CAUSES OF WORLD WAR II

M

✓ Germany rebuilds their military in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles
✓ Hitler sent troops into the Rhineland in 1936
✓ In 1938, Hitler made Austria part of the German Empire
✓ In 1939 Hitler invaded Poland
✓ Japan and Italy also begin growing their mility

I

✓ Militaristic leaders of Japan wanted to build a Japanese empire.
✓ In 1931, Japan seized the Chinese territory of Manchuria. When the League of Nations condemned the action, Japan withdrew from the League.
✓ Because Japan was an island nation they lacked natural resources. As a result they needed to conquer other lands to acquire those resources.
✓ Italy attacks Ethiopia in hopes of connecting their Africa colonies.

N

✓ Rise in nationalism in Italy, Germany, and Japan

T

✓ Rise in totalitarian governments and expansionist policies
Main Causes of World War Two

World War Two began in September 1939 when Britain and France declared war on Germany following Germany’s invasion of Poland. Although the outbreak of war was triggered by Germany’s invasion of Poland, the causes of the war are more complex.

Treaty of Versailles  Reading #1

In 1919, Lloyd George of England, Orlando of Italy, Clemenceau of France and Woodrow Wilson from the US met to discuss how Germany should pay for the damage world war one had caused.

Woodrow Wilson wanted a treaty based on his 14-point plan which he believed would bring peace to Europe.

Georges Clemenceau wanted revenge. He wanted to be sure that Germany could never start another war again.

Lloyd George personally agreed with Wilson but knew that the British public agreed with Clemenceau. He tried to find a compromise between Wilson and Clemenceau.

Germany had been expecting a treaty based on Wilson’s 14 points and were not happy with the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. However, they had no choice but to sign the document.

The main terms of the Treaty of Versailles were:

War Guilt Clause - Germany should accept the blame for starting World War One
Reparations - Germany had to pay £6,600 million for the damage caused by the war
Disarmament - Germany was only allowed to have a small army and six naval ships. No tanks, no airforce and no submarines were allowed. The Rhineland area was to be de-militarised.
Territorial Clauses - Land was taken away from Germany and given to other countries.
Anschluss (union with Austria) was forbidden.

The German people were very unhappy about the treaty and thought that it was too harsh. Germany could not afford to pay the money and during the 1920s the people in Germany were very poor. There were not many jobs and the price of food and basic goods was high. People were dissatisfied with the government and voted to power a man who promised to rip up the Treaty of Versailles. His name was Adolf Hitler.

Hitler’s Actions  Reading #2

Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in January 1933. Almost immediately he began secretly building up Germany’s army and weapons. In 1934 he increased the size of the army, began building warships and created a German airforce. Compulsory military service was also introduced.

Although Britain and France were aware of Hitler’s actions, they were also concerned about the rise of Communism and believed that a stronger Germany might help to prevent the spread of Communism to the West.

In 1936 Hitler ordered German troops to enter the Rhineland. At this point the German army was not very strong and could have been easily defeated. Yet neither France nor Britain was prepared to start another war.

Hitler also made two important alliances during 1936. The first was called the Rome-Berlin Axis Pact and allied Hitler’s Germany with Mussolini’s Italy. The second was called the Anti-Comintern Pact and allied Germany with Japan.

Hitler’s next step was to begin taking back the land that had been taken away from Germany. In March 1938, German troops marched into Austria. The Austrian leader was forced to hold a vote asking the people whether they wanted to be part of Germany.
The results of the vote were fixed and showed that 99% of Austrian people wanted Anschluss (union with Germany). The Austrian leader asked Britain, France and Italy for aid. Hitler promised that Anschluss was the end of his expansionist aims and not wanting to risk war, the other countries did nothing.

Hitler did not keep his word and six months later demanded that the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia be handed over to Germany.

Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister of Britain, met with Hitler three times during September 1938 to try to reach an agreement that would prevent war.

The Munich Agreement stated that Hitler could have the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia provided that he promised not to invade the rest of Czechoslovakia. Hitler was not a man of his word and in March 1939 invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia. Despite calls for help from the Czechoslovak government, neither Britain nor France was prepared to take military action against Hitler. However, some action was now necessary and believing that Poland would be Hitler's next target, both Britain and France promised that they would take military action against Hitler if he invaded Poland. Chamberlain believed that, faced with the prospect of war against Britain and France, Hitler would stop his aggression. Chamberlain was wrong. German troops invaded Poland on 1st September 1939.

**Failure of Appeasement**  Reading #3

Appeasement means giving in to someone’s provided their demands are seen as reasonable. During the 1930s, many politicians in both Britain and France came to see that the terms of the Treaty of Versailles had placed restrictions on Germany that were unfair. Hitler’s actions were seen as understandable and justifiable.

When Germany began re-arming in 1934, many politicians felt that Germany had a right to re-arm in order to protect herself. It was also argued that a stronger Germany would prevent the spread of Communism to the west. In 1936, Hitler argued that because France had signed a new treaty with Russia, Germany was under threat from both countries and it was essential to German security that troops were stationed in the Rhineland. France was not strong enough to fight Germany without British help and Britain was not prepared to go to war at this point. Furthermore, many believed that since the Rhineland was a part of Germany it was reasonable that German troops should be stationed there.

In May 1937, Neville Chamberlain became Prime Minister of Britain. He believed that the Treaty of Versailles had treated Germany badly and felt that giving in to Hitler’s demands would prevent another war. This policy, adopted by Chamberlain’s government became known as the policy of Appeasement.

The Munich Agreement, signed by the leaders of Germany, Britain, France and Italy, agreed that the Sudetenland would be returned to Germany and that no further territorial claims would be made by Germany. The Czech government was not invited to the conference and protested about the loss of the Sudetenland. They felt that they had been betrayed by both Britain and France with whom alliances had been made. However, the Munich Agreement was generally viewed as a triumph and an excellent example of securing peace through negotiation rather than war.

This famous picture shows Chamberlain returning from Munich with the paper signed by Hitler declaring ‘Peace in our time.’

When Hitler invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia in March 1939, he broke the terms of the Munich Agreement. Although it was realised that the policy of appeasement had failed, Chamberlain was still not prepared to take the country to war over "...a quarrel in a far-away country between people of whom we know nothing..." Instead, he made a guarantee to come to Poland’s aid if Hitler invaded Poland.
The League of Nations was an international organisation set up in 1919 to help keep world peace. It was intended that all countries would be members of the League and that if there were disputes between countries they could be settled by negotiation rather than by force. If this failed then countries would stop trading with the aggressive country and if that failed then countries would use their armies to fight. In theory the League of Nations was a good idea and did have some early successes. But ultimately it was a failure.

The whole world was hit by a depression in the late 1920s. In 1931, Japan was hit badly by the depression. People lost faith in the government and turned to the army to find a solution. The army invaded Manchuria in China, an area rich in minerals and resources. China appealed to the League for help. The Japanese government were told to order the army to leave Manchuria immediately. However, the army took no notice of the government and continued its conquest of Manchuria.

The League then called for countries to stop trading with Japan but because of the depression many countries did not want to risk losing trade and did not agree to the request. The League then made a further call for Japan to withdraw from Manchuria but Japan’s response was to leave the League of Nations.

In October 1935, Italy invaded Abyssinia. The Abyssinians did not have the strength to withstand an attack by Italy and appealed to the League of Nations for help.

The League condemned the attack and called on member states to impose trade restrictions with Italy. However, the trade restrictions were not carried out because they would have little effect. Italy would be able to trade with non-member states, particularly America. Furthermore, Britain and France did not want to risk Italy making an attack on them.

In order to stop Italy’s aggression, the leaders of Britain and France held a meeting and decided that Italy could have two areas of land in Abyssinia provided that there were no further attacks on the African country. Although Mussolini accepted the plan, there was a public outcry in Britain and the plan was dropped.

The main reasons for the failure of the League of Nations:

Not all countries joined the League - Although the idea for the League of Nations had come from Woodrow Wilson, there was a change of government in the United States before the signing of the treaty and the new Republican government refused to join. As a punishment for having started World War One, Germany was not allowed to join and Russia was also excluded due to a growing fear of Communism. Other countries decided not to join and some joined but later left.

The League had no power - The main weapon of the League was to ask member countries to stop trading with an aggressive country. However, this did not work because countries could still trade with non-member countries. When the world was hit by depression in the late 1920s countries were reluctant to lose trading partners to other non-member countries.

The League had no army - Soldiers were to be supplied by member countries. However, countries were reluctant to get involved and risk provoking an aggressive country into taking direct action against them and failed to provide troops.

Unable to act quickly - The Council of the League of Nations only met four times a year and decisions had to be agreed by all nations. When countries called for the League to intervene, the League had to set up an emergency meeting, hold discussions and gain the agreement of all members. This process meant that the League could not act quickly to stop an act of aggression.
MAIN CAUSES FOR WWII READING QUESTIONS

READING #1: TREATY OF VERSAILLES

1. Who were the 3 principle authors of the Treaty of Versailles and what nations did they represent?

2. What results was Germany waiting for and why were they disappointed?

3. Define the following terms:
   a. War Guilt Clause
   b. Reparations
   c. Disarmament
   d. Territorial Clauses

4. What were 3 economic hardships that made the people resent their government (Weimar Republic) and vote Hitler into power?
Reading #2: Hitler’s Actions

1. What were 3 actions taken by Hitler to build up his military?

2. How did the fear of communism aid Hitler’s attempt to take more land in Europe?

3. Explain how Hitler was able to take the Rhineland & Austria.

4. Explain how Hitler was able to take the Sudetenland & Czechoslovakia.
Classwork

Reading #3: Failure of Appeasement

1. Define Appeasement and explain how during the 1930’s Britain & France used it because they thought the Treaty of Versailles was unfair.

2. What were 3 reasons why Europe allowed Germany to rearm itself?

3. What was the Munich Agreement and why was the Czechoslovakia upset?

4. Why did Britain’s Chamberlain declare the agreement a success?
Reading #4: Failure of the League of Nations

1. What was the goal of the League of Nations and the 2 methods it would use to reach this goal?

2. What were 2 reasons why the League failed to make Japan leave Manchuria?

3. What were 2 reasons why the League failed to make Italy leave Abyssinia?

4. Explain the 4 reasons why overall the League failed to meet its goal.
Appeasement

World War I caused the deaths of nearly nine million people and cost huge sums of money. Most countries in Europe were anxious to avoid another costly war - both in terms of money and lives.

The British Prime Minister from 1937, Neville Chamberlain, believed in appeasement. The major aim was to avoid another European war.

'Appease' literally means pacify, soothe or satisfy.

In 1938, Germany and Austria joined together - this was known as the Anschluss. Hitler claimed he was uniting all German speaking people in one 'greater Germany'.

Seeing this, German speaking people in the Czechoslovakia (mainly living in an area known as the Sudetenland - shaded on the map) began to demand they become part of Germany too. Hitler made sure these people received support from Germany. However, Hitler couldn't just take over the area. Czechoslovakia was a powerful new country and had the backing of the Soviet Union.

In September 1938, Hitler demanded that German speakers in Czechoslovakia should be allowed to join his 'greater Germany'. War between Germany and Czechoslovakia seemed likely.

Everything depended on the actions of Britain, France and the Soviet Union.

British and French foreign policy 1938
PM Chamberlain was determined to avoid war. He made many trips around Europe in September 1938 attempting to make agreements.

Chamberlain took the lead and the French followed. The French also wished to avoid war at all costs. If they didn't go to war, then neither would the Soviet Union.

As a final attempt to avoid war, a conference in Munich was organised.

The Munich Conference
Chamberlain, Hitler, Daladier (French PM) and Mussolini (leader of Italy) all met in Munich to discuss Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovakian government was not invited.

It was decided that Germany would occupy the Sudetenland within 10 days and other parts of Czechoslovakia would go to Poland and Hungary.

The French and British governments agreed. The Czechoslovakian government was told to agree or face Germany alone.

Hitler promised not to take over any more land.

It was generally felt giving Hitler the Sudetenland was a good price to pay for peace.
Questions

Apparrent - Germany Before World War II

6. As a result of the Munich Pact, Czechoslovakia
   A. sided with the United States
   B. joined the Soviet Union
   C. sided with Germany
   D. did not side with any of the above

7. Before World War II began, Germany had invaded
   A. all of the above
   B. Austria
   C. Germany invaded Czecho-Slovakia
   D. Germany invaded Poland

8. In the Munich Pact, Great Britain and France agreed to
   A. invade Poland
   B. do nothing
   C. stand by Germany
   D. stand by Czecho-Slovakia

9. Which happened first?
   A. World War II
   B. Germany invaded Poland
   C. Germany invaded Czecho-Slovakia
   D. Germany invaded Austria

10. Popular opinion about the policy of appeasement
    A. was very different in Europe than it was in the United States
    B. was not the same after the war as it had been before the war

11. Between World War I and World War II
    A. Czecho-Slovakia
    B. during the Cold War
    C. after World War II
    D. before World War I

12. The sections devoted to this article took place
    A. in an advertisement
    B. before World War II
    C. in the newspaper
    D. in an advertisement that is followed by a half-page advertisement

As used in this article, the world "appeasement" means
A. a twin to cooperative
B. cooperation
C. an attempt to cooperate
D. a twin to competitive
Was appeasement a mistake?

In the box below there are a number of arguments. Some prove that appeasement WAS a mistake and some suggest that appeasement WASNT a mistake.

Create a table with two headings - 'A mistake' and 'Not a mistake'.
Think carefully - and write each argument in the correct column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Was it a mistake?</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany deserved a fair deal</td>
<td>Germany was treated too harshly at Versailles, so were only being given their rightful land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany was growing stronger</td>
<td>Allowed Germany to grow stronger, meaning it would be far more difficult to defeat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munich Agreement was a disaster</td>
<td>Churchill said Pangerasland was sacrificed for nothing - Hitler had fooled everyone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of another war</td>
<td>People wanted to avoid another terrible war and did everything possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeasement scared the USSR</td>
<td>When Britain and France did not stand up to Hitler, the USSR became worried about German power and began thinking about deals with Hitler.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munich Agreement was a disaster</td>
<td>Munich Agreement was a disaster.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britain needed time</td>
<td>By giving Hitler what he wanted, Britain had more time to build up her armed forces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of Communism</td>
<td>It was felt better to support a strong leader of Germany rather than risk Communist takeover.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hitler was determined to conquer Eastern Europe</td>
<td>Hitler had made his plans clear - the policy of appeasement was clearly doomed from the start.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using your completed table, answer the questions on the other side of this worksheet. MAKE SURE YOU FULLY EXPLAIN EACH ANSWER!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Was appeasement a Mistake?</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A Mistake</strong></td>
<td><strong>Not a Mistake</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 1936, Hitler invaded the Rhineland, a demilitarized zone between France and Germany that was rich in coal and iron. In 1938, Hitler annexed Austria. He also demanded that Germans in the Sudetenland, part of Czechoslovakia, vote to determine if they wanted to unite with Germany. At the Munich Conference in 1938, Hitler met with the British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, and the French Premier, Edouard Daladier. The British and French leaders agreed to give Germany the Sudetenland. These leaders followed a policy of appeasement or giving in to Hitler’s demands in hopes of avoiding another war. Of course, Hitler promised to take no more land, a promise which he failed to keep. Ultimately, the policy of appeasement failed. It actually increased the probability of war as Hitler gained more land, more resources, and more confidence. Meanwhile, prior to Hitler’s increasingly aggressive acts, Franco led a Fascist revolution in Spain. German and Italian forces were able to use new weapons and battle techniques to prepare for their own future conquests. Finally, in 1939, Hitler broke his promise. He took what remained of Czechoslovakia, allied with Italy and Japan to form the Axis Powers, and even signed a pact with Joseph Stalin to ensure that Germany would not be threatened on its Eastern Front. He then ordered an invasion of Poland. Britain and France finally declared war on Germany. However, the German war machine, using its strategy of blitzkrieg or lightning war, quickly overran Norway, Denmark, and even France. A dark hour descended on man.

Questions:
1: What aggressive acts did Hitler engage in that led to World War II?

2: What was “a policy of appeasement”?

3: Why did Britain and France engage in appeasement?

4: Why did the policy of appeasement fail?

5: What happened in Spain during the 1930s?

6: What was “blitzkrieg”? 
Excerpt adapted from bbc.co.uk

"At 7:55 A.M. on Sunday 7 December 1941,...Japanese aircraft began their deadly attack on the US Pacific Fleet, moored at Pearl Harbor on the Pacific island of Oahu...Five battleships had been sunk, another 16 damaged, and 188 aircraft destroyed. Only chance saved three US aircraft carriers...assigned elsewhere on the day. The attacks killed...over 2,400 Americans, with another 1,178 injured...

Historically, Japan had relied on America to supply many natural and industrial resources. Increasingly alarmed by Japanese aggression...America followed up by embargoing scrap iron and aviation fuel. Things got worse in September when Japan signed the Tripartite Pact with Germany and Italy. It was now a formal member of the Axis alliance fighting the European War...

F.D.R. had already strained the sinews of neutrality by supplying Britain with money and arms under the 'lend-lease' agreement... Japan knew that a full-scale invasion of South-east Asia would prompt war with America...Japan expected to remove America...long enough to allow it to secure the resources it needed so desperately."

Franklin D. Roosevelt's “Pearl Harbor”
Speech (1941)

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan...

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace...

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire."

Questions:
1: What happened on December 7, 1941?

2: Why did Roosevelt refer to it as a day of "infamy"?

3: Why did the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor?
Stalin’s Broadcast to the Soviet People (1941)

“...A grave danger hangs over our country.

How could it have happened that our glorious Red Army surrendered a number of our cities and districts to fascist armies? Is it really true that German fascist troops are invincible, as is ceaselessly trumpeted by the boastful fascist propagandists? Of course not!

History shows that there are no invincible armies and never have been. Napoleon’s army was considered invincible but it was beaten successively by Russian, English and German armies. Kaiser Wilhelm's German Army in the period of the first imperialist war was also considered invincible, but it was beaten several times by the Russian and Anglo-French forces and was finally smashed by the Anglo-French forces. The same must be said of Hitler's German fascist army today.”

Question:
Explain why the relationship between Hitler and Stalin changed.

Hitler had signed a pact with Stalin in 1939 to avoid war on Germany’s Eastern Front. However, once Hitler felt Germany’s forces were strong enough, he broke the pact.

Excerpt adapted from bbc.co.uk

“On 22 June 1941, some three million soldiers of Germany and her allies began an attack on the Soviet Union. This war was supposed to be over in a matter of months, but it lasted for four years, and grew into the largest and most costly conflict in all history...

The cost to the Soviet Union was an estimated 27 million dead...The attack came as a complete surprise to the leader of the Soviet Union, Joseph Stalin...German forces had destroyed most of the Red Army and the Russian air force... (But) the southern attack failed at Stalingrad. After weeks of chaotic retreats and easy German victories, the Red Army solidified its defense and against all the odds clung on to the battered city...For two years Soviet forces pushed the German army back into Germany, until in May 1945 Soviet forces accepted the surrender of the relic of Hitler's army in Berlin.
Excerpt adapted from bbc.co.uk

"Tuesday 8 May 1945 was 'Victory in Europe' (VE) Day and it marked the formal end of Hitler's war. With it came the end of six years of misery, suffering, courage and endurance across the world...

For the Western Allies, of course, the conflict in Europe was only one half of the world war. At that stage, the atomic bomb was a secret known to a very few, and the end of the war with Japan seemed a very long way off..."

What happened to?
From bbc.co.uk
Mussolini: “One woman fired five shots into Mussolini's body, according to Milan Radio, and shouted: 'Five shots for my five assassinated sons!'...April 28, 1943...Italians surrendered

Hitler: “With Soviet troops poised to take the German capital, Hitler committed suicide in his bunker in Berlin on 30 April 1945.”...Germany surrendered.

From historylearningsite.co.uk
Tojo: “In November 1948, Tojo was put on trial as a war criminal...He was found guilty and hanged.”...Japan had surrendered.

Questions:
1: What and when was V-E Day?

2: What happened to the Fascist leaders of the Second World War?

3: Why was only Tojo tried as a war criminal?

4: What lessons can be learned from the Second World War?

5: Explain the meaning of Prime Minister Winston Churchill's quote: “An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile—hoping it will eat him last.”

"Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth lasts for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour!"

~Winston Churchill
Dictatorship and Genocide in Germany

Global History and Geography II

Excerpt adapted from bbc.co.uk

“Adolf Hitler (1889 - 1945) was born on the Austrian-German border...Hitler left school at sixteen with no qualifications and struggled to make a living as a painter in Vienna...In 1913, he moved to Munich and, on the outbreak of World War One, enlisted in the German army, where he was wounded and decorated...In 1919, he joined the fascist German Workers' Party (DAP)... By 1921 he was the unquestioned leader of what was now the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP or Nazi Party)... In 1923, Hitler attempted an unsuccessful armed uprising in Munich and was imprisoned for nine months, during which time he dictated 'Mein Kampf' ('My Struggle') outlining his political ideology. On his release he began to rebuild the Nazi Party and used new techniques of mass communication, backed up with violence...Against a background of economic depression and...turmoil, the Nazis grew stronger and in the 1932 elections became the largest party in the German parliament. In January 1933, Hitler became chancellor of the coalition government.”

Question:
How did the beliefs and actions of Adolf Hitler change world history?

“He...took dictatorial powers and began to institute anti-Jewish laws. He also began the process of German militarization and...expansion that...lead to World War Two. He allied with Italy and later Japan to create the Axis. Hitler's invasion of Poland in September 1939 began World War Two...failing to subdue Britain in 1941, Hitler ordered the invasion of the Soviet Union. The Jewish populations of the countries conquered by the Nazis were rounded up and killed...In December 1941, Hitler declared war on America...Hitler committed suicide in his bunker in Berlin on 30 April 1945.”
A mother and children on their way to the gas chambers - Source: Dachau Memorial Museum

"They came for the Communists, and I didn't object - For I wasn't a Communist; They came for the Socialists, and I didn't object - For I wasn't a Socialist; They came for the labor leaders, and I didn't object - For I wasn't a labor leader; They came for the Jews, and I didn't object - For I wasn't a Jew; Then they came for me - And there was no one left to object.

Martin Niemoller, German Protestant Pastor, 1892-1984

Excerpt adapted from frank.mtsu.edu:

The Nuremberg Laws on Citizenship and Race: (1935)

ARTICLE 4
(1) A Jew cannot be a citizen of the Reich. He cannot exercise the right to vote; he cannot hold public office.

Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor (1935)

SECTION 1

1. Marriages between Jews and nationals of German or kindred blood are forbidden.

Questions:
1: According to the Nuremberg laws, who was not a citizen of the Reich?
2: What was forbidden?
3: Explain the meaning of the poem.
4: What is happening in the photograph?
David Olère - Their Last Steps / Leurs derniers pas

"From March 2, 1943, to January 19, 1945, David Olère was interned at Auschwitz."

"Three Muselmänner support each other as they falter toward the gas chamber. Muselmann was the camp term for those whose physical and mental exhaustion made them candidates for "selection."

Excerpt adapted from bbc.co.uk

"The Holocaust was the Nazis' assault on the Jews between 1933 and 1945. It culminated in what the Nazis called the 'Final Solution of the Jewish Question in Europe', in which six million Jews were murdered...The Holocaust was the biggest of the killing programs and, in certain important ways, different from the others. The Jews figured in Nazi ideology as the arch-enemy of the 'Aryan race', and were targeted not merely for terror and repression but for complete extinction. The Nazis failed in this aim because they ran out of time, but they pursued it fanatically until their defeat in 1945. The Holocaust led to widespread public awareness of genocide and to modern efforts to prevent it, such as the 1948 UN Convention on Genocide...The Nazis were the heirs of a centuries-old tradition of Jew-hatred, rooted in religious rivalry and found in all European countries."

Questions:
1: Define the camp term "Muselmann."

2: Why are the paintings of David Olere considered primary sources?

3: What was the Holocaust?

4: How did the Holocaust change world history?

5: What is anti-Semitism?

6: According to Hitler, who were the Aryans?

7: Did anti-Semitism exist in Europe before the Nazis? Explain your answer.
**Materials adapted from schoolhistory.co.uk**

**Source B:** The abhorrent pictures below are from a book published in 1938 called *Der Giftpilz*, the German word for toadstool. It was aimed particularly at children, and was sometimes used in schools. The caption under each picture is translated above each picture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image 1</th>
<th>Image 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How a German Peasant was Driven from House and Farm: “Daddy, someday when I have my own farm, no Jew will enter my house...”</td>
<td>The Experience of Hans and Else with a Strange Man: “Here, kids, I have some candy for you. But you both have to come with me...”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Questions:**

1: According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, propaganda is the “the spreading of ideas, information, or rumor for the purpose of helping or injuring an institution, a cause, or a person.” How is the excerpt from the above children’s book an example of propaganda?

2: Why did the Nazis use propaganda?

3: Why are children particularly susceptible to propaganda?

4: Why did the Nazis control all media in Germany?

5: Why did the Nazis control the educational system?

6: How are German Christians portrayed in the above illustration?

7: How are German Jews portrayed in the above illustration?
By the mid-1930s, the world’s powerful nations were split into two opposing kinds of governments, democratic and totalitarian. In a democracy, citizens run the government by voting. The United States, Britain, and France had democratic governments. In a totalitarian state, a dictator rules by controlling everything in citizens’ lives. Dictators governed Spain, Italy, and Germany. These dictators planned to expand their empires. They did not care if they had to go to war to do it. Militarists in Japan had the same idea.

Japan’s militarists wanted to solve the country’s problems by creating a large empire. They planned to conquer China and other areas in Asia. Taking over lands that had many natural resources would give Japan raw materials. It would also provide more room for Japan’s growing population and more markets for Japanese products.

In 1931, Japan took over Manchuria, which belonged to China. When the League of Nations said that this action was wrong, Japan left the League. Japanese forces moved farther into China. Many cities fell to the Japanese army, but the Chinese fought back. As the war dragged on, it became expensive for Japan. To build up their resources, Japanese leaders looked for other places in Southeast Asia to conquer. Then, World War II broke out in Europe. Japan decided it was a good time to take over European lands in Asia.

Japan planned attacks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Japanese leaders believed the American naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, must be destroyed. Otherwise, the U.S. battleships could be a danger to Japan. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. In a surprise attack, Japanese bombers sank or damaged 19 ships and killed more than 2,400 Americans.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Japanese conquered Guam and Wake Island. They attacked and took over the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Singapore. By March of 1942, the Japanese had conquered areas from China down to Southeast Asia and across the Pacific Ocean.

Japanese leaders thought that attacking Pearl Harbor would force the U.S. government to accept Japanese power in the Pacific. However, the attack had the opposite effect. The United States declared war on Japan the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. European nations, China, and the United States came together with the goal of defeating Japan.
**Questions:**

1. Who was Hideki Tojo?

2. Who did Tojo despise?

3. Why did the military’s popularity in Japan increase after 1931?

4. What did Tojo become in the summer of 1940?

5. Who did Tojo ally Japan with?

6. What appointment did Tojo receive in 1941?

7. Why did Tojo authorize the attack on Pearl Harbor?

8. What happened to Tojo in 1948?

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Excerpt adapted from historylearningsite.co.uk

“Hideki Tojo (1884 -1948)...was Prime Minister of Japan when the attack on Pearl Harbor took place plunging the Far East into a war which was to end with the destruction of Hiroshima in August 1945. For his part in leading Japan into war, Tojo was executed as a war criminal...

Tojo became the leader of the militarists in Japan and despised what he considered to be weak civilian politicians. His views were shared by many in the public and in the 1930's, the army and all it represented was held in...high esteem...This became even more so after the army's victories in Manchuria from 1931 on...

In the summer of 1940, Tojo became Minister of War in the government and he saw that Japan's future lay with the European dictators - especially Hitler. As Minister of War, Tojo made it clear that Japan should push south in the Far East and take land owned by European nations. On October 14th, 1941, Tojo was appointed Prime Minister of Japan. By this date, he was convinced that a war with America could not be avoided and he put Japan on a full war alert. He decided that a massive knock-out blow would be sufficient to remove America from the Pacific. As a result, Tojo authorized the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941... However, it was only a matter of time before the Americans and their allies organized themselves in the Pacific...Tojo offered his resignation on July 9th, 1944. In November 1948, Tojo was put on trial as a war criminal... and hanged.
Excerpt adapted from bbc.co.uk

"...The emperor was regarded as divine by many Japanese. (However,) Emperor Hirohito (1901-1989) had little power, with civilian and increasingly military officials deciding national policy during the 1930s. The emperor reluctantly supported the invasion of Manchuria and the war against China, and attempted to encourage cooperation with Britain and the USA. However, he had no choice but to approve the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that led to war between Japan and the United States in December 1941. Despite his lack of enthusiasm over the decision to go to war, he was pleased with the Japanese military and naval successes that followed...

By the spring of 1945, the defeat of Japan seemed imminent. The Japanese government was deeply divided between military leaders who favored continuing the war and civilians who wanted to negotiate for peace. Hirohito appears to have favored peace. Following the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Hirohito insisted that Japan surrender. On 15 August 1945, he made a radio broadcast announcing the end of the war - this was the first time the people of Japan had heard the voice of their emperor...

Some Allied leaders wanted to try Hirohito as a war criminal. General Douglas MacArthur, who was in charge of the United States' occupying forces in Japan, felt it would be easier to introduce democratic reforms if Hirohito stayed in office. Hirohito nonetheless repudiated his divine status."

Questions:
1: Explain the statement: "The emperor was regarded as divine."

2: Who increasingly controlled national policy in Japan during the 1930s and 1940s?

3: By the spring of 1945, what did Hirohito appear to favor?

4: What did the Japanese people hear for the first time ever on August 15, 1945?

5: What did some Allied leaders want to try Hirohito as?

6: Who disagreed with these Allied leaders?

7: Why did he disagree with these Allied leaders?

8: What did Hirohito repudiate?
Excerpt adapted from wgordon.web.wesleyan.edu

Primary Source: Letter to My Beloved Child from Lieutenant Sanehisa Uemura (Kamikaze)

"When you grow up and want to meet me, please come to Kudan. And if you pray deeply, surely your father’s face will show itself within your heart. I believe you are happy. Since your birth you started to show a close resemblance to me, and other people would often say that when they saw little Motoko they felt like they were meeting me. Your uncle and aunt will take good care of you with you being their only hope, and your mother will only survive by keeping in mind your happiness throughout your entire lifetime. Even though something happens to me, you must certainly not think of yourself as a child without a father. I am always protecting you. Please be a person who takes loving care of others. When you grow up and begin to think about me, please read this letter.

Father

P.S. In my airplane, I keep as a charm a doll you had as a toy when you were born. So it means Motoko was together with Father. I tell you this because my being here without your knowing makes my heart ache.

"Kamikaze pilots died at a very young age. Over 90% of the Navy’s kamikaze pilots were between 18 and 24 years."

Chiran high school girls wave farewell with cherry blossom branches to departing kamikaze pilot

Definition: Kamikaze from princeton.net
“A pilot trained and willing to cause a suicidal crash”

Questions:
1: What was a Kamikaze trained to do?
2: What was the average age of the Kamikaze?
3: Did the Japanese belief in the divinity of the emperor encourage or discourage individuals from serving as Kamikaze? Explain your answer.
4: Why does the father write the letter to his daughter?
5: How did the Code of Bushido from feudal Japan encourage complete dedication and sacrifice among Japanese soldiers (from previous lesson)?
6: What did you find most surprising about the pilot’s letter?
7: Why do you think the father wrote this letter?
"Another who tried to help was an American woman, Minnie Vautrin, who kept a diary... Her entry for 16 December reads: 'There probably is no crime that has not been committed in this city today'... Later, she wrote: 'How many thousands were mowed down by guns or bayoneted we shall probably never know. For in many cases oil was thrown over their bodies and then they were burned'... 'Charred bodies tell the tales of some of these tragedies. The events of the following ten days are growing dim. But there are certain of them that lifetime will not erase from my memory and the memories of those who have been in Nanjing through this period.'

Minnie Vautrin suffered a nervous breakdown in 1940 and returned to the US. She committed suicide in 1941.

Questions:
1: What happened in the Chinese city of Nanking between 1937 and 1938?
2: How many people were killed by the Japanese army?
3: How many Chinese women were raped by Japanese troops?
4: Who was Minnie Vautrin?
5: What does her diary reveal?
6: What happened to Minnie Vautrin?
A New Weapon, a New Trial, and a New Declaration

Global History and Geography

Excerpt adapted from bbc.co.uk

"On the morning of 6 August 1945 an American B-29 bomber, the 'Enola Gay', dropped the first atomic bomb used in warfare on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

...The heat from the bomb was so intense that some people simply vanished in the explosion. Many more died of the long-term effects of radiation sickness. The final death toll was calculated at 135,000...

Hiroshima was chosen because it had not been targeted during the US Air Force’s conventional bombing raids on Japan, and was therefore regarded as being a suitable place to test the effects of an atomic bomb. It was also an important military base. The Allies feared that any conventional attempt to invade the Japanese home islands would result in enormous casualties, and the bomb was seen as a way of bringing the war against Japan to a swift conclusion...

On the morning of 9 August, the Americans dropped a second, bigger atomic bomb."

“The original target was Kokura, but this was obscured by cloud so the bomb was dropped on nearby Nagasaki, an important port. About 40,000 people were killed instantly and a third of the city was destroyed. The final death toll was calculated as at least 50,000...

On 14 August, Japan agreed to the Allies’ terms of surrender. At midday on the following day, Emperor Hirohito broadcast the news to the Japanese people. It was the first time his voice had been heard on the radio.”

Questions:
1: Why did the Allies fear any conventional attempt to invade the Japanese islands?

2: Why did the United States decide to use the atomic bomb?

3: What were some of the effects of the atomic bomb on the people of Hiroshima?

4: When were the two atomic bombs dropped and on what cities?
Excerpt adapted from Columbia.edu

"When the war ended, it was the common intent of all the Allied Powers to render Japan incapable of ever returning to the field of battle. "Demilitarization" was thus the first policy of the Occupation authorities and was accompanied by abolishing Japan's armed forces, dismantling its military industry, and eliminating the expression of patriotism from its schools and public life...

But the American government, which had led the Allied war effort and whose representative, General Douglas MacArthur, was named the Supreme Commander of the Occupation forces, felt that only a democratic Japan would be truly peace-loving...

Under MacArthur and with the cooperation of the Japanese, Japan undertook tremendous changes in just seven short years--the Occupation lasted from 1945 to 1952."

Questions:

1. Why was Japan occupied after the Second World War?

2. Who led the Occupation forces in Japan?

3. How did the status of the Japanese emperor change after the Second World War?

4. How did the lives of Japanese women change after the Second World War?

5. Why was the Japanese military abolished after WWII?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions:</th>
<th>1. What were the Nuremberg Trials?</th>
<th>2. How many Nazi officials were accused of crimes at Nuremberg?</th>
<th>3. What crimes were these officials accused of?</th>
<th>4. Why was it important to hold &quot;war crimes&quot; trials at the end of the Second World War?</th>
<th>5. What had the Nazis done that qualified as &quot;war crimes&quot; (from previous lessons)?</th>
<th>6. What is genocide (from previous lessons)?</th>
<th>7: How had the Nazis committed genocide (from previous lessons)?</th>
<th>8: What did the trials at Nuremberg help to establish?</th>
<th>9: Can the international community today effectively punish war criminals?</th>
<th>10: Why is it important to have an understanding of what constitutes a &quot;crime against humanity&quot;?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;In November 1945, in the German city of Nuremberg, the victors of the World War Two began the first international war crimes trial. The choice of the city was significant for it was here that the National Socialist Party held its annual rallies. The 21 defendants were collectively accused of committing war, and peace, crimes against humanity (including the newly defined crime of genocide), war crimes, and murder of prisoners, and killing of civilians and so on... Over the following years conventions on the laws of war, genocide and human rights were signed which embodied much of the 'law' made up at Nuremberg...&quot;</td>
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</table>
In 1945, representatives of fifty nations met to draw up the United Nations charter. The United Nations is an organization of independent nations formed to promote international peace and security. The United Nations consists of six parts: the General Assembly is open to all independent nations, the Security Council has fifteen members of which five members are permanent members (U.S., Russia, Great Britain, China, and France), the Secretariat, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court, and the Trusteeship Council which is now suspended.

Questions:
1. What is the United Nations?
2. When and why was the United Nations founded?
3. What is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?
4. How can the United Nations and Universal Declaration of Human Rights reduce conflict in the world?
5. How did WWII lead to the creation of a Universal Declaration of Human Rights?


Excerpt from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

"Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law...

Article 1
All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights...

Article 3
Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.