

Bellwork

- Was the policy on women confused?
Why?
- How were women in politics viewed by Hitler?
- What jobs were women able to hold?
- Did "good women" wear pants in public?

Nazi-Soviet Pact

BACKGROUND

- Stalin had been very worried about German threats to the Soviet Union since Hitler came to power in 1933
- Hitler had openly stated that he wanted Soviet land for his Lebensraum
- Stalin tried to create alliances with Britain and France but to no avail
- In 1934 Stalin took the USSR into the League of Nations as a guarantee against German aggression.

The League Of Nations

- Stalin gained no satisfaction from the League. Instead he saw failures
 - Abyssinia
 - Spanish Civil War
 - German rearmament

Britain and France

- Britain:
- Some welcomed a strong Germany as a force to fight Communism.
- Communism was seen as a bigger threat than Hitler
- France:
- Stalin signed a pact with France in 1935
- He did not trust the French to keep to it- especially after Rhineland

The Munich Agreement

- This agreement made Stalin even more wary
- Stalin was not consulted about the agreement
- Stalin concluded that Britain and France were powerless to stop Hitler
- Or that they were happy for Hitler to take over Eastern Europe and the USSR

The Next Moves

- Despite misgivings Stalin was still prepared to talk to Britain and France about an alliance
- The three countries met in March 1939
- Chamberlain was reluctant to commit Britain
- Stalin believed that Britain and France made things worse by guaranteeing to defend Poland if it were attacked
- Chamberlain saw the guarantee as a warning to Hitler
- Stalin saw it as support for a potential enemy.

A Twist in the tale!

- Negotiations continued between Britain, France and the USSR throughout Spring and Summer 1939.
- Stalin, however, was also getting visits from Nazi foreign minister Ribbentrop to discuss a Nazi-Soviet pact

The deed is done!

- On 24 August 1939 Stalin made his decision and signed a pact with Germany
- The world was shocked as two arch enemies promised not to attack each other.
- Privately they also agreed to divide Poland

Why did Stalin sign the pact?

- Stalin was not convinced that Britain and France would be strong and reliable allies against Hitler
- He also wanted large parts of eastern Poland
- He did not believe that Hitler would keep his word. He wanted time to build up his forces.

Assignment

- Using this information, work in your pod to develop your own peace agreement with another pod.
- Privately as a group, decide what your overall goal is (e.g. take away their highlighters) and figure out how you will approach them to get them to sign an agreement that gives you access to your goal (e.g. their highlighters).
- You and the other pod must come to a **WRITTEN** agreement that is signed by the leaders from each pod that says in writing what you are agreeing to. This signed agreement is to be signed by the end of class.
- When this agreement is signed, you will individually write a 1 paragraph reflection closure that will be checked tomorrow.
- This reflection must lay out what your pod wanted out of the agreement, what you received from the agreement, and how **YOU** feel about the agreement overall.