

# History Y9 Knowledge Organiser

Autumn 1 - WW2

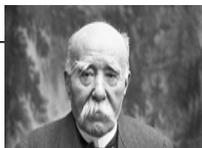


## 1. Key terms

Key term	Definition
Treaty of Versailles	Signed in 1919, which brought a formal end to the First World War
Allies	Groups of countries supporting each other.
League of Nations	A group of countries established in 1919, to promote international cooperation and achieve peace and security.
Hyper inflation	monetary inflation occurring at a very high rate.
Propaganda	Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.
Communism	A theory or system of social organization in which all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their ability and need.

## 2. Treaty of Versailles

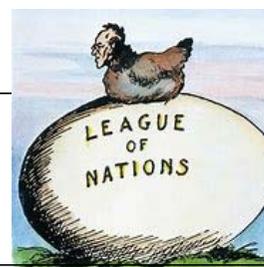
- Involved the Big 3.
- France: Most of the fighting took place on French soil. The French people lost 750,000 homes and more than 1,500,000 (one and a half million) men. **The French wanted to punish Germany** and make sure that Germany was too weak to fight another war.
- America: The Americans did not suffer as much as Britain or France from the War, and wanted to focus on avoiding another war altogether.
- Germany: **You want Germany to be punished but you also want Germany to remain quite strong.** This is because the allies are worried that if Germany is too weak then communism (which you see as an enemy) might spread from Russia across the whole of Europe.



## 3. League of nations

The League of Nations came into being after the end of World War One. The League of Nations task was simple – to ensure that war never broke out again. After the turmoil caused by the Versailles Treaty, many looked to the League to bring stability to the world.

- Originally the idea of Woodrow Wilson who wanted the League to be like a world parliament.
- Based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 42 countries joined at the start. By the 1930s this had risen to 60.
- May 1920, the US Senate voted against Versailles, thus the country did not join the League.
- The USSR did not join the League.



## 4. Breakout of WW1

Axis powers: Japan, Germany and Italy vs the Allies; Britain, France, America and the commonwealth.

The causes are the following:

- The Treaty of Versailles was unfair.
- Hitler was being aggressive.
- The failure of Britain, France and America's policy of appeasement.
- The failure of the League of Nations.



## 5. Dresden

• Some people say that the Allies (British & Americans) committed war crimes too – one example is the bombing of Dresden, a city in eastern Germany

What happened?

- On 13 to the 15 February 1945, when the Germans were clearly losing the Second World War, 805 RAF bombers dropped 2600 tons of bombs on the centre of Dresden
- The weather was clear and there was no anti-aircraft guns, so the bombs caused an enormous firestorm. Temperatures rose to 1000 degrees Celsius.
- Between 35,000 and 150,000

## 6. Churchill



**Sir Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill** (30 November 1874 – 24 January 1965) was a British politician, army officer, and writer. He was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945, when he led Britain to victory in the Second World War, and again from 1951 to 1955

## 7. Atomic bomb

- On 6<sup>th</sup> August the bomber Enola Gay dropped the first bomb on Hiroshima
- There was a glaring pink light in the sky that burned out people's eyes
- Anyone within a kilometre became charcoal in seconds
- Within minutes 70,000 were dead
- The blast wave destroyed 70,000 buildings
- The Americans asked the Japanese to surrender – they refused
- Three days later the second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki and 6 days later Japan surrendered



Glue here

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## Homework

Week	Spellings	Quiz	
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

