

The Second World War

Name:

Date:



Info

The Second World War was a global conflict that lasted from 1939 to 1945 and profoundly changed the world. In this worksheet, we will examine the causes, significant events and consequences of this war. The aim is to gain a better understanding of the historical context and the impact on our world today.



The road to war

Below you will find an information text and a video about the period before the start of the Second World War. You can use the information to answer the two questions and fill in the timeline.

A chronicle of the escalation

On January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor and the National Socialists took power in Germany. Soon afterwards, the systematic persecution of political opponents and the synchronization of public and private life began. In terms of foreign policy, Hitler pursued the goal of shaking off the burdens and restrictions imposed by the Treaty of Versailles. On February 3, 1933, he announced to the military leadership his goal of conquering living space in the East.

The military supported Hitler's rearmament plans, which was reinforced by the "Röhm Affair" in the summer of 1934. The SA leadership was murdered and the Reichswehr swore allegiance to Hitler. In January 1938, Hitler dismissed many high-ranking generals and took on the role of Minister of War himself, thereby gaining direct influence over the Wehrmacht.

Hitler's aggressive foreign policy began with Germany's withdrawal from the League of Nations and the reintegration of the Saarland. In March 1935, Hitler announced the establishment of the Wehrmacht and the reintroduction of compulsory military service, which violated the Treaty of Versailles. In 1936, he occupied the demilitarized Rhineland.

The "Berlin-Rome axis" was created through the alliances with Italy and Japan. The "Anschluss" of Austria in March 1938 took place without a fight. In September 1938, the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia was occupied at the Munich Conference. In March 1939, Hitler occupied the "rest of Czechoslovakia".

France and Great Britain granted Poland declarations of guarantee, whereupon Hitler prepared the attack on Poland. On September 1, 1939, the Second World War began with the German invasion of Poland.

Source: Federal Agency for Civic Education

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Youtube: Appeasement: The 10 Steps to World War Two

To watch the youtube video just scan the QR code.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7fzdLeOscM>

Work assignment

Complete the two tasks using the information from the text and the video.

Describe the initial steps Hitler took to consolidate power in Germany after becoming Chancellor in 1933.

Explain how the Treaty of Versailles influenced Hitler's foreign policy actions.

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Insight into the war

In the newspaper article, you can find out more about a selected event in the Second World War. Read the article and then answer the questions.

The Soviet Invasion of Bucharest: Turning Point in WWII

In late August 1944, the Soviet Red Army invaded Bucharest, marking a significant turning point in World War II. Romania, initially an ally of Nazi Germany, experienced a dramatic shift in allegiance following the invasion. This move was part of the Soviet's larger strategy to dismantle the Axis powers and secure Eastern Europe under communist influence.



Soviet troops greeted by locals in Bucharest, August 1944. Source: Wikipedia

During the summer of 1944, the tide of war was turning against Germany. The Soviets had launched a massive offensive on the Eastern Front, pushing German forces back. The invasion of Bucharest occurred after Romania's King Michael I orchestrated a coup against the pro-German government, leading to Romania's surrender to the Allies and subsequent cooperation with Soviet forces.

The immediate aftermath of the invasion saw Romania switching sides to support the Allies. Romanian troops joined Soviet forces in the fight against Germany, contributing to the eventual defeat of the Axis powers in Europe. This shift had profound implications for Romania, paving the way for the establishment of a communist regime under Soviet influence.

In the decade following the invasion, Romania underwent significant social, political, and economic changes. The Soviet occupation led to the nationalization of industries and collectivization of agriculture. The communist government suppressed political dissent and established a centralized economy, which impacted the daily lives of Romanians for decades.

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Work assignment

Complete the two tasks using the information from the newspaper article.

Outline the key events that led to Romania switching sides in World War II after the Soviet invasion of Bucharest.

Explain how the Soviet invasion of Bucharest affected Romania's political, social, and economic landscape in the decade following World War II.

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Consequences and repercussions

Three people have left you voicemails about events after the end of the Second World War. Listen to the messages from Jane, John and Lisa and then complete the task. Then fill in the attached timeline by recording all the information. Add the date and event from the newspaper article yourself.



Audio Content

To listen to audio content just scan the QR code and listen to it on the digital worksheet.

<https://to-teach.ai/worksheet/TadJRtTyWzAD16jiAHC0>



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Outline the long-term economic, territorial and political consequences of the Second World War.

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