

Vocabulary

Appeasement	A political strategy to try and prevent war by giving an aggressor what they want.
Atomic bomb	An extremely powerful bomb, capable of destroying whole cities.
Blitzkrieg	'Lightning war'. Light tanks, planes and infantry attack together with speed and surprise.
The Holocaust	Mass murder of Jews and other groups by Nazis.
Lebensraum	'Living space'. The idea that more land was needed for the German people.
Luftwaffe	German air force.
Nazi Party	Political party led by Hitler. Also known as the National Socialist German Workers Party or NSDAP
Propaganda	Controlling news and media to present your side favourably.
Soviet Union	A country made up of Russia and other communist states, which are now independent.
Third Reich	The third 'empire'. Another name for the Nazi state from 1933-1945.

The Two Sides

The Allies	Britain, France, The Soviet Union, USA, Austria, New Zealand, Canada, India, China and other commonwealth countries.
Axis Powers	Germany, Italy and Japan.

Important People

Adolf Hitler	Leader of the Nazi Party and dictator of Germany.
Neville Chamberlain	Prime Minister of Great Britain.
Winston Churchill	Prime Minister of Great Britain 1940-1945.
Benito Mussolini	Prime Minister (dictator) of Italy 1922-1943.
Franklin D. Roosevelt	President of USA 1932-1945. Also known as 'FDR'.
Joseph Stalin	General Secretary (Leader) of Soviet Union 1922-1953.
Harry S. Truman	Became President in 1945 after death of FDR.
Dwight D. Eisenhower	General of US army. Led the D-Day invasion. President 1953-1961.
Joseph Goebbels	In charge of propaganda, close associate of Hitler.
Herman Goering	German military leader and second in command after Hitler.

Timeline of Events

28 June 1919	Germany lose World War One and signs the Treaty of Versailles, accepting responsibility for the war and promising to pay billions of pounds in reparations.
30 Sept 1938	Treaty of Munich gives part of Czechoslovakia (Sudetenland) to Hitler. Chamberlain calls the deal 'peace in our time'.
1 Sept 1939	Hitler invades Poland.
3 Sept 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany.
Sept 1939-May 1940	'Phoney War'. No military action between Britain and Germany.
10 May 1940	Holland and Belgium attacked and invaded by German using blitzkrieg. The Battle of France begins, Germany defeats French in six weeks.
13 May 1940	Chamberlain resigns and Winston Churchill becomes prime minister of a wartime coalition government.
26 May 1940	British and French forces in France forced to retreat to Britain from Dunkirk. 338,000 men rescued.
22 June 1940	France signs armistice with Germany. France is devastated and now under German occupation.
July - Oct 1940	Battle of Britain. Hitler sends the Luftwaffe to eliminate the Royal Air Force, ready for an invasion. RAF successfully defend Britain.
Sept 1940 - May 1941	The Blitz. Many British towns heavily bombed by the Luftwaffe. Britain also bomb German cities.
22 June 1941	Hitler attacks Russia, even though he signed a pact in 1939 promising not to.
July 1941	Germany begin the 'Final Solution', murdering Jews & other groups in concentration camps across Europe.
7 Dec 1941	Japan attacks the USA by bombing Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. The USA enters the war the next day.
1942 - 1944	Battles and bombing occur across Europe, Africa, the Atlantic ocean and other parts of the world. Allies begin to take back control.
6 June 1944	D-Day. Allies launch huge attack on Germany in Normandy, and take back France.
20 Apr 1945	Hitler commits suicide, realising he has lost the war.
8 May 1945	VE Day. After Germany offers an unconditional surrender, victory in Europe is celebrated.
Aug 1945	After the Japanese refuse to surrender, the USA drop an atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan then surrenders.