-Hoped to threaten the Triple Alliance with war on two fronts in Europe.

**Entente Cordiale**

*Signed by:*  
-Britain and France.

*When?*  
-1904

*Why?*  
-Britain felt increasingly isolated, especially as Germany had declined to sign an agreement in the years 1900-1902 limiting naval expansion.  
-France wanted revenge on Germany and the recovery of their lost provinces.  
-Recognized each other’s colonial claims in Africa.  
-Britain was also encouraged because of growing tension over the naval arms race.  
-Was tested by Germany in the Moroccan Crisis.

*What?*  
-Ended 1000 years of warfare between two nations.  
-Diplomatic understanding- not defensive pact.  
-Pledged to cooperate in time of war.

**Anglo-Russian Entente**

*Signed by:*  
-Britain and Russia.

*When?*  
-1907

*What?*  
-Helped Britain and Russia settle disputes.  
-In practice it was an extension of the Entente Cordiale.  
-Tension in Afghanistan, China, Turkey and India- resolved.

Consequences of the alliance systems:

-Increased tension in Europe.  
-It delayed war, arguably.  
-Meant that any war might be devastating in scale.

**Economic Rivalry**

-At the beginning of the 20th century, Britain had the largest empire and the richest trade.  
-By 1914, Germany had overtaken Britain (it produced more iron, more steel and more cars.

**Colonial Rivalry**

-Britain and France had large overseas empires.  
-Colonies were important because:  
-They provided cheap raw materials for industry.  
-They were places where the Great Powers could sell their home-produced goods.  
-They were important trading or military bases.  
-Austria-Hungary was a multi-ethnic empire in central and eastern Europe.
Background
-Russo-German Arms Race:
  - In 1914, Russia had an army of 6 million soldiers.
  - In 1914, Germany had an army of 4.5 million.
-Germany viewed possible European War as a way of breaking out their encirclement from the Triple Entente.
-Germany thought it would be better to go to war in July 1914 than wait until later when Hitler was weaker and Triple Entente was stronger.
-Germany were scared that Austria-Hungary might break up because of several nationalities asking for more independence.

The Schlieffen Plan
-Chief of the Army was Schlieffen from 1891 to 1906.
-He saw a French-Russian attack as the main threat to Germany's security.
-The plan:
  - Knock out France quickly.
  - Most of army should attack through Belgium, and rest from Holland.
  - Designed to avoid French fortresses on the Franco-German border.
  - Transfer soldiers east to face the Russians.
-He assumed that Russians would take 6 weeks to mobilise their armies, so wouldn't face a major attack while attacking France.
-Belgium was a neutral country, whose independence had been guaranteed by the great powers of Europe in a treaty dating back to 1890.
-1906, Count von Moltke becomes chief:
  - Germany would not advance through Holland.

The Balkans
-The Balkans were a very unstable area.
-Different nationalities were mixed together.
-Turkish Ottoman Empire ruled most of the Balkans, but it was now in decline and its hold on power in this area was weakening.
-The different nationalities living in the Balkans were bitterly hostile to each other (many rebellions).
-Russia and Austria bordered the Balkans and both wanted to control the area because it gave them access to the Mediterranean.

Crisis of 1908/1909
-Emperor Franz Joseph annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina from Turkey:
  - Had administered Bosnia as a protectorate since 1978 (Treaty of Berlin).
  - But most people in Bosnia were serbs.
-Russia and Serbia protested.
-Large powers drawn into the dispute:
  - Germany supported Austria.
  - Russia supported Serbia.
-Russia and Serbia called for a conference to be held.
-Austria-Hungary and Germany refused.
-Russia and Serbia backed down:
  - Were not prepared to risk war with Germany over this issue.
-Consequences:
The Saar had been governed by the League of Nations since 1919, but a plebiscite had been promised. It was a sensitive issue, because:

- The Saar was rich in coal (so great economic importance).
- It is on the border between France and Germany.

Inhabitants voted on whether the Saar region should rejoin Germany. About 90% voted in favour of rejoining.

Germany therefore gained the region in a way, which was entirely legal and within the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. This was a real morale booster for Hitler.

How did this match Hitler’s aims?
- Helped to make Germany great again: economic resources and people.
- Lebensraum: made Germany slightly bigger.
- Was a boost to German pride.
- Appeared to be a victory against the Treaty of Versailles, which had deprived Germany of this region.
- There was little diplomatic cost: the process was totally legitimate.

What did other powers do to oppose?
- League of Nations did not oppose, they actually held the plebiscite.
- Individual powers could do nothing.

**Remilitarisation of the Rhineland**

*Date:* March 1936.

*Events:*
- Hitler moved troops into Rhineland area of Germany (this was banned under Treaty of Versailles)
- This was his first really big risk: he was trying his luck:
  - If he had been forced to withdraw he would have faced humiliation and would have lost the support of the German army.
- He expected Britain and France to resist.
- Actually gave his troops instruction to leave the Rhineland if this happened.

What could Hitler claim he was doing?
- Germany was under threat and should be allowed to have soldiers on its own borders.
- Remilitarisation was a response to the Franco-Soviet Pact in May 1935 (1):
  - Germany said that this agreement was a violation of the Locarno Treaties.
  - Also said to his troops before they went to Rhineland, “We have no territorial claims to make in Europe”.

How did this match Hitler’s aims?
- Challenged the Treaty of Versailles.
- Also went against Locarno Treaties of 1925, which established German borders and accepted that the Rhineland would be demilitarised.
- Help make Germany great again: it could now protect its own borders better.
- Restore Germany’s pride and boost Hitler’s popularity.
-Czechoslovakia and Russia felt betrayed.
-Initially, Chamberlain gained great popularity for having appeared to avoid war.

**Invasion of Czechoslovakia**

**Date:**
March 1939.

**What actually happened?**
-German troops marched into rest of Czechoslovakia.

**What did Hitler claim he was doing?**
-Did not seem to have been any great attempt to justify this.
-Hitler just thought he could do what he wanted.
-How could he justify it? No clause of Treaty of Versailles to react against!

**How did this match Hitler’s aims?**
-**Make Germany great again:**
  - More land.
-**Pan-Germanism:**
  - Maybe a few speakers, but not really.
-**Lebensraum:**
  - Definitely.
  - Hitler thought Germany’s destiny lay to the east.
-**Aryan supremacy:**
  - Yes possibly, he wanted to conquer other people.

This was a new and terrifying stage:
-Hitler could not justify this action on the basis of self-determination.
-Hitler had now broken his own promise:
-That he had no more territorial claims to make in Europe.

**Why did he think he could get away with it?**
-Nobody had stopped him yet.
-Had little respect for any of the opposing leaders: “worms”.

**Response:**
-**Nothing about Czechoslovakia itself:**
  - Even Czechoslovakia did not respond.
-**Britain and France realised Poland would be next step:**
  - So, they told Hitler they would declare war on Germany if Germany invaded Poland.
-**How did they know Poland would be next?**
  - **Hitler was going through terms of Treaty and reversing them:**
    - “Polish Corridor” had been taken from Germany.
  - **Self-determination (1):**
    - Poland contained German speakers.
  - They no longer trusted Hitler.
-**Policy of Appeasement would now be ended.**
Hitler’s plans:
- He still did not really believe he would be resisted if he carried on like this.
- In June 1939, he drew up plans to invade Poland.

**Nazi-Soviet Pact**

**Date:**
August 1939.

**Agreement between:**
Germany and Russia.

Stalin’s motives:
- Stalin was extremely concerned by threat to Russia posed by Hitler:
  - Hitler had openly stated his interest in conquering Russian Land.
  - Has already turned on Communism in Germany.
- Disagreed with Britain and France:
  - Joined League of Nations, hoping it would guarantee its security:
    - Saw its weakness in Abyssinia.
    - Saw their weaknesses in Spanish Civil War.
  - Britain and Germany had not resisted rearmament, which he found strange.
  - Signed treaty with French in 1935:
    - France would help Russia if Germany invaded.
    - Didn’t trust French, especially after they allowed remilitarization of the Rhineland.
  - Worried by Munich Agreement (1938):
    - Saw France and Britain as powerless.
    - Though, they were happy for Hitler to take over Eastern Europe.
- Tried to reach agreement with Britain and France in March 1939:
  - Failed talks.
  - Even worse: France and Britain guaranteed to defend Poland (potential enemy of Russia) if invaded.
- Then, Stalin looked to Germany:
  - August 1939: Nazi-Soviet Pact.

Reason for Stalin’s Motives
- Saw Britain and France as weak and unreliable allies against Hitler.
- Wanted parts of Poland.
- Wanted to buy for time to rearm.

Hitler’s motives:
- Clear the way for invasion of Poland.
- Buy time for Germany before conflict with USSR.

Effect:
- Total shock!
- Nazism and Communism appeared to be allies, and were both enemies of the liberal democracies.
- There were extreme shortages of all goods.
- Most countries were still rationing bread.
- There was such a coal shortage in the hard winter of 1947 that in Britain all electricity was turned off for a period each day.
- Churchill described Europe as “a rubble heap, a breeding ground of hate”.

-Marshall suggested that $17 billion would be needed to rebuild Europe:
- He claimed that it was to solve “hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos”.
-Congress’s first reaction:
  - Refused to grant the money.
  - Many Americans were becoming concerned by Truman’s involvement in foreign affairs:
    - Why should USA become involved in Europe?
  - $17 billion was a lot of money!

Why did they change their mind?

Events in Czechoslovakia:
- The last democracy in Eastern Europe.
- Communists purged (got rid of) non-Communists in Czechoslovakia in March 1948.
- One pro-American Minister, Jan Masaryk, was found dead outside his window:
  - The Communists said he jumped.
  - The Americans suspected he had been pushed.
- Immediately, Congress accepted the Marshal Plan and made $17 billion available over a period of four years.

Why did USA do this?
-Generosity.
-Fear of Communism.
-Wanted new markets for US goods:
  - Truman wanted to prevent another Depression.

Stalin’s reaction:
- Refused to have anything more to do with it.
- Forbade any Eastern European states to apply for Marshall Aid.
- He viewed that the anti-Communist aims behind Marshall Aid would weaken his hold on Eastern Europe.
- Also felt that the USA was trying to dominate as many states as possible by making the dependent on dollars.

The Soviet’s Response:
-In September 1947, Stalin set up the Cominform:
  - It was an alliance of Communist countries.
  - Its aim was to spread Communist ideas, but also helped Stalin tighten his hold on his Communist allies, because it restricted their contact with the West.
  - Only Marshall Tito of Yugoslavia was not prepared to accept Stalin’s leadership.
  - However, Yugoslavia remained Communist.
-In 1949, Stalin set up the Comecon:
  - To co-ordinate the production and trade of Eastern European countries.
The Soviet leader Khrushchev was scornful of Kennedy’s pathetic attempt to invade Cuba.
The Bay of Pigs fiasco further strengthened Castro’s position in Cuba.
Made Castro and Khrushchev suspicious of US policy.

US Response:
-Tried to undermine Castro’s government.
-JFK said that USA was entitled to use nuclear weapons in some situations.

Cuban response:
-In 1961 Cuba asked USSR for help.
-USSR refused 4 times by May 1962.
-In May 1962, USSR changed its mind and publicly announced it was supplying Cuba with arms.
-By August 1962, USSR had started to ship nuclear weapons to Cuba.
Why?
-They were responding to pressure from Cuba who were frightened of the threat of USA.
-They want to defend communism.
-Gives the opportunity of a domino effect.
-USA had installed missile bases in Turkey, April 1962:
  - USSR wanted to surround USA in the same way.
  - There was no longer a balance in power (wanted to restore it).
-In 1961, the Berlin Wall was constructed:
  - Khrushchev thought if USSR had missiles pointing at Cuba it gave them a stronger negotiating position in the Berlin Crisis.

The October crisis
Events:
-11th September, 1962:
  - Kennedy warned the USSR that he would prevent Cuba becoming a nuclear missile base, “by whatever means might be necessary.”
  - USSR assured the USA it had no need to put nuclear missiles on Cuba.
-14th October:
  - US spy plane flew over Cuba.
  - Discovered missile sites.
  - American spy planes also reported that 20 Soviet ships were currently on the way to Cuba carrying missiles.

How did President Kennedy deal with the crisis?
-On 16 October, Kennedy was informed of the discovery:
  - He was horrified because Krushchev had lied to him and Cuba was in USA’s “backyard”.
  - He formed a special team of advisers called Ex Comm.
  - They came up with several options.

Options:
Fast track:
- Surgical air attack.
- They should take military action.
- Advantages:
  - It would destroy the missiles before they were ready to use.
- Disadvantages:
  - This could have made USSR angry and started a war.

Slow track:
- Advised by Robert Kennedy.
- Naval blockade of Cuba.
- Advantages:
  - It would show USA was serious, but it would not be a direct act of war.
- Disadvantages:
  - It would not solve the main problem – the missiles were already on Cuba:
    o They could be used within one week.

What happened next?
- 20 October, 1962:
  - Kennedy decided on a blockade of Cuba.
- 22 October:
  - Kennedy announced blockade and calls on the Soviet Union to withdraw missiles.
- 23 October:
  - Kennedy receives a letter from Khrushchev saying that Soviet ships will not observe the blockade.
- 24 October:
  - The first missile-carrying ships, accompanied by a Soviet submarine approach the US 500-mile blockade zone.
- 25 October:
  - All the ships turn around.
- 26 October:
  - Khrushchev sent a telegram to JFK in which he offered to withdraw missiles if USA agreed never to invade Cuba.
- 27 October:
  - Khrushchev sent a second telegram saying that the condition for removing the missiles from Cuba is that the USA withdraws its missiles from Turkey.
  - An American spy plane was shot down over Cuba. The pilot is killed.
  - The President is advised to launch immediate reprisal attack on Cuba.
  - Kennedy decided to delay an attack.
  - He says that if the Soviet Union does not withdraw an attack will follow.

A deal was reached:
- In public:
  - USA would not invade Cuba.
  - USSR would remove missiles.
- Privately:
  - USA agreed to withdraw missiles from Turkey.

Immediate Outcomes:
The percentage of the votes gained equalled exactly the percentage of seats in the Reichstag.

- It was completely democratic:
  - Could vote at age of 20.
  - Both men and women.
  - They guaranteed civil rights:
    - A free press.

- Article 48:
  - The President could take control of the country when in an emergency without consulting the Reichstag.

**Weimar Republic’s economic problems, 1919-1923**

**1918/1919:**
- War had crippled the economy.
- Germany had a reparations bill of £6,000 million to pay in yearly instalments (Treaty of Versailles).

**French and Belgian occupation of the Ruhr, 1922:**
- Germany had not paid its reparations instalment in 1922.
- Ruhr was heavily industrialised, so French and Belgium troops occupied the Ruhr to seize goods:
  - These nations needed to repay loans taken from USA to pay for WWI.
- The German workers refused to co-operate and went on strike.
- The French troops reacted harshly:
  - Killed over 100 workers.
  - Expelling 100,000 protestors from the region.
- The German government printed more money to pay the strikers, which led to hyperinflation.
  - Deutsche Mark lost all value.

**Hyperinflation, 1923:**
- Technically hyperinflation only occurred in later 1923.
- Germany lacked goods to trade, so the Weimar government printed money to pay off its Reparations and other war-debts.
- Germany flooded with banknotes:
  - These lost their value, whilst the price of goods increased:
    - Wheelbarrows of cash.
    - Using cash to light fires because it was cheaper than wood.

**Impact of hyperinflation:**
- Poor suffered as their wages could not buy as many goods as before hyperinflation.
- Richer people with savings suffered the worst:
  - Their savings were now worthless.
- Pensions were now worthless.
- But debtor benefited because their debts were now worthless too.

**Weimar Republic’s political problems, 1919-1923**

Weakness of the Weimar Constitution (set up in August 1919)
The Treaty of Versailles and the “November Criminals”
- Blamed for ending the war.

Nazi results in the German Reichstag elections, 1924-1933

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elections</th>
<th>Nazi seats in the Reichstag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>12 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1932</td>
<td>230 (37%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1932</td>
<td>196 (33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1933</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How did Hitler become Chancellor in 1933?
- Hitler wanted to be president in March 1932:
  - He flew around in a plane.
- After the Reichstag elections in July 1932 the Nazis were the largest single party, but not a majority party:
  - 37% of seats.
- Hitler demanded that he be made Chancellor, but President Hindenburg was suspicious of him and refused.
- He allowed the current Chancellor von Papen (an old friend of Hindenburg) to carry on as a Chancellor.
- However, von Papen had virtually no support at all in the Reichstag, so another election was held in November 1932.
- The Nazis again came out as the largest party, although their share of the vote fell to 33%.
- Hitler regarded the election as a disaster for the Nazis.
- Hindenburg again refused to appoint Hitler as Chancellor.
- Instead, in December 1932 he chose von Schleicher, who was a bitter rival of von Papen.
- Von Papen remained as an adviser to Hindenburg.
- Within a month, however, von Schleicher too was forced to resign.
- By this time, it was clear that the Weimar government was not working.
- If Hindenburg was to rescue the democratic system, he needed a chancellor who actually had support in the Reichstag.
- On the 30th January 1933, von Papen and Hindenburg offered Hitler the post of Chancellor.

Why did they do this?
- They thought they could control him:
  - Von Papen was vice-chancellor.
  - Very few Nazis in the Cabinet.
- Aristocrats needed his support.

Questions on Hitler coming to power:
1. How important was Hitler in increasing the popularity of the Nazi Party between 1929 and 1932? Explain your answer.
2. “The actions of von Papen and Hindenburg were the main reason why Hitler became Chancellor”. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
3. What was the SA?
• Workers could not go on strike.

Middle classes:
- Benefits:
  • General standard of living.

Farmers:
- Benefits:
  • Farms could not be repossessed by banks:
    o Reich entailed farm law, 1933.
  • There were guaranteed markets.
    o Reich Food Estate, 1933.
- Negatives:
  • State confiscated large profits.
  • Farming remained inefficient because of the “benefits” to farmers.
  • Banks would not loan Germany money due to Reich entailed farm Law.

Workers:
- Benefits:
  • More jobs.
  • Holidays and rewards were given (Strength Through Joy).
  • Better working conditions were made (Beauty of Labour Movement).
  • Low prices.
- Negatives:
  • Low wages but kept in the line with low prices.
  • Banned all trade unions:
    o Were forced to join DAF
    o Lost right to strike.

Women:
- Benefits:
  • Many liked to return to traditional female roles.
- Negatives:
  • Lost choice of work.

He wanted Volksgemeinschaft.

Questions on Nazi economic policy:
1. Describe the Nazi policy of authority?
2. Why was Hitler able to gain popularity with male workers?
3. To what extent did German people benefit from Nazi rule in the 1930s? Explain your answer.
4. Why did unemployment fall so fast between 1933 and 1939?

HOW MUCH RESISTANCE WAS THERE TO NAZI RULE?
Disappointed - was too harsh towards Germany.

David Lloyd George:
Country:
• Britain.
Attitude towards Germany:
• Germany needed to be punished but wanted the German economy to recover.
Reason for attitude towards Germany:
• Britain had suffered a lot from the Great War.
• Britain was bitter towards Germany.
• David Lloyd George was under pressure to make Germany suffer.
Aims:
• Remove Germany’s navy and colonies.
• Allow the German economy to recover as to benefit Britain.
How they felt about Versailles:
• Disappointed- unhappy with Wilson’s Fourteen Points and the high reparations.

Disputes between “The Big Three”
-Woodrow Wilson and Georges Clemenceau:
• How harshly to treat Germany.
• France wanted Rhineland and the Saar (Wilson did not agree with this).
• Self-determination (Clemenceau did not agree).
-Georges Clemenceau and David Lloyd George:
• How harshly to treat Germany.
• Clemenceau accused Lloyd George of being hypocrites for only caring about their own interests.
-David Lloyd George and Woodrow Wilson:
• Free access to the seas (Lloyd George did not want this).
• Self-determination (Lloyd George did not want this because it would threaten the empire.

The Terms of Versailles, 28th June 1919
War Guilt:
• Germany had to accept the blame for starting the war.
• Clause 231: War Guilt Clause.

Military Restrictions:
• The army was limited to 100,000.
• Conscription was banned; soldiers had to be volunteers.
• No armoured vehicles, submarines or military aircraft allowed.
• The navy limited to 6 battleships.
• The Rhineland to be demilitarized.

Reparations:
• Germany should pay reparations to the Allies for the damage caused by the war.
• Agreed sum was £6,600 million.
Loss of territories:
- Empire to be taken away and run as mandates by Britain and France for the League of Nations:
  - Togoland and Cameroun to Britain and France.
  - German South West Africa to South Africa.
  - German East Africa to Britain.
  - New Guinea to Australia.
  - Somoa to New Zealand.
  - The Marshall Islands, Mariana and the Caroline Islands to Japan.
-Saarland:
  - Run by League of Nations.
  - After 15 years a plebiscite would be held.
- Alsace Lorraine given to France.
- Union between Austria and Germany was forbidden.

League of Nations:
- Was established.
- Germany was not allowed to join the League of Nations.

How just was the Treaty of Versailles?
Just:
- It was the best that could be done in the situation- very complicated.
- It was not that harsh:
  - Germany forced the Russians to sign away almost 1/3 of their land with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.
- Reparations needed for the rebuild of the French economy.
- Germany’s armed forces had to be reduced to increase the sense of security and reduce the threat of another war.
- Many thought it was about right:
  - People in France and Britain demanded compensation for the loss of life and damage caused by the war.
- Tried to prevent another war.

Unjust:
- It was not based on Wilson’s 14 Points for Peace nor on national self-determination.
- The harsh terms humiliated Germany.
- Many Germans did not feel they had started the war:
  - Other factors and other nations could be blamed.
  - Therefore war guilt was unjust.
- Germans felt that they had not been invaded or totally defeated in war, so they deserved the right to a fair peace treaty rather than a diktat.
- Reparations punished the German people:
  - Germany could not afford them as her economy had been crippled by the cost of fighting the First World War.
  - Might this lead to the spread of communism?
- Germany pride was offended by the restrictions on its military:
  - Felt that an army of 100,000 was too small for a country of Germany’s size.
  - Germany felt vulnerable to attack.