

## KLT 1: Causes of WWII

**The Treaty of Versailles** July 1919. Ended WWI and imposed harsh terms on Germany. Germany wanted revenge.

**Reparations:** £6.6billion

**Military:** 100,000 men in the army, no submarines, no air-force, no tanks, the Rhineland to be demilitarised

**Land:** Alsace-Lorraine to France, Polish Corridor to Poland, Sudetenland to Czechoslovakia.

**Blame:** War Guilt Clause meant Germany had to admit full responsibility for starting WWI

**Hitler's Aims:** were aggressive and led to actions that triggered WWII.

**Lebensraum:** Hitler believed Germany should conquered land from inferior races especially in Eastern Europe in countries like Poland.

**Reverse the Treaty of Versailles:** Hitler thought the terms were unfair and wanted to get back the money, land and military taken from Germany.

**United all German Speakers:** Hitler believed that all German speakers should live together in one powerful German Reich.

**Defeat Communism:** Hitler believed that Communism was evil and needed to be crushed this would mean going to war with the USSR (Russia)

### Hitler's Actions:

**STEP 1:** Hitler stopped paying reparations and began to build up his armed forces. In 1935 he introduced conscription (calling up men to the army). This broke the Treaty of Versailles, but Britain and France let him get away with it.



**STEP 2:** Hitler invaded the Rhineland on 7 March 1936. This broke the Treaty of Versailles. It was a bluff – the German army had only 22,000 soldiers and had orders to retreat if they met any resistance. But once again, Britain and France did nothing.



**STEP 3:** In 1938, Hitler took over Austria. First, Hitler encouraged the Austrian Nazis to demand union with Germany. Then Hitler invaded Austria (11 March 1938). This broke the Treaty of Versailles, but Britain and France did nothing.



**STEP 4:** In 1938, Hitler tried to take over the area of the Sudetenland (Northern edges of Czechoslovakia). Neville Chamberlain negotiated and appeased Hitler. At Munich, on 29 September 1938, Britain and France gave Hitler the Sudetenland. On 15 March 1939, Hitler's troops marched into the rest of Czechoslovakia. This, for most British people, was the time when they realised that the only thing that would stop Hitler was a war.



**STEP 5:** In August 1939, Hitler made a secret treaty with Russia. He thought this would stop Britain & France helping Poland. In April 1939, Chamberlain announced the 'Polish Guarantee' - a promise to defend Poland if Hitler invaded (this was the event which ended appeasement). On 1 September 1939, Hitler invaded Poland. On 3 September 1939, Chamberlain declared war on Germany.



## KLT 1: How did Hitler Rise to power?

- WWI and the Treaty of Versailles - German's blamed the Weimar Government and wanted a strong leader to help get revenge.
- The Great Depression 1929-1934 - 5-6 million German's were unemployed they blamed the Weimar Government . The Nazis promised jobs.
- Propaganda - Joseph Goebbels in charge of propaganda, posters with simple slogans; 'work, freedom and bread'. Hitler's speeches were effective delivered at Nuremburg rallies.
- Fear of Communism - Many German's were worried that Communist would seize power they thought the Nazi's were the only ones that could stop them because of the SA.
- The Reichstag Fire—The German Parliament burnt down in Jan 1933 Hitler blamed Communists and used it as an excuse to increase his powers.

**Key Statistic:** Before the Great Depression in 1928 the Nazi's gained only 12 seats in the Reichstag in 1932 during the Great Depression this increased to 230 seats.



Joseph Goebbels: Minister for propaganda

## WWII Time line:

- Sept 1st 1939 – Germany invaded Poland and defeated it in 17 days.
- April – May 1940 – Germany took over Denmark, Norway, Luxemburg, Holland and Belgium.
- May 14th – June 22nd 1940 – Germany invaded France. British troops were forced to withdraw from Dunkirk back to UK. By June 22nd 1940 – France surrendered to Germany.
- June – Sept 1940 – Germany tried to defeat the British air-force in the Battle of Britain but lost. Plans to invade Britain were dropped.
- October 1940 – April 1941 – Hungary, Greece and Romania were occupied without a fight. Bulgaria joined the German side. Germany invaded Yugoslavia and defeated it in 10 days.
- June 22nd - Oct 1941 – Germany invaded Russia took Kiev (Aug), besieged Leningrad (Oct) and reached the edge of Moscow (Oct)
- Dec 1941 – German troops pushed back from Moscow.
- Aug 42 – Jan 43 – Battle of Stalingrad. Germans surrendered losing 330,000 men in the battle against the Russians.
- July 5th 1943 – Germans lost 600 tanks against the Russians in the Battle of Kursk.
- July 10th 1943 - June 4th 1944 – USA and Britain invaded Sicily. By Sept 3rd 1943 the Allies invaded Italy. By June 4th 1944 – Allies took Rome.
- Nov 1943-Jan 1944 – Russians retook Kiev. By Jan 1944 – Russians finally end siege of Leningrad.
- June 6th 1944 – D-Day. Allies invade France, landing in Normandy. By August 25th 1944 Paris freed.
- Jan 18th 1945 – Russians take Warsaw (Polish capital)
- April 1945 – Russian troops entered Berlin (German capital)
- May 8th 1945 – Germany surrendered.

## Key Events from WWII

**The Battle of Britain:** The British RAF defeated the Luftwaffe due to superior planes, spitfire and hurricanes. They also developed the use of radar to intercept German bombing raids. This victory prevented the German invasion of Britain and kept them in the war.

**Operation Barbarossa:** The Germans invaded the USSR (Russia) in June 1941. They were defeated due to the resistance of the Red Army. Germany were arrogant they thought they would win quickly and did not prepared for the harsh winters –40 degrees. They lacked winter clothes, anti-freeze sufficient supplies. Key Battles: Stalingrad over 300,000 German's died and Kursk 600 tanks lost.

**D-Day landings: June 1944:** Britain and the USA liberated France through Normandy this opened up a second front which meant the German's had to divert troops from the East against Russia.

## Persecution of Jewish People's Timeline:

- The Nazis barred Jews from working in the Civil Service and public services like broadcasting and teaching.
- The Nazis encourage Germans to Boycott Jewish Shops. The SA and SS put stars on Jewish shops. They told Germans not to use these shops.
- Local councils banned Jews from parks, swimming pools and facilities. Some provided separate yellow benches for Jews.
- The Nuremberg Laws: The Nazis passed two laws which increased persecution of the Jews:
- The Reich Law on Citizenship: Only those of 'German' blood could be citizens. Jews were subjects not citizens. Jews could not vote, hold government office, or have a German passport. Jews had to wear a yellow star on their clothes
- The Reich Law for the Protection of German Blood: Jews were forbidden from marrying German citizens. Jews were not allowed to have sexual relations with Germans.
- The Nazis barred Jewish children from attending schools.
- SS led mobs attacked Jewish Synagogue, shops and businesses. 100 Jews were murdered, 191 Synagogues were burnt, 814 shops and 171 homes were damaged. This was called Kristallnacht or the Night of the Broken Glass.
- The Nazis closed down all Jewish shops and businesses.
- The Nazis set about removing Jews from areas they had captured like Poland. Jewish people were sent to Ghettos.
- The Nazis began to kill large numbers of Jews in Eastern Europe. Special SS units called Einsatzgruppen were set-up to co-ordinate the rounding up and mass shootings of Jews.
- At the Wannsee Conference the Nazis made the decision to implement 'The Final Solution'. This was the systematic killing of all Jews in Germany and German occupied territories. Himmler, head of the SS was in charge. Slave labour and death camps were set up at Auschwitz, Treblinka and many other places.
- Over 6 million Jews were killed by the Nazis. This is known as the Holocaust.



# The WWII Period 1918-1945 Knowledge Organiser



| Key words            | Definition  |
|----------------------|---|
| Armistice            | An agreement made by opposing sides in a war to stop fighting for a certain time; a truce.  |
| Treaty               | A formally concluded and ratified agreement between states.   |
| Reparations          | The action of making amends for a wrong one has done, by providing payment or other assistance to those who have been wronged.  |
| Political            | Relating to the government or public affairs of a country.  |
| Lebensraum           | The territory which a group, state, or nation believes is needed for its natural development.   |
| Communism            | Communism is an economic ideology that advocates for a classless society in which all property and wealth are communally-owned, instead of by individuals.  |
| Rearmament           | The process of equipping military forces with a new supply of weapons.  |
| Anschluss            | Anschluss, German: "Union", political union of Austria with Germany, achieved through annexation by Adolf Hitler in 1938.   |
| Appeasement          | Instituted in the hope of avoiding war, appeasement was the name given to Britain's policy in the 1930s of allowing Hitler to expand German territory unchecked. Most closely associated with British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.   |
| Pacify               | To allay the anger or agitation of for example GB tried to pacify the enemy with compromises.   |
| Acceding             | Agree to a demand, request, or treaty.  |
| Blitzkrieg           | Literally translates as 'Lightning war' it refers to the German strategy of using tanks to make rapid advances in order to defeat countries quickly.  |
| Allied Powers        | An international military coalition formed during the Second World War to oppose the Axis powers. Its principal members by 1941 were the UK, USSR and China.  |
| Axis Powers          | The three principal partners in the Axis alliance were Germany, Italy, and Japan. These three countries recognized German domination over most of continental Europe; Italian domination over the Mediterranean Sea; and Japanese domination over East Asia and the Pacific.                                  |
| Luftwaffe            | German: "air weapon". German air-force.   |
| Fascist              | A fascist is a follower of a political philosophy characterized by authoritarian views and a strong central government — and no tolerance for opposing opinions. Fascist traces to the Italian word fascio, meaning "group, bundle." Under fascist rule, the emphasis is on the group over individual rights. |
| Emperor              | Ruler of an empire. They tend to have a lot of personal power.  |
| Dictator             | A ruler with total power over a country, typically one who has obtained control by force  |
| Censorship           | The banning of any parts of books, films, news, etc. that are considered obscene, politically unacceptable, or a threat to security.  |
| Democracy            | A system of government whereby the whole population, vote for the government who run the country  |
| Weimar Government    | Germany's democratic government from 1919 to 1933, the period after World War I until the rise of Nazi Germany.   |
| Propaganda           | Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view  |
| Reichstag            | Reichstag is a German word generally meaning parliament.  |
| Parliament           | The group of (usually) elected politicians or other people who make the laws for their country  |
| Treaty of Versailles | The Treaty that ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers during WWI. It was signed on 28 June 1919 in the Palace of Versailles.   |
| The Great Depression | A severe worldwide economic crisis that took place mostly during the 1930s, beginning in the United States.   |
| State Benefits       | Money provided by the government to support people in need e.g. disabled, unemployed, elderly etc.  |
| Persuasion           | The action or process of convincing someone to do or believe something.   |