

World War II

Knowledge Organiser

Year 6

Hitler came to power



November 11th, 1918

Germany signed the armistice, which ended World War I.



June 1919

Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles.



July 29th, 1921

Hitler became the leader of the National Socialist (Nazi) Party.



1923

Hyperinflation made German money worthless.



November 8th, 1923

Hitler and the Nazis attempted to overthrow the government in the Beer Hall Putsch.



1924

Hitler was imprisoned because of the Beer Hall Putsch; whilst in prison, he wrote Mein Kampf.

1918

1925

Key vocabulary

unity	annexed
civilians	pact
Home Front	inception
overthrow	radar
evacuation	invasion
anti-Semitism	air force
rationing	squadron
dictator	Jew
fascism	politics
Blitz	payload
air raid	mobilisation
blackout	Nazi

Europe in 1937

In the late 1930s, **dictators** ruled much of Europe. This made democracies like **Britain** and **France** extremely nervous - they hoped that the atrocities of World War I would steer Europe away from war, but this could not be guaranteed. **Germany was a dictatorship** in 1937. The dictator, **Adolf Hitler**, wanted Germany to be **the most powerful country**, and he discriminated against certain groups of people based on their **religion** and **ethnicity**.

Britain's Home Front

The **war affected all people**, whether **on the front line** (in Europe) fighting or the **home front** (back in Britain). The Home Front mainly involved the **nation's civilians**. Life **changed dramatically** for Britain's Home Front, especially for:

- **Children** – many were evacuated to safer areas. This meant being separated from family and friends for long periods.
- **Women** – With millions of men serving in the armed forces, women were required to fill the jobs that the men left behind. The contributions made by women in different workplaces were crucial to the war effort.

Hitler's rise in popularity

The **new German government** attempted to rebuild Germany after World War I. Signing the **Treaty of Versailles** meant that Germany had **crippling debts**. This led to **unemployment** and a **shortage of goods**. Hitler and the Nazi party saw a failing Germany as an **opportunity to claim power**. In 1932, the Nazis were **the largest party** in the Reichstag, and then in 1933, Hitler became the **Chancellor** of Germany.

The outbreak of WW2

On **1st September 1939**, Hitler invaded Poland. **Britain and France** declared war on Germany two days later. Britain's prime minister at the time, **Neville Chamberlain**, addressed the nation with a speech. There was a widespread belief that Britain needed to stand firm against the **threat of Nazi aggression**. '**Keep Calm and Carry On**' was the government's motivational message to its citizens at the start of WW2. Everyone felt that they were **part of the war**. The war effort in Britain was known as the **Home Front**. Children's lives changed dramatically during the war as many of them were **evacuated**. Women's lives also changed as they had to help **produce goods**.

How did the Second World War continue?

The bombing of British cities, called the **Blitz**, continued for some time. Still, due to the huge defeat at the **Battle of Britain**, the **German Luftwaffe** would never have the same military power it had before, so it was minimal in comparison.

On **6th June 1944**, **American, Canadian and British troops** landed on the beaches of **Normandy** and stormed the German defences. Within months, **Paris was liberated**, and the Allies continued their **march towards Berlin**.

With the **Soviets** marching from the east and the Allies marching from the west, it was not long until the battle reached Berlin.

Finally, on **8th May 1945**, news reached the world that **Berlin had fallen** and the Nazi Government had signed a **peace treaty**. **Hitler was dead. The war was over.**



British prime minister
(Chamberlain)



Adolf Hitler
(Leader of the Nazi Party)



Britain

1250 aircraft destroyed
544 pilots killed



Germany

1700 aircraft destroyed
2662 pilots killed

Statistics showing the aircraft and personnel loss during the Battle of Britain.



Examples of posters produced to support Britain's Home Front.

