

Event cards

World leaders sign an agreement (1919)

The Treaty of Versailles was signed on 28 June 1919 by France, Britain, Italy and the United States. Germany also signed the agreement but did not help create its terms. Signed at the Palace of Versailles near Paris, the Treaty blamed Germany for World War I and forced them to pay money, reduce their army and give up land. This left many Germans feeling humiliated, resentful and betrayed.

Hitler builds up Germany's army (1935)

Hitler announced Germany would build up its army again, breaking the rules set by the Treaty of Versailles. This worried many countries because it showed Germany was preparing for possible future **conflicts**.

World's money issues (1929)

When the United States stock market crashed, it caused a huge money problem worldwide, known as the Great Depression. Many people lost their jobs and businesses closed, making life in Germany harder. People struggled to buy food and survive, causing **tension**, anger and desperation. Many demanded a change for Germany.

Adolf Hitler becomes leader of Germany (1933)

By promising to fix Germany's problems, **Adolf Hitler** gained support and rose to power as Chancellor (leader of the German government). Once in control, he banned other political groups and became a **dictator**. Through propaganda, fear and violence, Hitler's **Nazi Party** became the only political group that ruled Germany from 1933 to 1945.

Britain and France make an agreement with Germany (1938)

Hitler wanted the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia. In September, Britain, France and Italy met with him and agreed to let him have it in a meeting called the Munich Agreement. This was an example of **appeasement**, a strategy used by Britain and France which allowed Hitler to take control of certain **territories**. They hoped that by giving him some of what he wanted, they could avoid war.

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Hitler invades Czechoslovakia (1939)

In March 1939, Germany broke the Munich Agreement by invading the rest of Czechoslovakia. This showed that Hitler and the Nazi Party had plans to expand German **territory** and create a German Empire.

Germany makes an agreement with Russia (1939)

In August 1939, Hitler made an **alliance** with Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Soviet Union (a group of countries including Russia) called the Nazi-Soviet Pact. Both countries promised not to fight each other and secretly agreed to split Poland, allowing Hitler to invade more easily.

Hitler invades Austria (1938)

Hitler wanted to unite Germany with Austria. In March, he sent troops into Austria, calling it the Anschluss (joining). Austria quickly became part of Germany. Nobody stopped Hitler, which increased his confidence.

Hitler sends soldiers into the Rhineland (1936)

Hitler sent German troops into the Rhineland, an area that was supposed to be free of German soldiers, according to the Treaty of Versailles. This represented a major challenge to the rest of Europe. Britain and France did not stop him, which made Hitler feel more powerful.

Germany invades Poland (1939)

On 1 September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. It was swift and brutal. Britain and France had warned Hitler not to invade, so when he did, they declared war on Germany.