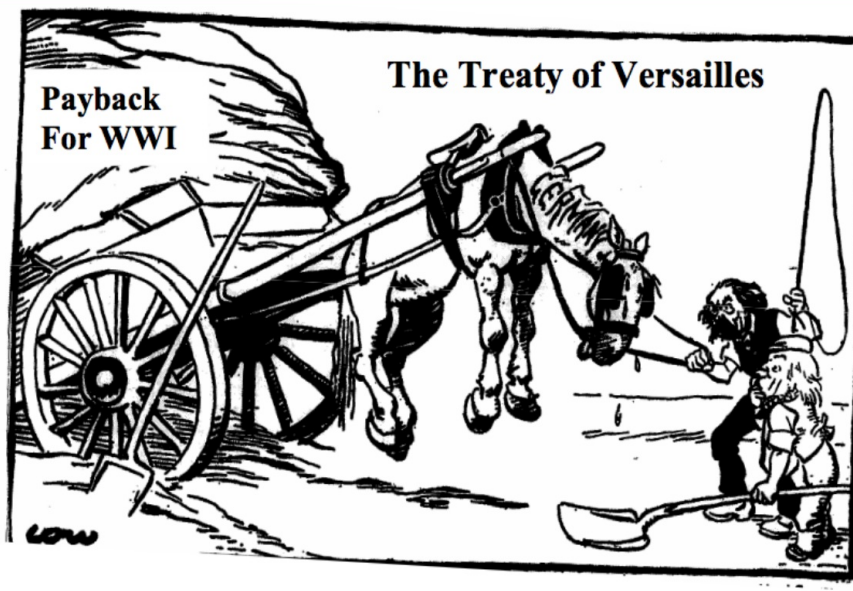


Causes of World War II



**Time Period:
1939-1945**

Causes of World War II: Economic Devastation



The Treaty of Versailles

After WWI, the League of Nations made Germany sign the Treaty of Versailles. Germany didn't have any choice whether to sign it or not. Some people think that the treaty made Germany suffer too much. Many people thought (especially Germans) that the German people were forced to suffer because of what was in the peace treaty.

Germany was required to pay reparations to other countries after WWI. These required payments with the global Depression left Germany with no money and high unemployment.

Causes of World War II: Political Instability

This means that the government of a country and its leader is weak and lacks support from the people or military of the country it serves. When people in the country no longer supports the government and its leaders, the people will challenge the government of their country by "overthrowing" (pushing them out of power) them and taking power of the country by force.

Germans were looking for a way to become more stable. They turned to a new leader who made big promises about restoring Germany and its economy.

What causes "political instability" ????

- High war debts owed by Germany
- High inflation
- High unemployment
- Worldwide Depression

Causes of World War II: Treaty of Versailles



Germany was severely punished in the Treaty of Versailles at the end of World War I.

- * **Germany had to take full responsibility for WWI**
- * **Germany was forced to pay reparations to other nations**
- * **Germany had land taken away and given to the victorious nations after WWI**
- * **German military was limited (no tanks, no air force, no more than 100,000 men, no submarines)**

Causes of World War II: Rise of Dictatorships

- Adolph Hitler in Germany
- Benito Mussolini in Italy
- Hideki Tojo in Japan



Totalitarianism - gives total power to a dictator and rights of individuals are denied

fascism - authoritarian and nationalistic government led by a dictator



US Involvement: American Perspectives Prior to Pearl Harbor



Isolationism - The United States tried to remain neutral at the start of the war, an attempt to avoid conflict on a global level a second time.

**Philosophy of
Americans -
It's not our war.
we aren't "there."
We have no reason
to get involved.**



**Turning a blind
eye to the
Holocaust.**



December 5, 1941



December 9, 1941

