

# SUBJECT: History

## UNIT: Conflict 1918-39: Hitler and the Causes of WWII



### Key dates

**1933** Hitler withdraws from the World Disarmament Conference and the League of Nations

**1934** Non-Aggression Pact with Poland and Dollfuss Affair

**1935** Hitler introduces conscription, signs the Anglo-German Naval Agreement and regains the Saar

**1936** Hitler remilitarises the Rhineland and signs Rome-Berlin Axis with Italy

**1938** Anschluss with Austria, Sudeten Crisis and Munich Agreement

**1939** Hitler occupies Czechoslovakia, Nazi-Soviet Pact and Invasion of Poland

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 1939- WWII**

### Hitler's Aims

1. Destroy the Treaty of Versailles & re-arm,
2. Unite Germany and Austria (Anschluss),
3. Reunite Germany speaking people,
4. Lebensraum,
5. Destroy Communism



### Ambitious Vocabulary

Plebiscite, Anschluss, Appease

### 1933-39 Re-armament \*

Introduces conscription- army increases from 100,000 to 950,000

Creates Luftwaffe (air force) and signs Anglo German Naval Agreement- navy 1/3 Britain's  
**Impact-** Gains confidence that League will not stop him from overturning Treaty. Gains military strength to achieve Lebensraum and invade Poland

### 1935 Saar Plebiscite \*\*

Taken away by League for 15 years. Plebiscite (legal vote) held 90% vote to return to Germany.

**Impact-** Gains confidence German speakers want to reunite (may try to unite others taken away by Treaty).

### 1936 Remilitarisation of

#### Rhineland \*

Hitler marched 22,000 soldiers into demilitarised Rhineland. Told to withdraw if challenged but was not.

**Impact-** Confidence League would not stop him overturning Treaty- may pursue more. France feel threatened.

### 1938 Anschluss with Austria \*\*\*

Encouraged Austrian Nazis to cause trouble. Hitler told Schuschnigg only union with Germany would work. Britain & France refused to help. Schuschnigg organised plebiscite but Hitler sent in his troops and then 99.75% voted to unite (Anschluss)

**Impact-** Hitler gained power and wealth from Austria. Confidence Britain and France were not willing to go to war to uphold Treaty.

### Appeasement

Policy of negotiating with Hitler (giving him what he wanted in return for promises) used by British PM Neville Chamberlain

+ Britain were not prepared for war, Treaty of Versailles unfair, Britain in Depression, League not working  
- Encouraged Hitler's aggression, allowed army to grow strong

### 1938 Sudeten Crisis & Munich

#### Agreement \*\*

Sudeten Germans demanded to be part of Germany and Hitler demanded Germany speaking parts. Chamberlain agreed but Hitler then demanded all Sudetenland. Chamberlain refused and war looked likely. At Munich appeasement used and Hitler gained Sudetenland but agreed not to go for anymore and made peace agreement with Britain.

**Impact-** Hitler gained Lebensraum, resources and defence. Confidence Britain were not willing to fight. Delayed war rather than prevented. Czechoslovakia and Poland vulnerable

### 1939 Occupation of

#### Czechoslovakia \*

Hitler marches in in March and takes the rest of Czechoslovakia. France was supposed to protect them but did not.

This was a direct challenge to Munich  
**Impact-** Policy of appeasement ended. Britain start to prepare for war. Hitler more powerful than ever to take land in the east. Britain agree to protect Poland.

### 1939 Invasion of Poland \*

1<sup>st</sup> Sept Hitler invaded. Britain sent ultimatum to withdraw. They didn't.

**Impact-** Britain declared war on Germany 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 1939

### 1939 Nazi-Soviet Pact

Sworn enemies Hitler and Stalin shocked the world by signing a pact in August to invade Poland and divide it between them. Way of Hitler avoiding conflict with USSR and the West.

**Impact-** Trigger event to war. Hitler now had confidence and power to invade Poland. Britain agree to protect Poland.