

# IB 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY HISTORY

## Research Paper 1

The goal of the project is to give students experience finding a variety of sources, learning about a topic, creating a thesis, and writing what they have learned in a formal paper. Students can choose a topic to research from what we have studied in class i.e. WEIMAR REPUBLIC, RISE OF HITLER AND EARLY PHASE OF WORLD WAR II. Be sure to pick a topic that is of interest. Below is a list of topic ideas and examples for your research paper. You are free to pick a research topic of your choice that we have not yet covered in class, but just be sure to email me your topic prior to researching.

**SPEND THE WEEK OF 9/17 RESEARCHING AND WRITING YOUR PAPERS.**  
**I WILL HAVE MY PHONE WITH ME IN GERMANY SO FEEL FREE TO EMAIL ([kimi@benlsmithhs.com](mailto:kimi@benlsmithhs.com)) or call/text (917-599-6816).**

**LAPTOPS ARE RESERVED FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> BLOCKS FOR 9/ 17-18 AND 20-21**

**PAPER DUE ON 9/25...NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

### Requirements

- Title page
- \_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_ pages for the essay portion of the paper. **The essay must be original.** No plagiarism. Anything taken from another source must be quoted and documented accurately, with references in the text.
- Cited quotes and use of CHICAGO FORMAT
- A minimum of \_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_ sources, including at least one PRIMARY SOURCE.
- Works Cited Page
- Analyze of the 3 sources OPVL

### Paper Format

- Typed, double spaced, with a 12-point font **Times New Roman**
- 1-inch margins
- Staple the pages together in the top left corner
- Compile your research material in this order:
  - Title Page (includes your name, the section, the teacher, the date and the title of your paper)
  - Essay (This starts at the top of the page)
  - Works Cited

### Example research paper topic ideas

-Stalin-Hitler Pact – aka Nazi-Soviet Non-aggression pact – why did these sworn enemies create a peace treaty between each other before the outbreak of WWII?

- Weimar Republic – the failure of the regime and the causations that gave rise to the Nazis
- The Munich Putsch – the significance of
- The rearmament of the German military – with more advanced weaponry than any other country, why did this not lead to a German victory?
- Why did Europe let Hitler get away with expansion before Sept. 1939?  
Blitzkrieg on Poland – this starts WWII, what happened and what did Germany do to Poland?
- Nazis in France – how did the Germans take Paris and how did they control France during most of the war?
- Battle of Britain – how and why did the Germans lose this campaign? Why were the British so effective.
- Dunkirk and Operation Dynamo
- Reasons why Germany lost World War II
- Operation Barbarossa – Nazis invade Russia in biggest military movement of the time
- Battle of Stalingrad – one of the most incredible stories of the Russian war with Nazis
- The Reichstag fire-The Nazis used this incident to destroy two things: the German democracy and the German Communists.
- Germany in the 1920s and 1930s - This period was characterized by inflation and depression.
- The Versailles Treaty-The peace treaty that officially ended World War I blamed the Germans for causing the war and called for many punishments against them. How did the Germans feel about the Versailles Treaty? How did Hitler use the treaty to gain power?
- Fascism What is fascism? Why is Nazism a form of fascism? How are Nazism and Communism similar? How are they different?
- The Holocaust – Why was the Holocaust a focal point of Hitler's goal.
- The Nuremberg Laws-These anti-Jewish laws were passed in Germany in 1935 and enforced in all of occupied Europe. Describe their extent and impact.
- The Einsatzgruppen-Describe what type of men the Einsatzgruppen had been in private life, from whom they took orders, and what their activities in Russia included.
- Adolf Eichmann-Eichmann was Nazi Deportation Chief in charge of the trains to carry Jews to the death camps. Research who he was, how he organized the deportation process, what happened to him after the war, and his capture and trial in Israel in 1961. A movie was just released based on his capture and trial.
- Heinrich Himmler-Himmler was Hitler's SS chief in charge of the Holocaust and all death camps. Find out more about him and his wartime activities.

-Dr. Mengele-Mengele, the evil doctor who sent millions to their deaths at Auschwitz, escaped capture after the war. He was the object of an international hunt for many years after the war. Find out what you can about him.

-Medical experiments by the SS doctors-SS doctors did many medical experiments on concentration camp prisoners.

-Nazi propaganda and Joseph Goebbels – How effective was propaganda and Goebbels so effective in convincing the German public.

