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# IVth Form History Revision Guide

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# Revision Checklist

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- Below is a list of topics and questions to guide your revision for the exam.
- Tick the boxes when you have revised the topic. When all the boxes are ticked your revision is complete!

	<b>WWI and after</b>	✓
<b>1</b>	Why did WWI break out?	
<b>2</b>	How did the government encourage people to join the army?	
<b>3</b>	Why did the Schlieffen Plan fail?	
<b>4</b>	What were conditions like in the trenches?	
<b>5</b>	How effective were Gas, Aircraft and Tanks?	
<b>6</b>	How successful was the Battle of the Somme?	
<b>7</b>	How did the Treaty of Versailles affect Germany?	
<b>8</b>	Why did Hitler come to power in Germany?	
<b>9</b>	How far did people benefit from Nazi rule in Germany?	
	<b>WWII</b>	
<b>10</b>	Why did WWII break out?	
<b>11</b>	What was Blitzkrieg?	
<b>12</b>	Was Dunkirk a triumph or a disaster?	
<b>13</b>	Why did Britain win the Battle of Britain?	
<b>14</b>	Why did Hitler's invasion of Russia fail?	
<b>15</b>	How was life in Britain affected by the war?	

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# The Exam

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The summer exam will last for one hour and contain two sections:

## Section 1

This will contain three source based questions:

1. **What can you tell from Source A about ....**
  - If it is a picture you must describe part of the source and explain what you can tell from it.
  - If it is a written source you must quote part of it and explain what you can tell from it.
  
2. **How far do Sources A and B agree?**
  - Explain *both* how the sources agree with each other and how they disagree with each other
  - Make sure you describe or quote parts of each source and explain how they agree or disagree.
  
3. **How reliable is Source C?**
  - First consider the content of the source - does it agree with what you know? Is the language or style of drawing exaggerated?
  - Then consider the provenance of the source - who created it, when, for what purpose, do they have a reason to be biased?

## Section 2

In Section 2 you will have a choice of questions. Each question will have three parts:

- a) **What ...?**
    - This question is asking you what you know - you need to give at least 4 facts.
  
  - b) **Why ...?**
    - This question is asking you what you understand - you need to explain two or three reasons.
  
  - c) **Which do you think was the most important?**
    - This question is asking you to explain a number of reasons for an event, and to explain which you think was the most important.
- or*
- c) **How far do you agree with this statement?**
    - This question is asking you to explain what agrees with the statement, what disagrees with the statement, and reach a conclusion.

# The Causes of World War I

In the years before 1914 tension was growing between the countries of Europe for three reasons:

## Colonial Rivalry

By 1900 European countries controlled large areas of land in Africa and Asia. These colonies benefited the European countries by providing raw materials for their industries, food and markets for their manufactured goods. Germany had only become a united country in the 1870s and resented Britain and France because they had already acquired the best colonies.

## The Naval Arms Race

To achieve its ambition to acquire colonies Germany needed a navy. From 1906 Germany began to build Dreadnoughts, a new and more powerful type of battleship. Britain relied on having the largest navy in the world to protect its Empire and felt threatened by this. The naval arms race caused relations between Britain and Germany to deteriorate.

## The Alliance System

France was worried by the growing size of the German army. To defend itself, France made an alliance with Russia in 1893, and Britain joined this in 1907 because it felt threatened by Germany's growing navy. This group was called the **Triple Entente**.

Germany was worried about being attacked by France or Russia, and made an alliance with Austria-Hungary and Italy. This group was called the **Triple Alliance**.

The Alliance System made war more likely because a quarrel between any two countries could lead to a war between them all.

*By 1914 Europe was a powder-keg of tensions and it would only take a spark to cause the outbreak of war:*

## Sarajevo

In June 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian throne was assassinated in Sarajevo by a Serbian terrorist group. Austria blamed Serbia for the murder and attacked it in July 1914.

Russia, Serbia's ally, mobilised its army to help defend it. Germany had to defeat France before the Russian army was mobilised, so it attacked France through Belgium. Britain had signed a treaty to defend Belgium if attacked, and declared war on Germany in August 1914. World War I had begun.

# World War I

## The Schlieffen Plan

Germany's military plan at the start of the war was called the Schlieffen Plan. Germany was surrounded by France and Russia, and was worried about a war on two fronts. To prevent this the plan called for a massive attack on France, through Belgium, aimed at capturing Paris and causing France to surrender within 6 weeks, before the Russian attack got underway. The army could then be transferred east by train to meet the Russian attack. However, the Belgians held up the German advance, and the **British Expeditionary Force** (BEF) rushed to France as well. The German advance was stopped in desperate fighting at the **Battle of the Marne**. Each side then tried to outflank the other, and dug ditches to defend themselves from artillery fire, resulting in a line of trenches being built from the North Sea to Switzerland. By Christmas 1914 there was **stalemate**: trench warfare had begun.

## Joining up

When the war began most people thought it would all be over by Christmas. Many men thought that war would be an adventure and there was a rush to join up: all the young men in a street or a town would join together in '**Pals**' **battalions**. In 1915 as more men were needed the government produced lots of propaganda posters to persuade people to join up, making the Germans look evil, appealing to people's patriotism, and making the war look fun. Women also encouraged men to fight by giving **white feathers** (the symbol of cowardice) to young men in the street who were not in uniform. By 1916 still more men were needed and the government introduced **conscription** (compulsory military service.)

## Life in the Trenches

Trenches were cramped and uncomfortable. In wet weather they filled with water and soldiers suffered from **trench foot**, which caused the feet to swell and could lead to their **amputation**. When wet the trenches were full of frogs, slugs, beetles and lice. Above all they were infested with **rats** which fed on the dead and could run over a soldier's face in the night. Soldiers spent most time in the support trenches where they had to cope with **boredom** rather than danger. The daily routine involved filling sandbags, repairing trenches, cleaning latrines and carrying food. Rations were very basic - bread, corned beef and tea. In the front line trenches soldiers faced the constant danger of death from sniper fire, artillery bombardment or enemy attack. Some soldiers suffered from **shell shock** which could cause uncontrollable shaking. Some soldiers tried to desert or to injure themselves - both these were punished by execution by **firing squad**.

## Gas

Poison gas was first used by the Germans in 1915. There were three types of gas:

- **Chlorine** - caused choking and damaged the lungs.
- **Phosgene** - invisible and didn't cause immediate effects. Later caused severe vomiting and lungs to fill with fluid.
- **Mustard** - damaged the skin causing severe burning, blindness and choking.

*Gas was not a very efficient weapon. Gas masks, introduced in 1916, protected people from it, and changes in wind direction made it unpredictable. After 1916 only 3% of gassed soldiers died and 93% were able to return to duty.*

## Aircraft

Aircraft had only recently been invented and played a small part in the war. They were used for **reconnaissance** - finding out where the other side's trenches and soldiers were. Aerial photographs could help discover if an attack was being planned, or a tunnel being dug. They also directed artillery fire to make it more accurate. Sometimes they attacked troops with machine guns or small bombs.

*Aircraft developed quickly during the war and but had little impact on the eventual outcome.*

## Tanks

Tanks were developed by the British - their official title was '**Trench Crossing Machine**' but it was codenamed 'water tank' for secrecy. They had steel armour, machine guns or small cannons, and could travel at about 4 miles an hour. However, they broke down very easily and got stuck in the mud, making them an easy target for artillery.

Tanks were first used in the **Battle of the Somme**, with mixed success, and many more were then built. In the final offensive in 1918 430 tanks were used, but only 6 survived. However, they had been important in helping allied troops break through the German lines.

*Some argue that the fear caused by the arrival of the tank on the battlefield was vital for the allied breakthrough, others that its unreliability limited its usefulness.*

## **The Battle of the Somme**

In July 1916 the Battle of the Somme began. This was a massive attack by British forces intended to relieve pressure on the French who were under heavy attack at **Verdun**, and also to break through the German lines. It began with an enormous **artillery bombardment** lasting seven days. This was meant to kill the German soldiers and destroy their defences. However, the German soldiers were protected by deep dugouts, and the barbed wire was made even more tangled by the artillery fire. When the British soldiers, who were ordered to walk so as to stay in formation, went over the top, they were met with a hail of machine gun and artillery fire. They were ordered not to take cover, as it was believed that they wouldn't come out of it again. The result was a disaster - **20,000 killed and 40,000 wounded** on the first day.

*The Battle of the Somme lasted until November and caused 600,000 British casualties without making significant gains. General Haig has been heavily criticised for his tactics at the Battle of the Somme, but one of the aims was achieved - pressure on the French at Verdun was relieved.*

## **The end of the War**

By 1918 Germany was running out of men and supplies - the allied naval blockade was causing great hardship. But in 1918 **Russia** surrendered. This gave Germany the chance to launch one last offensive in the hope of winning the war before US soldiers arrived. The '**Spring Offensive**' came close to breaking the allied line, but failed. With the arrival of **American troops** in May Germany's defeat was only a matter of time. At 11 am on 11th November 1918 the **armistice** (agreement to stop fighting) came into effect - the war was over.

# **The Treaty of Versailles**

## **Negotiating the Treaty of Versailles**

After the war the allies met at Versailles to decide how Germany should be treated. **Clemenceau**, the French leader, wanted Germany punished very harshly because France had suffered most during the fighting. He wanted to make sure Germany would never again be able to attack France. **Lloyd-George**, the British leader, wanted Germany to be punished, as the British public demanded. But he also wanted it to recover so that it could buy British goods. **Wilson**, the American leader, wanted lasting peace in Europe, and believed this would only happen if Germany was treated fairly. The treaty was a compromise, but Clemenceau got most of what he wanted.

## **The terms of the Treaty**

- Germany had to accept the blame for starting the war.
- Germany had to reduce its army to 100,000 men, and have no tanks or airplanes.
- Germany had to demilitarise the Rhineland.
- Germany was forbidden from uniting with Austria.
- Germany had to give up the Polish corridor to Poland.
- German had to pay reparations of £6,600m

In Germany people had been told by the **Kaiser** that they were winning the war. At the end of the war the Kaiser was overthrown in a revolution, and the new government (the **Weimar Republic**) signed the armistice and the treaty of Versailles.

*People in Germany blamed the Weimar Republic for the defeat in the war, and were outraged at the terms of the Treaty. Most Germans wanted to recover the lost land and make Germany strong again, and this was a major factor in Hitler's rise to power in the 1930s.*

# Hitler's Rise to Power

## Hyperinflation

In order to pay the £6,600m of reparations the Weimar government **printed money**. This caused its value to fall. In 1922 they stopped paying reparations, and France responded by invading the **Ruhr**, Germany's industrial heartland. German workers went on strike, and the government printed even more money to pay them. The crisis caused the value of the mark to fall even further - it took suitcases full of money to pay for necessities, and people's savings were made worthless. Eventually Germany agreed to continue paying reparations, the French army withdrew, and a new currency was issued. America lent Germany money in the **Dawes Plan**, and the years from 1924-9 were prosperous.

*But many people were bitter about their losses and never forgave the Weimar Republic - another reason why many people supported Hitler in the 1930s.*

## Hitler's background

Hitler had been born in **Austria** and developed a hatred of the Jews whilst living on the streets in Vienna. He moved to Germany and fought bravely during the First World War. He blamed Germany's defeat on the politicians of the Weimar Republic, and on the Jews - he said by agreeing to surrender they had '**stabbed the army in the back**'. He was determined to overthrow the government and formed the Nazi Party in 1920 with that aim. He tried to seize power in 1923 but failed and was sent to prison. There he wrote **Mein Kampf** where he set out his ideas:

- There should be a strong government led by a single leader - the Fuhrer
- The Treaty of Versailles must be cancelled and lost land returned to Germany.
- All people of German blood should live within a Greater Germany (i.e. Austria and parts of Czechoslovakia should become part of Germany)
- The German's are the 'master race' - only pure Germans can be citizens. Jews can not be citizens.
- The German 'master race' needs living space (lebensraum) in eastern Europe.

*In the 1920s the economy was doing well and Nazi Party was very unpopular.*

## Hitler becomes Chancellor

In 1929 the **Wall Street Crash** in America caused an economic depression around the world. American banks recalled loans and German businesses went bust. Reduction in trade led to massive **unemployment** - 6m by 1933. In this atmosphere of desperation people remembered why they disliked the Weimar Republic - defeat in war, the Versailles Treaty, Hyperinflation - and were more willing to listen to Hitler's ideas. Hitler promised people jobs, to make Germany great again and to undo the Treaty of Versailles. By 1933 the Nazis were the largest party in the **Reichstag**, and Hitler was appointed Chancellor. Very quickly he turned Germany into a dictatorship.

## Life in Nazi Germany

When he came to power Hitler quickly implemented his ideas. Some people benefited from these, and others did not:

- **Unemployed workers** were given jobs on construction schemes - building the autobahns (motorways), but the wages were lower than unemployment benefit had been.
- **Workers** benefited from the Beauty of Labour scheme which improved working conditions in factories, but working hours were increased, wages were low and trade unions (organisations to protect workers) were abolished.
- **Women** who had four or more children received medals, but were sacked from many jobs because the nazis thought they should be mothers and housewives.
- **Farmers** debts were cancelled and the price of farm produce raised, but farmers were expected to meet high production targets.

- **Manufacturers** benefited as the nazis bought lots of vehicles, weapons and uniforms from them to equip the army, but they told manufacturers what prices they could charge.
- **Teenage boys** had to join the Hitler Youth and do exercise and drill to prepare them for becoming soldiers.
- **Teenage Girls** joined the League of German Girls and did exercise to make them healthy mothers.
- **Jews** were excluded from German society and prevented from having certain jobs and running businesses. It was made illegal for them to marry German citizens.

*During the 1930s most people in Germany benefited from Nazi rule. Many were prepared to overlook the loss of political freedom and persecution of the Jews because Hitler had ended the economic depression and restored Germany's pride.*

## The Causes of the Second World War

### Hitler's foreign policy

Hitler's foreign policy aims were very clear: he wanted to undo the treaty of Versailles, bring all Germans inside the border of Germany and acquire living space. Soon after coming to power he began to put these ideas into effect, resulting in the outbreak of the Second World War.

**1935:** Hitler introduced **conscription** and built up the army to 1m men.

**1935:** German soldiers reoccupied the **Rhineland**

**1938:** German soldiers occupied Austria - 99% of the population voted to join with Germany.

**1939:** Hitler demanded that the **Sudetenland** area of Czechoslovakia which contained 3m Germans should become part of Germany. At the **Munich Conference** Chamberlain agreed it should be given to Germany as long as Germany promised to leave the rest of Czechoslovakia alone.

**1939:** Hitler broke his word and occupied the rest of Czechoslovakia. Britain and France now promised Poland that they would help it if Germany attacked.

**1939:** Germany and Russia made an agreement called the **Nazi-Soviet Pact** and invaded Poland, dividing it between them. Britain and France declared war on Germany

### Appeasement

However, Hitler's actions were not the only reason for the outbreak of war. The attitude of Britain and France in the 1930s was partly to blame. The policy they followed was known as appeasement - this was the idea that they should give Hitler what he wanted in order to prevent war from breaking out.

There were many reasons for and against the policy of appeasement:

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many people felt Germany had been treated unfairly by the Treaty of Versailles, and Hitler's demands were reasonable. They thought once Germany had recovered what she had lost then Hitler would be satisfied.</li> <li>• Many people were more afraid of communism than Hitler. Allowing Germany to become strong would prevent the spread of communism from Russia.</li> <li>• The destructiveness of modern weapons meant that many people felt that war should be avoided at all costs. Memories of the First World War were still fresh.</li> <li>• Britain needed time to build up its armed forces. Giving Hitler what he wanted delayed war until 1939 when Britain was stronger.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giving Hitler what he wanted simply encouraged him to ask for more. He could not be trusted - every time he took more territory he said it was the last, but he always broke his word.</li> <li>• Appeasement allowed Germany to get stronger and stronger - it would have been much easier to stop Germany in 1935 than in 1939.</li> <li>• Appeasement worried Stalin. When he saw that Britain and France did nothing to stop Hitler take over Czechoslovakia he decided it would be best for Russia to make an alliance with Hitler - the Nazi-Soviet Pact. If Britain and France had stood up to Hitler Russia may have allied with them instead of Hitler.</li> </ul>

### **Blitzkrieg, 1939**

The German army in World War II pioneered the use of blitzkrieg (lightening war). This was a sudden and overwhelming attack using the combined forces of tanks, infantry, artillery and airpower. In September 1939 Hitler unleashed blitzkrieg on Poland and over-ran it in a few weeks. Britain and France declared war on Germany, but for the next six months, known as the **phony war**, there was no actual fighting. Then in April 1940 Hitler launched blitzkrieg against France. The British army was forced to evacuate from **Dunkirk** in May and France surrendered in June 1940.

### **Dunkirk, 1940**

The rapid German advance through France pushed the British Army back and left it trapped in Dunkirk - there was a real danger that **300,000 men** would be captured and Britain's army wiped out. After the evacuation had happened it was reported in the press as if it was a triumph. The role of ordinary fishermen who helped to pick up the soldiers was emphasised. The soldiers were described as disciplined and eager to get back in the war. It was portrayed as an heroic action that allowed the British Army to fight again another day. This was done to keep up **morale** in Britain.

However, it didn't happen quite as it was reported. Less than 10% of the soldiers were evacuated by ordinary fishermen - the rest were carried by the navy. Discipline broke down among some soldiers who were fighting to get on the evacuation boats, and some soldiers threw away their weapons rather than wishing to go back and fight. Dunkirk was a serious defeat which left Britain facing Nazi Germany alone.

### **The Battle of Britain, 1940**

In 1940 Hitler made plans for an invasion of Britain known as **Operation Sealion**. Before the ships carrying his troops across the Channel could set sail Germany needed to have control of the skies - otherwise the ships would be destroyed by the RAF. So in July 1940 the **Luftwaffe** (German Airforce) began to attack Britain's airfields. The Germans believed they would succeed as their planes and pilots outnumbered the British, and they believed the Messerschmitt fighter was better than the Spitfire. However, unknown to the Germans, the British had developed **radar** which could detect the German planes before they reached England, allowing British fighters to lie in wait for the Germans. The Luftwaffe only had fuel for 30 minutes over England and were told to fly close together which made them an easier target.

Despite heavy losses the British were able to build enough planes to replace the ones shot down, and the British pilots, knowing they were fighting for the survival of their country, pushed themselves to the limit. By September Hitler realised he could not destroy the RAF and Operation Sealion was cancelled. Referring to the RAF pilots, Churchill famously said 'Never was so much owed by so many to so few'.

### **Operation Barbarossa, 1941-2**

In Mein Kampf Hitler had made it clear he wanted to destroy communism and obtain living space for the German people in eastern Europe. This would mean war with Russia. However, in order to conquer Poland without having to fight Russia he had signed the **Nazi-Soviet Pact** with Russia in 1939. By 1941 he had conquered western Europe and felt secure enough to plan the invasion of Russia, known as Operation Barbarossa. Conquering western Russia would also have the benefit of gaining control of enormous wheat fields in the Ukraine, and large supplies of oil in the Caucasus. Hitler planned to repeat his successes in western Europe by using blitzkrieg to quickly capture **Lenningrad** and **Moscow**, forcing the Russians to make peace. In June 1941 three million German soldiers invaded Russia.

At first the Germans advanced very rapidly. The Russians could not defeat them so retreated, destroying everything in their path which could be helpful to the Germans. By late 1941 the Germans reached Leningrad and Moscow, but here the Russians put up fierce resistance. Then the terrible Russian winter arrived: temperatures dropped to **-40 degrees** but Hitler refused to allow the army to retreat. Many German soldiers froze to death.

After the winter Hitler ordered the German armies to attack **Stalingrad**. Despite desperate hand to hand fighting in the streets the Germans were unable to capture it, and in November 1942 the Russians launched a surprise counter-attack which surrounded and cut off the German Army. **300,000 soldiers** were lost.

*Stalingrad was a turning point in the war. For the first time Germany's army had been defeated, and from now on the Russians began to push the German army back towards Germany.*

### **The Home Front**

The Second World War seriously affected the lives of ordinary people in Britain in a number of ways: Once war broke out it was expected that Britain would be heavily bombed. To prepare for this the government delivered **Anderson Shelters** to people's houses - these were buried in the garden. To avoid providing a target to German bombers, after dark all windows had to be blacked out by heavy curtains, streetlights were turned off and car headlights covered.

To avoid the expected bombing the government encouraged children and young mothers to **evacuate** to the countryside. Some families organised their own evacuation, going to stay with relatives in the country, or abroad. Others were evacuated by the government - in four days in September 1939 **one and a half** million people moved. Many evacuees were from poor, working class families who went to stay with richer middle class families. Some children found the separation from their families and new ways of living very upsetting, others were excited about experiencing a different way of life.

After failing to destroy the RAF during the Battle of Britain the Germans tried to force Britain to make peace by bombing its cities. In September 1940 **the Blitz** began. London came under heaviest attack, but other cities were also targeted. By the time the Blitz ended in May 1941 1.4m Londoners had lost their homes and across the country **43,000 people** were killed.

During the war supplies had to reach Britain by ship, crossing the Atlantic in **convoys**, and German u-boats attempted to starve Britain into submission by sinking these ships. As a result food **rationing** was introduced in 1940 and clothes rationing in 1941. People were encouraged to grow as much of their own food as possible. Some people welcomed rationing as it was fairer - rich and poor were allowed the same amount. Others didn't like the restrictions, and bought goods illegally on the **black market**.

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# Revision Test

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## The Causes of World War I

1. How did countries benefit from having colonies?
2. Why did colonies cause rivalry between European countries?
3. Why was the navy so important to Britain?
4. Why did Germany's decision to build Dreadnought's cause tension with Britain?
5. Why was the Triple Entente formed?
6. Why was the Triple Alliance formed?
7. How did the Alliance System make war more likely?
8. How did the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand lead to the start of WWI?

## **World War I**

**9. Why did Germany devise the Schlieffen Plan?**

**10. Why did the Schlieffen Plan fail?**

**11. Why did men join the army?**

**12. What were the problems of life in the trenches?**

**13. What types of gas were used during WWI?**

**14. How effective a weapon was gas?**

**15. What part did aircraft play during WWI?**

**16. How effective were tanks during WWI?**

**17. What was the British plan at the Battle of the Somme?**

**18. Why did it fail?**

**19. Why did Germany lose the war?**

## **The Treaty of Versailles**

**20. Who were the three main leaders who negotiated the Versailles treaty?**

**21. How was Germany affected by the Treaty of Versailles?**

**22. How did people in Germany feel about the treaty of Versailles?**

## **Hitler's rise to power**

**23. Why did Germany suffer from hyperinflation in 1922-3?**

**24. How was hyperinflation solved?**

**25. Why did Hitler believe the politicians had 'stabbed Germany in the back'?**

**26. What beliefs did Hitler set out in Mein Kampf?**

**27. How did the Wall Street Crash lead to Hitler becoming Chancellor of Germany?**

### **Life in Nazi Germany**

**28. How did people in Germany benefit from nazi rule?**

**29. How did people in Germany suffer from nazi rule?**

### **The Causes of WWII**

**30. What were Hitler's aims in foreign policy?**

**31. How did Hitler's actions lead to war in 1939?**

**32. In what ways was appeasement the right policy for Britain to follow in the 1930s?**

**33. In what ways was appeasement the wrong policy for Britain to follow in the 1930s?**

## **World War II**

**34. What was Blitzkrieg?**

**35. In what ways was Dunkirk a triumph?**

**36. In what ways was Dunkirk a disaster?**

**37. Why did Britain win the Battle of Britain?**

**38. Why did Hitler invade Russia in 1941?**

**39. Why was the German invasion of Russia defeated?**

**40. How was life in Britain affected by the war?**