

You should already know

The terms of The Treaty of Versailles meant that:

- Germany had to pay huge amounts of money to repair the damages of war which left them poor.
- Germany was banned from having an army of more than 100,000 men and from having any submarines or an air force.
- Throughout history, countries have acted aggressively and grown their Empires to become more powerful.
- Allies agree to support each other, especially in war.
- Propaganda is biased information used to spread ideas and persuade.

How did Hitler gain power in Germany?

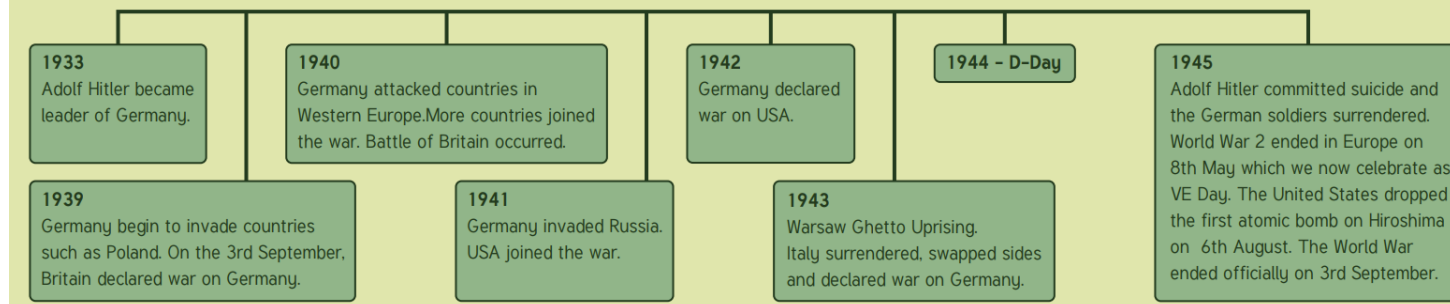


The Germans were desperate for someone to turn around their economy and restore their national pride. [Hitler offered them hope.](#)

In 1934, Hitler, who led a political party called the National Socialists (shortened to Nazis) was proclaimed the "Führer" (leader) and became dictator of Germany.

[Hitler resented the restrictions put on Germany by the Treaty of Versailles.](#) While talking about peace, Hitler began to re-arm Germany. He allied Germany with Mussolini and Italy. [Then Hitler looked to restore Germany to power by expanding his empire.](#)

Brief Timeline






Main Participating Countries

| Allied Powers | | | Axis Powers | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|------|-------------|--------------------------------|------|
| Country | Date joined | Flag | Country | Date joined | Flag |
| FRANCE | 3 rd September 1939 | | GERMANY | 1 st September 1939 | |
| UNITED KINGDOM | 3 rd September 1939 | | ITALY | 11 th June 1940 | |
| SOVIET UNION | 22 nd June 1941 | | BULGARIA | 1 st March 1941 | |
| USA | 8 th December 1941 | | JAPAN | 7 th December 1941 | |

Appeasement and the Great Depression

After World War 1, the nations of Europe were weary and did not want another war. When countries such as Italy and Germany became aggressive and began to take over their neighbours and build up their armies, countries such as Britain and France hoped to keep peace through "appeasement." [This meant that they tried to make Germany and Hitler happy rather than try to stop him. They hoped that by meeting his demands he would be satisfied and there wouldn't be any war.](#) Unfortunately, the policy of appeasement backfired. It only made Hitler bolder. It also gave him time to build up his army.

The period before World War II was a time of great economic suffering throughout the world called the Great Depression. [Many people were out of work and struggling to survive. This created unstable governments and worldwide turmoil that helped lead to World War II.](#)

| How did World War 2 begin? | The Role of Women | Key Vocabulary | |
|--|---|---------------------------|--|
| <p>Adolf Hitler, together with the Nazi Party, wanted Germany to rule Europe. To gain more land and power, on 1 September 1939 German troops invaded Poland. After Hitler refused to stop the invasion, Britain and France declared war on Germany – World War II had begun.</p> <p>During the war, German forces advanced through Europe. By the summer of 1941 they had invaded France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Greece, Yugoslavia and the USSR.</p> | <p>Before the war, most women stayed at home and didn't go out to work. Those who did work were paid less than men and were generally restricted to 'women's jobs', such as nursing or working as a shop assistant. However, when men were called up for active service, women were needed to do jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or shipbuilding. Some joined the armed forces themselves.</p> <p>After the war, many women lost their jobs. However, their experiences led them to campaign for equal working rights and pay so that they could carry on leading more independent lives.</p> | Air Raid | An attack in which bombs are dropped from aircraft on to a ground target. |
| <p>The Holocaust</p> |  | Ally | A country's ally is another country that has an agreement to support it, especially in war |
| | | Allies | Countries which fought on the British side including: USA, Great Britain, France and Russia. |
| <p>Millions of Germans were imprisoned and killed because they didn't fit the image of the 'perfect' German. Hitler wanted to create what he thought was the 'best' and strongest race –and to the Nazi Party, this excluded certain groups, such as Jews, Gypsies and those with physical and mental disabilities.</p> <p>Around six million Jewish people were killed during World War 2 in one of history's most terrible events – the Holocaust. Many Jews were sent to concentration camps where they were forced to work like slaves. Many died through infection, starvation or exhaustion. Others were sent to death camps where they were killed in gas chambers. This form of mass killing is called genocide.</p> |  | Annex | To take another country's land and make it part of your country. |
| | | Axis | Countries which fought on the German side including Italy, Germany and Japan. |
| <p>Who was Anne Frank?</p> | <p>Evacuation</p> <p>During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities, were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. All evacuees had to take their gas mask, ration book and identity card. When they reached their destination, a billeting officer would arrange a host family for them.</p> | Blackout | When towns or cities are made dark so that they cannot be seen by enemy planes. |
| | | Blitz | Aerial bombing attacks on British towns and cities. From the German 'blitzkrieg' which means 'lightning war'. |
|  <p>Anne Frank, who lived in Germany but fled to Amsterdam during WW2 as she was Jewish, famously wrote a diary of her life 'The Diary of a Young Girl', while hiding from the Nazis.</p> | | Concentration Camp | Prisons where Jewish people and other prisoners were held by the Nazis. |
| | | Evacuation | Organised movement of children and the vulnerable from towns and cities to safe zones. |
| | | Evacuee | Someone who was evacuated, moved from a danger area to a safer place. |
| | | Fuhrer | German word meaning 'leader' or 'guide'. The title Hitler gave himself in 1934 when he gained absolute authority in Germany. |
| | | Genocide | Deliberate action to destroy a people (usually defined as an ethnic, national, racial, or religious group). |
| | | Holocaust | The mass murder of around six million Jewish people by the Nazis, as well as other persecuted groups. |
| | | Jew | A Jewish person - someone who follows Judaism. |
| | | Luftwaffe | German Airforce during WW2. |
| | | Nazi | A member of a political party called the National Socialists. |
| | | Propaganda | Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion. |

