

Y9 Term 3 Knowledge Organiser – The Interwar Period 1918-1939

How unstable was Europe during the Interwar Years?



Enquiries

1. How far was the post-war settlement a peace keeping failure? [2]
2. How far was the Great Depression the main reason for the rise of fascism in Germany? [3]
3. How did Hitler consolidate and secure control? [2]
4. How far was the failure of the policy of appeasement the main cause of the outbreak of WWII? [3]

Key Words

Alliance – agreement between two or more countries to protect each other's interests or in the event of a threat.

Anschluss – 'joining'; the annexation of Austria by Germany

Appeasement – a policy of giving in to some of someone's demands in the hope that this stops them going further. This was the policy towards Hitler during the 1930s.

Armistice – an agreement to stop war; a truce

Aryan – Nazi belief in German 'master race'.

Communism – ultra left-wing political ideology where the state owns all business, usually

Conscription – people have to serve in the army by law; strong state control but economic equality.

Conference – a formal meeting

Democracy – power from the people; people can vote for their government

Depression – a period of low economic growth causing unemployment and poverty

Dictator – autocratic ruler who has complete power and control

Diplomacy – managing international relations; talking rather than fighting

Fascism – ultra right-wing political ideology with strong state control (dictator) and lack of freedoms

Hyperinflation – where there is too much money in circulation, prices rise, and money becomes worthless in value

Industrialisation – growth in factories

Invasion – an armed attack on another country

Lebensraum – living space (territory) for German speaking people

Left wing – pro-reform and change; represent workers' rights & equality (socialist/communist)

Mein Kampf – 'My Struggle'; Hitler's political manifesto.

Militarism – belief that a country should have a strong military and be prepared to use it aggressively to defend / promote national interests.

Rearmament – where a country starts building up their military

Reparations – demanding money to compensate for damage done.

Right wing – Promote the status quo (against change); promotes private business & traditional values

Treaty – an agreement between two or more sides to formally end a war / hostilities.

Volksdeutsche - German speaking people, or German-blooded people.

Volkgemeinschaft – 'peoples' community'; German speaking peoples.

Timeline

Peace	11 th Nov 1918	End of First World War & signing of the Armistice
	18 th Jan 1919	The Paris Peace Conference begins
	28 th June 1919	Treaty of Versailles is signed
	10 th Jan 1920	Formation of the League of Nations; 42 member states.
The League of Nations	1922	Mussolini (Fascist) becomes dictator of Italy
	January 1923	Ruhr Crisis; France occupies industrial area, the Ruhr, in Germany.
	November 1923	Height of hyperinflation in Germany, after the government prints paper money to pay striking workers in the Ruhr. A loaf of bread costs £200b marks (cost 0.63 marks in 1918).
	1923	Italy invades Corfu
	8 th Nov 1923	Failed Munich Putsch by the Nazi Party.
	1924	Dawes Plan signed between Germany and US businesses, to allow Germany's economic recovery (but now tied to US economy).
	1924	Hitler is found guilty of treason after a failed coup to overthrow the Bavarian government. He is sentenced to just 5 years in prison and serves only 9 months. He writes 'Mein Kampf' in prison.
	1925	Greek invasion of Bulgaria
	1925	Locarno Treaty is signed - Germany promised to respect its borders
	8 th Sept 1926	Germany joins League of Nations; negotiated by Stresemann.
	1928	Kellogg-Briand Pact – 65 countries promise not to go to war again.
	29 th Oct 1929	Wall Street Crash causes Great Depression.
	1931	Manchurian Crisis - Japanese invasion of Manchuria, in China.
	Origins of Second World War	January 1933
Oct 1933		Hitler leaves the LoN's Disarmament Conference. Germany leaves the LoN and begins remilitarising, breaking the ToV
1934		Dollfuss assassination (Chancellor of Austria) during failed Nazi coup.
1934		The Soviet Union joins the League of Nations.
Jan 1935		The Saar (industrial area) re-joins Germany after popular vote.
March 1935		Germany's Rearmament Rally; Hitler introduces the Luftwaffe, announces conscription and intention to remilitarise the Rhineland.
April 1935		The Stresa Front is formed - France, Britain and Italian alliance
June 1935		The Anglo-German Naval Agreement, breaking the ToV and SF alliance.
October 1935		Abyssinian Crisis – Italy invades Abyssinia (Ethiopia)
March 1936		German troops remilitarise the Rhineland
July 1936		The outbreak of Spanish Civil War; Hitler and Mussolini support Franco
October 1936		The Rome-Berlin Axis is agreed.
1937		Japan launch full-scale invasion of China
March 1938		Anschluss with Austria
15 th Sept 1938		Chamberlain meets with Hitler over the Sudeten Crisis
29 th Sept 1938		The Munich Conference – Hitler is given the Sudetenland (Cz)
10 th Oct 1939		German invasion of the Sudetenland
March 1939	German invasion of Czechoslovakia	
August 1939	Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact signed	
1 st Sept 1939	Germany invade Poland	
3 rd Sept 1939	Start of Second World War	

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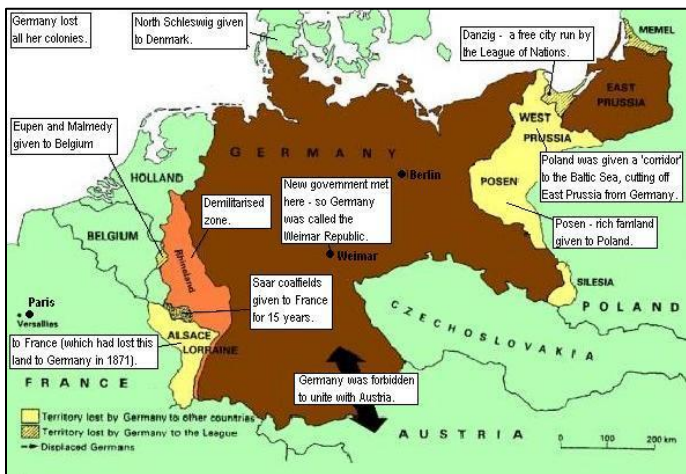
Enquiry 4 - How far was the failure of the policy of appeasement the main cause of the outbreak of WWII?

The Treaty of Versailles (U BRAT)



The German people were extremely unhappy about the treaty that was signed at the end of WWI by their politicians, nicknamed the 'November Criminals'. Germany could not afford to pay the money requested by the treaty and were humiliated by its military [army] and territorial [land] terms; Germany had been a militaristic and imperialistic society before WWI. The key terms were:

- **Unfair** – that Germany was not allowed to attend. It was seen as a 'diktat', a dictated peace.
- **Blame** – for WW1 under Article 231, the War Guilt Clause
- **Reparations** – £6.6 billion / 132 million gold marks, which arguably led to hyperinflation
- **Army** – reduced to 100,000 men; only allowed 6 battleships, no tanks or aircraft.
- **Territory** – industrial regions such as The Saar (coalfields) placed under French protection, the Rhineland was demilitarised and Danzig was declared a Free City, They were not allowed to unite with Austria. In total they lost 13% of their land [below].



Failure of the League of Nations



The League of Nations was a group of countries set up to help keep world peace. This was a group designed to settle problems through discussion rather than violence. These were the main reasons why the League was a failure:

1. Absence of the USA - Not all countries joined; sanctions therefore ineffective
2. Ineffective Sanctions - The League had no real power because they could not effectively enforce economic or military sanctions without the USA. Countries would just continue to trade with USA. The League had no army so had to rely on member's armies, who were reluctant to start a war
3. British & French Self-Interests – both often acted in their own self interest by doing what was best for them, not those who needed help.
4. Long Response Times - The League was unable to act quickly as it took a long time to discuss things. It was a year before they issued a statement declaring objections to the invasion of Manchuria.

Hitler's aggressive foreign policy aims and actions [outlined in *Mein Kampf*]



1. **Abolish the Treaty of Versailles**
2. **Expand German territory** – this policy was known as **Lebensraum** (living space).
3. **Defeat Communism** – Hitler hated communism and hoped to expand the German Empire by taking land from the USSR.

Hitler became Chancellor in 1933 and he almost immediately began secretly rearming. Although forbidden to do so by the Treaty of Versailles, Hitler ordered his troops into the Rhineland in 1936.

His next steps were to take back the lands that had been taken away after World War One which included parts of Czechoslovakia and the Sudetenland. The final straw was when Hitler invaded Poland in 1939. This caused Britain and France to declare war on Germany.

Failure of Appeasement



Appeasement was designed to allow Hitler to do some things in order to prevent a world war. Although Britain and France could have stopped Hitler at many points they did not want to risk war against him. The general public wanted to avoid a war at all costs. Tactically, appeasement would also buy time for Britain to build up its army. The most famous example of Appeasement was the Munich Agreement which stated that Germany would make no further attempts at gaining land, if they were allowed the Sudetenland. However, Hitler invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia in 1939.

The Nazi-Soviet Pact



In 1939 Hitler offers Stalin a deal, Hitler agrees that he will not go to war with Russia and that the two countries would split Poland in half and take half each. Stalin did not trust Hitler but he also did not trust Britain and France, who had left him isolated by refusing to take his concerns, about Hitler or an alliance with the USSR, seriously. Stalin decided to accept to Nazi-Soviet pact. Many argue this was one of the main causes of war as it ruined chances of a British-Soviet pact, demonstrated Hitler was intent on war and demonstrated to the British public that Hitler could not be trusted.

Key dates

- From March 1935 - **Rearmament**
- March 1936 - **Remilitarisation** of the Rhineland
- March 1938 - **Annchluss** with Austria
- September 1938 - The **annexation** of the Sudetenland
- March 1939 - The **invasion** of Czechoslovakia
- August 1939 - **Nazi Soviet Pact**
- September 1939 - The **invasion** of Poland

