



The Causes of the Second World War

Chapter 11 Section 1 USH Honors

The Causes of the Second World War

Directions: Use the images to hypothesize the causes of the Second World War.

1

The Legacy of the Great War

3

The Global Depression

5

The Policy of Appeasement

Failure of the League of Nations

2

Hitler's Foreign Policy

4

Nazi-Soviet Nonaggression Pact

6



1. The Legacy of the Great War

- **Failures of the World War I Peace settlement**
 - **Treaty of Versailles did not create a “lasting peace”**
 - **Germans saw nothing fair in the treaty.**
- **The Treaty of Versailles actually led to economic depression in many countries**
 - **This depression contributed to the rise of dictatorships in Europe and Asia.**
- **Nations were expected to pay large war debts:**
 - **Increased the problems of hunger, homelessness, and unemployment in many of the nations of Europe.**

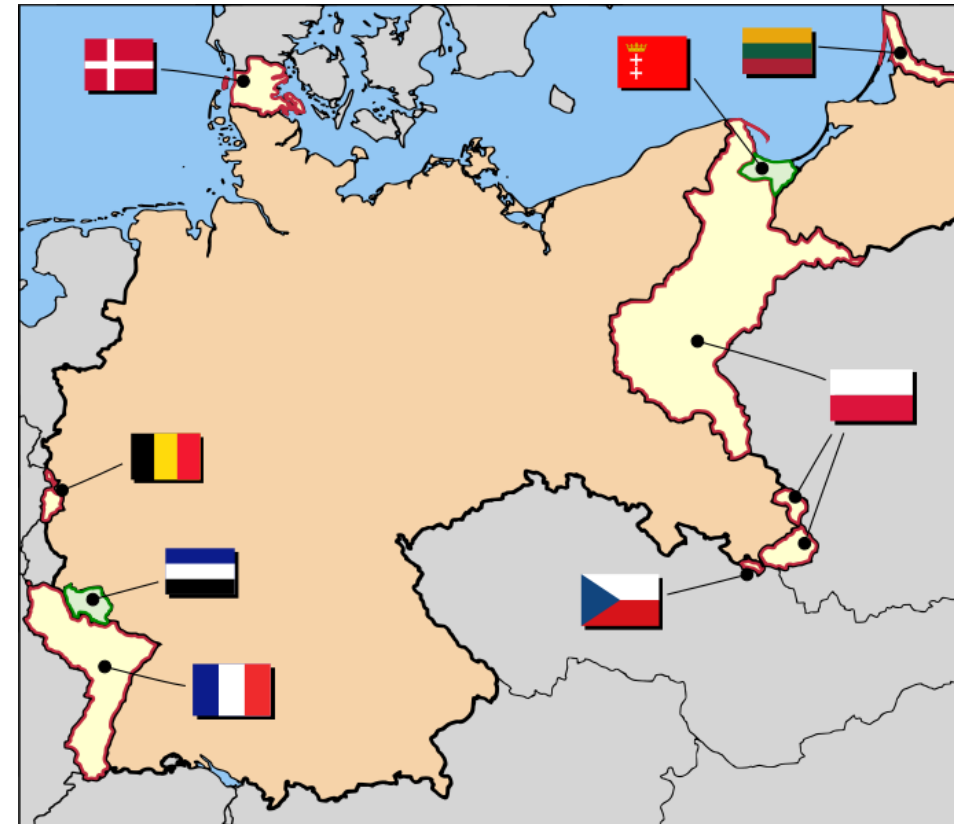
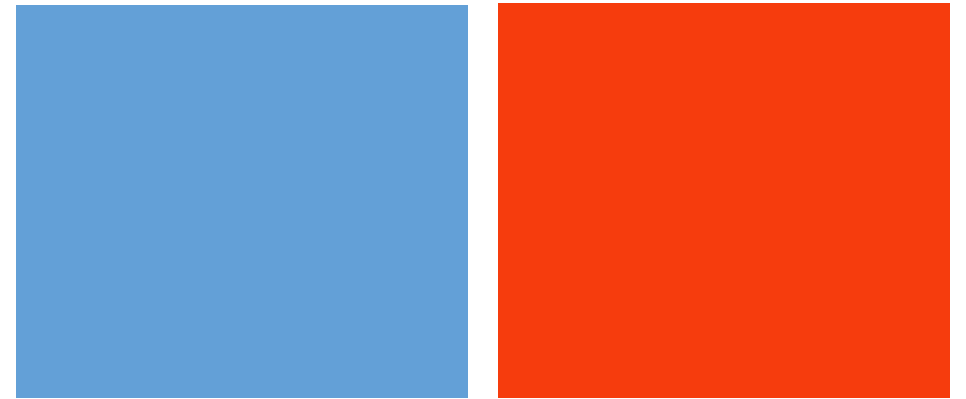


Failures of the Paris Conference



How did the Treaty of Versailles anger Germany & the Soviet Union?

- **Germany resented clauses forcing them to admit responsibility for starting WWI.**
- **Germany was not guaranteed any form of security**
 - **The Treaty of Versailles took away:**
 - **major portions of land**
 - **Alsace & Lorraine**
 - **Rhineland**
 - **Saar Basin**
 - **Danzig (Gdansk)**
 - **Citizens' rights were limited**
 - **The USSR resented having land taken to create:**
 - **Poland, Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania.**



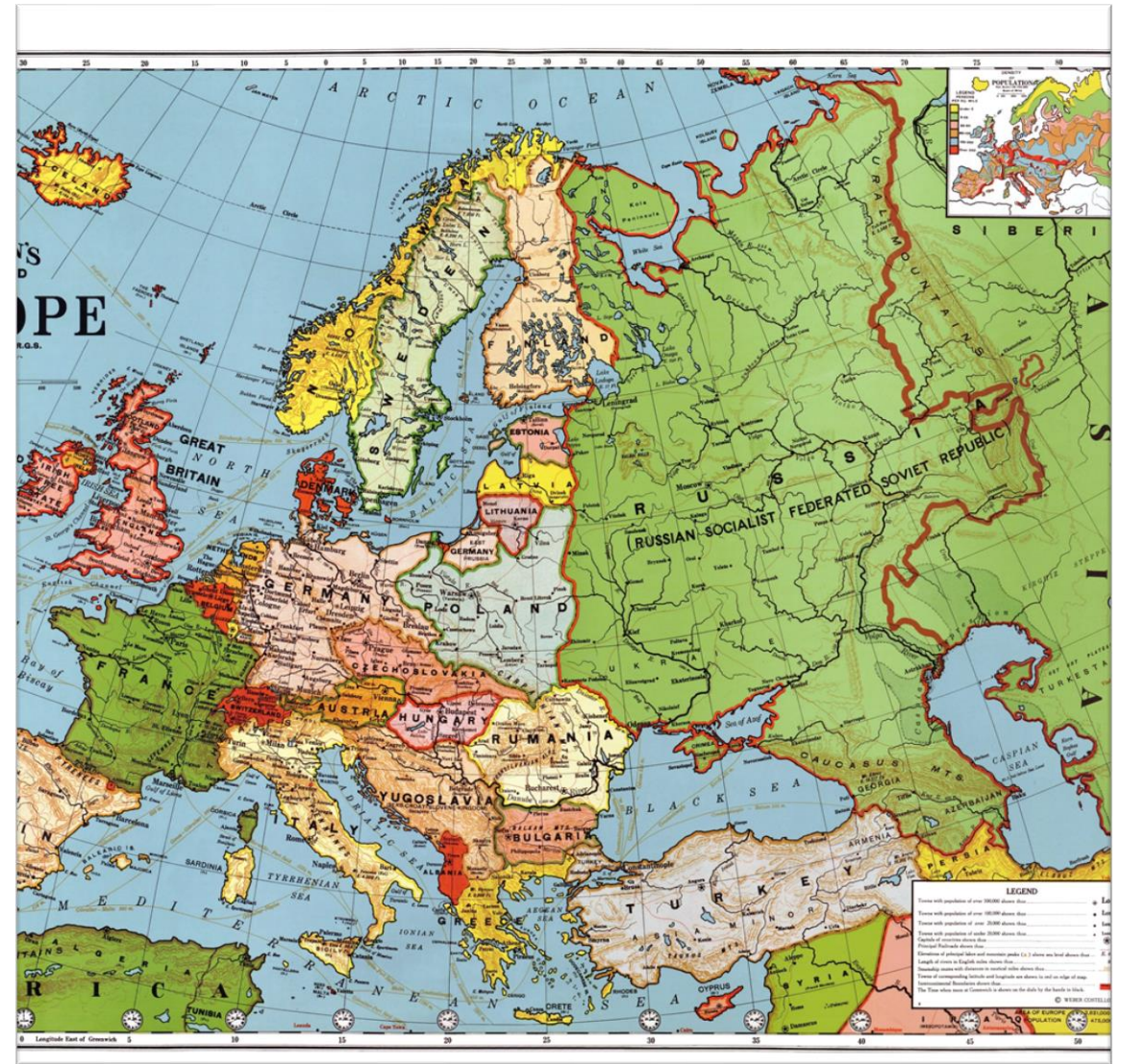
New Nations & Democratic Governments:

Finland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, & Estonia were created.

Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, & Romania became democratic.

The treaty of Versailles did NOTHING to support the new nations or the new democratic governments.

These governments will collapse rapidly!



German Reparations

Germany was forced to pay significant war reparations...causing the country to enter the global depression first.

By 1935, Hitler began to defy the Treaty of Versailles.

Treaty members did NOTHING to stop this move – they were too weak!



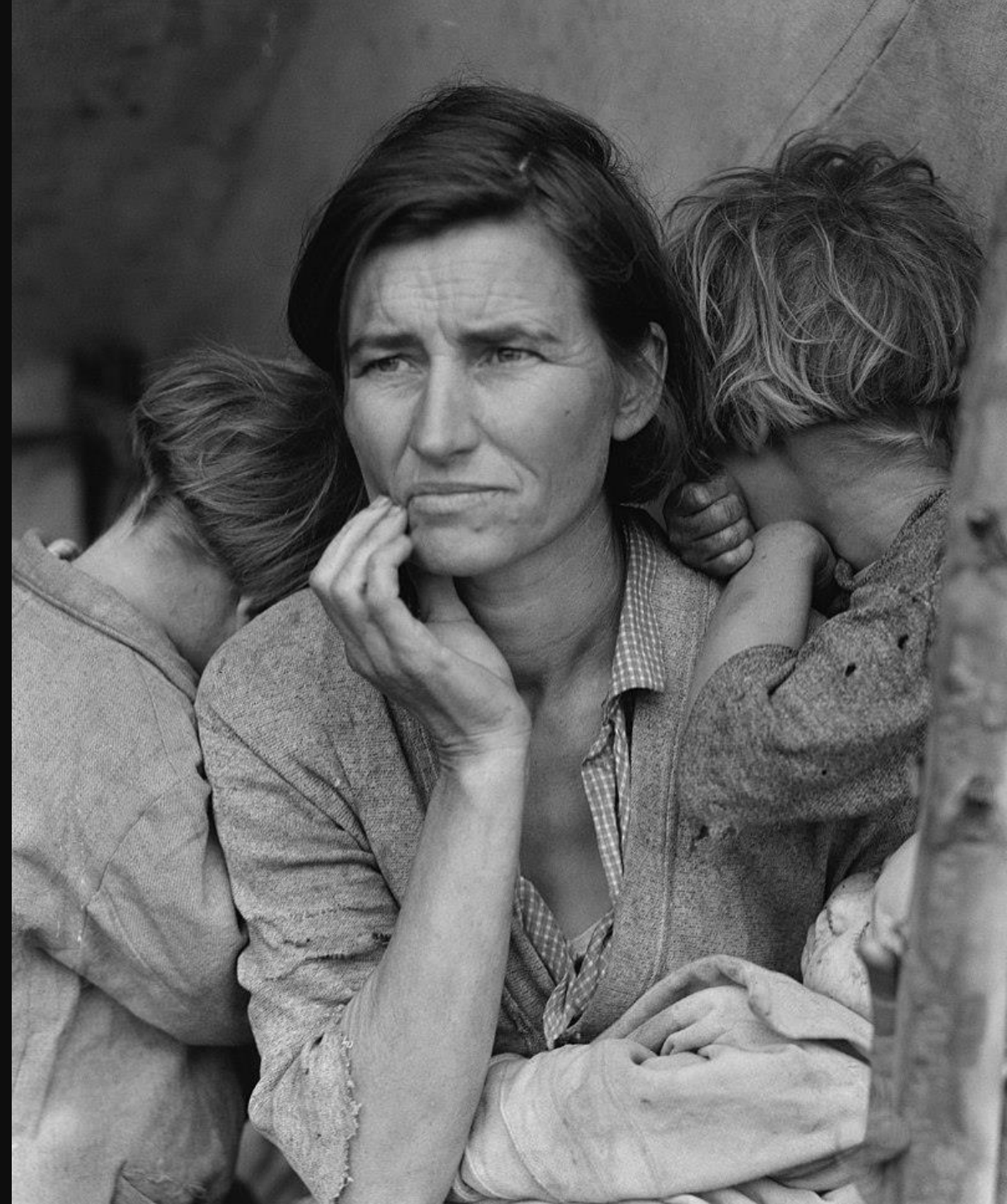
2. Failures of the League of Nations

- **1931: Japan invaded Manchuria and took Nanking by 1937.**
- **1935: Italy invaded Ethiopia.**
- **How did Hitler begin to make his move in Europe?**
 - **Anschluss: union or joining together.**
 - **Hitler called for the unification of Germany and Austria**
 - **Believed Germany could not be separated.**
- **1938: Hitler threatened Austrian Chancellor Kurt von Schuschnigg**
 - **Hitler would invade if the Anschluss was not signed**
 - **Von Schuschnigg attempted to allow Austrians to vote – NOPE**
 - **Hitler invaded Austria!**



3. The Global Depression

- **The economic depression of the 1930s was GLOBAL!**
- **Economic instability led to political instability in many countries.**
- **Political chaos leads to the rise of dictators:**
 - **Benito Mussolini (1922)**
 - **Joseph Stalin (1924)**
 - **Adolf Hitler (1933)**
 - **Hideki Tojo (1940)**
- **These leaders (and their actions) push the world towards another global conflict.**



Germany in the Great Depression

- **Germany suffered more than any other country.**
- **Britain and France demanded reparation payments be made in the 1920s.**
- **The United States also demanded repayment of loans in the 1930s.**
- **Unemployment increased dramatically across Germany.**
- **Poverty significantly increased.**
- **Germany became desperate – turning to someone who promised HOPE!**





4. Hitler's Foreign Policy

- **Germany began to prepare for war as early as 1933 – immediately after Hitler came to power.**
- **Lebensraum: “living space”**
- **Hitler planned to conquer Poland and the Soviet Union to provide space for his “perfect” race!**
- **Hitler wanted to destroy all those he deemed inferior:**
 - **All Slavic peoples would be enslaved to Germany.**
 - **All Jewish people would be killed.**

How would Hitler achieve his goals?

1. **Undo all military restrictions placed on Germany in the Treaty of Versailles.**
2. **Reverse all territorial losses from the Treaty of Versailles.**
3. **Take over neighboring lands with ethnic German populations.**
4. **Arrange pacts that would allow Germany to advance its war plans.**
5. **Build alliances to help achieve their goals.**
6. **Institute racial policies after taking lands.**





5. The Policy of Appeasement

- **What is step 2 for Hitler?**
 - **The Sudetenland: a small area of Czechoslovakia**
 - **Large German population here**
- **Did Czechoslovakia want an Anschluss like Austria?**
NO
 - **The Czechs attempted to resist Hitler's demands**
- **How did the European powers respond?**
 - **France threatened to fight Germany**
 - **The USSR promised aid**
 - **Britain supported France**
- **What settled this issue?**
 - **Appeasement: giving in to unjust demands in order to avoid war**

The Munich Pact...Peace in our time?



Did Appeasement Work? NO!

- **ONE** month after the Munich Conference, Hitler demanded the free city of Danzig.
- Danzig was 90%+ German
- Part of Poland since the Treaty of Versailles (to give Poland a port to the sea).
- Hitler also wanted a highway and railroad in this region.
- Britain and France are now convinced that **PEACE** is **NOT** possible.
- **March 31, 1939: Britain and France promise to protect Poland.**



6. The Nazi-Soviet Nonaggression Pact

- **May 1939: Hitler ordered the German military to prepare for invasion.**
- **To prevent Soviet retaliation, Hitler entered negotiations for a non-aggression pact.**
- **Stalin wanted to turn the capitalist countries against each other.**
 - **Germany would be forced to fight Britain and France.**
 - **Communism could spread.**
- **The agreement: to attack and divide POLAND!**

