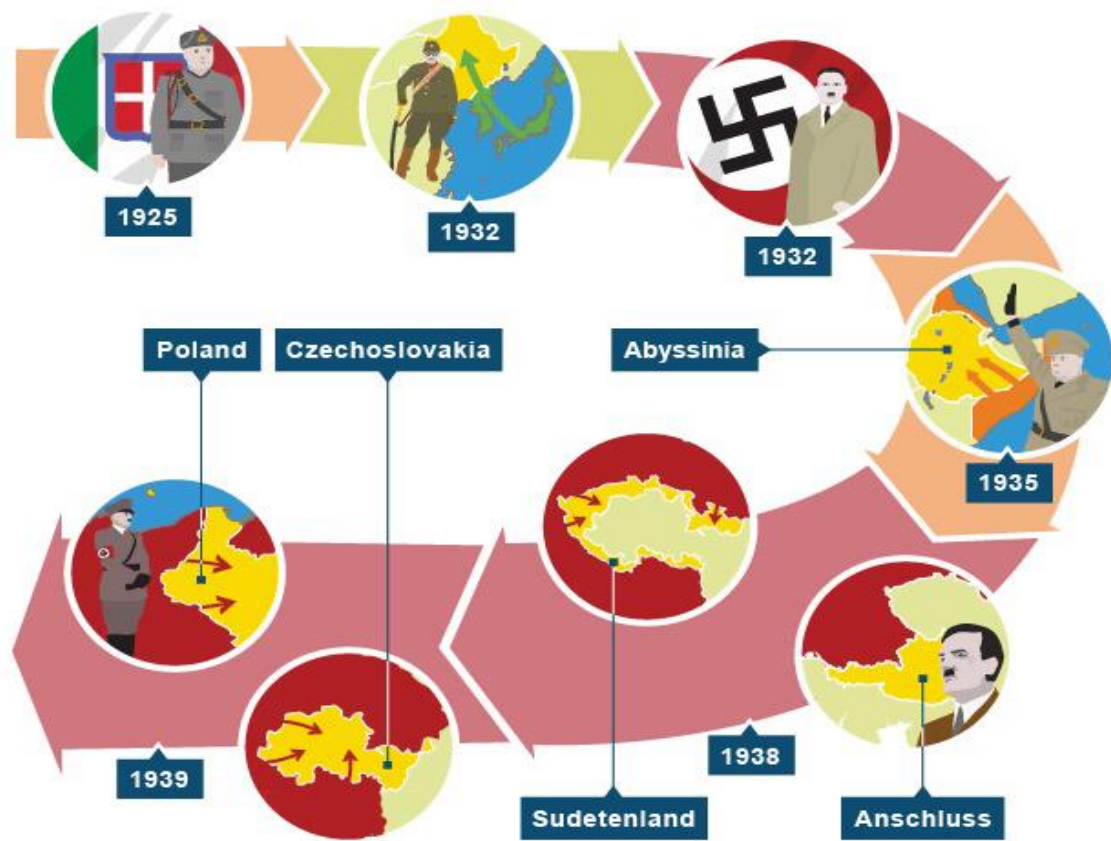



## TOPIC 3: WHY DID INTERNATIONAL ORDER BREAK DOWN BY 1939?



<b>What was Hitler's worldview'?</b>	Based on a belief in 'Social Darwinism' (Survival of the fittest)
	Aryan Race needed living space (lebensraum)
	All German should be united in one Reich (Empire)
	Jews and Communism were a threat the survival of the Aryan Race
<b>First Steps</b>	Left the disarmament conference (1933) Blamed the French for not being willing to disarm to Germany's level.
	Announced a 10 year non-aggression pact with Poland (Clever diplomacy)
	Began rearming in secret from 1933
<b>Austria – 1934</b> <i>(Attempted Anschluss)</i>	Hitler wanted an Anschluss with Austria. <b>(Part of Gross Deutschland)</b>
	Austrian Nazis caused disruption and murdered the chancellor, Dolfuss.
	Italy (Mussolini) objects - moves its army (100,000 soldiers) to the border.
	Hitler backed down.
<b>Saar Plebiscite</b> <i>(More important than you think)</i>	The Treaty of Versailles said there would be a plebiscite (vote) after 15 years
	Vote overseen by two judges (from Holland and Italy – so genuine result)
	The result is clearly in Germany's favour – 90%
	Propaganda victory for Hitler – People voting 'freely' to be part of Hitler's regime. (Validates Hitler and his regime)
	<b>SIGNIFICANCE:</b> Provides Hitler with 'moral authority' to demand unity with other German speaking regions in Europe with Germany e.g. Sudetenland
<b>Hitler Rearms 1935</b>	Military restrictions & conscription was forbidden by the Treaty of Versailles
	A huge 'Freedom to Rearm' military rally is popular with German people.
	In March 1935 he reintroduced conscription.
	1935 - 9, the number of soldiers grew tenfold from 100,000 to a million.
	The number of airplanes grew 200-fold from 36 to 8250
	He had guessed correctly – no country questioned this breach of the Treaty of Versailles (The Disarmament Conference had failed the year before)
	It made him very popular in Germany – it reduced unemployment, it made Germany strong, and he had defied the hated Treaty of Versailles.
<b>Anglo-German Naval Agreement</b>	In Britain view was 'better to try to control rearmament with Germany than ignore it': especially as the League disarmament conference collapsed in 1934.
	<b>June 1935</b> , the British agreed to allow Germany to have 35% of whatever the British tonnage was in the various categories of warship.
	<b>SIGNIFICANCE:</b> further validated his actions in breaking the Treaty of Versailles
<b>The Remilitarisation of the Rhineland (1936)</b>	Treaty of Versailles demilitarised the Rhineland
	March 1936 Hitler marched his troops into it (remilitarising it)
	It was a bold move (a bluff) It involved only 22,000 soldiers – who were ordered to retreat if they faced resistance
	Timing was 'good'. League faced with Italy's invasion of Abyssinia.
	In Britain – view was Hitler was only 'walking into his own backyard'.

<b>Forming Alliances</b>	Hitler formed the Rome-Berlin Axis with Mussolini of Italy. (1936)
	<b>SIGNIFICANCE:</b> With Hitler & Mussolini as Allies, Italy would no longer prevent / object to the Anschluss.
	Germany, Italy and Japan form the Anti-Comintern Pact. (An anti- communist alliance, 1936)
	Pledged to support each other if one was attacked by communism. <b>SIGNIFICANCE:</b> Hitler’s hand was strengthened in the diplomatic world.
<b>Spanish Civil War</b>	Began July 1936: Between the Nationalists under General Franco and the socialist Republic.
	Italy and Germany intervene to support Franco + Gains another ally + trade partner.
	Allows Hitler to promote himself as a ‘stalwart’ against international communism.
	Allows Hitler an opportunity to ‘test’ his new Condor Legion (airforce)
	Republican towns bombed - notably Guernica on (April 1937)
	Symbolised the brutality of the war - targeting civilians. Market day c 800 killed.
<b>Explain why Hitler was able to carry out the Anschluss in 1938  (Threats &amp; intimidation)</b>	1938 Austrian leader Schuschnigg ‘bullied’ into agreeing to appoint a Nazi (Seyss-Inquart) to his cabinet.
	Hitler ordered Seyss-Inquart to stir up trouble within Austria.
	Schuschnigg announced a referendum (vote) whereby the Austrian people would decide for themselves – this might go against Hitler.
	Hitler was furious: threatened Schuschnigg to withdraw it - which he did.
	Schuschnigg resigned and Seyss-Inquart became Leader and invited Germany into Austria to ‘restore order’. (March 12 1938)
	France was going through political turmoil – their government had resigned!
	Britain – was adopting appeasement.
	Germany gained an army of 30,000, steel reserves & iron ore.
	<b>SIGNIFICANCE:</b> European balance of power was tipping towards Germany and Hitler.
<b>Appeasement Arguments ‘in favour’</b>	<b>Definition:</b> A diplomatic policy of making political or material concessions to an aggressive power in order to avoid conflict. Associated with GB & France in the 1930s.
	<b>Legacy of WWI:</b> WWI cast a ‘long shadow’. 10 Million dead untold casualties – created a mentality of avoiding war ‘at any cost’
	Aspects of the Treaty of Versailles were ‘too harsh’ – Some changes should be permitted. Alterations were not unreasonable.
	It ‘gave peace a chance’ – it was <b>morally right</b> to try to go down a diplomatic route to avoid conflict.
	It bought ‘time’ (although this was not Chamberlain’s position). Britain was not ready for war – when it did come Britain had an air force and radar.
	In some British circles communism not fascism was seen as the major threat – better to try and make accommodation with Hitler. Germany would be an important ‘buffer’ to prevent the spread of communism.
Britain had no allies (the US was isolationist & support from the Empire was uncertain) & the economy was weak.	

	<p>It was not a weak policy (as some suggested) It was an iron fist, velvet glove approach.</p>
<p><b>Appeasement Arguments 'against'</b></p>	<p>It was the wrong policy to adopt with the Nazi Regime which was a 'murderous regime' bent on expansion (Everyone knew this) Hitler had a 'stufenplan' (Step by step plan)</p> <p>Not every act of appeasement satisfied Hitler, it made him more convinced he could 'rattle sabres' and get what he wanted.</p> <p>Britain overestimated Hitler's power – a firm reaction to the remilitarisation of the Rhineland would have worked.</p>
<p><b>The Sudetenland September 1938</b></p> <p><b>(The ultimate act of appeasement)</b></p>	 <p>Similar process to the Anschluss.</p> <p>Conrad Henlein (local Sudeten German Nazi) claimed Germans were mistreated.</p> <p>Hitler made the claim to his Generals that he will 'smash Czechoslovakia' – he causes diplomatic unrest by making this announcement public.</p> <p><b>15 September:</b> Chamberlain flew to see Hitler at his mountain retreat – Berchtesgaden. Agreed that Czechoslovakia should give all areas with 50 per cent of German speakers to Germany.</p> <p><b>22 September:</b> Chamberlain flew to Bad Godesberg to confirm the arrangement. Hitler increase his demands – want all the Sudetenland. Chamberlain returned to England 'in dismay'.</p> <p>Increased fear of war in Europe – War preparations made in England</p> <p><b>30 September:</b> Chamberlain flew again – to Munich (Organised by Mussolini). Whole of the Sudetenland is ceded to Germany.</p> <p>Benes (Czech President) not invited! Neither is Stalin. (Stalin annoyed)</p> <p>Chamberlain &amp; Hitler also sign a Pact of Non-Aggression – Chamberlain proclaimed 'Peace in our time'. Hitler called it a 'scrap of paper'.</p>

<b>Significance of the Munich Agreement</b>	Britain & France speed up rearmament programmes.
	After the initial sense of relief - British Public realised appeasement had failed.
	March 1939 Hitler occupied the rest of Czechoslovakia
	Britain & France make a commitment to defend Poland - Britain and France now convinced that there were no limits to Hitler's territorial ambitions.
	Convinced Hitler that Britain did not want war and so he continued to progress his foreign policy ambitions.
<b>Final Steps to War</b> <b>Nazi – Soviet Pact</b> <i>(The Danzig Crisis - 'trigger' for war)</i>	Hitler wanted the return of the Polish Corridor (& Danzig).
	March: Hitler makes Military Alliance with Italy (Pact of Steel)
	He cannot risk a war on two fronts (with GB & F on the West and the USSR on the East).
	August 1939 - Solution: Makes the Nazi-Soviet Pact with Stalin (Also known as Ribbentrop - Molotov Pact (after the foreign ministers).
	10 Year non-Aggression Pact. (Hitler breaks this in 1941 by invading Russia!).
	Secret clause to divide Poland between them.
	It left Poland isolated.
	It ended any chance that the West would make a deal with Stalin to isolate Hitler
<b>WAR</b>	September 1, 1939: Hitler invades Poland (Blitzkrieg – lightning War)
	September 3: Chamberlain declares war on Germany (Broadcasts announcement at 11.15 am)
	So began the most destructive war in history – by 1945 over 50 million dead.

