

World War Two

Part One



Part One

Part Two

Part Three

Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.





Timeline





The rise of European dictators



Why do you think people accepted totalitarian rule?





Other European powers blamed Germany for starting World War I.

As punishment, the **Treaty of Versailles** restricted the size of Germany's military and took away its colonial empire.

It also imposed extreme reparation payments that Germany could not afford. The German Mark had become worthless by 1923 due to **hyperinflation**.



Were these punishments fair? How might Hitler have exploited German feelings toward the Treaty?





Germany's international troubles were compounded by fear of revolution from within.

Many Germans believed that they had lost the War because the army had been betrayed by Communists and Jews.

Germany's postwar government was a representative democracy known as the **Weimar Republic**.



The Republic's inability to deal with Germany's economic collapse led many to look elsewhere for leadership.

What postwar events might have contributed to German fears about communism?





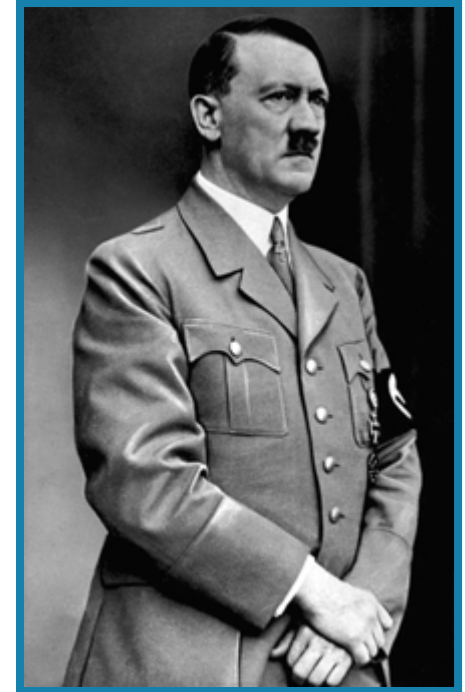
Hitler takes power



Adolf Hitler was a political activist and gifted orator who promoted German **nationalism**.

Hitler became head of the National Socialist German Workers' (Nazi) Party in the early 1920s.

His powerful rhetoric and promise to restore German prosperity made him extremely popular. He was appointed Chancellor of Germany in 1933.



Hitler immediately ended the Weimar Republic and announced the beginning of the **Third Reich**. He called himself **Der Führer**: “The Leader.”



The Nazis developed the idea of a national “Rebirth,” where the German people would rise out of the despair of the post-war 1920s.

Hitler said Germans needed *Lebensraum*, or “living space,” to support their population. To gain this space, he believed Germany needed to expand eastward.

They encouraged the idea of *Blut und Boden*, “blood and soil,” which held that those who work the soil, own it.



How might these concepts help to restore German national pride?



Hitler wanted to create a master **Aryan** race. He believed other races were inferior and should be wiped out.

Hitler used racism to his political advantage. Exploiting established **anti-Semitism**, he made the Jewish people scapegoats for all of Germany's problems.

Hitler's discriminatory policies began with his rise to power in 1933, when he forcibly removed all non-Aryans from government office.





Hitler claimed that Germans in the Sudeten region of Czechoslovakia were being mistreated. France and Britain promised to defend Czechoslovakia in case of invasion.

In 1938, Hitler invited French and British Prime Ministers, **Édouard Daladier** and **Neville Chamberlain**, to Munich.

Desperate to avoid war, Daladier and Chamberlain signed the **Munich Agreement** on September 30, 1938, allowing Germany to annex the Sudetenland.



Why would France and Britain sign the Agreement?



British politician **Winston Churchill** criticized this policy of **appeasement**.

“Britain and France had to choose between war and dishonor. They chose dishonor. They will have war.”

—Winston Churchill



Churchill was right. Barely a month after the Munich Agreement, Germany occupied the rest of Czechoslovakia. Hitler then set his sights on Poland.





Nazi-Soviet non-aggressive



Key figures



