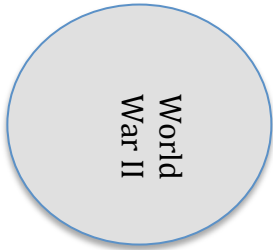


BLM 5.1: The Causes and Consequences of World War II

Arrange the following causes and consequences in the diagram on the back of this page and draw lines between the events in order to represent causation:

- **Mass deaths**, which made World War II the deadliest conflict in history
- **Hitler's desire** to expand Germany and dominate Europe
- **The baby boom**, a rapid increase in the birthrate in Western countries
- France, Great Britain, and the Commonwealth of Nations' **declaration of war against Germany** on September 3rd, 1939
- **Economic growth and prosperity** for the United States and Canada
- The development of **fascism** as an ideology that advocates militarism and national expansion
- **The creation of Israel** as a homeland for the Jewish People
- **The Treaty of Versailles**, which ended World War I, placed an enormous burden on Germany's economy and caused public resentment towards the war's victors, particularly France.
- The emergence of the United States and the Soviet Union as **superpowers and the ensuing Cold War**
- The **appeasement strategy** of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain towards Nazi Germany, by which he attempted to prevent war by giving concessions
- **Technological advancement**, particularly the invention of atomic weapons
- The **failure of the League of Nations** to prevent the Second Sino-Japanese War and Germany's subsequent annexations
- **The holocaust**: Nazi Germany's mass murder of approximately six million Jews along with other minority groups
- **The end of the Great Depression** due to a massive boost in military spending
- The **annexations** of Austria and Sudetenland and the establishment of Slovakia by Nazi Germany
- Germany and Slovakia's **invasion of Poland** on September 1st, 1939



BBM 5.2: Historical Actors and Historical Conditions

The following excerpts are from a anti-Nazi pamphlet published in 1939 titled *Mein Kampf: An Unexpurgated Digest*, which contains translated passages of Hitler's autobiographical manifesto, which he published in 1923 while serving a prison sentence for instigating a failed coup:

"The present acts of France, inspired by her own hatred and executed under Jewish leadership, constitutes a sin against the white race, and will some day bring down upon this people the avenging spirit of an entire generation, which looks upon race-degeneration as the original sin of mankind."⁸

"Today I am guided only by the cold argument that lost territories can not be reconquered by the speeches of sharp parliamentarians, but only by a sharp sword—a bloody war."⁹

"It (*the nationalist-socialist party*) must unite our people, without paying any attention to tradition and prejudiced opinion, in order to lead them out of their present narrow territory to new land and soil."¹⁰

"We take up the work where it was left six hundred years ago. We put an end to our age-old wandering in the direction of the South and West of Europe, and turn our eyes to the land in the East."¹¹

- 1) What do these quotations suggest about Hitler's plans for Germany and Europe sixteen years before the war began?

- 2) Do these excerpts support the idea that Hitler was able to singlehandedly compel Germany into war to carry out his plan, or do you see evidence of larger social and political trends at play? Explain.

⁸ Adolf Hitler; B.D. Shaw, *Mein Kampf: An Unexpurgated Digest* (Political Digest Press, 1939), 11. Accessed via Internet Archive on 8 November 2013.

<https://archive.org/details/MeinKampfAnUnexpurgatedEdition>.

⁹ Ibid., 12.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid., 13