

Road to World War II Revision

1. HITLER'S AIMS

2. HITLER'S STEPS TO WAR

3. APPEASEMENT – Britain and France (5 events)

Accepted re-arming of Germany (British naval agreement, 1935)

No action over re-occupation of Rhineland (1936)

Allowed Hitler to use German bombers in Spanish Civil War (1937–39)

No action over Anschluss (1938).

Gave in over Sudetenland at Munich (1938).

4. WHY APPEASEMENT (6 reasons)?

Chamberlain feared another war. People wanted peace so...

- Chamberlain would not have had enough public support to go to war.

Belief in the League of Nations to solve problems so...

- they did not threaten Hitler with war.

Britain too weak for war in 1938, needed time to re-arm so...

- appeasement bought Britain a year to re-arm.

Treaty of Versailles was considered unfair so...

- many British people sympathised with Hitler's demands.

Chamberlain misjudged Hitler so...

- he trusted Hitler's promises that Sudetenland was the last thing he wanted

Fear of Communism so...

- people let Hitler grow strong because they thought a strong Germany could stop Russia.

5. APPEASEMENT WAS ABANDONED IN 1939 (8 steps)

Feb:

- Franco (a Fascist) won the Spanish Civil War so...

15 March:

- Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia so...

March:

- Chamberlain promised to defend Poland which...

April:

- Mussolini conquers Albania which...

May:

- Pact of Steel [Hitler and Mussolini] which...

Aug:

- British alliance with USSR failed, but 23 August Nazi-Soviet Pact so...

Aug: Hitler stirred up trouble in Danzig and demanded the Polish corridor, then

Sept: Hitler invaded Poland.

6. AUG 1939: ANGLO-SOVIET TALKS FAIL [memory word: SCAB]

Suspicion

- Chamberlain didn't trust Stalin – Communist/dictator.
- Stalin didn't trust the British [thought they wanted to trick him into war with Germany]
- Poland didn't trust USSR.

Choice

- If Stalin allied with Britain, he would end up fighting in Poland on Britain's behalf
- Hitler was promising half of Poland for doing nothing.

Appeasement

- Stalin didn't think Britain would honour its promise to Poland
- He thought he would be left fighting Hitler alone.

Britain delayed, Aug 1939

- Britain sent an official (Plunkett-Ernle-Drax) to USSR by boat - too slow
- An admiral, he was not important enough to make decisions.

7. WHY A NAZI-SOVIET PACT [memory word: THUG]

In August 1939 the USSR signed an agreement with Germany.

Time to prepare for war.

- It gave Russia 18 months to make military preparations.

Hope to gain

- Stalin hoped Germany, Britain and France would wear themselves out in a long war.

Unhappy with Britain

- Stalin turned to Germany when Britain was too slow.

Germany's Motives

- Hitler thought it would make Britain back down over Poland.