

Conflict and tension 1918–1939



revision workbook

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Introduction

Overview of the exam

Section B of Paper 1 is about how Europe went from making peace in 1918 to making war in 1939. It includes the following cornerstone events of the period:

- The Treaty of Versailles
- The Great Depression
- Manchuria and Abyssinia
- The Anschluss
- The Annexation of Czechoslovakia and the Munich Conference
- The outbreak of the Second World War

There are three key topics that you will need to study:

Topic 1 Peacemaking

Topic 2 The League of Nations and International peace

Topic 3 The origins and outbreak of the Second World War

Assessment objectives

| Assessment objective | What does it mean? |
|---|--|
| AO1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and understanding of Germany 1890–1945. • Your ability to recall and apply a range and depth of factual knowledge of Germany's history during this period. • Tip: Try to use two or three pieces of knowledge each time you approach a question with an AO1 focus. |
| AO2 Explain and analyse historical events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is your ability to communicate and explain Germany's history using different second order concepts such as description, causation, change, continuity and consequence. |
| AO3 Analyse, evaluate and use sources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is your ability to analyse, evaluate and use sources from the period to make judgements about the events you've studied. |

Which questions assess which objectives?

You will be given a source booklet containing three sources.

You will be asked four questions worth **44 marks** in total. They will look similar to this:

| Question | Marks | Assessment objective | Approx. time to spend on this question |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Source A is critical/supportive of X. How do you know? | 4 marks | AO3 | 6 minutes |
| How useful are sources B and C to a historian studying X? | 12 marks | AO3 | 14 minutes |
| Write an account of how ... | 8 marks | AO1 and AO2 | 10 minutes |
| 'X was the main reason for Y'. How far do you agree with this statement? | 16 marks + 4 SPaG marks | AO1 and AO2 | 20 minutes |

How to use this workbook

The first part of this guide will help you to refresh your knowledge of the three key topics you have studied on this period and to apply your knowledge using a variety of tasks.

The second part will guide you through how to answer each of the four types of question, with lots of tips and advice.

Topic 2

The League of Nations and international peace

The League of Nations was an international organisation which brought together different countries. It started with 42 member states in 1920, and was intended to grow and include as many countries as possible as time went on.

The aims of the League

The League had four main aims:

1. to keep the peace and prevent war, through improved international cooperation
2. to facilitate disarmament (reducing weapons)
3. to improve working and living conditions for people around the world
4. to help end deadly diseases around the world.

Task

The League planned to keep peace through the idea of 'Collective security'. Can you define what is meant by this? (See Appendix for a suggested definition.)

Source task

Below is a cartoon published in Britain in March 1919 called 'Overweighted'. Complete the questions below. Further ideas about this source can be found in the Appendix.



President Wilson: 'Here's your olive branch, now get busy.'

Dove of Peace: 'Of course I want to please everybody; but isn't this a bit thick?'

1. What can you see in the source?

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2. What does the title reveal?

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3. What does the caption reveal?

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4. What can we learn from this source about feelings about the League?

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What was the effect of the Great Depression on world peace?

On Tuesday 4 October 1929, the United States stock market collapsed. Owners of stocks and shares began panic selling. This frenzy quickly affected the banks, employment and peoples' savings. Over 1,000 banks per year failed between 1929 and 1932. This was the worst period in the history of the United States' economy and became known as the Great Depression

The Great Depression spreads to Europe

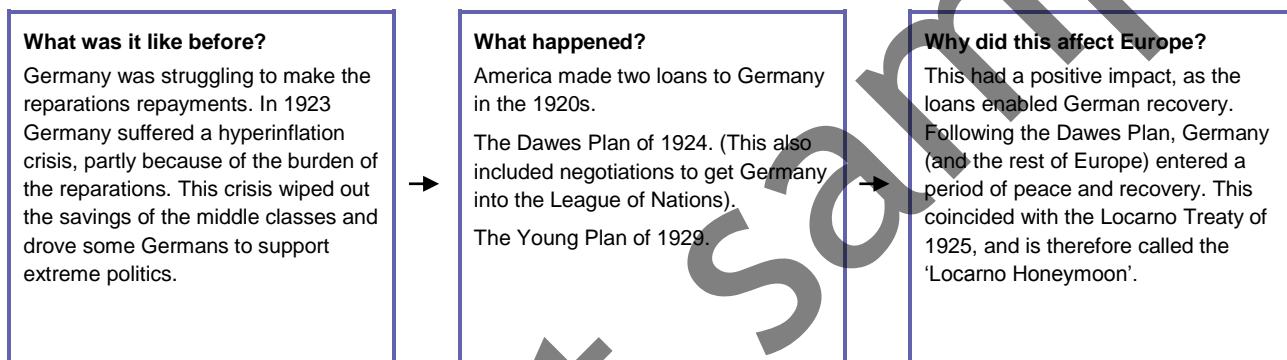
Within America the consequences were severe, but the effects weren't limited to the United States. The Great Depression affected Europe for several reasons.

Task

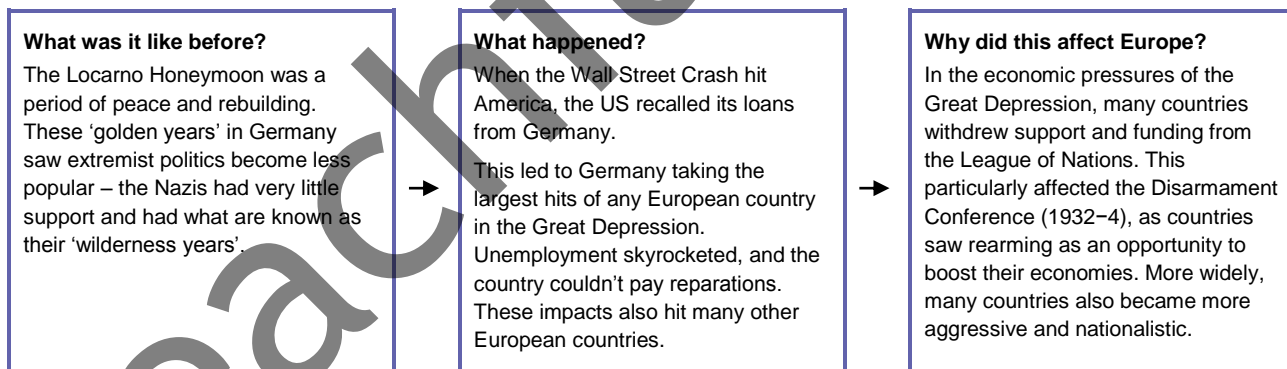
Colour code the chart below to show the impact of the Great Depression:

1. issues affecting Germany
2. issues making all countries more aggressive
3. the growth of nationalism

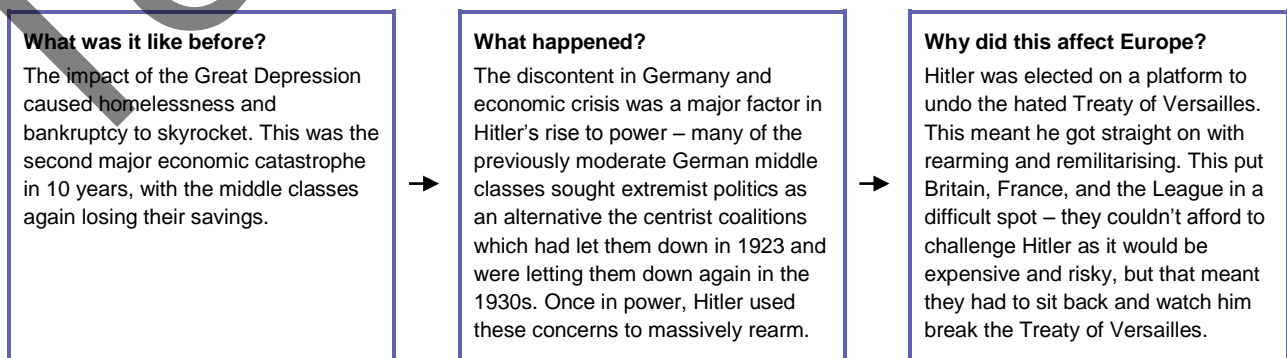
The Dawes and Young Plans



American loans to Europe from WWI



The Great Depression in Germany



Memory-refreshers:

The below mind-map is a basic reminder of the key events in this period.

The Saar Plebiscite, 1935

The Saar was handed over to the League for safekeeping for 15 years as part of the Treaty of Versailles. It was given back to Germany following a plebiscite in 1935 in which 90% of Saarlanders voted to rejoin Germany. This gave Hitler confidence.

Conscription and Rearmament, 1935

Hitler promised to destroy the Treaty of Versailles by rebuilding Germany's military. He revealed this in 1935 at the 'Freedom to Rearm Rally' in Nuremberg. He showed off over a million soldiers, his new tanks and a new air force, the *Luftwaffe*.

Remilitarising the Rhineland, 1936

The Rhineland was meant to be kept demilitarised under the Treaty of Versailles, but it remained German land. In March 1936 Hitler ordered German soldiers to enter. They went on bicycles and were greeted with flowers. Nobody stopped them – if they had, the German soldiers had orders to retreat rather than fight. This greatly strengthened Hitler's position against France. Britain said Germans were only 'walking in their own back garden'.

Anschluss with Austria, 1938

Anschluss (union) with Austria had also been banned at the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler had attempted this first in 1934, but been stopped by Mussolini before they were allies. In 1938, Hitler started stirring up trouble in Austria through loyal local Nazis. These ended up forcing the Chancellor, Schuschnigg, to step down. His replacement, Seyss-Inquart, was a Nazi and he invited Hitler in to 'restore order'. Hitler then held a fake plebiscite which 'passed' by 99%. Hitler now controlled Austria.

Hitler's foreign policy

The Munich Crisis and Sudetenland, 1938

The Sudetenland had never been German, but was home to three million German speakers. As part of his policy of *Volksdeutsche*, Hitler claimed it should become German. He bullied Chamberlain into convincing Czechoslovakia to agree to a plebiscite, and France into not keeping its alliance with Czechoslovakia. Hitler then decided that he wanted the Sudetenland without a plebiscite, causing a crisis conference in Munich (organised by Mussolini). At this conference Britain and France agreed to give Hitler the Sudetenland. Czechoslovakia had no

The Annexation of Bohemia and Moravia, 1939

At the Munich Conference Hitler had promised that Czechoslovakia was his final territorial claim. He even signed the 'Anglo-German Declaration' never to go to war with Britain. Chamberlain left Munich feeling like he had secured 'peace in our time'. Then, in March of 1939, Hitler invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia, after using the same tactics as in Austria (sending Nazis to stir up trouble and riots, so he had to 'restore order'). This outraged Britain and France, and they started preparing for war.

The Nazi-Soviet Pact and Invasion of Poland, 1939

Nobody ever expected Stalin and Hitler to become allies – after all, Hitler had promised to destroy communism as one of his main goals. Yet, in August 1939 they signed a shock pact in which they agreed not to fight each other. This was an excuse that the two countries used to divide Poland between them. Neither really trusted the other, but Stalin was angry at being ignored by Britain and France and wanted to use Poland as a buffer zone against Hitler. Similarly, Hitler wanted land in western Poland for *Lebensraum* and access to the nearly three million Jews living in Poland. As such, Germany and the USSR both invaded Poland on 1 September 1939. Britain gave Germany two days to withdraw its troops and when it did not Britain and France declared war on 3 September. This started the Second World War.

Exam skills

In the exam, you will be asked four questions, worth **44 marks** in total. They will look similar to this:

| Question | Marks | Assessment objective | Approx. time to spend on this question |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Source A is critical/supportive of X. How do you know? | 4 marks | AO3 | 6 minutes |
| How useful are sources B and C to a historian studying X? | 12 marks | AO3 | 14 minutes |
| Write an account of how ... | 8 marks | AO1 and AO2 | 10 minutes |
| 'X was the main reason for Y'. How far do you agree with this statement? | 16 marks + 4 SPaG marks | AO1 and AO2 | 20 minutes |

Example questions

Question type 1

Source A is critical/supportive of X. How do you know? **(4 marks)**

Example question

Source A

This source is a British cartoon from 1919. It was published in the *Daily Herald*. It shows George Clemenceau, David Lloyd George and Woodrow Wilson looking on as Germany (represented by the child) cries.

The title is 'Peace and future cannon fodder'. The caption at the bottom says 'The Tiger: "Curious! I seem to hear a child weeping!"'

Study Source A

Source A is critical of the 'Big Three'. How do you know?

Explain your answer using **Source A** and your contextual knowledge.

(4 marks)

This question is asking you to explain how a source supports or criticises a particular event. You need to refer to details in the source and explain them with your knowledge of what was happening at the time the source was created.

(See Appendix for more ideas about this source.)

