

World War II Begins

Read the text and answer the questions.

The events leading to World War II began in 1919 with the Treaty of Versailles at the end of World War I. The Treaty of Versailles demanded that Germany pay reparations to the Allies for causing most of the destruction of World War I. In addition, Germany was forced to give up much of its military, weapons, and land. After World War I, Germany had many economic and political problems.

In 1933, Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party took power in Germany. Hitler was a strong leader and convinced the German people that he could make Germany a powerful country again. Hitler began to rebuild the German military. In 1938, Germany invaded Austria and part of Czechoslovakia, the Sudetenland, in 1939.

In order to avoid another world war, Great Britain and France signed an appeasement plan called the Munich Pact with Germany. In the agreement, Hitler promised he would not invade any other territories.

On September 1, 1939, Hitler broke his promise when Germany invaded Poland. As a result, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany. Soon afterward, Germany's allies declared war on Great Britain and France. World War II had begun!

- Use a dictionary to define reparations as it is used in the text.
 - Why was Germany required to pay reparations?
- Use a dictionary to define appeasement as it is used in the text.
 - What was the purpose of the appeasement plan? Did it succeed?
- Based on the text, why did Hitler rebuild Germany's military? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.
- What does it mean to "declare war"? Why did Great Britain and France declare war on Germany? Explain.
- Explain the cause and effect relationship between the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 and Hitler's rise to power in 1933.

VOCABULARY

World War II Vocabulary

Use a dictionary and other resources to complete the graphic organizer for each vocabulary word.

alliance

blitzkrieg

rationing

Allies

concentration camp

reparations

appeasement

D-Day

United Nations

atomic bomb

Holocaust

VE Day

Axis Powers

kamikaze

VJ Day

DEFINITION	FACTS/CHARACTERISTICS
WORD	
EXAMPLES	NON-EXAMPLES

Day in Infamy Speech

Read the text and answer the questions.

Address Delivered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the Congress

By: President Franklin D. Roosevelt
December 8, 1941 (excerpt)

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.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost...

The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our Nation.

As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory...

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces—with the unbounded determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God.

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