

Y9 History The Second World War



Summary

Chamberlain tried to avoid the outbreak of war by following his policy of appeasement, giving in to Hitler's demands in the hope of avoiding conflict. However, Britain declared war on Germany after Hitler invaded Poland, thus sparking the Second World War. Two major alliances formed during the war: the Axis (Germany, Italy, Japan) and the Allies (Britain, USA, Soviet Union). Germany conquered much of Europe throughout the course of the war. The war in Asia ended America's isolationist policy, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour brought America into the war. Major events took place throughout the war, including Dunkirk, the Battle of Britain, the Blitz, Operation Barbarossa, Pearl Harbour, and the D-Day landings. The war also affected British civilians who formed the Home Front.



Key Figures

Neville Chamberlain	British Prime Minister at the start of the war (until 1940). Known for his policy of 'appeasement' towards Hitler.
Adolf Hitler	The fuhrer of Germany and leader of the Nazi party, known for his tyrannical dictatorship.
Winston Churchill	British Prime Minister from 1940 throughout the course of the war.
Franklin D. Roosevelt	President of the United States who decided to enter the war after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour.
Benito	Italian Prime Minister, known for his fascist ideas and tyrannical rule.

Key Vocabulary

Dictator	A leader with total power over their country. Their style of government is known as a 'dictatorship'. Usually have taken control of a country by force.
Fascism	A type of government that puts the nation and one race above individual people. It is a belief system usually associated with dictators like Hitler and Mussolini.
Appeasement	A policy used by Chamberlain involving giving into Hitler's demands in an attempt to avoid war.
Blitz	Bombing campaign on British cities by the Nazis.
Home Front	Activities of British civilians who contributed to the war effort.
Rationing	Limits put in place to ensure everyone had fair access to enough food and resources throughout the war.
Alliance	Countries that agreed to fight together and protect one another in the event of war.
Blitzkrieg	'Lightning war' in German. Hitler's method of attacking quickly before opponents had time to fight back.
Luftwaffe	The German air force.
RAF	The British air force.
Holocaust	The mass murder of 6 million Jews carried out by Hitler and the Nazi party.
Isolationism	America's policy of isolating themselves from affairs and conflicts within Europe.

Challenge— Look at the timeline below: which event do you think was the biggest turning point in the war?

Other Resources

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z9s9q6f/revision/1>



SCAN ME

