

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current Unit

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Team: \_\_\_\_\_

# Causes of WWII - Source Analysis

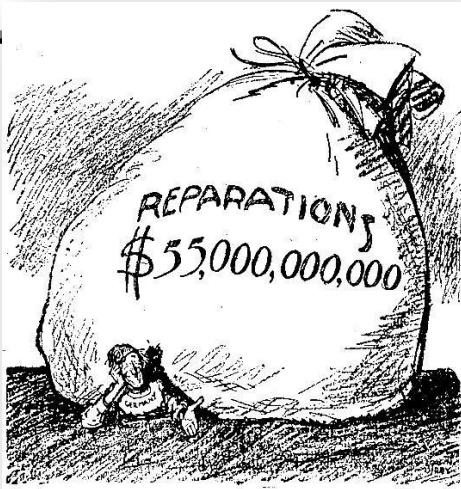
**Directions:** Read the following sources and complete the related questions. When necessary, be sure to steal and spit and write in complete sentences!

## Source One: The Treaty of Versailles

After being defeated in World War One, Germany was made to accept the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, which was the treaty that ended the First World War. The terms of the treaty included:

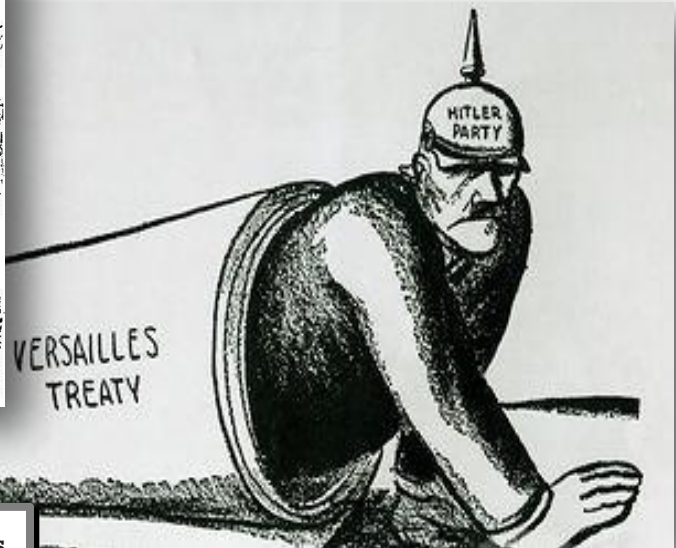
- the “war guilt clause”, which stated that Germany accepted sole responsibility for the war and was responsible for all damage caused by the war.
- Germany was to make reparation payments to the amount of \$33 Billion.
- Germany must demilitarize the Rhineland, which was the area of Germany that bordered France, Belgium, and the Netherlands.
- Germany lost territory within Europe and its overseas colonies.
- the German army was to be limited to no more than 100,000 troops.
- the German navy was limited to no more than 15,000 men, with a limited number of vessels.
- the manufacture, import and export of weapons including tanks, submarines, aircraft, and artillery were prohibited.

**Cartoon “A”** –  
The person under the bag represents Germany, which was made to pay the reparations to cover the damages of the war.



## Source 2: Weimar Republic

The Weimar Republic was Germany's first democratic government. Even though the Weimar Republic was established in 1919, after the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, it had to accept the terms of the treaty following World War One and many Germans would come to associate the Treaty of Versailles with the Weimar Republic and democracy in general.

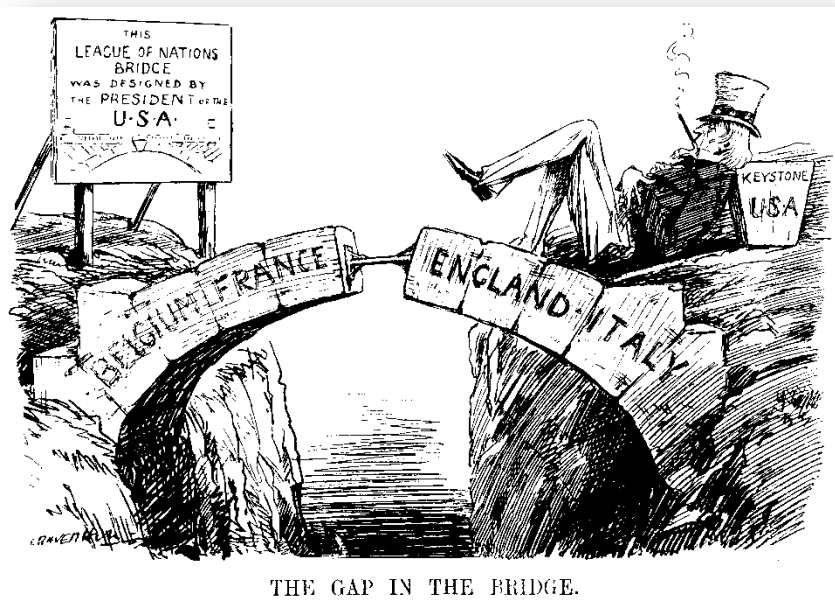


**Cartoon “B”** – Adolf Hitler brought fascism into Germany in the 1930's. Fascists reject liberal values such as democracy and individual rights and freedoms.

## Source 3: League of Nations

The League of Nations was an international organization created following World War One with the goal of preventing another war from breaking out. It was hoped that the League of Nations would bring stability to global affairs by allowing disputes between countries to be settled through negotiation rather than conflict. If a dispute did occur, the League of Nations had three options to stop a conflict from occurring. First, the League of Nations could call on the states in dispute to sit down and discuss the problem in an orderly and peaceful manner. If this failed, the League of Nations could introduce economic sanctions against an aggressor nation in the hope that it would face bankruptcy if it did not follow the orders of the League of Nations. Finally, if the economic sanctions failed to work the League of Nations could potentially use their armies to fight.

**Cartoon "C"** – American President, Woodrow Wilson, introduced the idea of the League of Nations as part of his Fourteen Points for the reconstruction of Europe at the end of World War One. However, America refused to join the League of Nations, preferring instead to maintain its policy of isolationism.



## Source 4: Abyssinia

Italy was a permanent member of the League of Nations, yet in late 1934 the Italian leader, Benito Mussolini, attacked Abyssinia (modern day Ethiopia). The Abyssinians lacked the ability to defend against the strength of the Italians and appealed to the League of Nations for help. The League of Nations condemned the attack by Italy and all members of the League of Nations were ordered to impose economic sanctions against Italy. These sanctions were fundamentally ineffective as they excluded an oil embargo - the only viable sanction for halting the Italian war effort. In December of 1935 the British Foreign Secretary and the French Prime Minister met and presented a plan that gave large areas of Abyssinia to Italy, which Mussolini accepted and agreed to.



**Cartoon "D"** – International Strife.

## Source 5: Appeasement

Appeasement is the policy of settling international conflicts or disputes by making political or material concessions to an enemy power in order to avoid conflict. The term is most often used to refer to the foreign policy of the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain towards Nazi Germany between 1937 and 1939 and the actions of its leader – Adolf Hitler. Neville Chamberlain's policies of avoiding war with Germany have been the subject of intense debate for seventy years among historians.



Cartoon "E" – Spineless Leaders of Democracy.

## Source 7: Poland

In March of 1939, Germany seized the remainder of Czechoslovakia after having been given the Sudetenland at the Munich Conference. On August 23, 1939, representatives from both Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union met and signed the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact, which guaranteed that the two countries would not attack each other. By signing this pact, Germany had protected itself from having to fight a two-front war in the event of a conflict. For its part, the Soviet Union was awarded land, including parts of Poland. The pact was broken when Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union less than two years later, on June 22, 1941. On September 1<sup>st</sup> 1939, Germany began its invasion of Poland. On the same day, Poland requested military assistance from Britain and France. Two days later, in fulfilment of their pledge to support Poland, Britain and France declared war on Germany. World War Two had begun.

## Source 6: Munich Conference

The Munich Conference (or Munich Agreement) was a settlement reached between Nazi Germany, Great Britain, France and Italy in September 1938 that allowed the German annexation of the Sudetenland in Western Czechoslovakia. After his success in absorbing Austria into Germany in March of 1938 without Britain or France taking action to stop him, Adolf Hitler turned towards Czechoslovakia, where about three million people in the Sudeten area were of German origin. In May of 1938, Hitler and his generals were preparing for the occupation of Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovaks, aware of Hitler's plans, were relying on military assistance from France, with which they had an alliance. As Hitler continued to make inflammatory speeches demanding that Germans in Czechoslovakia be reunited with their homeland, war seemed imminent. Neither France nor Britain, however, felt prepared to defend Czechoslovakia, and both were anxious to avoid a military confrontation with Germany at almost any cost. Instead, the Munich Conference was held and Nazi Germany was given control over the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia, in exchange for an end to his aggression and the territorial demands of Germany in Europe.



(Left) British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, on the left, shakes hands with Adolf Hitler, on the right.

