

Year 9 Challenges for Britain and the Wider world

Topic words

Some of our key words are difficult to remember. Here are a some with their meanings.

Convoy System – British ships sailed together during WW1 for protection

Battle of the Somme – 1 July 1916: Britain suffered 57,000 casualties on day 1 alone

Ludendorff Offensive – March 1918: German offensive

Creeping Barrage – Using heavy artillery to help advancing troops creep forward.

Lusitania – British Ocean liner sank in 1915

Treaty of Versailles - (see right)

Reparations – to pay back

League of Nations – An international club for sorting problems peacefully. Set up at Versailles in 1919.

Lebensraum – “Living Space”

Inflation – When the value of currency reduces massively

Weimer Government – The government that ruled Germany after World War One

Anti-Semitism – hatred of Jewish people

Mein Kampf – “My Struggle”, written by Hitler.

Aryan Race – a term used by Hitler to describe the “master race”

Key people

General Ludendorff – General in German Army during World War One. Planned and implemented “Ludendorff Offensive” in Spring 1918.

General Haig – Senior officer of the British Army, in charge of military strategy. Often criticised for his part in planning offensives that led to many British deaths (ie: Somme)

Adolf Hitler – Leader of Nazi party. Became “Führer” (leader) of Germany in 1934



The Legacy of World War One

The number of soldiers killed during World War One is staggering, in total nearly 9 million people were killed (over 5,000 deaths per day over four years). Wives lost their husbands and children lost their fathers. Many communities, workplaces and even sports teams must have felt empty. Britain was determined to punish its defeated enemy, Germany, and to stop a war like this from happening again.

The Treaty of Versailles (1919)

The Versailles Treaty was the peace agreement that ended World War One. The leaders of France (Clemenceau), Britain (Lloyd George) and the USA (Wilson) attended. Germany was not invited.

The Treaty of Versailles punished Germany severely. It was forced to pay 6,600 million in reparations for the war. It could have no air force or submarines and had to hand over its colonies to Britain and France. The German people were perhaps unhappiest with the War Guilt clause, which blamed Germany for starting World War One.

German politicians were told to either sign the peace agreement or face invasion. They signed.

Hitler and the Treaty of Versailles

The Treaty of Versailles was a humiliation to Germany, reparations also caused inflation. Adolf Hitler was able to use the anger of the German people as a vehicle to increase his popularity. As leader of the Nazi Party, he spoke out against the Treaty of Versailles and the German politicians that had signed it. He blamed the Jewish people for Germany’s defeat during World War One and promised to make Germany great again.

1916	➔	1918 (11 Nov)	➔	1919 (28 June)	➔	1923	➔	1925	➔	1933	➔	... 3 days later
The Battle of the Somme		World War One ends (Armistice)		Versailles Treaty signed		Hyper-inflation crisis in Germany		Hitler publishes “Mein Kampf”		Hitler becomes Germany’s Chancellor		Hitler orders secret rebuilding of army, navy and air force