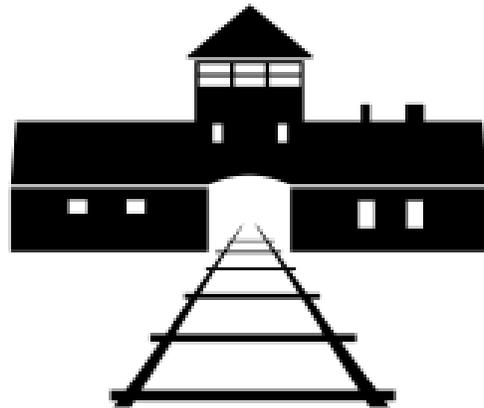


YEAR 9.2

WORLD WAR II

LEARNING GUIDE



# WORLD WAR II KEY QUESTIONS:

TEACHING WILL BE BASED ON THESE ENQUIRY QUESTIONS. EXPECTED KNOWLEDGE WILL ALLOW STUDENTS TO ANSWER IN DETAIL, PROVIDING SUPPORTING FACTUAL EVIDENCE AND UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF HISTORICAL EVENTS.

1. WHY WAS WWI NOT THE WAR TO END ALL WARS?
2. WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TURNING POINT OF THE WAR?
3. HOW FAR DID THE WAR AFFECT CIVILIAN LIFE?
4. HOLOCAUST – A WARNING FROM HISTORY?
5. CAN GENOCIDE STILL HAPPEN?



# HISTORY SKILLS

Attainment is heavily dependent upon knowledge & understanding and teacher should always take this into account first when assessing students.

The following skills are also integral the study of History & must also be assessed.



Chronology



Significance



Using evidence



Cause & consequence



Interpretation



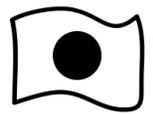
Change & continuity

# 9.2 WHY WAS WORLD WAR I NOT THE WAR TO END ALL WARS?



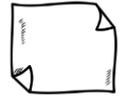
Despite the huge loss of life the Great War, and apparent determination from all sides not to repeat it, a Second World War broke out just over twenty years later. In fact, World War I partly helped cause World War II.

## TIMELINE:

-  **1919** Treaty of Versailles signed to officially bring an end to World War I.
-  **1920** League of Nations founded to help keep peace. USA did not join the organisation
-  **1929** Wall Street Crash in USA. The Great Depression would lead to more international aggression and hostility.
-  **1931** Japan invaded Manchuria in China. The League of Nations failed to deal with Japan.
-  **1933** Hitler became leader of Germany. His goal was to overturn the Treaty of Versailles and make Germany great once more. He soon left the League of Nations.
-  **1935** Italy invaded Abyssinia. The League again failed to act effectively.
-  **1938** Anschluss. Germany officially merged with Austria, contrary to terms of Treaty of Versailles. Czech Crisis over Sudetenland ended in Munich Agreement as part of Appeasement policy.
-  **1939** Germany invaded remainder of Czechoslovakia. Nazi-Soviet Pact between Germany and USSR. Invasion of Poland and British declaration of war on Germany.

## What caused World War II?



<p><b>Treaty of Versailles &amp; League of Nations</b></p> <p>The peace treaty that ended World War I was considered by many to have been too harsh on Germany and left them wanting revenge. This was partly why Hitler came to power in Germany in 1933.</p> <p>The League of Nations was weak without US involvement and failed to deal with aggression by Japan and Italy. This encouraged Hitler.</p> 	<p><b>Economic Problems</b></p> <p>The worldwide impact of the Great Depression helped cause war by increasing nationalism and aggression.</p> <p>Economic problems in Germany was a major factor in Hitler becoming popular and taking Power. It was also a major cause of both Japan and Italy's aggressive foreign policy in the 1930s.</p> 
<p><b>Hitler's Foreign Policy</b></p> <p>Hitler made clear in his book Mein Kampf in 1924 what his goals would be. He intended to reverse the Treaty of Versailles, to make Germany a major military power and to seize lands to the east of Germany to create lebensraum or living space.</p> <p>After he became leader, he set about achieving these goals. He could only achieve them by breaking international agreements and through invasion. These eventually led to war.</p> 	<p><b>Appeasement</b></p> <p>Many people wanted to avoid war. They remembered the horrors of World War I and some were sympathetic to Germany, worrying more about Stalin the USSR.</p> <p>This led to the policy of appeasement, which meant allowing Hitler to break rules in the hope of avoiding war. PM Chamberlain followed these ideas at Munich in 1938. It has been argued that this meant that opportunities to stop Hitler were missed and gave him confidence.</p> 

## 9.2 WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TURNING POINT OF THE WAR?



In 1945, both Germany and Japan, the Axis powers, surrendered. The key events which led to their defeat took place across the world and included people of many different countries. Which was most significant?

### TIMELINE:



**1939 – 1945** The Battle of the Atlantic took place throughout the war, as Germany aimed to starve Britain by sinking ships sailing to it from USA.



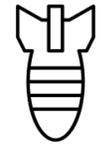
**May 1940** Dunkirk evacuation saw the British army rescued but soon led to the surrender of France



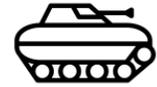
**Aug – Sep 1940** Battle of Britain fought over the skies of southern England by the RAF and Luftwaffe.



**June 1941** Operation Barbarossa saw Germany invade the Soviet Union and led to fighting on the Eastern Front for the rest of the war.



**Dec 1941** USA was brought into the war by the Japanese attack on the naval base on Hawaii.



**Nov 1942** Battle of El Alamein brought the war in the north African desert to a halt and saw Allied forces victorious.



**Jun 1944** on D-Day allied forces landed on the Normandy beaches, leading to an invasion of Germany from the west.



**Aug 1945** Following Germany's surrender, Japan fought on. Two atomic bombs were dropped. Firstly at Hiroshima.

### Why was this event significant?

Without being able to protect merchant shipping, Britain would have been unable to continue to fight. When the US joined the war, the Atlantic was crucial in bringing soldiers and equipment ready for D Day.

The British army would have been forced to surrender and Britain would have been unable to continue to carry on the war. The story of the little boats helping in the rescue was good for propaganda and keeping up morale.

Success in the Battle of Britain meant that Germany was unable to invade Britain and instead began the Blitz of its cities.

Britain now had a major ally in the Soviet Union. Germany suffered huge casualties as it failed to conquer USSR in the summer of 1941 and its army was fighting in the east for the rest of the war. The Soviets pushed the Germans all the way back to Berlin by 1945.

This brought the richest and powerful country in the world onto Britain's side. American forces fought their way through the Pacific islands and were prepared for an invasion of Japan by 1945.

Control of the North African coast allowed an Allied invasion of Italy and would force Germany's ally to surrender and change sides.

American and British forces successfully landed on French soil and were able to fight their way into Germany from the west in 1945 leading to Germany's surrender and Hitler's suicide.

Forced Japan to surrender and brought World War II to a close, despite the horrific impact of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

## 9.2 HOW DID THE WAR AFFECT CIVILIAN LIFE?



World War II was a total war and had an even bigger impact on civilians than the Great War had. The main categories were bombing, evacuation, rationing and women's roles.

### Bombing

Instead of invading Britain, Hitler decided to bomb its cities to force the country to surrender. This was known as the Blitz. All major cities were targeted, with London being bombed for 57 consecutive nights from September 1940. Liverpool, Glasgow, Newcastle, Cardiff, Manchester and Coventry were among other cities which were badly affected. By the end of the war about 60,000 British civilians had been killed by German bombing. Almost 4,000 people were killed in Merseyside. St Luke's Church in Liverpool, also known as the 'bombed out church; remains as a reminder.



Air raid shelters were provided for people, including Anderson Shelters which were constructed in back gardens. In London, as many as 180,000 people slept in underground stations each night.

### Evacuation

During World War II, many people were evacuated from the cities to the countryside where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. In total, over 3.5 million children were evacuated.

Mostly children were evacuated but other evacuees included mothers with very young children, pregnant women, disabled people, teachers and helpers to look after the children. Evacuation happened in distinct waves with the first wave of evacuations beginning two days before Britain officially declared war on Germany. Another wave occurred at the start of the Blitz in 1940.



All children had to wear an identity label and take their gas mask and ration book. They were met by billeting officers and sometimes had to line up to be selected by their host. Their experiences differed greatly. Many were well treated, but others were not at all.

### Rationing

At the start of the war, Britain was importing more than two-thirds of its food from overseas. When supply ships coming into the country were targeted by German bombers and the possibility of invasion or isolation became a reality, it became necessary for Britain to conserve as much food as possible. People began to grow more of their own food.

The rationing of food began in January 1940 and lasted until 1954, which was actually nine years after the war had ended. Items rationed included: meat, sugar, eggs, cheese, butter, milk, sweets, tea etc. Vegetables, bread and fish were never rationed. Some items were almost impossible to find, such



fruit like oranges and bananas. A black market in illegally traded goods began. Other items like cloth and petrol were also rationed.

### Women

During the war, women were employed in a wide range of jobs. Some became munition factory workers (making weapons); others joined the armed forces (army, navy and air force); many worked as Land Girls; some drove buses or trains; some worked on the canals; they worked as nurses or ambulance drivers. Many joined the Women's Voluntary Service, who assisted with a wide range of duties.

At the start of the war, the government relied on women to volunteer for work. However, by 1941, it became necessary to introduce conscription. This applied to single women only at first, but was later extended.



In 1943, almost 90% of single women and 80% of married women were in employment. Many of these changes were temporary, as they were expected to return to their previous domestic lives when the war ended.

## 9.2 A WARNING FROM HISTORY?



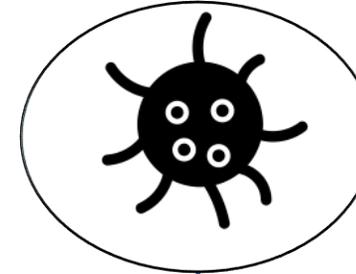
An estimated six million Jews were murdered as part of the Final Solution, the biggest example of genocide in human history. How and why did this horrific event take place and what lessons should be drawn from it?

### TIMELINE:

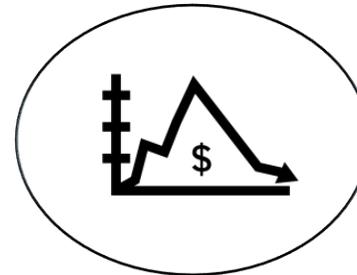


### Why were the Jews persecuted in Germany?

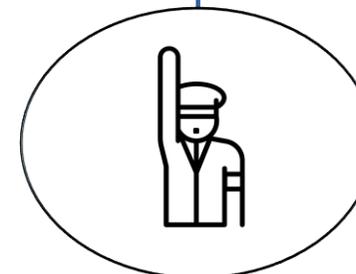
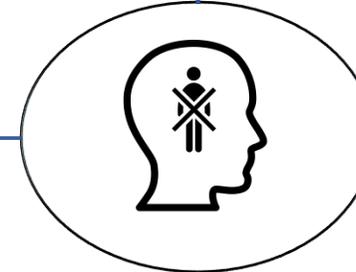
Anti-Semitism had existed for many centuries before Hitler and the Nazis. For example, in Medieval Europe many people blamed for the Black Death. Jews were also widely persecuted across Europe, including in Russia in the early c20.



Jews were often made scapegoats for problems such as Germany's defeat in World War I. The politicians who signed the peace treaty included Jews. They were accused of lacking patriotism.



Jews were sometimes resented as they were considered to be successful in business. Following the Great Depression and widespread unemployment and poverty, they were blamed for their selfishness.



Hitler's own personal beliefs were important. His hatred of Jews probably stemmed from his days as a homeless failed art student in Vienna, where anti-Semitism was rife. He considered Jews to be an inferior species of human – untermenschen.

## 9.2 CAN GENOCIDE STILL HAPPEN?



As the map below shows, genocides have taken place in many locations around the world, many of them since the Holocaust. The case study to be used is the Rwandan Genocide. In just 100 days in 1994, about 800,000 people were slaughtered in Rwanda by ethnic Hutu extremists. They were targeting members of the minority Tutsi community.

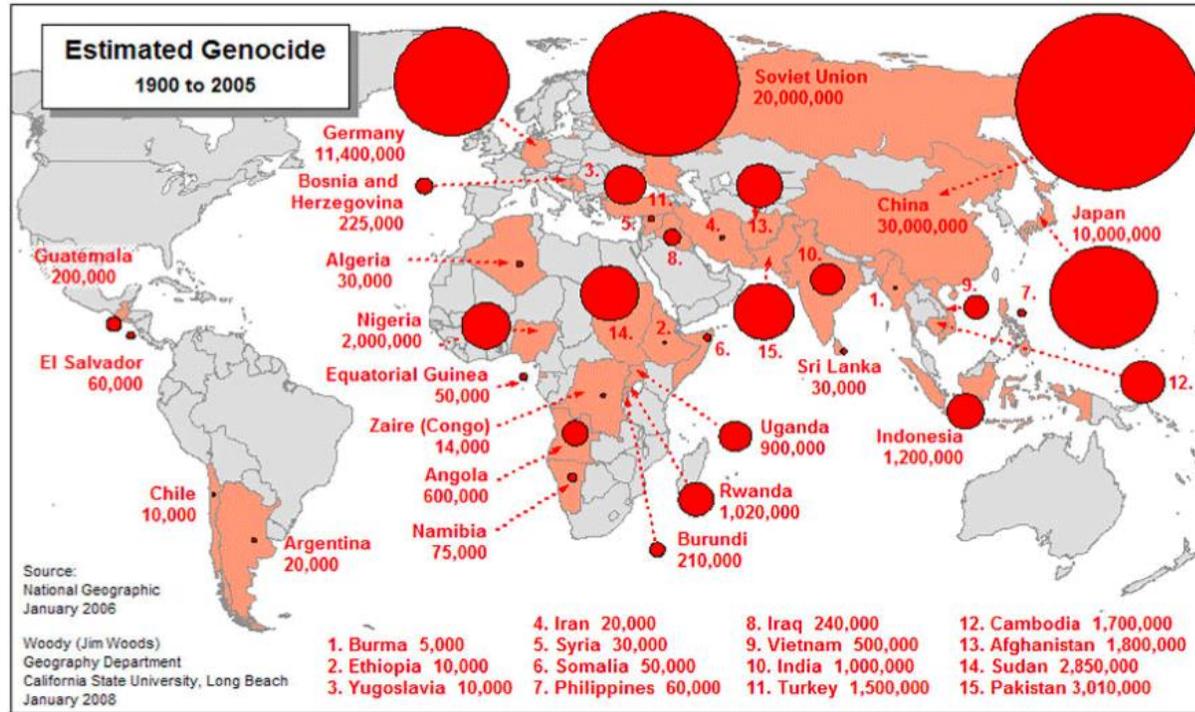
### How did the Genocide start?

About 85% of Rwandans are Hutus but the Tutsi minority has long dominated the country. In 1959, the Hutus overthrew the Tutsi monarchy and tens of thousands of Tutsis fled to neighbouring countries, including Uganda.

A group of Tutsi exiles formed a rebel group, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), which invaded Rwanda in 1990 and fighting continued until a 1993 peace deal was agreed.

On the night of 6 April 1994 a plane carrying President Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu - was shot down, killing everyone on board.

Hutu extremists blamed the RPF and immediately started a well-organised campaign of slaughter. The RPF said the plane had been shot down by Hutus to provide an excuse for the genocide.



### Did anybody try to stop it?

The UN and Belgium had forces in Rwanda but the UN mission was not given orders to stop the killing. A year after US troops were killed in Somalia, the US was determined not to get involved in another African conflict. The Belgians and most UN peacekeepers pulled out after 10 Belgian soldiers were killed. The French, who were allies of the Hutu government, sent a special force to evacuate their citizens and later set up a supposedly safe zone but were accused of not doing enough to stop the slaughter in that area.

### How was the Genocide carried out?

Lists of government opponents were handed out to militias who went and killed them, along with all of their families.

Neighbours killed neighbours and some husbands even killed their Tutsi wives, saying they would be killed if they refused. At the time, ID cards had people's ethnic group on them, so militias set up roadblocks where Tutsis were slaughtered, often with machetes which most Rwandans kept around the house.

The then-governing party, MRND, had a youth wing called the Interahamwe, which was turned into a militia to carry out the slaughter. Weapons and hit-lists were handed out to local groups, who knew exactly where to find their targets. The Hutu extremists set up a radio station, RTLM, and newspapers which circulated hate propaganda, urging people to "weed out the cockroaches" meaning kill the Tutsis. The names of prominent people to be killed were read out on radio.

By the end of the 100-day killing spree, around 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus had been killed.



# WORLD WAR II: KEY WORDS



Anti-semitism	Hatred of Jews	League of Nations	Organisation set up in 1919 to avoid another war breaking out through peaceful discussion
Appeasement	Policy to avoid war with Hitler in the 1930s	lebensraum	Living Space – used by Hitler to justify invasions to the East, to provide room for Germany’s growing population
Black Market	Illegal sale of rationed items during WWII	Nuremberg Laws	Anti-Jewish discrimination from 1935 on.
Blitzkrieg	Lightning War – German tactics in WWII, Blitz used to describe bombing of cities	pogroms	Official attacks on Jews in Tsarist Russia.
concentration camp	Used to house variety of groups by Nazis, including Jews	Tutsi	Ethnic group in Rwanda which suffered genocide
evacuation	Planned retreat – at Dunkirk or children from cities	United Nations	Replaced failed League of Nations in 1945.
Final Solution	Decision made in 1942 to murder all Jews in Europe	untermenschen	Literally, subhuman, used to describe Jews by Nazis.
genocide	Attempt to wipe out an entire race/nationality		
ghetto	Sealed area of town or city, only used to house Jews		
Hutu	Ethnic group in Rwanda who carried out attacks		
Kristallnacht	Night of Broken Glass – attacks on Jews and their property in 1938 in Nazi Germany		



# WORLD WAR II: WEBLINKS



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zk94jxs>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z9s9q6f/revision/1>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/home-front/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zkfk7ty/revision/1>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zkfk7ty/video>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/world-war-two-video-resources/zhhff4j>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14093322>