Chamberlain himself: His brother had been killed in WW1 and he always believed in trying peaceful, pacifist means before anything else.

With hindsight: “Many historians... have concluded that Chamberlain had very good reasons for his actions” - Robert Pearce

**Reasons Against Appeasement**

Churchill: Opposed it from the start. Was an expert and experienced wartime admiral— was made First Admiral in WW1 and again when it finally broke out in WW2. However, he was something of a maverick, was prone to switching between parties, coveted the title of Prime Minister for himself and was a supporter of usually unpopular ideas, such as supporting King Edward VIII’s decision to give up the throne to marry Wallis Simpson.

More could have been done to draw the USA into an alliance, as well as the USSR.

**Anschluss**

- Duff Cooper, Leo Avery, Eden, Churchill called for action. “The gravity...cannot be exaggerated.”
- Trade Unions were bitter and Jewish groups voiced their concerns.
- British Communist party protested appeasement.
- “It’s the latest but it will not be the last” - Labour MPs
- Hitler breaking promises and so had to be stopped
- The consequences were dire- Hitler gained 6.5m population for Germany and 100k more soldiers, plus iron/steel resources, Czech was surrounded on 3 sides, Hitler’s gambling had paid off and he was likely to do it again, and the smaller surrounding countries now had little to no hope.

**RHINELAND:** Hitler admitted that he would have retreated if the French had marched in! “The 48 hours after the march...were the most nerve-wracking...If the French had then marched [in]...we would have had to withdraw with our tails between our legs.”

**Reasons why war broke out and appeasement failed**

**League of Nations**

Isolationism, partisanship (political parties voting according to party lines) and disillusionment. The League had failed to be an effective force at stopping aggressors.

**Clash of ideologies**

Whilst Britain remained devoted to keeping out Communism, they were still democratic and Hitler’s Germany was much more dictatorial for their liking. Whilst they tried to get along, in the end the gap was too wide. Hitler had turned to his enemy, Stalin, a Communist, but betrayed Stalin in 1941 by enforcing Operation Barbarossa, suggesting that even this union would crumble.

**Economic Pressures**

The strain Germany had been under during the 1920s and 30s after the Treaty of Versailles had led to grievances that Germans (and others alike) felt needed to be addressed. Hitler had been forced to enact harsh, strict and regulated guidelines and policies in order to get Germany back on its feet and now they wanted Lebensraum, room to cultivate, grow their country, expand their influence and, more horrifically, move undesirables. Hitler’s infamous Mein Kampf outlined a number of his policies, including Lebensraum (which General Bernhardi in 1912 agreed with, stating “Without war, inferior or decaying races would easily choke the growth of healthy budding elements”), the “Jewish peril” and plans to invade Russia, which would also help gain Lebensraum.