

APPEASEMENT, LEAD UP TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR

TASK 1: Which of the post war problems were not solved by 1933? Which countries were most likely to challenge the post war peace arrangements? Which territories did they want to gain?

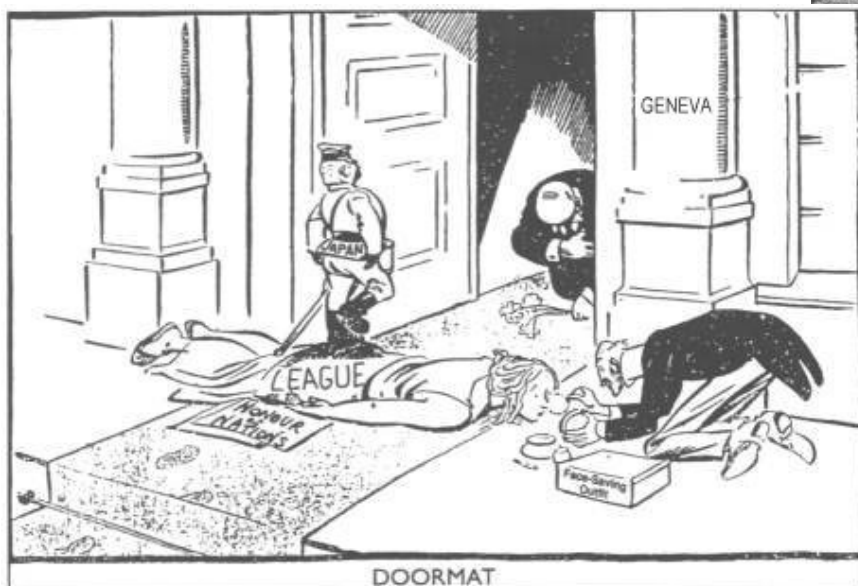
Japan

1931 – occupied **Manchuria** and installed the last Chinese emperor Pu-Yi as ruler of their puppet state **Manchukuo**

1933 – when the League of Nations condemned Japanese aggression Japan left the League

1937 – bombing of **Shanghai** – the first mass bombing of civilians, all the world shocked by its brutality, regular war with China began

TASK 2: What effect could pictures from Shanghai have on the public opinion in Europe?



TASK 3: What conclusion could Hitler have reached concerning Japanese actions and their results?

Appeasement

1932-1933 **The World Disarmament Conference** in Geneva

- Chemical weapons and bombing of civilians banned
- x no agreement concerning disarmament

1933 Germany left the League of Nations in protest that only Germany was forced to disarm after the First World War

TASK 4: *How was the German army limited by the terms of the Treaty of Versailles?*

1933 Hitler prepared for the rearmament of the German army in secret

1935 **Saarland**, plebiscite, the majority of inhabitants voted for

1935 Hitler officially announced his rearmament scheme

1935 **Stresa Front** – Britain, France and Italy agreed to act together if Hitler violated the Treaty of Versailles

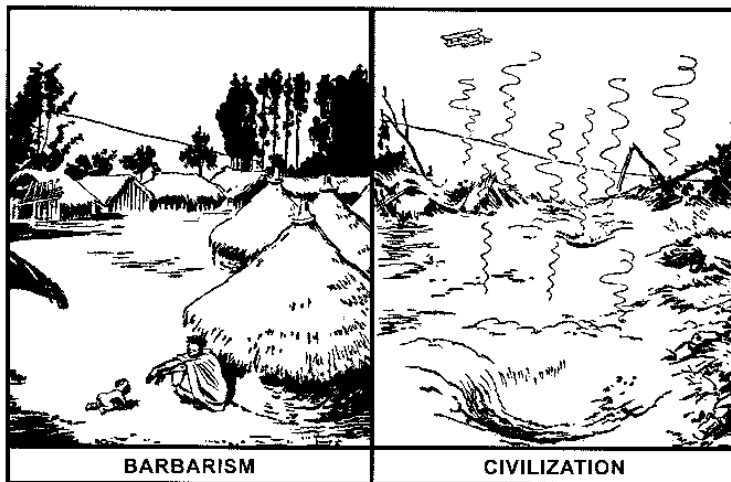
TASK 5: *Why did Mussolini attempt to stop Hitler and decided to cooperate with Britain and France?*

1935 **Naval Agreement** between Britain and Germany, Germany allowed to build its navy to the size of 1/3 of the British navy

1935-1936

War in Abyssinia – Italy occupied Abyssinia, the Emperor Haile Selassie protested in the League of Nations, but without any response.

1935 Hoare-Laval pact – instead of stopping Italian occupation, Britain and France proposed a division of Abyssinia, giving most of it to Italy, Mussolini refused to accept this offer



1936 **Rhineland**, German army marched into the Rhineland facing no opposition

1936 **Rome-Berlin Axis** formed

Spanish Civil War 1936-1939

In 1935-1936 **popular fronts against fascism** were formed in many European countries consisting mainly of left wing parties.

In Spain this radical left wing coalition won the elections and formed the new government.

Spanish fascist led by generals **Mola** and **Franco** decided to overthrow the government.

TASK 6: *Which countries supported the two sides of the conflict in Spain? How did they help?*

Republicans (radical left)

x Fascists

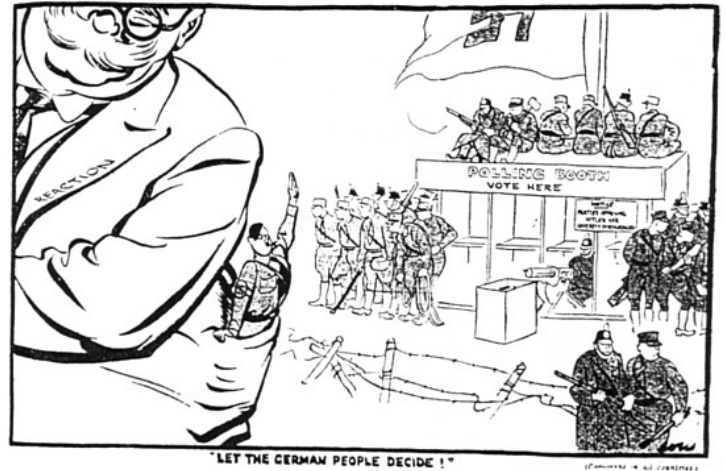
1937 **bombing of Guernica** – the world shocked and horrified by the destruction caused

TASK 6: *What can we learn about the horrors of war from the famous Picasso's picture the Guernica?*



1938 **Anschluss of Austria**, Austria occupied, plebiscite confirmed that most Austrians wished to join with Germany

TASK 7: How does the cartoon evaluate the plebiscite in Austria?



Sudetenland

'a quarrel in a far-away land between peoples of whom we know nothing.' (N. Chamberlain, 1938)

1937 **Fall Grün**, German plan of occupation of Sudetenland

1938 April Carlsbad, Sudetendeutsche Partai demanded full autonomy

1938 May, partial mobilization of the Czechoslovak army



Britain and France started war preparations, digging air raid shelters

1939 September 15, Berchtesgaden, Chamberlain visited Hitler

Sep 19, Britain and France suggested that territories with more than 50% of German inhabitants should be ceded to Germany

Sep 22. Bad Godesberg – Chamberlain informed Hitler that the Czechoslovak government accepted the plan, but Hitler put forward more demands

Sep 22, the new Czechoslovak government refused to cede any territory

Sep 23, mobilisation of Czechoslovak army

Hitler's ultimatum

Munich Conference, Sep 29-30 representatives of Germany Italy Britain and France met and agreed that Sudetenland should be given to Germany by Oct 10.

TASK 8: How do the following sources describe the crisis in Sudetenland 1938?



,We, the German Fuhrer and Chancellor, and the British Prime Minister, have had a further meeting today and are agreed in recognizing that the question of Anglo-German relations is of the first importance for our two countries and for Europe.

We regard the agreement signed last night and the Anglo-German Naval Agreement as symbolic of the desire of our two peoples never to go to war with one another again.

to assure the peace of Europe.

We are resolved that the method of consultation shall be the method adopted to deal with any other questions that may concern our two countries, and we are determined to continue our efforts to remove possible sources of difference, and thus to contribute



My good friends, for the second time in our history, a British Prime Minister has returned from Germany bringing peace with honour. I believe it is "peace for our time." Go home and get a nice quiet sleep.'

Neville Chamberlain on his return from the Munich Conference, Sep 30, 1938



'Why should we take a stand about someone pushing someone else when it's all so far away?'

