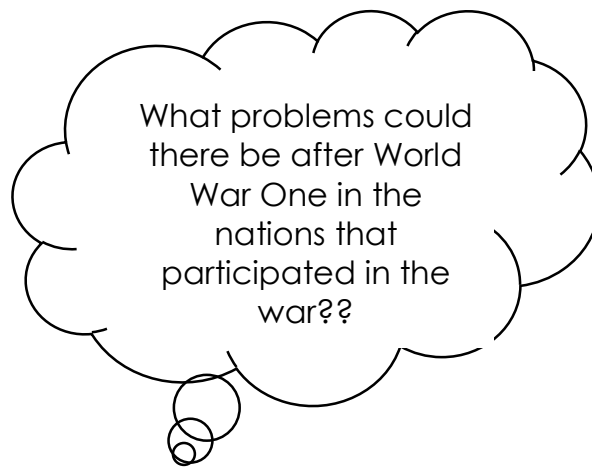
<b>Abdicate</b>	To give up the throne of a country.
<b>Allies</b>	A group of countries working together; the Allies' is a term usually used to describe Britain, France and the USA, who worked together during the two World Wars.
<b>Anschluss</b>	Union between Germany and Austria.
<b>Anti-Semitic</b>	Against Jews.
<b>Appeasement</b>	Policy of giving someone what they want in the hope of avoiding war.
<b>Armistice</b>	Initial agreement signed to stop fighting during a war; countries then work out a treaty of peace.
<b>Assembly</b>	A group of powerful countries which ran the League of Nations; Britain, France, Italy and Japan were permanent members and other countries were elected to serve them.
<b>'Big Three'</b>	Representatives of the most powerful victorious countries who met at the Paris Peace Conference to decide how to treat the countries that lost the war.
<b>Capitalist</b>	Political system in which people can work to make money through investing in industry.
<b>Clause</b>	A term in a treaty of legal agreement.
<b>Collective security</b>	Working together to keep the peace.
<b>Communist</b>	Left-wing political organisation, in which everyone is believed to be equal and everyone works for the good of the state.
<b>Conscription</b>	Compulsory military service.
<b>Constitution</b>	The rules by which a country is run.
<b>Council</b>	Members of the League of Nations who met once a year to discuss and vote on matters of international importance.
<b>Covenant</b>	An agreement; the Covenant of the League of Nations set up what the League was and what members could expect to happen under it.
<b>Demilitarise</b>	To remove all military (weapons and troops) from an area.
<b>Democratic</b>	System of government where people vote for their leader.
<b>Depression</b>	An economic state, when a country has little or no money.
<b>Dictator</b>	One ruler which has total power over a country.
<b>Diktat</b>	A forced treaty; Germany called the Treaty of Versailles a 'Diktat' or dictated peace.
<b>Disarmament</b>	The reduction or limitation of the number of weapons and/or troops a country has.
<b>Economic sanctions</b>	Punishing a country by stopping trade with them.
<b>Empire</b>	A group of countries or states that are owned and ruled by one country.
<b>Fascist</b>	Right-wing political group, holding strongly nationalistic views.

<b>Foreign minister</b>	A politician responsible for a country's relationship with other countries.
<b>Foreign policy</b>	The policy a country has about how it deals with other countries.
<b>Fourteen Points</b>	List of rules which aimed to create fairness and peace.
<b>Greater Germany</b>	Hitler's aim to build a German empire, including all German-speaking people.
<b>Isolationism</b>	A policy in which a country does not get involved in foreign affairs.
<b>League of Nations</b>	Formed under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, a group of countries which worked together towards global peace and cooperation.
<b>Lebensraum</b>	Living space in Eastern Europe.
<b>Locarno Treaty</b>	Agreement signed in 1925 to allow Germany into the League of Nations.
<b>Mandate</b>	A former colony (part of an empire) that was assigned to the League of Nations to be governed, until it was ready to look after itself.
<b>Mitigation</b>	Bringing people together to talk through their differences/problems.
<b>Moral condemnation</b>	To tell someone that they are in the wrong.
<b>Naval supremacy</b>	British policy that its navy should be the biggest and strongest.
<b>Pacifist</b>	Someone who believes in peace and is against conflict to solve issues.
<b>Paris Peace Conference</b>	Meeting held at the Palace of Versailles in France at the end of the First World War, to decide how to punish the countries that had lost the war.
<b>Plebiscite</b>	When the people of a country, not just the politicians, vote on a matter.
<b>Rearmament</b>	To build up weapons and armed forces.
<b>Reparations</b>	Money paid as compensation to people or a country that has been harmed.
<b>Rhineland</b>	An area around the River Rhine in Western Germany, bordering France.
<b>Unanimous</b>	When everyone agrees.
<b>USSR</b>	The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the name given to Communist Russia.

**Date:**

**Big Question 1 – What were the aims of the Big Three at the Paris Peace Conference?**

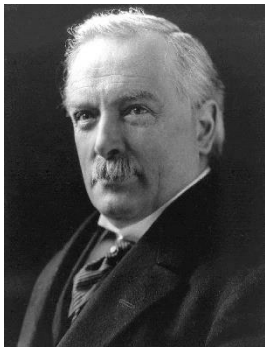
***Engage Task – Complete the mind-map below.***



The First World War devastated Europe. Around 8 million soldiers and a further 8 million civilians lay dead. Whole towns had been flattened, farms destroyed and railways blown up. The world would never be the same again. So when the leaders of the winning countries met to decide how to deal with the losing countries, they had a huge task in front of them.

In January 1919, representatives from 32 winning countries met in the Palace of Versailles in Paris for what became known as the Paris Peace Conference. The discussions were led by the leaders of the most powerful victorious countries – Britain, France and the USA. The leaders of these countries became known as the 'Big Three.' The leaders had different ideas of what should happen at the peace talks.

**Task – Using the information below, complete the table on page 10.**

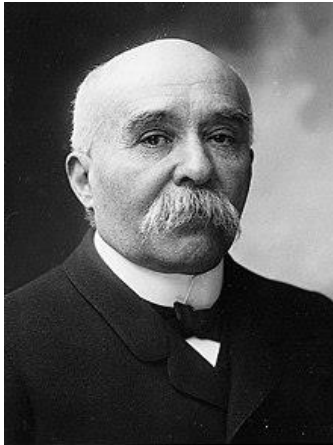


**David Lloyd George (Britain)** - A Welsh lawyer with a gift for public speaking. The British public elected him because he promised to 'Make Germany pay.' He knew he needed to keep the people in Britain happy and he was under a lot of pressure to be tough on Germany. He personally wanted a peace that would last – this would then allow Britain to rebuild its trade with other nations. He wanted to preserve the British Empire – if he got a chance to take any German colonies, he would. Lloyd George and Clemenceau did not really get on. He did agree with Wilson on lots of his ideas, but got annoyed when Wilson suggested that Britain should let some of the countries in her empire be independent.



**Woodrow Wilson (USA)** - During the war, no fighting took place on American soil. America made lots of money selling weapons to the Allies, so most Americans did not see the need for revenge. Wilson had been a History professor at one of America's top universities – he had also been President since 1912. Wanted Germany to be treated fairly so they did not seek revenge in the future. Had a 14-point plan, which he hoped would guarantee world peace in the future. Some of the ideas included: Countries should stop making secret deals with each other as this would lead to suspicion and misunderstanding between the nations; countries should reduce their weapons and armed forces (disarmament); people living under the rules of foreign powers (Czechs living in the Austrian-Hungarian Empire) should be able to rule themselves. Wilson called this self-determination. There should also be a new organisation for keeping peace. Wilson hoped a 'League of Nations' could be formed in which countries would all meet on a regular basis to sort out their arguments. Americans were shocked by the casualties they suffered during the war (over 100,000 killed). There was public pressure on Wilson to keep America out of European problems. Wilson believed

that Germany should be punished but not humiliated – this made him clash with Clemenceau, who was determined to crush Germany. He clashed with Lloyd George too who he thought cared more about the British Empire than about future world peace.



**George Clemenceau (France)** – Originally a journalist but had been a politician since the 1870s. He was 78, old enough to remember France being invaded by Germany twice (1870s and 1914). Much of the fighting that took place during the war was in France, particularly the northeast and the Germans destroyed many mines, railways, factories, bridges and farmland. The French suffered the most deaths. France wanted

Germany to pay for the damage done which they believed to be around 200,000,000,000 gold Francs. France wanted to make Germany so weak they could never attack France again – it would mean taking away most of Germany's factories, armed forces and even land. Clemenceau did suggest splitting Germany up into separate, small-states so, it would cease to exist as a country. Clemenceau did not think either of them cared too much about France.

**Key Terms**



**Compromise** – Where people or countries don't get everything they want but reach an agreement by giving in on certain points.

**Disarmament** – Reducing or getting completely rid of weapons.

**Self-Determination** – Where people from a colony get to rule themselves and have Independence.

**Key Fact**

Towards the end of the war there was an epidemic called 'Spanish Flu' which killed about 12-100 million people Worldwide – more than the number of deaths from WW1.

Leader	Country	Attitude towards Germany	Main aims	Problems with other leaders?
<p>David Lloyd George</p> 	<p>Britain</p>	<p>Wanted to 'make Germany pay'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wanted a peace that would last</li> <li>• Allow Britain to rebuild trade with other nations</li> <li>• Preserve the British Empire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did not get on with Clemenceau (France)</li> <li>• Agreed with a lot of Wilson's (USA) points, but did not like the idea of breaking up the Empire</li> </ul>
<p>Woodrow Wilson</p> 				

George  
Clemenceau



**Task – Using the above information, complete the following questions in the space below.**

Which of the 'Big Three' wanted to punish Germany the most, and why?

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Which of the 'Big Three' wanted to punish Germany the least, and why?

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What problems can you foresee with the three leaders and the different aims?

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**Date:**

**Big Question 2 – What were the terms of the Treaty of Versailles?**

***Engage Task – Complete the recall questions***

- 1) How many soldiers died during World War One?
- 2) How many civilians were killed?
- 3) How many countries met in January 1919 in Paris?
- 4) Who were the 'Big Three?' (Names of the leaders and countries).
- 5) Which leader wanted to introduce a 14-point plan?

**Score out of 5:**

On 28<sup>th</sup> June 1919, it was finally announced that the 'Big Three' had reached an agreement at the Paris Peace Conference. The meetings had taken place in the Palace at Versailles, just outside Paris, so the agreement with Germany was to be called the Treaty of Versailles. Germany had not been allowed to go to the peace talks and called the treaty as a 'Diktat'; they were devastated by the way they were treated.

**Key Fact**

The talks at Versailles was in the Hall of Mirrors.

Germany was told that the Allies would resume the war if the German government refused to agree to the terms. Eventually, the Germans sent a telegram confirming that a number of German politicians would arrive shortly to sign the treaty.

**Task – Look through the terms of the Treaty of Versailles and categorise them.**

<b>Germany lost pride</b>	<b>Germany lost territory</b>	<b>Germany lost money</b>	<b>Germany lost military strength</b>
<p>The German navy was limited to 15,000 men, 1500 officers and only 6 battleships. The size and number of other ships was also limited.</p>	<p>Article 231 of the Treaty was the war guilt clause. Germany and their allies had to take full responsibility for starting the war; this was the term Germany hated the most.</p>	<p>The Rhineland, a strip of land on the border between Germany and France, was to be demilitarised; this meant that Germany could not put an army or defences in this area.</p>	<p>Article 232: Germany was blamed for the war and had to pay reparations to the winners. In 1921 it was agreed at £6,600 million; it was estimated it would take Germany until 1988 to pay back.</p>
<p>The Anschluss (union) between Germany and Austria was forbidden.</p>	<p>The League of Nations was formed, but Germany was not allowed to join.</p>	<p>Germany was not allowed tanks, submarines or an air force.</p>	<p>The German army was limited to 100,000 men and conscription was not allowed.</p>
<p>Germany was split in two by the Polish Corridor, a strip of land that was given to Poland to allow them to have access to the sea.</p>	<p>Germany lost 10% of its land, including Alsace Lorraine, which was returned to France; Eupen and Malmedy, which was given to Belgium; and North Schleswig, which was given to Denmark.</p>	<p>The Saar was an important industrial part of Germany; there were many coalmines in this area; it was put under the control of the League of Nations for 15 years.</p>	<p>Germany's colonies in Africa were given mandates to the League of Nations, which meant that Britain and France controlled them.</p>

**Task – Choose one word to describe how you think Germany were feeling after the Treaty of Versailles. Explain your answer in a paragraph below.**

Sad

Humiliated

Concerned

Angry

Outraged



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**Key Terms**

**Allies** – A group of countries working together.

**Diktat** – this means a dictated peace (They had no say in the matter)

**Reparations** – this is like paying compensation for damage done to help pay for costs etc.

**Telegram** – this was a way of sending messages to someone. You would go to a Telegraph Office and say what message you wanted and who you wanted it to go to. It would be sent via Telegraph so they would get it fairly quickly.

The Treaty of Versailles was signed and became international law. However, almost immediately those who had signed it began to regret some of the terms, and Germany was outraged by the harsh blow it had been dealt. Many historians have agreed that the Treaty of Versailles affected Germany for the next two decades and that it ultimately gave Hitler the excuse to invade other countries to reclaim what had been unfairly taken away from Germany.

At the end of the Second World War, as the Allies once more met to decide Germany's fate in another peace treaty, opinions about the Treaty of Versailles started to change. Historians argued that the terms were not unreasonable at all; the Germans had rebuilt their country and economy so that they were, again, one of the richest, most powerful countries in Europe by 1929.

**Task – Annotate around the source below with comments on source content, provenance and own knowledge.**

**Source A – A British newspaper cartoon about the Treaty of Versailles, 1919. The Big Four (Clemenceau, Lloyd George, Wilson and Orlando of Italy) are holding the spoon. On the box, it says 'Big Four Pills worth millions a box').**



Source A



**I can learn...**

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The 'Big Four' dictated the peace agreement at the Treaty of Versailles

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**Details in the source that tell me this...**

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The British cartoon shows the Big Four of Britain, France, Italy and the USA force feeding a pill to Germany who is represented by a mouse. Each pill given is a condition of the treaty.

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**I can learn...**

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**Details in the source that tell me this...**

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**Source B – Lenin, the leader of Communist Russia, on the Treaty of Versailles in 1920.**

“[The Treaty of Versailles is} a treaty of robbers and plunderers. They deprived them of all means of subsistence, and left the children hungry and starving; this was a predatory peace, without any parallel. It has made slaves of tens of millions of people, including the most civilised. This is no peace, but terms dictated to a defenceless victim by armed robbers. Through the Treaty of Versailles, Germany’s enemies have deprived her of all her colonies.”



Source B

**I can learn...**

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**Details in the source that tell me this...**

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**I can learn...**

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**Details in the source that tell me this...**

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**Date:**

**Big Question 3 – How fair was the Treaty of Versailles?**

**Engage Task – Complete the recall questions**

- 1) How many battleships were the German Navy limited to?
- 2) What Article of the Treaty of Versailles set the reparation figure?
- 3) Which body was formed that Germany were not allowed to join?
- 4) What were the German politicians who signed the Treaty nicknamed?
- 5) What date did World War One formally end?

**Score out of 5:**



**Task – Sort the boxes into what was fair to Germany and what was unfair**

<p><b>KEY</b></p> <p><b>Fair (it was the right thing for the peacemakers to do)</b></p> <p><b>Unfair (it was the wrong thing for the peacemakers to do).</b></p>	<p>Germany lost 13% of its land. German families were forced off land they had owned for generations as it was claimed by other countries under the terms of the Treaty.</p>	<p>The Treaty of Versailles was signed at the end of the most devastating war that the world had seen. It was only right the losing countries should pay for the damage.</p>	<p>Many people said that the Treaty was too harsh and that it would lead to another war. Lloyd George predicted that there would be another war in just 25 years' time.</p>
<p>It was normal for the losers of a war to agree to harsh terms. When Russia had withdrawn from the First World War, Germany had made them sign the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which had taken away more than a quarter of their farmland and population.</p>	<p>Germans felt vulnerable. They worried that the reduced army and navy were not big enough to protect them from an attack.</p>	<p>If Germany had won against the Allies, it was believed they would have treated them very harshly, as Germany had treated Russia.</p>	<p>The causes of the First World War were very complex, yet Germany and its allies were forced to accept full responsibility. Causes such as the arms race, where Britain and Germany competed to have the biggest navy and empires, were not Germany's fault alone.</p>
<p>Europe was falling apart. The Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires had ruled over most of Eastern Europe, but with the collapse of these empires politics in the region had become unstable. The peacemakers had to act quickly. Under so much pressure, they did the best job they could.</p>	<p>The Germans thought that the peace treaty would be based on Wilson's Fourteen Points. These set out to achieve a fair world for everyone. If they had known that so few of these would make it through to the final treaty, they may not have signed the armistice.</p>	<p>The reparations crippled Germany. It was estimated it would take them until the 1980s to pay them.</p>	<p>Around six million Germans found themselves living outside of German territory. They feared persecution, especially since Germany had been forced to accept the war guilt clause.</p>

### **Key Terms**

**Diktat** – this means a dictated peace (They had no say in the matter)

**Reparations** – this is like paying compensation for damage done to help pay for costs etc...

**Rhineland** – a strip of land inside France bordering France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

**Ottoman Empire** – this was the old Turkish Empire controlling the Balkans and part of the Middle East.



When the Treaty was signed the general feelings in Britain was that it was fair, but could (and probably should) have been harsher. However, on his return from Versailles, Lloyd George was greeted as a hero. The British press proclaimed that Britain would never again be threatened by the Germans. However, Lloyd George was not so sure – “we will have to fight another war in 25 years’ time, and at three times the cost!” There were parts of the treaty that Lloyd George was pleased with; the British Empire gained extra colonies and now covered a third of the globe. In addition, the German navy was restricted so that Britain could ‘rule the waves’ without competition. However, Lloyd George was concerned that the loss of German land and people to Poland would cause huge problems in the future, especially if those people were determined to be part of Germany again. Lloyd George did feel that the reparations were too harsh. Britain would lose an important trade partner and the people in Germany would resent the Treaty so much that it could lead to another war in years to come.



There were elements of the Treaty that the people of France were satisfied with. They were pleased that they were no longer threatened by the German army in the Rhineland and that they would be receiving reparations. They were given control of the Saar area, Germany's rich

coalfields, for 15 years, which would have helped them financially. However, many people were furious about the Treaty. They felt that their suffering during the war had been far greater than the Germans' suffering would be, so they thought that the Treaty should be much tougher. Clemenceau was angry that Germany was allowed to retain an army, even a small one, and felt that the Rhineland should have been completely taken away from Germany and made into small, powerless, independent states. Clemenceau felt the reparation payments were too small, and actually, he had wanted to see Germany financially crippled. Clemenceau faced re-election shortly after the Treaty was signed, and he was shocked when he was voted out. Many French people clearly thought that their great enemy, the Germans, had been let off lightly.



In American politics, his rival party, the Republicans, used the Treaty to criticise Wilson. The Treaty had to be approved by the Senate, they had to vote to accept it. The Republicans argued that since the Treaty had not been based on the Fourteen Points it was not in America's best interests and they refused to ratify it. This meant that Wilson and America could not join the League of Nations. Wilson was devastated and feared a harsh treaty would drag America into another war. He was happy that the League of Nations was created, and that countries in Eastern Europe would, largely, have self-determination. In 1924, Wilson died from a stroke.



German people wanted the Treaty of Versailles to be fair on them and to try to guarantee future peace. The German people were shocked by the severity of the Treaty. Germany had not been allowed to negotiate the terms of the

Treaty and people felt that it was a Diktat, which was neither fair nor justified. The government who signed the Treaty of Versailles became known as the 'November Criminals.' The German economy was in ruins and the Germans hated the war guilt clause (Article 231). Germany lost 16% of their coal and 48% of their steel. Nearly 6 million German nationals now found themselves living in different countries, often under the control of governments who resented Germany. Germany was humiliated by the loss of their army – a huge source of national pride before and during the war.

## “The Treaty of Versailles was a fair treaty”. How far do you agree?

You may use the following in your answer:

- Territorial terms
- Military terms

### How to answer this question:

- Introduction – set out your view and answer the question.

*Example: The Treaty of Versailles was a fair treaty to a small extent. This is because while other countries such as Britain and France had suffered during the war, the peace treaty, signed on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1919, was too harsh on Germany. Overall, I believe the treaty was more harsh than fair as it blamed Germany entirely for starting the war, and the amount of money needed for reparations was unfair.*

- ‘For’ paragraph – include any points you have that the Treaty of Versailles **was** a fair treaty.
- ‘Against’ paragraph – include any points you have that the Treaty of Versailles **was not** a fair treaty.
- Conclusion – reiterate your overall view and give some evidence to back it up.

*Example: In conclusion, I agree with the statement that the Treaty of Versailles was a fair treaty to a small extent. This is because while the treaty needed to be harsh, it was far too harsh on Germany, as it was not solely responsible for the war, and it had no money to rebuild due to the huge reparations payments.*

### **Hint:**

For your main body paragraphs, use a **PEEL** structure to get down all the information.

**Point** – The Treaty of Versailles was not fair as it stated that Germany was to blame for the war.

**Evidence** – Article 231 of the treaty stated that Germany should take full responsibility for the war, and this was the part of the treaty the Germans hated the most.

**Explain** – The war was not entirely Germany’s fault, as there were many reasons for it breaking out, including the alliance system and the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Germany were not solely responsible for any of these factors.

**Link** – This shows that the Treaty of Versailles was a harsh treaty as it claimed something that was not true and led to much resentment in Germany.

Plan:







## **Marking and Feedback**



Date:

**Big Question 4 – What was the League of Nations and how successful was it in the 1920s and 1930s?**

**Engage Task – Bullet point any positives and negatives you can see with the creation of the League of Nations**

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**Key Terms**

**Disarmament** – Where countries get rid of their weapons and reduce numbers of soldiers etc...

**Economic** – this is to do with financial matters.

**Mitigation** – Getting countries to talk about issues.

**Moral Condemnation** – a good telling off.

**Refugee** - a person who has lost the protection of their country of origin or does not want to return there for fear of persecution.

During the First World War, many people wanted to set up an organisation that would encourage countries to get together when they had problems and work out their differences, rather than resort to fighting. At the end of the war, US President, Woodrow Wilson wanted to set up the League of Nations.

The League of Nations worked to achieve **four aims:**

1. To stop war from breaking out again.
2. To encourage disarmament.

3. To improve working conditions.
4. To tackle deadly diseases.

**Who joined the League of Nations?** When the League was founded there were 42 members, and this rose to 58 by 1934. There were four permanent members of the Council who made all the big decisions – Britain, France, Italy and Japan.

**Why did the Americans not join?** Woodrow Wilson was one of the key figures in the creation of the League of Nations. However, the Senate refused to agree to it as much as Wilson tried to convince his people that it was a good idea. They had seen many young Americans die in the First World War and wanted to isolate themselves from Europe. Wilson was devastated.

**Which countries did not join?** Britain and France were suspicious of the new Communist government in Russia, so Russia was not allowed to join. Germany was also not allowed to join (at first). Germany was allowed to join in 1926. Japan and Italy both left after they broke the rules during the 1930s.

**What would happen if the League could not prevent disputes?** The Covenant set out how the League would deal with aggression:

1. **Mitigation** – getting countries to talk through the problems.
2. If this did not work they could use **moral condemnation**.
3. Finally, **economic sanctions** could be enforced, where members of the League would not trade with the warring countries.

The League did not have its own army, as it was a peaceful organisation. If an army was necessary, the League was to ask its members to lend it their armed forces.

**Some historians have described the League of Nations as ‘toothless.’ What does this mean?**

(Imagine a shark without teeth)

**Do you agree that the League was toothless?**

***Task – Read through the three case studies below and complete the table.***






**Corfu, 1923:** This started as a border dispute. In 1923, an Italian army unit was mapping the border between Greece and Albania. The soldiers were attacked, but it was not clear who attacked them. The Italian general, Tellini, was killed. Italy’s leader Mussolini blamed the Greeks. He demanded that the Greeks hand over the murderers. He also demanded compensation. In August 1923, he invaded the Greek island of Corfu. The Greeks appealed to the League. Early in September, the League condemned Mussolini’s actions. It was clear that he had broken the League Covenant. However, Mussolini got to work behind the scenes. He put pressure on the members of the League’s Council to support Italy instead by Greece. By the end of September, things had turned around. The Council began to put pressure on the Greeks. The Greeks had to apologise to Mussolini and pay compensation for the murder of Tellini. In this instance, when a large country had threatened a smaller one with military action, the League had proved that they could be ignored and overturned by other international groups.

**Other developments in the 1920s:** The League's commissions did some good work. For example, the Refugee Commission helped 400,000 prisoners of war to return home after the Great War. The Health Committee helped to fight deadly diseases such as malaria and leprosy. The League also fought against drug trafficking and slavery – for example, it freed 200,000 slaves in Sierra Leone. The League also helped its members to agree some important treaties. In 1925, Germany signed the Locarno Treaty. This meant it accepted the borders of Germany set out in the Treaty of Versailles. In 1928, 65 states signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact – they promised not to use force to settle disputes.

**The Manchurian Crisis 1931-1933:** Followed the Mukden Incident in which Japanese rail tracks were destroyed in an explosion. Claiming that it was saboteurs, the Japanese responded with force, taking control of the Chinese province of Manchuria. In October, the League of Nations passed a resolution saying that Japanese troops should withdraw and established a commission which would investigate the claims of both sides. The Japanese rejected the League of Nations resolution and insisted on direct negotiations with the Chinese government. These negotiations failed and the Japanese proceeded, now against some resistance, to take control of the remainder of Manchuria. They then proceeded to launch an attack on the Chinese city of Shanghai which was outside of the area of Japanese economic control. When there was pressure from the League to leave Manchuria, the Japanese delegation simply walked out of the meeting, never to return.

<b>Strengths of the League of Nations shown</b>	<b>Weaknesses of the League of Nations shown</b>
<p>The Refugee Commission helped 400,000 prisoners of war to return home after the Great War</p>	<p>After the murder of an Italian army officer on the Greek, Albanian border in 1923, Italy's leader, Mussolini invaded the Greek Island of Corfu and the L O N rather than supporting Greece backed the Italians.</p>

**Task – Using everything you know about the League of Nations, give a reason or an event that could be used as a reason for the League’s failure.**

Reason the League failed	Reason/example of failure
There was no obligation to remain a member of the League	
The League had no army of its own	
The League failed to help the 'little guy'	
America did not join and other powerful countries such as Germany and the USSR were not allowed to join	
Powerful countries were not scared of the League’s sanctions	



Date:

**Big Question 5 – Who was Hitler and what did he want?**

**Engage Task – Complete the recall questions**

- 1) Name one of the four aims of the League of Nations.
- 2) Why did America not join the League of Nations?
- 3) Name one of the three main sanctions used by the League.
- 4) Who did the League side with in Corfu in 1923?
- 5) Which country invaded Manchuria in the 1930s?

**Score out of 5:**

**Key Terms**

**Anschluss** – the joining of Germany and Austria

**Appeasement** – giving someone what they want to avoid conflict

**Communism** - Left-wing political organisation, in which everyone is believed to be equal and everyone works for the good of the state.

**Lebensraum** – This was one of Hitler's aims and means Living Space.

**Volksdeutsche** – German People with German blood without German Citizenship.

**Task – Watch the video on Adolf Hitler and answer the questions below.**

- 1) Which religion did Hitler target, hoping to remove all people who follow it?
- 2) In which country was Hitler born?
- 3) What rank was he in the First World War?
- 4) What did Hitler do in 1923?
- 5) What did Hitler write in prison?
- 6) In what month and year did Hitler become chancellor?
- 7) Which country did Hitler invade in 1939?
- 8) Which country did Hitler invade in 1941?
- 9) Which part of France did the Allies invade in 1944?
- 10) In what month and year did Hitler commit suicide?

Hitler was the leader of the Nazi Party, who promised to solve German unemployment, which had reached nearly six million by 1933, 'Right the wrong of the Treaty of Versailles,' and make Germany strong again. In the midst of the Depression the people of Germany turned to the Nazis, and so in 1933, Hitler became chancellor of Germany. Hitler identified a number of things he intended to do in order to make Germany a world power once more:

- Overturn the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler felt that the Treaty humiliated Germany and should be abolished.
- Rearm to make Germany strong again and to create jobs in munitions factories and the armed forces.
- Lebensraum – living space in the east. The Treaty of Versailles redistributed 13% of German land so Hitler wanted to make sure that Germans had enough land to live on and to farm.
- Unite *Volksdeutsche* (people with German blood, but without German citizenship) and create a Greater Germany. 10% of the German population found themselves living outside Germany after 1919. Some had been badly treated by the countries they were living in.
- Unite Germany and Austria once again in Anschluss.
- 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.



What terms of the Treaty of Versailles was Hitler determined to undo?

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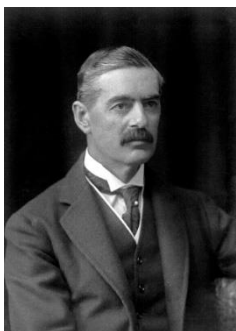
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It is easy for us to look back at the 1930s and ask why somebody did not stop Hitler sooner. Hitler talked about war often. He said that a war was needed to reclaim some of the land in Europe that he thought belonged to Germany. At the same time, some of the most important and powerful countries of the world did little to stop him.

**Task – Read through the information below on the main world leaders’ attitudes towards Hitler and write down the major points around his photo.**



**Neville Chamberlain, Britain:** Chamberlain was Prime Minister from 1937-1940. Hitler’s speeches in the 1920s had worried the British government and people. Hitler signed a non-aggression pact with Poland in 1934, and the British politicians were satisfied that Hitler did not really want war at all. Many British people remembered the horrors of the First World War and

would do anything to prevent another, even if that meant turning a blind eye to Hitler. In November 1937, Chamberlain sent his friend, Lord Halifax, to meet with Hitler. Halifax was tasked with finding out what Hitler wanted –

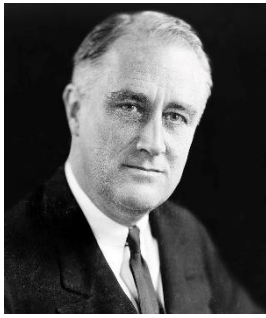
Chamberlain used the term 'appeasement' which meant giving Hitler a little of what he wanted in the hope of preventing a full-scale war. Chamberlain adopted this policy until 1939. Public opinion had also changed around the Treaty of Versailles – many felt that it was too harsh and that Germany should be allowed to reclaim some of what had been lost. It would help Germany become strong again, which could help stop the expansion of the Communist USSR, and France, who Britain became fearful of. Britain were worried France might start to dominate Europe. Britain signed the Stresa Front with France and Italy in 1935, in which the three nations promised to unite against the threat of Hitler.



**Edouard Daladier, France:** Daladier was the president of France for much of the 1930s. The 1930s were a difficult time for France. The people suffered greatly in the Depression and started rebelling against the government. The government found it difficult to concentrate on the threat from Hitler with so many problems of their own, and there was no way France could have afforded to act against him without the support of Britain.



**Joseph Stalin, Soviet Union (USSR):** Stalin was the dictator of the Communist USSR. Communism was a very different political system from that of most countries in the West and because of this, the USSR's international relationships were often hostile. Stalin was concerned about Hitler – who had promised to destroy Communism – but he was also wary of the USA, Britain and France. Relations started to improve in 1934 when the USSR were allowed to join the League of Nations, and in May 1935, a treaty of mutual assistance was signed with France, saying that the two countries would work together. Stalin decided that it was worth cooperating with capitalist states if it meant Hitler's expansion into the East could be stopped.



**Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR),**

**USA:** FDR came to power in 1932. Throughout the 1920s, America had followed a policy of isolationism, avoiding getting involved in European affairs. The

1930s were no different. A poll published in 1934 said that 70% of Americans felt that the USA should not have been involved in the First World War and that if there was a second world war the USA should not interfere. In the 1936 election, FDR promised to

keep America out of any war in Europe. In 1938, FDR did try to get Hitler to promise that he would stop invading countries, but Hitler did not take the request seriously.

**Key Fact**

FDR was diagnosed with infantile paralysis, better known as polio, in 1921, at the age of 39. Although dealing with this crippling disease was difficult, many believe that his personal struggles helped shape FDR, both as a man and as a president.



**Plenary – Using the above information, consider the following question finding evidence for and against the statement, before writing a conclusion to answer the question.**

“The main reason other countries failed to react to Hitler’s foreign policy was their fear of war.”

How far do you agree with this statement?

<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>

**In conclusion,**

**Date:**

**Big Question 6 – How did Hitler undo the terms of the Treaty of Versailles and which countries supported him?**

***Engage Task – Complete the recall questions***

- 1) In which European country was Hitler born?
- 2) In what year did Hitler become chancellor?
- 3) What is meant by the term 'lebensraum'?
- 4) What was the term for the policy adopted by Neville Chamberlain towards Hitler?
- 5) What was the general American attitude towards European affairs in the 1930s?

**Score out of 5:**

**Key Terms**

**Chancellor** – The Chancellor in Germany was chosen by the President of Germany to help run the country.

**Plebiscite** - When the people of a country, not just the politicians, vote on a matter.

**Rearmament** – building up the army, navy and airforce.

**Rhineland** – area of land inside Germany that borders France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

**Saar** – area of Germany that was rich with coalfields.

Hitler hated the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. He said that when Germany lost the First World War he had broken down and cried and that he would stop at nothing to overturn this hated treaty. He was true to his word and as soon as he became chancellor in 1933, he started to test how much he could get away with. This set him firmly on the road to war.

**Task – Using the information on pages 48-49 complete the table on pages 50-51 to show the steps that Hitler took to undo the Treaty of Versailles. Look back at page 14 for the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.**

**Hitler leaves the League of Nations Disarmament Conference, 1933:** From 1932-1934 the League of Nations held a Disarmament Conference. Hitler said he would disarm, as long as every other nation would too. If other nations would not do this, then he wanted to be allowed to have an army equal in size to France. France refused to cooperate. Hitler stormed out of the conference claiming it was France being unreasonable and not him. Germany left the League of Nations and so was no longer expected to keep to its Covenant and work to avoid war.

**The Dollfuss Affair, 1934:** Hitler was born in Austria and Germany had been ruled by Austria for around 600 years. Many Austrians and Germans felt that the two countries should be one, and were outraged when Anschluss was forbidden in the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler's foreign policy of overturning the Treaty of Versailles meant that it made sense to try to unite with Austria. Aware of Hitler's intentions, the Austrian chancellor, Dollfuss, banned the Nazi Party in Austria. In 1934, Hitler responded by telling Austrian Nazis to create havoc within the country. Hitler's plot ultimately failed because the Austrian army supported the government and because Mussolini moved his troops onto the Austrian border, promising to stop Hitler's Anschluss. Hitler realised his army was not yet strong enough to engage in war, so he backed down claiming the Austrian Nazi Party had acted alone.


**The Saar plebiscite, 13<sup>th</sup> January 1935:** The Saar was a rich industrial area, which had been given to the League of Nations for 15 years under the Treaty of Versailles. This agreement was due to expire in 1935 so a plebiscite (when the people vote on a matter) was held to decide who should govern the area – France or Germany. 90% of the population voted to re-join Germany and Hitler


was able to use this as victory as propaganda to show that German-speaking people wanted to unite under the Nazis. He also gained the rich coalfields which could be used to power his industry and build weapons.

**Rearmament, March 1935:** At the 'Freedom to Rearm Rally' in 1935 Hitler showed off weapons and troops that he had secretly been building. He also announced he was reintroducing conscription (he did this in 1936), expanding his army to one million men and building a Luftwaffe (air force). This marked the fact that Hitler was sure that he could openly defy to the Treaty of Versailles, without other countries stopping him.

**Anglo-German Naval Agreement, June 1935:** For some time the people in Britain had felt the Treaty of Versailles had been too harsh on Germany. In June 1935, Britain signed an agreement with Germany saying that Hitler could build his navy to 35% of the size of the British one. When Germany offered to restrict the growth of its navy and respect Britain's naval supremacy it was too good an offer for Britain to decline. Britain also allowed Germany to build 45% of the number of British submarines. Hitler saw this as Britain admitting the Treaty of Versailles was unfair and that they could, therefore, ignore it. The military terms of the Treaty of Versailles were officially dead and, significantly, Britain had not consulted France and Italy before signing the agreement.

**The Rhineland, March 1936:** In 1935 France and the USSR signed the Franco-Soviet pact, an agreement to support each other if either was attacked by Germany. Hitler used this pact to claim that Germany was under threat, having enemies on both the western and eastern fronts. He responded by sending troops into the Rhineland on 7th March 1936. The troops were greeted by civilians who gave them flowers. Hitler simply was not in a position to fight, so sending his men into the Rhineland was a huge gamble

Event	Date	What happened?	How did this break the Treaty of Versailles?
 <p><i>Hitler leaves the League of Nations Disarmament Conference</i></p>	1933	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hitler said he would disarm if other countries agreed to disarm as well</li> <li>• He demanded an army of equal size to France if this was not agreed to</li> <li>• Hitler stormed out and Germany left the League of Nations</li> </ul>	Germany had been limited to 100,000 men in their army – now Hitler was trying to go past this limit

Event	Date	What happened?	How did this break the Treaty of Versailles?
<p>The Dollfuss Affair</p> 			
<p>The Saar plebiscite</p> 			
<p>Rearmament</p> 			

Anglo-German  
Naval  
Agreement



The Rhineland



## Which countries supported Hitler?

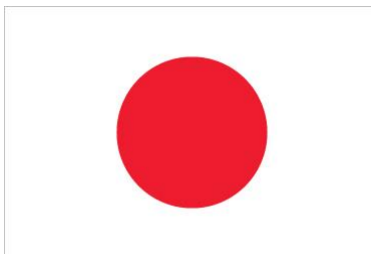


**Italy:** Hitler could see that he had many things in common with Fascist Italy, yet Mussolini had prevented him from

### **Key Fact**

Mussolini had a penchant (taste) for violence even as a child!

invading Austria after the Dollfuss Affair in 1934. However, by 1936 things had changed. Hitler and Mussolini made the Rome-Berlin Axis. This was not a formal agreement, but the two countries said that they would work more closely together. Mussolini's relationship with Britain and France had suffered. Agreeing to work with Hitler meant that Mussolini was no longer isolated in Europe and that he could continue to rebuild a 'new Roman empire' safe in the knowledge that he had an ally if other countries declared war in retaliation.



**Japan:** In 1905, Japan had fought against the USSR and there was still rivalry and hatred between the two countries. The Communist USSR had developed the Comintern – a group dedicated to spreading Communism. On 25<sup>th</sup> November 1936, Germany and

Japan agreed the Anti-Comintern Pact, an agreement that they would work together against Communism, which was later joined by Mussolini. By 1936, Japan had invaded much of China. However, the Japanese military was aware that China's giant neighbour, Russia, might step in to support China at any time. In agreeing to this pact with Hitler, Japan hoped that China would feel threatened and surrender to Japan.

**Possible allies – Italy and Japan:** Italy, Japan and Germany entered talks to agree a triple alliance between them. However, they could not agree the focus of it – Japan wanted the pact to focus on destroying the USSR while Mussolini wanted it to be a pact against Britain and France. Because of this disagreement, Japan was not involved in agreeing the first pact on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1939. Japanese relations with the USSR had been strained ever since the invasion of Manchuria. The formal name of this agreement was the Pact of Friendship and Alliance between Germany and Italy, however, Mussolini nicknamed it the Pact of Steel – their armies would work together if any war broke out. Having Hitler on his side was definitely an advantage for Mussolini, especially as his relationship with Britain and France was declining. Japan joined the Pact of Steel in 1940, making the three allies in the Second World War.

**Task – Answer the consolidation questions below using the information.**

What were Italy's reasons for agreeing an alliance with Germany?

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What were Japan's reasons for agreeing an alliance with Germany?

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**Date:**

**Big Question 7 – What was the policy of appeasement and was it a good idea?**

**Engage Task:**

- 1) In what year was the Dollfuss affair?
- 2) When was the Freedom to Rearm Rally?
- 3) When was the German-Naval Agreement?
- 4) What was the German-Naval Agreement?
- 5) What was the Pact of Steel?

**Score out of 5:**

**Key Terms**

**Appeasement** – giving in to someone so that it avoids conflict.

**Lebensraum** – this is Living Space. Hitler wanted this in the East.

**Rearmament** – building up the army, navy and air force.

**Sudetenland** – an area of Czechoslovakia which had a lot of German speakers.

Hitler had already attempted to join Germany and Austria in 1934. One of the main reasons the plan had failed was that the Italian leader, Mussolini, stood up to Hitler because he was suspicious of him at this time, but Hitler thought he would try again. Hitler was determined to unite Germany and Austria in order to achieve two foreign policy aims – uniting all German-speaking people in a Greater Germany and destroying the Treaty of Versailles in which the Anschluss had been banned. By March 1938, Hitler had once again broken with the Treaty of Versailles by uniting Germany with Austria.



Hitler now had access to the east, which was important for acquiring Lebensraum. The Austrian army of 100,000 men added strength to the German forces, and Austrian resources such as steel and iron ore helped fuel Hitler's rearmament programme. Germany now bordered western Czechoslovakia on three sides. To take it, Hitler would first have to take the border region, known as the Sudetenland.

For this Big Question, you are going to look at it through three 'lenses': **study**, **sources** and **scholarship**.

**Study:** Read through the 'story' of appeasement and Czechoslovakia. For each paragraph, you need to create a 'title' on one side, and a short summary (2-3 bullet points maximum) on the other.

**Sources:** Look at Sources A and B. Under each source, answer the questions, give a judgement on their usefulness, or say what you can learn from the source.

**Scholarship:** Read through three pieces of scholarly work on appeasement. Underneath each interpretation, explain why that theory was developed at that particular time.

<b>Story</b>		
<i>Create a title for each paragraph</i>	<i>Read through and highlight any important information on the events, impact and consequences appeasement.</i>	<i>Summarise with 1-2 bullet points</i>
Reasons for targeting Czechoslovakia	<p>Czechoslovakia had been set up under the Treaty of Versailles, which Hitler had promised to overturn. He saw invading the Sudetenland as the first stop in destroying Czechoslovakia and 'righting' another 'wrong' of the Treaty of Versailles. Czechoslovakia had a big army and strong fortifications. The land was home to around 3 million German-speaking people. As a minority group (around 20% of the population), the German-speaking Sudeten's claimed that they had been persecuted by the Czechs and used this an excuse to start riots. Hitler used this as an excuse to step in and 'save' German speakers in the Sudetenland. It would be a good base from which to launch an attack on Czechoslovakia.</p> <p>Using similar tactics to those used in Austria, Nazis in the Sudetenland started demonstrations to weaken the government. In May 1938, Hitler made it clear he would fight for the region. Politicians in Britain and France racked their brains to find a way to stop Hitler invading the Sudetenland, knowing that if he did, Britain and France could be obliged to protect Czechoslovakia and declare war.</p> <p>On 15<sup>th</sup> September 1938, Chamberlain flew to Berchtesgaden, Hitler's holiday home in the German mountains, to meet with the Fuhrer. Hitler told Chamberlain that the crisis could only be resolved if he was allowed the Sudetenland. Chamberlain was desperate to avoid war and agreed, so long as all actions were peaceful. Chamberlain's actions are known as 'appeasement' – the desire to avoid war by making concessions (giving things up to others). Chamberlain then met with the Czechs and forced them to agree to Hitler's terms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hitler wanted to destroy the TOV</li> <li>• Czechoslovakia had a large army and 3 million German-speaking people</li> <li>• German-speaking people in Sudetenland claimed they had been attacked by the Czechs</li> </ul>

Hitler then changed his demands, and with war looming on the horizon, Mussolini suggested that the leaders of Germany, France, Britain and Italy should meet and discuss Czechoslovakia's borders, in the hope that this would stop imminent conflict. On 29th September 1938, the four great powers of Europe signed an agreement at the Munich Conference. This stated that the Czechoslovakian army must leave the Sudetenland and that the area was to be handed to Germany, with Hitler promising peace if this were agreed.

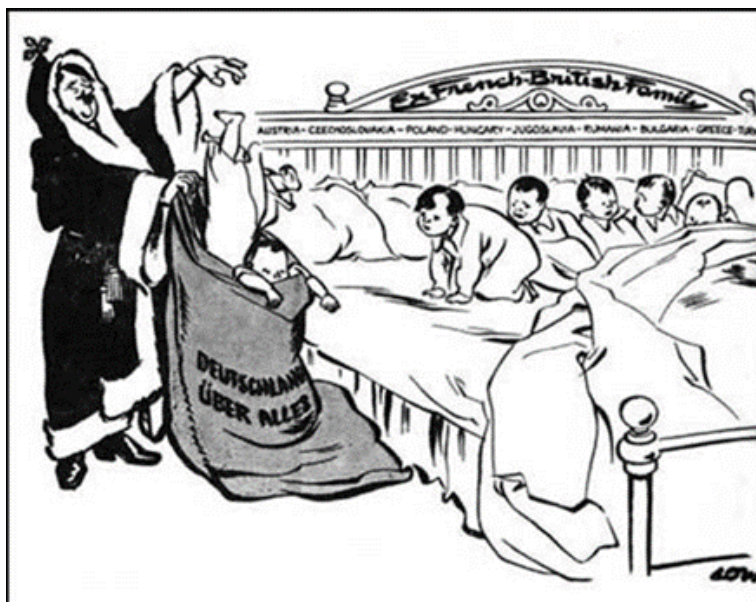
Hitler had got everything he demanded, and on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1938 he marched his troops into the Sudetenland, an area that was not his, with no international opposition. Without the Sudetenland's fortifications, the Czechs were defenceless and they fell to Nazi occupation. The Czech government had not been consulted and now the people of the Sudetenland found themselves as the newest members of Greater Germany. German Sudeten's greeted Nazi soldiers with flowers, just like Austrians had in March 1938. However, the Czechs were fearful as the troops marched across their border. To them this was a real invasion.

The day after the conference, Chamberlain met Hitler alone and the two of them signed an Anglo-German declaration. They agreed that they would never go to war against each other. As Chamberlain stepped off his private plane on his return to Britain, he waved a copy of the Anglo-German declaration in the air and declared that he had achieved 'Peace in our time.'

Hitler completed his invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1939 – he broke the promises that he had made at the Munich Conference and to Chamberlain in the Anglo-German declaration. Appeasement had failed.

## Sources

**Source A:** A British cartoon from October 1938. His sack says *Deutschland Uber Alles* ('Germany over all'). The caption reads: 'Europe can look forward to a Christmas of peace'



I can learn...

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Details in the source that tell me this...

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I can learn...

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Details in the source that tell me this...

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**Source B:** A cartoon published in the *Evening Standard* newspaper in July 1936, entitled 'Steeping Stones to Glory'. The text on the carpet reads, 'Rearmament', 'Rhineland Fortification', 'Danzig', '?', '??', '!!', '!!!', then finally 'Boss of the Universe'.



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## Interpretations

### **Interpretation 1: Popular majority view (1937-38) – Chamberlain had done well**

Most people approved of Chamberlain's actions- treated as a hero when he returned to Britain after signing the Munich agreement. Only one minister resigned and some ministers became even stronger supporters of appeasement than Chamberlain was.

#### **Why was this interpretation developed at this time?**



Britain were desperate to avoid war due to the horrors of World War I and their unpreparedness for more conflict. Chamberlain came away from the meeting claiming to have achieved 'peace in our time' – this sounded promising to millions of apprehensive Britons.

### **Interpretation 2: Orthodox view (1948-1960s) – Appeasement was a terrible misjudgement**

Winston Churchill's view, written in his book *The Gathering Storm*. He was critical of appeasement but argued that Chamberlain was motivated by good intentions (but had miscalculated and misjudged Hitler). Churchill made it sound like he was the only one to have opposed Appeasement, claiming Chamberlain should have put together a 'Grand Alliance' of Britain, France, the USA and the USSR to stop the Axis powers.

#### **Why was this interpretation developed at this time?**



**Interpretation 3: Academic revisionist view (1960s-1990s) – Chamberlain was in an impossible position**

A.J.P. Taylor (1961) - Hitler didn't have a clear plan, he grasped opportunities when they came along. We therefore cannot blame Chamberlain for not knowing what Hitler had planned, Hitler didn't know himself, how could Chamberlain? Some historians claimed that appeasement was the right thing to do because it meant Britain had time to build up its armed forces particularly its air defences and the RAF.

**Why was this interpretation developed at this time?**





**Date:**

**Big Question 8 – What was the Nazi-Soviet Pact?**

***Engage Task – Complete the recall questions***

- 1) Which country did Germany unite with in 1938 in an Anschluss?
- 2) How did Hitler justify wanting the Sudetenland?
- 3) What is meant by the term 'appeasement'?
- 4) The leaders of which four countries met at the Munich Conference in 1938?
- 5) By what year did Hitler complete the invasion of Czechoslovakia?

**Score out of 5:**

**Key Terms**

**Communism** - Left-wing political organisation, in which everyone is believed to be equal and everyone works for the good of the state.

**Lebensraum** – Living Space in the East. One of Hitler's aims.



## Why would Hitler set his eyes on Poland?

In the hated Treaty of Versailles, areas of Germany had been given away to form the new state of Poland. Many Germans lost their property or found themselves living outside Germany. When Hitler came to power, he promised to destroy the Treaty of Versailles, to reunite German-speaking people, and to claim Lebensraum in the east. Invading Poland would help him achieve all of these aims.

Furthermore, Hitler had grown confident. He had seen Britain and France fail to take action against him as he broke the terms of the Treaty of Versailles and felt that, even though they had made agreements to protect Poland, they would do nothing to stop him invading the country. Finally, Poland had no natural frontiers, so would be easy to attack. However, he still had a problem – what would the USSR do if he invaded Poland?

When Poland was created at the end of the First World War, it had been made up of former German and Russian territories. Both countries despised the new state and the USSR had immediately started questioning its existence. Stalin was determined to reclaim this land and Hitler was concerned about what Stalin would do if the Germans invaded. Hitler could not risk Stalin intervening, so he sent his foreign minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop, to make a deal. If the USSR would be given Polish territory. On 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1939, a non-aggression pact was signed. It was called the Nazi-Soviet Pact.

Why did Hitler want to invade Poland?

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Why did Stalin want to invade Poland?

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Why is it surprising that the Nazi-Soviet Pact was signed?

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Why did Stalin not side with Britain and France?

During the First World War Russia had been allies with Britain and France. Hitler had made many speeches about how Russians were genetically inferior to Germans, he had murdered and imprisoned Communists in Germany and had promised to destroy Communism. It would have made more sense for Stalin to unite with Britain and France against Hitler. However, Stalin felt he could no longer trust his old allies.

***Task – Next to each reason for distrust, state why this strengthened the feelings of distrust between Stalin and the Allies, and how Stalin would be feeling.***

Stalin could see that the League of Nations, led by Britain and France, could not contain the threat of Hitler – he would feel **threatened**.

Stalin joined the League of Nations in 1934, but witnessed how weak it was in the Manchuria, Abyssinia and Rhineland crises.



In 1934, the USSR and France had signed an agreement stating that France would protect Russia from German invasion. However, when Hitler remilitarised the Rhineland in 1936, France did nothing.



Britain and France had followed a policy of appeasement towards Germany in the 1930s. One of their justifications for this was that Hitler could act as a barrier against Communism, so should be allowed to rearm.



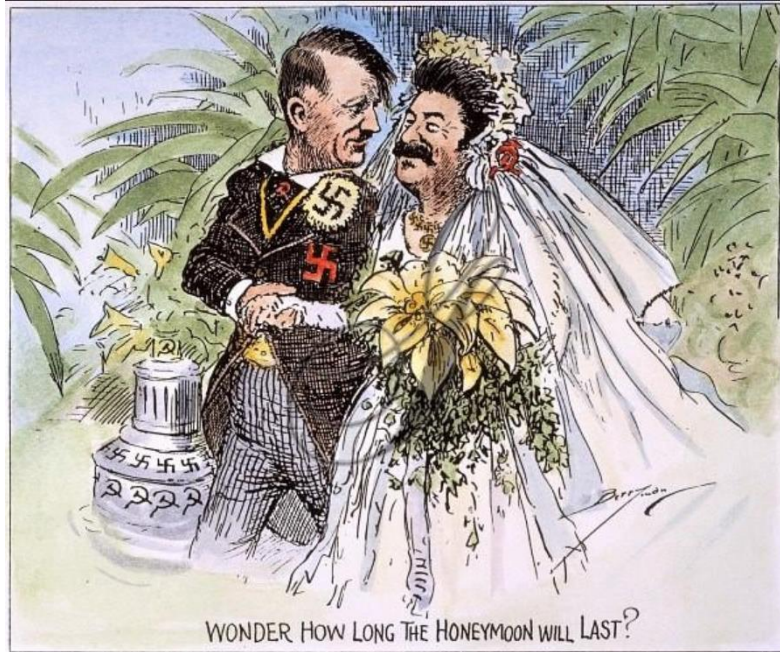
In 1938, the Allies signed the Munich Agreement with Hitler. Stalin was not invited or consulted.



Hitler sent Ribbentrop, one of his most senior Nazis, to meet with Stalin. Britain had sent Reginald Drax, a man who could not make any decisions without referring back to London first.



**Task – Annotate around the source below about what you can learn about the Nazi-Soviet Pact.**



**I can learn...**

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**Details in the source that tell me this...**

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**I can learn...**

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**Details in the source that tell me this...**

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I can learn...

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**Date:**

**Big Question 9 – To what extent was the Treaty of Versailles to blame for the outbreak of the Second World War?**

***Engage Task – Complete the recall quiz***

- 1) Give one reason why Hitler wanted to invade Poland in 1939.
- 2) On what date was the Nazi-Soviet Pact signed?
- 3) Why was Stalin insulted by the Munich Agreement in 1938?
- 4) Give one other reason why Stalin decided not to side with Britain and France.
- 5) Give one reason why Hitler wanted to sign the Nazi-Soviet Pact.

**Score out of 5:**

**Key Terms**

**Ultimatum** – A final demand or statement of terms. The rejection of which will result in retaliation of some kind.

When the peace treaties were signed at the end of the First World War and the League of Nations was created, the aim was to prevent another world war. Throughout the 1930s both Britain and France followed policies of appeasement towards aggressive dictators such as Hitler and Mussolini in the hope that they could avoid a major conflict. However, these measures failed. On 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939, Nazi troops entered Poland and two days later the British and French declared war in Hitler's Germany. The world was at war once more.

Hitler was confident he could invade Poland with ease. After signing the Nazi-Soviet Pact, he had the might of the USSR on his side and was convinced that Britain and France would continue their policy of appeasement. However, Britain had signed an agreement with Poland, guaranteeing it security from Nazi attack.

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939, at 04:45am, the Schleswig-Holstein, a German battleship, opened fire on the port of Danzig. Danzig had been made an independent state in the Treaty of Versailles. Poland ran it, but 90% of its population was German. At the same time, 62 divisions of the German army and 1300 Luftwaffe aeroplanes invaded Poland. The Polish air force was caught on the ground and obliterated.



Hitler's generals were worried that they were still not ready for war and even leaked plans to Britain in the hope it would force Hitler to abandon his plans. Hitler ignored his generals' concerns and made them swear

oaths of loyalty to him. On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939, the British sent an ultimatum to Germany. The Germans were to send assurances to Britain that they would withdraw their troops from Poland by 11am or Britain would be in a state of war with Germany, and would send troops to Europe. When no reply came by the deadline, Britain declared war on Germany. France followed suit and declared war. Poland was overrun by Nazi and Soviet troops within four weeks and Hitler was convinced that Britain and France would back down. He was wrong – the Second World War started.

**Task – Around the mind-map below, write reasons as to why the Second World War broke out. Try to group them into factors e.g. the failure of the League of Nations, actions Hitler took, the Treaty of Versailles and the harsh terms, appeasement and other reasons.**



**“The Second World War broke out due to the harshness of the Treaty of Versailles.”**

**How far do you agree?**

**You may use the following in your answer:**

- **Military terms**
- **Appeasement**

How to answer this question:

- Introduction – set out your view and answer the question.
- ‘For’ paragraph – include any points you have that the Second World War broke out due to the **harshness of the Treaty of Versailles**.
- ‘Against’ paragraph – include any points you have that the Second World War broke out due to **reasons other than the Treaty of Versailles**.

**Hint:**

For your main body paragraphs, use a **PEEL** structure to get down all the information

- Conclusion – reiterate your overall view and give some evidence to back it up.

Plan:







## **Marking and Feedback**



## **Additional Engage Tasks**

### ***Engage Task One – Complete the recall questions***

1. How many soldiers died during World War One?
2. How many civilians were killed?
3. How many countries met in January 1919 in Paris?
4. Who were the 'Big Three?' (Names of the leaders and countries).
5. Which leader wanted to introduce a 14-point plan?

**Score out of 5:**

### ***Engage Task Two – Complete the recall questions***

- 1) How many battleships were the German Navy limited to?
- 2) What Article of the Treaty of Versailles set the reparation figure?
- 3) Which body was formed that Germany were not allowed to join?
- 4) What were the German politicians who signed the Treaty nicknamed?
- 5) What date did World War One formally end?

**Score out of 5:**

**Engage Task Three – Complete the recall questions**

- 1) Name one of the four aims of the League of Nations.
- 2) Why did America not join the League of Nations?
- 3) Name one of the three main sanctions used by the League.
- 4) Who did the League side with in Corfu in 1923?
- 5) Which country invaded Manchuria in the 1930s?

**Score out of 5:**

**Engage Task Four – Complete the recall questions**

- 1) In which European country was Hitler born?
- 2) In what year did Hitler become chancellor?
- 3) What is meant by the term 'lebensraum'?
- 4) What was the term for the policy adopted by Neville Chamberlain towards Hitler?
- 5) What was the general American attitude towards European affairs in the 1930s?

**Score out of 5:**