



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Appeasement

World War I caused the deaths of nearly nine million people and cost huge sums of money. Most countries in Europe were anxious to avoid another costly war - both in terms of money and lives.

The British Prime Minister from 1937, Neville Chamberlain, believed in appeasement. The major aim was to avoid another European war.

'Appease' literally means pacify, soothe or satisfy.



In 1938, Germany and Austria joined together - this was known as the Anschluss. Hitler claimed he was uniting all German speaking people in one 'greater Germany'.

Seeing this, German speaking people in the Czechoslovakia (mainly living in an area known as the Sudetenland - shaded on the map) began to demand they become part of Germany too. Hitler made sure these people received support from Germany. However, Hitler couldn't just take over the area. Czechoslovakia was a powerful new country and had the backing of the Soviet Union.



In September 1938, Hitler demanded that German speakers in Czechoslovakia should be allowed to join his "Greater Germany" War between Germany and Czechoslovakia seemed likely.

Everything depends on the actions of Britain, France, and the Soviet Union.

### British and French foreign policy 1938

PM Chamberlain was determined to avoid war. He made many trips around Europe in September 1938 attempting to make agreements.

Chamberlain took the lead and the French followed. The French also wished to avoid war at all costs. If they didn't go to war, then neither would the Soviet Union.

As a final attempt to avoid war, a conference in Munich was organised.

### THE MUNICH CONFERENCE

Chamberlain, Hitler, Daladier (French PM) and Mussolini (leader of Italy) all met in Munich to discuss Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovakian government was not invited.

It was decided that Germany would occupy the Sudetenland within 10 days and other parts of Czechoslovakia would go to Poland and Hungary.

The French and British governments agreed. The Czechoslovakian government was told to agree or face Germany alone.

Hitler promised not to take over any more land.  
IT WAS GENERALLY FELT GIVING HITLER THE SUDETENLAND WAS  
A GOOD PRICE TO PAY FOR PEACE.



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# Was appeasement a mistake?

In the box below there are a number of arguments. Some prove that appeasement WAS a mistake and some suggest that appeasement WASNT a mistake.

Create a table with two headings - 'A mistake' and 'Not a mistake'.  
Think carefully - and write each argument in the correct column.

- Germany deserved a fair deal  
Germany treated too harshly at Versailles, so were only being given their rightful land.
- It encouraged Hitler  
Giving into Hitler only made him feel he could do what he wanted - without fear of being stopped.
- Germany was growing stronger  
Allowed Germany to grow stronger meant it would be far more difficult to defeat.
- Britain needed time  
By giving Hitler what he wanted, Britain had more time to build up her armed forces.
- The British people had to want war  
In 1938, public opinion was against war - so the policy of appeasement was sensible.
- Munich Agreement was a disaster  
Churchill said Czechoslovakia was sacrificed for nothing - Hitler had fooled everyone.
- Fear of another war  
People wanted to avoid another terrible war and did everything possible.
- Fear of Communism  
It was felt better to support a strong leader of Germany rather than risk Communist takeover.
- Appeasement scared the USSR  
When Britain and France did not stand up to Hitler, the USSR became worried about German power - and began thinking about deals with Hitler.
- Hitler was determined to conquer Eastern Europe  
Hitler had made his plans clear - the policy of appeasement was clearly doomed from the start - Hitler just lied.

Using your completed table, answer the questions on the other side of this worksheet. MAKE SURE YOU FULLY EXPLAIN EACH ANSWER!

## Was appeasement a Mistake?

A Mistake

Not a Mistake