

# CAUSES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR INTERACTIVE WAS APPEASEMENT A MISTAKE?

## ARGUMENTS AGAINST APPEASEMENT

1. Appeasement did mean, however, that the war took place on a much larger scale than it would have if something had been done sooner as Hitler may have not drawn his entire population of native Germans home from other countries such as Poland and would not have had the scale of army that he had by the time war had commenced.
2. Appeasement was a mistake, pure and simple. Chamberlain utterly misjudged Hitler. Appeasement was useless to stop a man like Hitler, who would never be satisfied in his demands.
3. A firm stand by France and Britain, under the authority of the League of Nations, would have been followed by the immediate evacuation of the Rhineland without the shedding of a drop of blood; and the effects of that might have enabled the more prudent elements of the German Army to gain their proper position, and would not have given to Hitler the enormous ascendancy which has enabled him to move forward.  
***Churchill, speaking in the House of Commons 22 Feb 1938***
4. It was obvious by 1938 that the League of Nations was dead and that only force would stop Japan, Italy and Germany. If Chamberlain had been a statesman of any ability whatsoever he would have realised it.
5. It encouraged Hitler to think he could do anything he wanted. In this way it actually helped to cause World War Two.
6. Every time Hitler got away with acts of aggression he grew stronger and more difficult to defeat. Sending soldiers into the Rhineland made it easier for

Germany to defend itself. From Austria came soldiers, weapons, gold and great deposits of iron ore. From Czechoslovakia came soldiers, weapons, coal, and armaments factories.

7. Appeasement scared Russia. Because Britain did not stand up to Hitler when he invaded Czechoslovakia, Stalin believed that Britain would not help Russia either if Hitler invaded it. This persuaded Stalin that he might as well reach an agreement with Germany.
  
8. In reality, Western politicians should have known what to expect from Hitler. Hitler made it clear in speeches and writings that he wanted to conquer Eastern Europe. They should have known after the invasions of the Rhineland and the Sudetenland that his promises of peace were worthless.