



# Causes of World War II

## Aftermath of World War I

World War I was called "the war to \_\_\_\_\_"

- Agreement to end WWI did not resolve the problems of the world and lead directly to the next world war, approximately \_\_\_\_\_ years later

Some of the major causes of World War II include:

- Treaty of Versailles
- \_\_\_\_\_ Depression
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure of Appeasement
- Failure of League of \_\_\_\_\_

## Aftermath of World War I

### Treaty of Versailles:

Following \_\_\_\_\_, the victorious Allied Powers met to force Germany to sign the Treaty of Versailles (without input from Germany)

- Germany had to accept guilt for the war & \_\_\_\_\_ reparations
- Germany lost territory and was prohibited from having a large \_\_\_\_\_
- Obviously, Germany felt tricked into the agreement and that the treaty was unfair and humiliating terms

## Aftermath of World War I

### Economic Depression:

- Following WWI, the whole world was hit by economic depression in the late \_\_\_\_\_
  - Economies shrunk, trade is reduced, businesses close, prices fall, banks fail, unemployment rises
  - During this struggle, people look for a \_\_\_\_\_ to resolve their problems.
    - \_\_\_\_\_ became this leader for Germany by promising to restore Germany to wealth and power

## Aftermath of World War I

### Germany's Militarism:

- After Hitler took power, Hitler immediately began to secretly build up Germany's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
  - Even though Britain and France knew of these actions, they thought a stronger Germany would stop spread of Communism from \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ → Hitler ordered German troops to enter German-speaking areas of France, Austria, and Czechoslovakia
  - France and Britain were not prepared for another war so soon
  - Hitler made military alliances with Italy and Japan called the \_\_\_\_\_

## Aftermath of World War I

### Japan's Imperialism:

- Treaty of Versailles → Japan pushed for statement of \_\_\_\_\_, but was rejected by western countries
- Japan felt the international system after WWI seemed designed to privilege Westerners and discriminated against Japanese
  - Laws in several western countries targeted Japanese
- Japan was hit badly by the economic depression and lost faith in the government
  - They turned to the \_\_\_\_\_ to find a solution to their economic problems

## Aftermath of World War I

### Japan's Imperialism Continued:

- In order to produce goods, Japan needed \_\_\_\_\_
  - Japan invaded China and Korea to gain more resources
  - Japanese forces massacred military and civilians in China (up to \_\_\_\_\_ million)
  - China asked the League of Nations for help
  - Japan expanded its empire to many countries in Southeast Asia (China, Korea, Vietnam, Philippines, and more)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ cut off oil trades to Japan due to Japan's invasions
- Japan felt threatened by US military and attacked \_\_\_\_\_

## Aftermath of World War I

### Failure of Appeasement:

Policy of \_\_\_\_\_ (1930's) → Britain and France began to believe the Treaty of Versailles was \_\_\_\_\_ to Germany and Hitler building up army was justifiable

- **1938 (Munich Agreement)** → Allowed Germany to \_\_\_\_\_ areas in Czechoslovakia where German speakers lived (Britain and France would tolerate in hopes Germany would settle down peacefully)

## Aftermath of World War I

### Failure of Appeasement Continued:

- Germany promised not to invade any other areas of Czechoslovakia or any other country
- \_\_\_\_\_ (1 year later) → Germany broke its promise and invade more of Czechoslovakia and Poland
  - Britain/France was not ready for another war, but declared war on Germany immediately
- \_\_\_\_\_ → According to Hitler, France could've stopped his ambitions along the France/Germany border
  - Germany moved military into area (against Treaty)
  - If France pushed back, Hitler would've retreated and stopped

## Aftermath of World War I

### Failure of League of Nations:

\_\_\_\_\_ (1919) → international organization to keep world peace

- **Plan** → all countries are included and conflicts can be settled by negotiation rather than force and everyone responds
- Needed \_\_\_\_\_ agreement before taking action
- Not all countries joined the League of Nations
- League of Nations had no \_\_\_\_\_ to prevent military aggression
  - Italy's invasion of Ethiopia (Africa)
  - Japan's invasion of Southeastern Asia

## Could WWII Have Been Prevented?

### \_\_\_\_\_ of Germany and Japan

- Forced Treaty of Versailles without Germany involvement
- Discrimination against Japanese around world

### \_\_\_\_\_ of Allied Nations

- Germany moving military to France/Germany border
- Japan invading Southeast countries and massacring millions

## Could WWII Have Been Prevented?

### US \_\_\_\_\_

- US turned inward in 1920s-1930s, focussing on themselves
- Avoided international conflicts (several neutrality acts passed)
- Focused on international relations with Latin America and Caribbean
  - \_\_\_\_\_ themselves from conflicts in Europe and Asia

### Misplaced \_\_\_\_\_

- League of Nations → everyone had to agree to take action (even the aggressors)
- Nations believed aggressive countries would just “\_\_\_\_\_” by themselves

## Could WWII Have Been Prevented?

In other words, the Second World War happened because people in power made \_\_\_\_\_ at the end and after World War I

- The leaders set the fuse of conflict, leading to an explosion of war

\_\_\_\_\_ → people who study these decisions and outcomes have the benefit of trying not to repeat the history for similar conflicts in the future