

# The Causes of World War II

## THE EVENTS THAT LED TO WAR

March 1936	Germany sends troops into the <u>Rhineland</u> (area on the French-German border) going against the treaty of Versailles. Britain and France do nothing.
March 1938	Germany joins with <u>Austria</u> , again against the treaty of Versailles. Britain and France do nothing.
September 1938	Hitler puts pressure on Czechoslovakia. Britain and France finally decide to get involved. A deal is made at <u>Munich</u> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hitler agrees not to take over any more land</li><li>• Britain &amp; France agree that Germany may take over part of Czechoslovakia</li></ul>
March 1939	Hitler ignores the deal he made at Munich, and takes over the rest of Czechoslovakia. Britain & France humiliated.
August 1939	To avoid the possibility of a war on two fronts, Hitler makes a non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union. The <u>Nazi-Soviet Pact</u> .
September 1st 1939	Germany invades Poland
September 3rd 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany
April 1940	German troops invade Denmark and Norway
May 1940	Germany invades the Netherlands and France. German blitzkrieg (lightning-war) has enormous success. France taken over in 6 weeks!

1. Put the sub-heading: Long term causes of the war.  
Explain how the two reasons shown below helped to cause the Second World War:
  - \* The treaty of Versailles
  - \* Rise of Hitler & the Nazis
2. Put the sub-heading: Short term causes of the war – Hitler's take-over of Europe.
  - a) On your map, shade Germany in one colour.
  - b) Shade in the countries that Germany took over between 1936-40 in a different colour.
  - c) How many countries did Germany control in 1936?
  - d) How many countries did Germany control by mid 1940?
3. Make a list of the countries taken over (in chronological order) and the dates they were taken over.
4. Until 1938, Britain and France basically ignored Hitler's foreign policy. Do you think this was wise? What made them change their minds? Explain your answer in a full paragraph.
5. Explain why Hitler signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact in August 1939.