

WW2 HISTORY.COM

To what extent was Hitler to blame for the outbreak of the Second World War?

Activity One:

How many of the reasons listed below motivated Hitler to go to war in the late 1930s?

Watch the first clip entitled Hitler's War. As you watch try to identify the five reasons why Hitler wanted to go to war according to the clip. Write 'true' or 'false' against each reason.

Reason	True / False
1. He wanted to regain territory lost after the First World War	
2. Hitler wanted to control the whole of Africa	
3. He thought that war was good for Germany's health	
4. Germany needed war to be able to seize the vital oil fields in the Middle East	
5. Hitler wanted to create a vast new Nazi Empire	
6. The Nazi leader wanted to invade and conquer eastern Europe	
7. Hitler thought that he soon might die	
8. Hitler wanted to destroy the British Empire	

Activity Two:

Was Hitler or Chamberlain to blame for the events that led up to war?

The first video clip that you watched presented the view that Hitler was entirely to blame for the outbreak of the Second World War. Watch the second video clip and assess how far this view can be challenged – many people see the weak actions of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain as an equally important cause of the war.

For each of the events below that are spoken about in the clip decide who was blame for that event raising tension in Europe. Put a tick in the column under Chamberlain or Hitler to indicate your choice.

Event	Chamberlain to blame	Hitler to blame
The Nazi occupation of Austria, 1938		
The Sudetenland falling into German hands, September 1938		
Chamberlain declaring 'peace in our time' Sept 1938		
The reclaiming of German lands lost at Versailles		
The takeover of Czechoslovakia, March 1939		
Chamberlain's promise to Poland, 17 th March, 1939		
The Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact, August 1939		
Total		

After you've watched the clip add up the number of ticks in each column.

Now put a circle around the events that you think were the most important in terms of causing the war. Work out who was most to blame for those events.

Activity Three:

So who do you think was to blame for the outbreak of war?

Who was most to blame for the outbreak of World War Two. Complete the writing frame below. Try to use at least three events as evidence that back up your choice of who was most to blame for the start of the war.

I think that was most to blame for the outbreak of the Second World War. This is because.....