

THE ROAD TO WORLD WAR 2



1919

The Treaty of Versailles



An important long term cause of WW2 because it ruined the German economy and eventually helped Hitler's rise to power. Hitler labelled the Weimar government leaders the 'November Criminals.'

1920+

The League of Nations - doomed from the start?



The League had some success in the 1920s - BUT, there were early, troubling signs. Council members such as Italy + Britain often acted selfishly rather than uphold the concept of COLLECTIVE SECURITY.

1929

The Wall Street Crash + Global Depression

League of Nations - Beginning of the End



US economic crash = domino effect - USA stopped loans to Europe - protectionism led to trade decline. Governments focused on their own (domestic) + not global problems - rise of extremism e.g. - Hitler.

1931

Japan Invades Manchuria



Like Germany, Japan had been hit very hard by the Global Depression. 50% of Japan's factories closed. Partly as a need for resources (abundant in Manchuria) Japan invaded the region.

1932

Manchuria + The Lytton Report

League - Disarmament Conferences Fail



The League's response to Manchuria was slow and weak = Lytton Report. Japan left the League. Disarmament conferences - the League failed to get an agreement in the years 1931 - 1932.

1933

Hitler Chancellor

Begins Secret Remilitarisation



Hitler pressures President Hindenburg to make him Chancellor in 1933 - He is a dictator by 1934. Hitler immediately begins rebuilding Germany's military = breaking the Treaty of Versailles.

1935

Saar

Public Remilitarization

Conscription Law

Anglo German Naval Agreement



Saar - legally returned after a plebiscite. Hitler holds a public rally to show off his expanded military = 500 000 troops + 1800 military aircraft. Britain looks the other way, now feels the treaty was too harsh.

1936

Rhineland - Appeasement

Abyssinia = League 'Dead'

Rome - Berlin Axis



Hitler gambles + marches troops back into the Rhineland + is not stopped by the French or British. The League fails + is all but 'dead' - Abyssinia. Mussolini of Italy - forges his alliance with Hitler.

1937

Spanish Civil War = 'RAFT'



Germany involvement in the Spanish Civil War - a 'curtain raiser' for World War 2. Hitler gets to test military there. Why involved? Resources Alliance with Franco Fight Communism Test Weapons.

1938

Anschluss

Munich Crisis

Munich Agreement - Appeasement



Hitler annexes Austria using a rigged plebiscite - Austrian Chancellor Schusnigg replaced by pro - Nazi, Seyss Inquart. British PM - Chamberlain = APPEASES + allows Hitler to take the Sudetenland.

1939

Nazis Invade Czech

Nazi - Soviet Pact (NSNAP)

Nazis Attack Poland

Britain Declares War



Munich Agreement broken when Nazis invade Czechoslovakia. Hitler signs a non - aggression pact with Stalin. Hitler is WRONG thinking the NSNAP would frighten Britain into NOT declaring war when he invaded Poland.

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