

# CAUSES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR INTERACTIVE

## HITLER'S FOREIGN POLICY AIMS EXPLANATION

<b>Abolish the Treaty of Versailles</b>	The terms were unfair. Germany was the only country that had been forced to disarm. Many people also believed felt guilty about the treaty. Hitler was able to exploit this.
<b>Rearm Germany</b>	The German Army was limited to 100,000 men, was not allowed to have an air force, submarines or have any modern weapons and only a tiny navy. This was unfair as Germany could not defend herself from attack.
<b>Remilitarize the Rhineland</b>	As part of the Armistice and the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany had to demilitarize the Rhineland. This left their western border open and allowed both France and Belgium to invade in 1923.
<b>Unite all German speaking peoples</b>	7 million Germans were denied the right to self-determination. There were 3 million in Czechoslovakia and 4 million in the Polish Corridor.
<b>Expand German Territory</b>	Germany had lost 13% of its land, 16% of its coal industry, 15% of its iron industry and 48% of its most productive agricultural land. If Germany was going to grow strong again and feed its people, it would need this land back.
<b>Lebensraum</b>	The German people were a master race and needed land or 'living space' for their expanding population. In order to survive, Germany would have to conquer land in the East.
<b>Defeat Communism</b>	Communism was an idea started by a Karl Marx, a German Jew. Hitler believed that the Communists were threatening to take over the world. Hitler hated the Communists.