



THE CAUSES OF

WORLD WAR 2



Main Causes of WW2

V	Versailles Impact	<input type="radio"/>
H	Hitler's Foreign Policy	<input type="radio"/>
D	Global Depression	<input type="radio"/>
L	League's Failure	<input type="radio"/>
S	Spanish Civil War	<input type="radio"/>
A	Appeasement	<input type="radio"/>
N	Nazi - Soviet Pact	<input type="radio"/>

Why Did International Relations Collapse by 1939?

The Causes of World War 2

Hitler's Foreign Policy Aims



(YES) Appeasement Justified (NO)

P1 - Britain Was Alone
League is 'dead' by 1936. (collective security gone)
USA = isolationist.
Australia / Empire = Not willing to help Britain.
Britain not strong enough to stand up to Hitler especially after 1936.

P2 - Britain Needed Time
Military was weak.
Generals said NOT ready Germany stronger by 1938
So - Appease + Rearm!

P3 - Defeat Communism
Britain = anti-communist.
Stalin seen as bigger danger than Hitler. Therefore, a stronger Germany created a BUFFER that could help hold back Soviet aggression.

P1 Hitler got bolder
Allowed him to rearm.
Allowed him break Versailles.
Encouraged him to demand more.

P2 Betrayed Czech Allies
British allies.
Sacrificed them at Munich.
Churchill said it was against British values.

P3 Angered Stalin
British appeasement angered Stalin who felt isolated.
Britain - slow reply to his letters.
This pushed Stalin to signing the Nazi-Soviet Pact in 1939.

'The causes all link, like a web ...'

Why Appeasement?

A lone - Britain isolated
League has failed.
USA was isolationists.
Therefore Britain was not strong enough to stand up to Hitler especially after 1936.

B ritain needed time to rearm
Britain's military was weak.
British generals warned they could not fight.
Germany had begun re-arming.
Chamberlain = Appeasement + Rearmament

C haracter of Chamberlain.
He believed in and wanted peace. He said ..
"War wins nothing, cures nothing, ends nothing.

D efeat Communism.
Britain = anti-communist.
Stalin seen as a bigger danger the Hitler.
A strong Germany created a BUFFER.
This would help hold back Soviet aggression.

Treaty of Versailles

German ruined and humiliated by the treaty.

- Bitter Germans
- Fuel for Hitler's actions
- Propaganda for Hitler

Global Depression

Remember the **domino effect** that leads to the Rise of Dictators and League collapses by 1935. This leaves Europe weak and distracted with the concept of collective security now gone.

Japan Manchuria

12 month Lytton Report only condemned Japan

Japan left League and the League is humiliated

Collective security fails

Disarmament Conferences

League members refused to disarm - especially France who feared Germany.

Britain even signed a naval agreement allowing Germany to build more warships but at 1/3 the rate of Britain - Britain is allowing Germany to break the Treaty of Versailles.
Britain again selfish

Hitler Takes Power

Hitler took Germany out of the League. Vowed to rip up the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

Give 3 ways Hitler broke the Treaty of Versailles between 1933 and 1935 ...

1. Rearming in public rally in 1935. Showed off TANKS and PLANES.
2. 1/2 million in the Germany army by 1935.
3. Introduced conscription.
4. Anglo-German Naval Agreement.

Abyssinia Invasion

The League failed and is humiliated

Hitler watched this with keen interest

'The real death of the League was in 1935' - AJP Taylor

Saar Plebiscite

This strengthened the German economy with LEGAL return of coal fields

Military Rally

Hitler OPENLY showed off his army that breaks the terms of the TOV

Rhineland Reoccupation

What was this?
Hitler once again broke the TOV and marched troops in.

Why now / not stopped?
- League weak
- French elections (government in turmoil)
- Appeasement = Britain not prepared to go to war over this. 'walking into own backyard'.
Lord Lothian

Why a risk for Hitler?
- Germany still very weak
- Hitler's position in Germany was still fragile and failure was a risk.

Rome - Berlin Axis

Alliance between Hitler and Mussolini.

League's sanctions against Mussolini pushed Mussolini towards an alliance with Hitler .

Spanish Civil War

What was this?
Communists took over in Spain. Nationalist leader General Franco asked for Hitler's support.

Describe German Involvement

- 1: Transported Franco.
- 2: Condor Legion.
- 3: Bombing Guernica.
- 4: Military advice + tactics.

Why Hitler got involved?
R = Resources for war.
A = Alliance with Franco.
F = Fight communism.
T = Test weapons.

Did Hitler achieve his aims in the Spanish Civil War?

R: Resources = NO
Spain didn't allow Hitler to take advantage - some trade agreements (metals)

A: Alliance = NO
Franco and Hitler did not get along. Spain stayed neutral in WW2.

F: Fight Communism = YES
Franco won /communists lost the civil war. German involvement was crucial

T: Test weapons = YES
Very effective.
New 'carpet bombing' such as city of Guernica.

Anschluss with Austria

Why Anschluss?
German speaking people. Vow to break Versailles.
Hitler didn't fear being stopped from doing it.

What happened?
Forced the resignation of Chancellor Schuschnigg.
Rigged referendum.

Effect?
Hitler wins + stronger.

Appeasement Munich Crisis

What was this?
Sudetenland - what to do?
Hitler got pro - Nazi groups to cause trouble there.
Chamberlain invited to Munich to solve the crisis. Agreed to give it to Hitler + troops move in - thus betraying the Czech leader and British ally - Benes.
Hitler promised Chamberlain he didn't want anything else after the Sudetenland.

"A quarrel in a far-away land between peoples of whom we know nothing". Chamberlain

Nazis Invade Czechoslovakia March 1939

Hitler broke his promise. War now looks certain. Appeasement now over.

Nazi - Soviet Non Agg Pact

What did they agree?
Not to fight each other
Divide Poland

Why did Hitler sign?
1: To avoid a war on 2 sides
2: Scare Britain
3: Got western Poland
4: Time to prepare for war

Why did Stalin sign?
1: Angry at Appeasement
2: Angry with Britain's late response to letter.
3: Got eastern Poland.
4: Time to prepare for war

'The Nazi Soviet pact was the single most important short cause of the Second World War' Historian - N Kelly

Nazis invade Poland

Why invade?

1. 'Lebensraum'.
2. On the way to USSR.
3. NSNAP led Hitler to WRONGLY gamble that Britain wouldn't fight him without the USSR.
4. Appeasement encouraged him.
5. Hitler confident after TESTING weapons / tactics in the Spanish Civil War.
6. Appeasement allowed Hitler to strengthen army + build alliances.

Poland = A gamble too far!

Britain Declares War - WW2

1919	1929-1933	1931 - 32	1932	1933 - 1935	1935	1936	1937	1938 - 39	1939
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Longer Term Causes

'Any account of the origins of the Second World War must give Hitler a leading part' - Modern Historian.

Shorter Term Causes

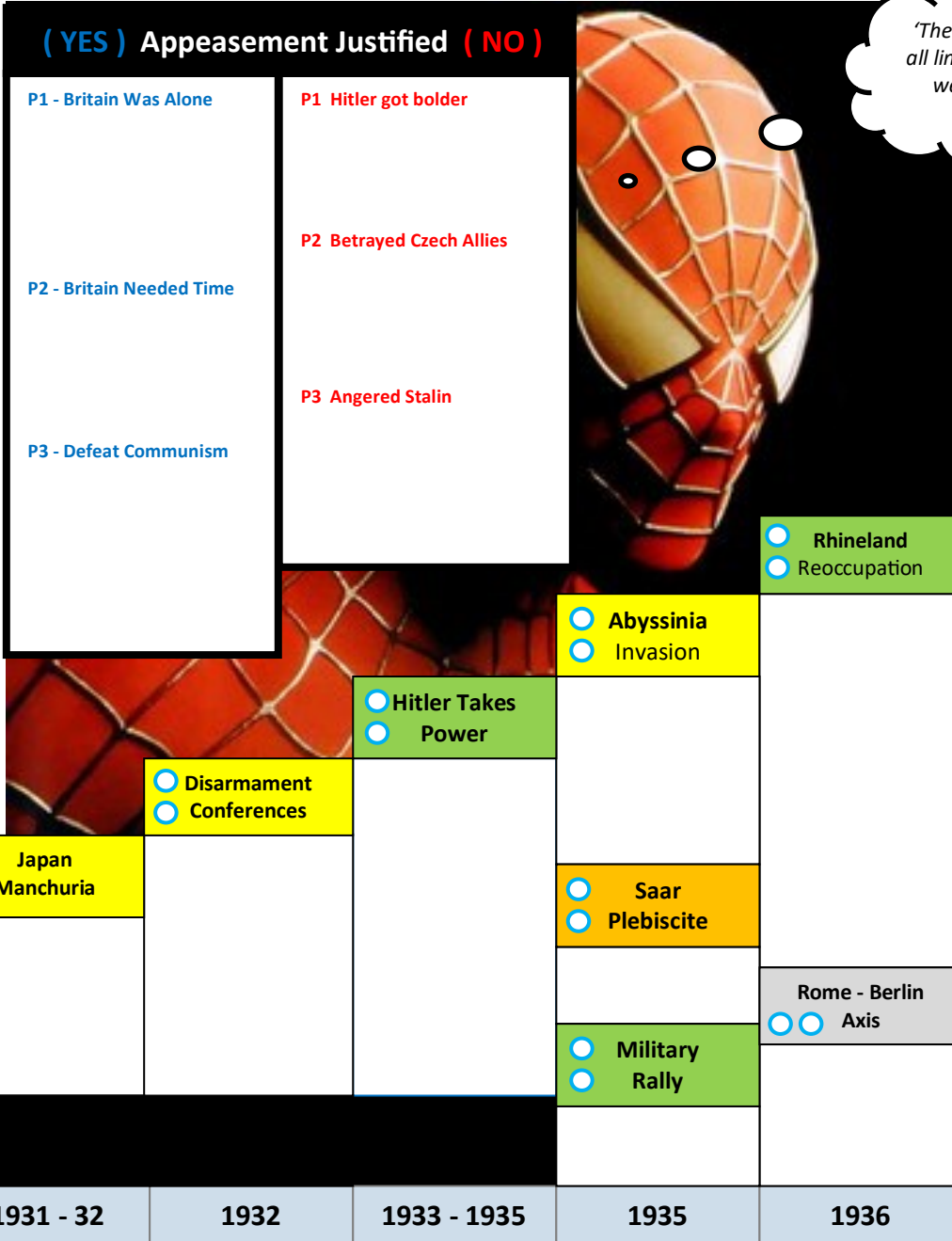
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P1 Hitler got bolder

P2 - Britain Needed Time

P2 Betrayed Czech Allies

P3 - Defeat Communism

P3 Angered Stalin

Why Appeasement?

- A** lone - Britain isolated
- B** ritain needed time to rearm
- C** haracter of Chamberlain.
- D** efeat Communism.

Nazi - Soviet
 Non Agg Pact

Anschluss
 with Austria

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Historian - N Kelly

Spanish Civil War

Why Anschluss?

What happened?

Effect?

What was this?

German Involvement

1:
2:
3:
4:

Rhineland
 Reoccupation

Abyssinia
 Invasion

Hitler Takes
 Power

Appeasement
 Munich Crisis

Nazis invade
 Poland

What was this?

Why Hitler got involved?
R =
A =
F =
T =

Did Hitler achieve his aims in the Spanish Civil War?
R: Resources = NO

A: Alliance = NO

F: Fight communism = YES

T: Test weapons = YES

Japan
 Manchuria

Disarmament
 Conferences

Saar
 Plebiscite

Rome - Berlin
 Axis

Military
 Rally

Nazis Invade
 Czechoslovakia
 March 1939

Poland = A gamble too far!

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Longer Term Causes *'Any account of the origins of the Second World War must give Hitler a leading part' - Modern Historian.* **Shorter Term Causes**

Appeasement Justified?

Britain Alone - the League was all but dead by 1936. France was relatively weak. Mussolini moved towards Hitler.

Time to re-arm - the army was in no state to fight. General warned Chamberlain of this. Appeasement did buy Britain time to re-arm at 4 x rate after 1936.

Defeat Communism - Stalin was clearly a threat to global security. Chamberlain's policy of allowing Germany to act as a counter weight made sense.

Appeasement not Justified?

Hitler stronger, bolder and more confident. He was allowed to remilitarise, invade, join with Austria and ally with Italy unopposed.

Cowardly - it was unethical and 'not British'. Example = sacrifice of the Czech and British ally Benes.

Angered Stalin - and thus was a major reason why Stalin agreed to sign the Nazi - Soviet Non Aggression Pact.



Nazis Invade Czech'kia




Following the Munich Crisis - and the decision to let Hitler take the Sudetenland - Hitler had promised that this was "his last territorial demand".

Hitler saw the British as cowards or "little worms".

This encouraged him to make his next move in Czechoslovakia. He did so - unopposed.

March 1939

Stalin's Role - Letters



Stalin had on several occasions sought to gain support from Britain and France in a mutual alliance. After his letters stating this went unanswered for months - (and then only by diplomats) Hitler responded charmingly, in person to Stalin the very next day.

c1939

Nazi - Soviet Pact

World was shocked with the announcement of the Nazi-Soviet Non Aggression Pact. Also known as the Molotov Ribbentrop Pact.


An agreement that Hitler + Stalin would NOT fight each other.

Why would these obvious enemies do this?



Aug 1939 **Frenemies**

Why Stalin Sign NS Pact?



Both Stalin and Hitler knew that war was inevitable - both needed time to prepare to fight the other.

The agreement secretly allowed for them to divide Poland = necessary land and resources for both.

Stalin had been angered by the policy of appeasement - and the slow, inadequate response to letters. He understood Chamberlain's plan to let Hitler and Stalin - 'slug it out'. He planned the same for Britain and Germany.

Why Hitler Sign the NS Pact?

Both Stalin and Hitler knew that war was inevitable - both needed time to prepare to fight the other.

The agreement secretly allowed for them to divide Poland = necessary land and resources for both.

Hitler knew Germany would likely lose again if fighting a war on two fronts as had happened in WW1. His plan was to defeat (or tame) the West and then turn all his forces against the USSR.



Poland - Gamble too Far

Up until September 1939 - Hitler had again and again gambled and got away with it. This made him less and less fearful that Britain would stand up to him.

However, he was wrong and the invasion of Poland was the final straw - a gamble too far - and Britain declared war.

World War 2 had begun - note, Hitler later admitted that he should have attacked earlier - as Britain had bought more time to re-arm.



Sept 1939

Main Causes of WW2

Hitler's Foreign Policy = aggressive + break Versailles + gamble too far.

Versailles = bitterness and anger in Germany + propaganda for Hitler.

Global Depression = suffering / unrest + rise dictators + damage to League.

Spanish Civil War = Hitler successful test of weapons + tactics = confidence.

Appeasement = Allowed Hitler to get stronger + gamble more.

Nazi Soviet Pact = Hitler did not fear 2 front war then invaded of Poland.



'Any account of the origins of the Second World War must give Hitler a leading part'.

The Causes of World War 2

Mission: to show how the major causes of the Second World War are linked.

1: The Treaty of Versailles



- Caused more conflict
- Reason for appeasement
- Propaganda for Hitler

2: The Global Depression



3: Hitler's Foreign Policy



4: The Failure of the League



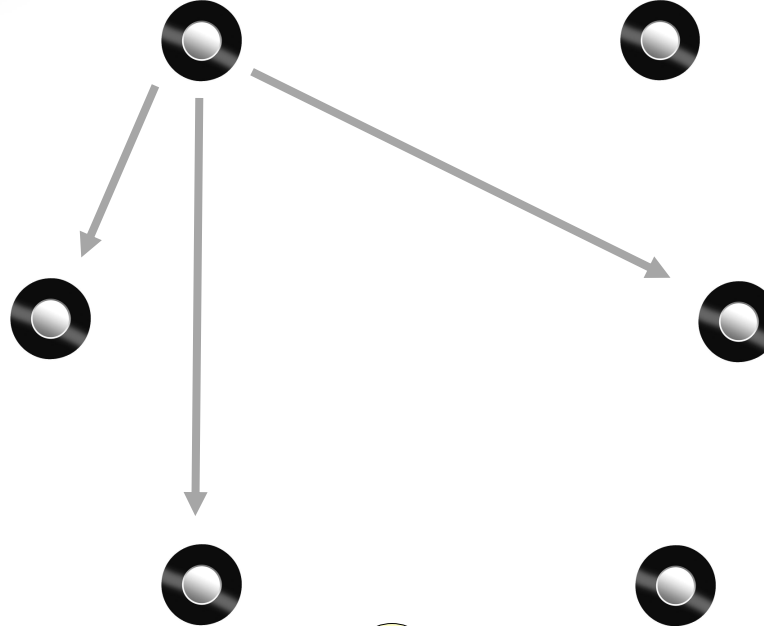
5: Appeasement



6: The Nazi-Soviet Pact



Rank Factors
1-6



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