

Question: What were the causes of World War One and how did the conditions and agreements resulting from World War One serve as a catalyst for World War Two?

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Causes of WWI

The main cause of WWI was when the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary was assassinated in June 1914. It was a Serbian-nationalist terrorist group known as the Black Hand. After this occurred Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, Russia then joined to defend Serbia. Then Germany joined in to help Austria-Hungary. Germany declared war on Russia because they saw Russia mobilizing. Then Germany attacked France through Belgium and that caused Britain to join the war. Eventually Italy and the United States joined the war on the side with the allies. Before WWI there was imperialization throughout Africa and Asia which caused conflicts between European countries before the Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated.

Causes of WWI

Imperialism is when a country increases its wealth and power by bringing additional territories under their control. As the world entered the 20th century, an arms race had begun. Germany's military had the greatest increase compared to other countries. Great Britain and Germany both greatly increased their navies. In Germany and Russia the military establishment began to have a greater influence on public policy. The increase in Militarism helped push the countries into war. Nationalism led directly to war, because the many countries were trying to show their power and dominance. So the four main causes of WWI were imperialism, nationalism, militarism and mutual defense alliances.

Agreements after WWI

There were many agreements and effects of WWI some of those agreements and effects are listed below. The treaties after WWI stripped the Central Powers (Germany and Austria-Hungary, also Ottoman, Turkey and Bulgaria.) of territories and imposed significant reparation payments. One of the main agreements that caused WWII was the Treaty of Versailles.



The Treaty of Versailles

The Treaty of Versailles was one of the peace treaties at the end of WWI. It ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers. The most important and controversial required Germany to accept responsibility for causing all the loss and damage during the war. The treaty forced Germany to disarm/ give up almost all of it army/navy, and to give up land they had conquered during the war, they also had to pay reparations to certain countries for the damage done. Germany had anything that had to do with the army/navy and weapons revoked. This was the main cause leading up to WWII.

Propaganda

During WWI and WWII many countries began the use of propaganda which was a way to get people to join in on the war whether it was attempting citizens to join the army. Or simply getting women to work in the factories and complete many other tasks they usually would not attempt to do, while their sons, husbands, fathers, etc.. were away. This kind of helped women gain some of their rights it was the start of it at the least.



How did Hitler rise to power in Germany?

Adolf Hitler rose to a place of prominence in the early years of the Nazi party. He was one of the best speakers the party had ever had, he told the other party members to make him leader of the party or he would never return. He would use violence to advance in his political objectives and to recruit party members that were willing to do the same. In the 1920s, the Nazi party was engaged in electoral battles that Hitler participated in as speaker and organizer. The Nazis gathered enough electoral support to become the largest political party, Hitler's blend of political acuity, deceptiveness converted the party's non-majority but plurality in status into effect governing power in the Weimar Republic in 1933. That is how Hitler and the Nazis rose to power in Germany.

WWII

World War Two was a global war that lasted from 1939-1945, related conflicts began way before this though. This war involved the vast majority of the World's Nations. Including all of the "great powers", eventually forming two opposing military alliances; the Allies and the Axis. This was the most widespread war in history, it directly involved more than 100 million people from more than 30 countries. It was a state of total war, major participants put their entire economic, industrial and scientific capabilities into the war effort. Erasing distinction between civilian and military resources.

WWII

During this war there were mass deaths of civilians, those of which included the Holocaust which about 11 million people were murdered/died. Then the strategic bombing of industrial and population centers where about one million people died, these bombings included the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, these specific bombings resulted in nearly 50 to 85 thousands fatalities. That is what made WWII the deadliest conflict in human history.

The Holocaust

The Holocaust began when the Germans began to believe that they were superior to the Jewish people and that the Jews were a threat to the German racial community. In 1933 the population of Jews in Europe was over nine million, most lived in places that became ruled by Nazi Germany in WWII. By 1942 the Germans and their collaborators killed nearly two out of every three European Jews as part of Hitler's "Final Solution". The Nazis not only killed the Jewish people but also persecuted many other individual types of people.



The Atomic Bomb

On August 6th of 1945 a US B-29 bomber dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, which instantly killed around 80,000 people. A few days later a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, causing deaths of 40,000 more. The dropping of the atomic bombs remains the only nuclear attack in history. In months following these attacks roughly 100,000 more people died slow, horrible deaths as a result of radiation poisoning. Even though voices in the U.S. military expressed caution regarding the use of the new weapon against Japan, Truman was very convinced that the atomic bomb was the only option that would force Japan to surrender.



The End Results of WWII

The results of WWII lead to a new period of time because two “superpowers” were built one was the United States and the Soviet Union. Although they were allied during WWII they became competitors and engaged in The Cold War. By the end of WWII many people were homeless because Europe’s economy had basically collapsed. Also a lot of the industrial infrastructure had been destroyed. Germany also had to pay many reparations to the United Kingdom, France and the Soviet Union. The U.S. policy in post-war Germany was that no help should be give to the Germans in rebuilding their nation. The Allies’ immediate post-war plan for Germany was an “industrial disarmament” plan was to destroy Germany’s capability to wage war by complete or partial de-industrialisation.

Resource Page

<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/the-holocaust>

[World War I Ended With the Treaty of Versailles](#)

Katz, Steven T. "The Holocaust in Historical Context, Volume 1: The Holocaust and Mass Death Before the Modern Age." (1994).

[Adolf Hitler's rise to power - Wikipedia](#)

<https://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007695>

[History of WW2](#)

[World War II - Wikipedia](#)

[Introduction to the Holocaust](#)

[Aftermath of World War II - Wikipedia](#)

[Atomic Bomb | HISTORY](#)

[Causes of the First World War](#)

[The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II - National Security Archive](#)