

PATH TO GLOBAL WAR: GERMANY

Treaty of Versailles

Treaty that ended WW I. It blamed Germany for WW I and handed down harsh punishment.

Dolchstoßlegende

Stab in the back (Germany blaming the Weimar Republic and the Jews for the Treaty)

Wilson's 14 Points

President Woodrow Wilson proposed a 14-point program for world peace after WWI which included the League of Nations

It was never put into place

Beer Hall Putsch

In 1923 the Nazis attempted to overthrow the government in Munich. It was a total failure, and Hitler received a brief prison sentence during which time he wrote Mein Kampf.

Dawes Plan

A plan to revive the German economy, the United States loans Germany money which then can pay reparations to England and France, who can then pay back their loans from the U.S. This circular flow of money was a success.

Rapallo Treaty (1922)

The USSR and Germany re-established diplomatic relations

Locarno Treaties

A series of treaties that settled Germany's disputed borders with France, Belgium, Czech, and Poland

Ruhr Crisis

1922-1923. Germany announced they couldn't pay their reparations, France invades the Ruhr Valley to collect reparations "in kind." (leads to Germany printing money causing hyperinflation)

NSDAP (Nazi Party)

the National Socialist German Worker's Party headed by Hitler (he changed the name from The German Worker's Party). Originally, they were just one of a many right-wing extreme nationalist parties in Munich. However, Hitler turned the party into a mass political movement with flags, party badges, uniforms, its own newspaper, and its own police force (the SA) and it eventually became, by 1923, the strongest of such parties. After Hitler was released from prison (for the failed Beer Hall Putsch) he

realized that the Weimar government must be overtaken by constitutional means, he regained control of the party and expanded its membership (many of the members young) greatly. By 1929 it had a national party organization, and by 1932 was the largest party in the Reichstag.

Brown Shirts (SA)

NAZI Storm troopers that helped bring Hitler to power

SS

special police force in Nazi Germany founded as a personal bodyguard for Adolf Hitler in 1925

Ernst Rohm

head of the "Storm Troopers"; loyal aid to Hitler; killed by Hitler.

Night of the Long Knives (1934)

Ernst Roehm and 400 SA leaders were killed by Hitler , done to prevent Roehm getting power as wanted merge SA with army

Crystal Night (Krystallnacht)

The November 1938 destruction, by Hitler's brown Shirts and mobs, of Jewish shops, homes, and synagogues

Nuremberg Laws

1935 laws defining the status of Jews and withdrawing citizenship from persons of non-German blood.

Stresemann

Chancellor of the Weimar Republic from August-November 1923 and then Foreign Minister from 1923-29. He negotiated the end of the French and Belgian occupation of the Ruhr and the Hyperinflation crisis the Dawes Plan, the Locarno Treaty and the Young Plan. Oddly, his foreign policy was not very different from Hitler's although his methods were very different. He wanted to end reparations, protect German speakers outside Germany's borders and reclaim Posen, West Prussia and Danzig.

Reichstag Fire

February, 1933; the Reichstag was set on Fire by a secret order of Joesef Goebbels; called a communist plot;Hitler convinced president Hindenburg to suspend all civil rights for Communists, socialists, liberals, and trade unionists

Kaiser Wilhelm II

was the Kaiser of Germany at the time of the First World War reigning from 1888-1918. He pushed for a more aggressive foreign policy by means of colonies and a strong navy to compete with Britain. His actions added to the growing tensions in pre-1914 Europe.

Saar Plebiscite 1935

Saar had been under French control since 1918 and now had the option to return to Germany. 91% of voters voted to return to Germany. The plebiscite (an organized vote) was done fairly through the League of Nations. This reinforced Nazi propaganda in the growing strength of Germany.

Rhineland 1936

Hitler defied the Versailles Treaty when he invaded this demilitarized zone

Anchluss

the union Hitler proclaimed when German forces marched without opposition into Austria, a union between his native land and his adopted land.

Alsace-Lorraine

Territory taken by Germany from France as a result of the Franco Prussian war. Was later returned to France as a result of German defeat in WWI

Nazi-Soviet Pact (1939)

Hitler-Stalin Nonaggression Pact; 10-year peace treaty; Russia can keep 1/3 of Poland when Hitler attacks it

November Criminals

Those in the German government that signed the Armistice ending the war. They were known as criminals because the population believed that had been betrayed by them.

Mein Kampf (My Struggle)

Work written by Hitler while in prison in 1923; the book outlines his policies for German expansion, war, and elimination of non-Aryans

Third Reich

The Third Republic of Germany which began Hitler's rule in 1933 and ended with his defeat in 1945

Gross Deutschland

This was the idea of bringing all the German-speaking people into one country by uniting Germany and Austria and adding German minorities in Czechoslovakia, Poland, Luxembourg, Belgium Danzig, and France. Some proponents of this also wanted to incorporate German Switzerland. This had been a policy of German nationalists since the 19th century. It was also a key part of Hitler's foreign policy.

Munich Conference

1938 conference at which European leaders attempted to appease Hitler by turning over the Sudetenland to him in exchange for promise that Germany would not expand Germany's territory any further.

Appeasement

A policy of making concessions to an aggressor in the hopes of avoiding war. Associated with Neville Chamberlain's policy of making concessions to Adolf Hitler.

Weimar Republic (1919-1933)

German republic founded after the WWI and the downfall of the German Empire's monarchy. Was created from the defeat of the imperial army, the revolution against the Hohenzollerns, and the hopes of German Liberals and Social Democrats. Had accepted the provisions of the Versailles treaty; as a result, came to be associated with national disgrace. Its constitution did not receive loyalty from Germans, and permitted a temporary presidential dictatorship in an emergency, as well as allowed small extremist groups to get more power than they would have otherwise. Lacked support and coup attempts occur. Violence marked the first five years of this republic. Also suffered from inflation after the invasion of the Ruhr by the French.

Hossbach Memorandum

The summary of a meeting on 5 November 1937 between German dictator Adolf Hitler and his military and foreign policy leadership where Hitler's future expansionist policies were outlined.

Tripartite Pact

Signed between the Axis powers in 1940 (Italy, Germany and Japan) where they pledged to help the others in the event of an attack by the US

Non-Agression Pact with Poland

1934

Sudeten Crisis

After Germany took over Austria the UK and France sought to appease Hitler and give up the Sudetenland to him a country that probably had the second-strongest army in central Europe. Hitler promises Sudetenland would be his last conquest and of course goes back on that promise

May Crisis

There were false reports of German activity near the Czech border. Czechs prepared for war. Britain and France warn Hitler. Hitler is outraged and plans to 'smash Czechoslovakia' by 1st October 1938

Chamberlain

British Prime Minister who made the Munich Agreement with Hitler

Pact of Steel 1939

Pact between Italy and Germany in 1939. It was replaced by the Rome-Berlin Axis, and then the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis.

WWI

Expected to be a short, victorious war by Germany - turned in to war of attrition

Central Powers

Alliance between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire during WWI

Fourteen Points

Terms that convinced Germany to negotiate an armistice to WWI

Kaiser Wilhelm II

Leader of Germany who was forced to abdicate the throne in 1918

"November Criminals"

The German government that agreed to the terms of the armistice on November 11, 1918

Dolchstoßlegende

The "stab in the back" theory: Germany would have won the war if the government did not sign the cease-fire

Paris Peace Conference

Meeting of the "Big Four" who disagreed with a "peace without victory"

Treaty of Versailles

Imposed harsh war reparations on Germany as well as political, economic, and territorial punishments for WWI

Reparations

War payments that amounted to \$132 billion dollars

Adolf Hitler

Politician motivated by the Treaty of Versailles to join and eventually lead the Nazi Party

Nationalist Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi Party)

Fascist political party dedicated to nationalism, militarism, Social Darwinism, authoritarianism, and hatred of communism and socialism

Pan-Germanism

Create a "Gross Deutschland" to unify all German-speaking people

Lebensraum

The territory that Hitler believed was necessary for the German Aryan race

Untermenschen

Inferior peoples or nations

Third Reich

The term used to describe the 1,000-year empire that Hitler promised to create

Anti-Semitism

Prejudice against the Jewish people

"National race tuberculosis"

The German race must protect themselves from "inferior" blood

Natural enemies

France and Russia

Natural allies

Italy and Great Britain

Weimar Republic

The legislature that governed Germany from 1919 - 1933 - crisis and political uprisings were constant

Putsch

Violent overthrow of a government

Hyperinflation

Caused by a German workers strike and the printing of huge quantities of paper money

Munich Putsch

The attempt by Adolf Hitler to overthrow the German government in 1923 - the overthrow was a failure and Hitler was convicted of treason

Mein Kampf

Book written by Hitler while serving a prison sentence for treason - states Hitler's beliefs and goals

SA

The "Brownshirts" - original Nazi Party paramilitary force

SS

Elite paramilitary force comprised entirely of "pure" Germans

Gustav Stresemann

Leader of the Weimar Republic (1924 - 1929) who helped to fix the hyperinflation and negotiated the Dawes Plan with the U.S.

Dawes Plan

Negotiated with the U.S. - froze German reparations payments for 2 years and setup a loan system

Young Plan

Renewed the Dawes Plan - halted by the Stock Market Crash of 1929 and the Great Depression

Great Depression

Led to excessive unemployment, a fall in agriculture prices, bank failures, and a 50% drop in industrial production

Reichstag

The German parliament - the building was burned down in 1933 - said to be a Communist plot

Chancellor

Name for the "Prime Minister" of Germany - Hitler was requested to take this position in 1933

Enabling Act

Legislation enacted in 1933 that allowed the chancellor to pass laws without the Reichstag's consent

Night of the Long Knives

Purge of the SA and murder of over 200 "potential threats"

Fuhrer

After the death of Hindenburg, Hitler merged the offices of chancellor and president to create this position - "the leader"

Dachau

First concentration camp created in 1933 - established to deal with political enemies such as Jews, gypsies, homosexuals, and Jehovah's Witnesses

Nuremberg Laws

Enacted in 1935 and created to forbid any relationship between pure Germans and Jews - Additionally, only pure Germans were allowed to have political and civil rights

***Treaty of Versailles (1933)**

The main foreign policy objective from 1933 - 1937

***Multilateralism**

Agreements by 3 or more countries - Hitler began to disentangle Germany from these agreements (ex. League of Nations)

***Bilateralism**

Agreements by 2 countries - Hitler formed these to appear peaceful and diplomatic throughout the 1930s (ex. Non-Aggression Pact with Poland)

***Saar Plebiscite**

Popular vote-Referendum which led to the overwhelmingly popular decision to reunify the coal region with Germany

***Rearmament**

Throughout the 1930s, the pace of military/weapon building was expedited in Germany despite the League of Nations

***The Rhineland**

Remilitarization of the region between the border of Germany and France began in 1936

***Spanish Civil War**

Germany's involvement in this war aided their relationship with Italy and their ability to formalize the agreement with Austria to make it a German state

***Rome-Berlin Axis Pact**

Alliance signed in 1936 between Germany and Italy to strengthen their cooperation

***Anti-Comintern Pact**

Agreement signed between Germany, Japan, and eventually Italy, to fight the expansion of communism

***Four Year Plan**

German economic plan that stressed autarky and the need for land and living space to achieve self-sufficiency

***Hossbach Conference**

A meeting between Hitler and his leading war ministers in late 1937 - Here Hitler announced his intention to go to war in Europe if he could not achieve Lebensraum peacefully

Hitler became Chancellor in 1933, but did not obtain full power...

Over the military until 1938

Gleichschaltung

"Making the same" in German

Merger between the Nazi party and the government

Abolished all other political parties

Abolished all labor unions

All governing councils and governors replaced by Nazi appointees

All police merged with Schutzstaffel (SS)

What tactics did Hitler use to take power?

Murdered leaders of other political parties
Replaces top military officials

The "New Plan"

Created by Hjalmar Schacht
Germany will only trade with countries that will also purchase German goods at an equal value to that imported
Imported raw materials and food, exported manufactured goods

Effects of the "New Plan"

Gave German government greater control over the economy
More materials for rearmament
Strengthens international relations: Eastern and central Europe being to depend on Germany
284 million marks more in imports (1934), 111 million marks more in exports (1935) , 550 million marks more in exports (1936)

Four Year Plan (1936)

Created by Hermann Goering
Increase agricultural production
Achieve self-sufficiency in raw material production
Strict government regulation of exports and imports
Increase military production at the expense of consumer production

Effects of the Four Year Plan (1936)

Showed that Germany was prepping for war
Caused inflation
0% unemployment, all people have money and food

France's actions against Germany

Treaty of Versailles (1919)
Prevented German rearmament
France formed alliances
Poland: 300,000 active soldiers, 700,000 in reserves (France too)
Belgium
Little Entente: Czechoslovakia, Romania, Yugoslavia
1923 Germany could not repay Treaty of Versailles debt
Ruhr region occupied by France until 1925

World Disarmament Conference (1932)

League of Nations organized it
Called for France, Britain, and Germany (and others) to decrease army size and amount of military equipment
France disagreed unless alliance formed with U.S. and Britain
Germany disagreed unless France would rearm
Germany withdrew from League in 1933

How did Germany rearm (1935)?

Conscription
Construction of 2500 aircraft
Naval expansion
Mass production of guns, tanks, artillery
By 1936: could produce 5000 aircraft annually
By 1939: army of 700,000; 3 million in reserve

Responses to German rearmament: Stresa Front (1935)

Britain, France, and Italy meet and promised to work together, condemned German rearmament
Fell apart quickly and did nothing

Responses to German rearmament: Germany

Poland non-aggression pact (1934)

Locarno treaties (1925): All borders of Western states are permanent
Would accept armament limitations if other countries did as well

Responses to German rearmament: France

Poland non-aggression pact made France distrust Poland

Franco-Soviet Treaty of Mutual Assistance (1935)
Would fight for each other if attacked, ensure peace in Europe
Conservative French hated communism, made sure nothing came of this
France is the strongest military power in Europe (1930s)
Maginot Line (1930s): fortifications on the border between France and Germany

Responses to German rearmament: Great Britain

Disarmament policy since end of WWI
Little political support for rearmament
German rearmament scared Britain into rearmament

Spending increased 600% for rearmament (1935-1939)

Limiting factors to German foreign policy pre-1935

The Great Depression

France, GB, and Italy restricted its power

Treaty of Versailles (1919)

Economic, political, military weakness

Nazi foreign policy beliefs

The treaty of Versailles (1919) must be undone

All Germans should live in an expanded Germany (pan-Germanism)

Communism should be destroyed

Germany should have lebensraum in Eastern Europe for more food and land for settlement

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918)--> Germany gains Eastern European territory from Russia

Reversed in 1919

Germans are superior to all other races

Jewish Germans denied citizenship

Democratic states are weak and greedy

Polish interest in the Polish-German Non-Aggression Pact (1934)

Greater military power than Germany

Allied with France (strong military)

Did not want a conflict with Germany over

France

Main focus: Soviet Union

Polish-German Non-Aggression Pact (1934)

Germany will recognize Poland's borders

Diplomatic relations over disputes

Increased trade

German benefit from the Polish-German Non-Aggression Pact (1934)

No fear of Polish military intervention

Weakened Poland-France alliance

Poland had food that Germany needed

Polish benefit from the Polish-German Non-Aggression Pact (1934)

Poland could focus on its main enemy: the Soviet Union

French response to the Polish-German Non-Aggression Pact (1934)

Poland would pursue the policy in its best interest

France mistrusted their alliance

Drew France closer to the Soviet Union

Soviet Union relationship with Germany pre-Polish-German Non-Aggression Pact (1934)

Supported the German Communist Party (later abolished)

Rapallo Treaty (1922)-->Diplomatic relations established

Military cooperation (weapons development and testing)

Economic cooperation: Soviet metals and wheat in exchange for German manufactured goods

Soviet Union response to the Polish-German Non-Aggression Pact (1934)

No further diplomatic relations with Poland

Feared an alliance between Germany and Poland to seize parts of its territory

Soviet Union joins the League of Nations (1934)

Promotes an ideology of peace and anti-fascism

Limited success, because other countries mistrust the Soviet Union

Motivations for a German-Austrian union

Step toward pan-Germanism

Original homeland of Hitler

Would instate stability in Austria (Gleichschaltung)

Italy's opposition to a German-Austrian union

Defied Italian plans for central and eastern Europe

Wanted to show France and GB that Italy was powerful

Buffer state between Italy and Germany

May cause other countries to intervene

The Saar region's importance to Germany

Iron and coal-rich region of Germany on the French border

League of Nations took control after WWI, let

France use it because of coal mines

destroyed by Germany during the war

Saar Plebiscite (1935)

League allowed a vote in the Saar region to return to Germany

90% wished to return

Anglo-German Naval Treaty (1935)

Contradicted the premises of the previous Stresa Front

Limited size of German navy to 35% that of Britain

British diplomacy attempted to treat Germany

as a legitimate state with concerns, but also

keep it less than powerful

Greatly weakened the Stresa Front

Why is Germany able to begin to adopt a more aggressive foreign policy?

Rising economic and military strength
Britain is sympathetic to German demands
Italy's relationship is damaged with France and Britain
Abyssinian Crisis
German diplomatic partner
Preoccupation with communism and the Soviet Union
Interest in the Spanish Civil War

Germany's interest in the Rhineland

Rhineland: a German territory that bordered France, Belgium, and Luxembourg that was demilitarized after WWI

Vulnerable to invasion, national embarrassment
Post-Abyssinian Crisis= perfect diplomatic situation (1936)

Remilitarization of the Rhineland (1936)

March 7, 1936= reoccupied despite Germany not being ready for war
Lightly equipped to reassure France

France's response to the remilitarization of the Rhineland (1936)

Did not intervene
French border was not violated
French army is only prepared for defensive war
Would not fight Germany alone
Military spending increased

Great Britain's response to the remilitarization of the Rhineland (1936)

Did not intervene
Would send troops to defend France if there was an unprovoked military attack
Pleased at the reoccupation
Major German grievance against France and Britain removed

German reasons for the Rome-Berlin Axis (1936)

Abyssinian Crisis impaired relationship with Britain and France
Showed that Germany planned to lead international affairs in Europe, not France and Britain

Anti-Comintern Pact (1936)

Agreement between Germany and Japan to oppose the Soviet-sponsored organization: Communist International
Symbol for future cooperation between the countries
Italy joins in 1937

German reasons for the Anschluss (1938)

German unity with Austria
Austria has factories, gold reserves, workers, natural resources
Homeland of Hitler
Italy would no longer prevent a future annexation

German Anschluss demands

Hitler demands that a Austrian Nazi party member (Arthur Seyss-Inquart) as minister of public security
All jailed Nazi party members to be released

Austria complies

Plebiscite scheduled to see if they should merge with Germany
Schuschnigg allows other parties to form, labor unions, increases voting age to win

German attempts at legal Anschluss

Hitler announces that riots are breaking out against the Austrian government and Germany must occupy to reinstate order
Says that Austrian Nazi party must be given control, or invasion is faced

Anschluss (1938)

Germany legally annexes Austria, has a 99% plebiscite approval

France and Great Britain's response to the Anschluss

France concerned with Spanish Civil War
Britain expressed displeasure, did nothing
Strengthened Germany useful to combat communism
No military plans or force to combat the invasion

Soviet Union's response to the Anschluss

Unable to act because of internal turmoil
Purges (1937-1938)
700,000+ executions; 150,000 imprisoned
Foreign policy experts now dead
Ensured that France and Britain would not work with the SU to oppose Germany

Appeasement

The policy of working with Germany to ease conditions of the Treaty of Versailles
Allowed Germany to take Austria
Demands seen as reasonable: Germans should live in Germany

Sudeten Crisis (1938)

Germans in Czechoslovakia wanted to be added to the growing German country
Sudeten German Party demanded autonomy for the Sudeten area of Czechoslovakia After diplomatic

refusals by other countries to help Czechoslovakia
Germany deploys 750,000 troops to pressure the Czechs
Czechoslovakia gave in to most of the Sudeten demands
Germany claims that Germans are being discriminated against + atrocities were committed against them
+ there are plans to exterminate all Germans
Hitler demands that large populations of other nationalities ceded to them
Rejected= war prep

Czechoslovakian importance of Sudetenland

Contained main line of defenses to Germany
Critical to economy: metals and mining
Czechs mobilized for war to protect region
Only 3 million Germans
Strong economy and military in Czechoslovakia

French response to the Sudeten Crisis (1938)

Military alliance w/Czechoslovakia
Never planned on war to defend these countries
Reached out to Britain to help

Great Britain response to the Sudeten Crisis (1938)

No reason for Germans not to live in Germany
Sympathetic to Germans
Would not go to war
Placed pressure on Czechoslovakia to comply with German demands

Soviet Union response to the Sudeten Crisis (1938)

Mutual defense treaty w/Czechoslovakia since 1935

If France helped, they would help
France was not planning on helping
Meaningless pledges

Munich Agreement (September 30, 1938)

Mussolini calls for meeting between Italy, Britain, France, and Germany
Germany receives Sudeten
German troops occupy Sudeten in stages
Plebiscite held to determine where regions go
German troops released from Czechoslovakian military service
International commission to resolve disputed areas
If Czechoslovakia did not comply, it would have to fight Germany alone

Effects of the Sudeten Crisis on France

Public opinion in favor
Main allies sacrificed for France's safety

Showed that Soviet Union agreement had little value
Followed Britain diplomatically
Military spending up 300% by 1938

Franco-German Declaration (1938)

France and Germany would respect each other's borders

Effects of the Sudeten Crisis on the Soviet Union

Ignored during the crisis

Recognized that France and Britain would not help them in a crisis

Isolated

Effects of the Sudeten Crisis on Great Britain

Avoided war, but recognized that Germany may use military to resolve a crisis

Increased rearmament

Anglo-German Declaration (1938)

Germany and Britain would not go to war to solve their problems

Effects of the Sudeten Crisis on Germany

Relieved at war avoidance

Prepared for small Czech war, but not war with GB or France

Hitler increased in popularity

Effects of the Sudeten Crisis on Czechoslovakia

March 14, 1939: Czechoslovakia signs over its independence to Germany

Czechoslovakia quickly dismantled

Poland gets Tesin

Slovakia becomes independent

Hungary gets some southern territory

Germany can construct a highway across its territory

German desire for Danzig and the Polish Corridor

Danzig

Mostly German population

Semi-autonomous state ruled by League of Nations

Gave Poland access to the Baltic Sea

Helps Polish economy

Polish Corridor

Land to the West of Danzig

Danzig and the Polish Corridor separated an area of Germany from the main land East Prussia

Germans greatly desired to retrieve these lands

Was German territory before WWI

Polish Crisis (1939)

Germany demands to be able to build a railroad connecting it to East Prussia

Asks for Danzig back from the League of Nations

Positive relations with Poland, requires cooperation

Rational demand: Corridor + Danzig was Nazi and mostly German

French and British response to the Polish Crisis (1939)

Public outrage, believed territory requests ended with the Munich agreement

German action was against Munich agreement

Britain announced that it would support France militarily (1939)

31 March 1939--> Stated that they would guarantee Poland's borders

Underprepared for war

Poland's response to the Polish Crisis (1939)

Heavily armed state: simply refused, stated to the League of Nations that it would enter war if Germany attempted to annex Danzig

Refused negotiation--> Austria + Czechs lost independence this way

Poland and Britain began to negotiate for a military alliance

Underprepared for war

French and British negotiations with the Soviet Union over the Polish Crisis (1939)

Britain and France asked SU to help prevent a war between Poland and Germany, would maintain Eastern border and create an anti-German coalition: GB, France, Poland, SU

Soviets desired territory it lost in WWI: Baltic states and other areas of eastern Europe

Countries sent low-level diplomats

Poland would not allow Soviets to enter its territory to fight Germany

More concerned about Soviets than Germany

Soviets could only fight Germany in their own territory: unfair

German response to French/British/Soviet negotiations over the Polish Crisis (1939)

Britain and France

Did not believe they would actually go to war over Poland (lack of action over Austria and the Sudeten Crisis)

Nazi ideology over democratic governments= weak

Action

Case White: Prepared to invade Poland

Polish-German Non-Aggression Pact= withdraw

Nazi-Soviet Pact (1939)

Germany and Soviets would not fight each other

After Germany claimed Poland, the parts that the SU lose would be reabsorbed into the SU

Germans now had no fear of Soviet intervention in their invasion

Pact of Steel (1939)

German alliance with Italy
Solidifies German-Italy axis
Coordinated foreign policies
Support each other in war
War plans together
Cooperate economically

Coordinate press and propaganda

Placed temporary pressure on France, otherwise meaningless

German invasion of Poland (September 1939)

1 September 1939: 3 German armies attacked N, W, S of Poland
1.5 million men
Bombed military and civilian areas
Slovakian army attacked from the South

Five-Power Conference (1939)

Britain, France, Italy, Poland, Germany
Germany must be removed from Poland as a condition from the British to attend
Rejected

French and British response to the German invasion of Poland

2 days later: 3 September 1939: France and Britain declare war on Germany
Hitler did not expect this