

World War Two Knowledge Organiser

Year 9 History

Timeline of Events: NAZI GERMANY & THE ROAD TO WAR

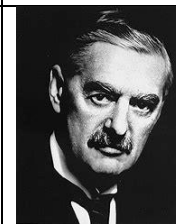
1929	Wall Street Crash in New York triggers worldwide depression
1933	Reichstag fire; Enabling Act
1935	Germany starts to re-arm; Nuremberg Laws
1936	Germany occupies the Rhineland
1938	Germany takes over Austria and occupies the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia; British appeasement; Kristallnacht

Key Figures



Hitler
Nazi leader; Chancellor of Germany from 1933; Fuhrer from 1935

Chamberlain
British Prime Minister 1937-1940; famous for appeasing Hitler



Churchill
British Prime Minister from May 1940-1945

Key Terminology

Depression	An economic slump
Lebensraum	'Living space'
Rearmament	To become weaponised again
Reich	The German Empire
Foreign policy	A country's approach to other countries
Appeasement	Giving in to another's demands
Gestapo	Nazi secret police
Reichstag	German Parliament building
Blitzkrieg	German military strategy designed for a swift victory
Propaganda	Spread of information – often false – to influence the public
Rationing	To give out in portions
Censorship	Blocking of information
Evacuation	Process of moving civilians from danger to safety

Overview

In this unit you will learn about how the world descended into the gravest conflict in human history, largely due to the actions of one man – Adolf Hitler. Arguably WW2 is the most momentous event of the modern era, leading to huge changes such as the emergence of the Welfare State, Human Rights and a new International Order.

Timeline of Events: World War Two 1939-1945

September 1 st 1939	Germany invades Poland
September 3 rd 1939	Britain declares war on Germany; 'phony war' begins
April 1940	Germany invades Denmark & Norway
May 1940	Germany invades France, Holland and Belgium
June 1940	Dunkirk evacuation; France surrenders
July 1940	The Battle of Britain begins
September 1940	Germany launches the Blitz on British cities
June; December 1941	Germany attacks Russia; US enters the war
October 1942	Battle of El Alamein
1943	Italy surrenders
6 th June 1944	D-Day: Invasion of Europe by Allies begins
7 th May 1945	Germany surrenders (VE Day)
August	Atomic bombs dropped on Japan by the US
2 nd September	Japan surrenders; the war is over

The Homefront

The British were soundly defeated in Northern Europe at the beginning of the war and retreated in May 1940. We valiantly held on in our island, but we would not re-enter Europe for 4 years. The fighting continued for the British however in Africa and Asia, but the British public were also at war. In order to keep the country fed and safe, the British used propaganda and censorship, the Home Guard, evacuation and rationing. This led to many declaring that post-war Britain needed to be a home fit for heroes, and thus British politics changed for ever.

Key Questions

- How did Adolf Hitler and the Nazis come to power?
- Was Nazi Germany a police state?
- What was Nazi racial theory?
- Who were the winners and losers in Nazi Germany?
- Could the Holocaust have been avoided?
- What was Nazi foreign policy?
- What was appeasement and was it the best policy?
- Was Dunkirk a triumph or disaster?
- Why did Britain win the Battle of Britain?
- What was the significance of the Battle of El Alamein?
- How did Britain win the Battle of the Atlantic?
- What happened on D Day?
- How did Britain change during and after the war?

