

Britain declares war on Germany after recent attack on Poland

3rd September 1939

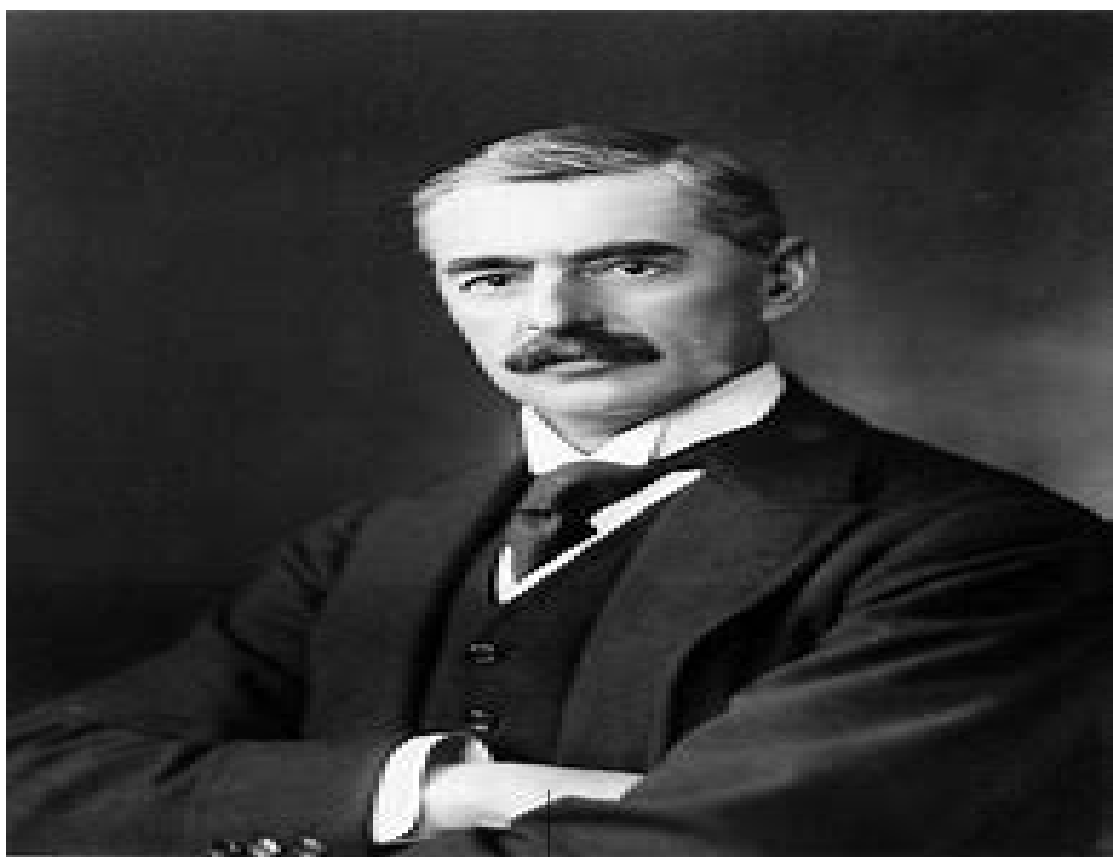
It has become clear that after Great Britain and France were not doing anything to restrain Hitler, Germany has gone out of control and has invaded multiple countries. However, it has seemed the invasion of Poland has awoken France and Britain. But have they let Germany go too far?

It seemed that Britain didn't have a Prime Minister, before Churchill came in, that believed in war. This meant Chamberlain just let Hitler invade because he was so desperate not to start another war, due to how awful the first one ended. It led most bankrupt and many dead citizens. After all, Britain and France almost lost the war and almost didn't make it out.

Background History

When the 1st World War ended on November 11th, 1918, the Germans signed the Treaty of Versailles which was the official surrender document and was where they had a lot of land taken off them, demilitarized and the treaty also resulted in a big financial punishment. This punishment was for them to pay back the countries they did a lot of damage to with money they obviously didn't have at the time.

When Germans saw how harsh these set of rules were they were certainly caught off guard and very furious, so when Hitler came into power, his goals for the country were to remilitarize, expand his Empire into Eastern Europe and eventually take over the world. What Hitler wanted to do did not follow the rules set in place by the Treaty of Versailles. This was why he started by invading smaller countries like Abyssinia.



What caused Britain to declare war?

One event that would have made the war more likely and would have pushed Britain to that decision of war, even before the invasions, was Hitler taking power in 1932. This was because Hitler was quite a motivated and dangerous man, meaning that Britain would have probably had an idea of the plans he may have had.

Furthermore, another cause to why the war broke out was due to the various attacks and invasions Hitler had done on many countries. It all started with the invasion of a poor African country known as Abyssinia in 1935, however Britain and France just sat back and showed no support to the African country. This event would have made war more likely because it makes Germany think that they can invade more countries because no one was doing anything about what they had done. This would have given them a lot of confidence too, because France and Britain were the World's most powerful nations at the time, so they thought if they weren't doing anything, then he could just continue his mission of building his Empire.

In 1936, Hitler ordered his troops to go to the border of France and Germany called the Rhineland, where he had been disarmed and was a demilitarized zone, due to the Treaty of Versailles after the 1st World War. He even told his troops that if the French troops come, retreat, but surprisingly they never came. This obviously gave Hitler and the rest of Germany the sign that France was not going to stop them and attack back. It became obvious to him that he uses the lack of work by Britain and France to his advantage to build and even bigger Empire and gain what he had once lost in WW1.

Then in 1938, Hitler decides to annex Austria and convinces the Austrian Chancellor to work more closely with one another, as well as making deals. To turn his country into the 'Greater Germany' he has always wanted. These deals he was making, which he wasn't supposed to be making, also made war more likely because the fact that Britain and France were still not doing anything about his actions, would have pushed Hitler to the conclusion he could do more. This then had then led him to going too far, forcing Britain eventually having to step in when Germany invade Poland.





- Rhineland (demilitarised zone)
- Austria
- Sudetenland
- German territory

As well as the annexing of Austria in 1938 he then decides to annex the Sudetenland. This was because after the 1st World War, as a result of their defeat, Germany had Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia taken off them. This meant some Germans had become a part of Czechoslovakia. Due to this Hitler wanted to take over Sudetenland to gain his German citizens back. Hitler then went to a meeting with France and Britain, where they just let him have the land as long as he signed an agreement to not to invade anymore places. Of course, that wasn't the case though and Germany decides to invade the rest of Czechoslovakia in 1939. Hitler obviously had the confidence to do this because whilst Britain and France were just laying back, Hitler had built up an army. He didn't think Britain or France would do anything like they had been doing previously either. Britain and France didn't want to do anything because they didn't want to start another war because of how horrifying WW1 was.

Then Germany decides to invade Poland in 1939 as well, after Britain and France still do nothing even though they were meant to look after the rest of Europe because they were the World's most powerful Nations, expected to support. These two nations were so scared of having another war, they let Germany get too powerful which resulted in the loss of many countries. Germany invaded Poland because Hitler had signed a secret alliance with the Soviet Union to split Poland half and half. However, yet did Germany know that Chamberlain signed the 'Polish guarantee' that promised to help Poland and go to war with Germany if they got invaded.

All these factors would have played a role in the declaration of war over Germany because of the multiple invasions and breaking of rules given to Germany known as the Treaty of Versailles. By Germany then invading a bigger country like Poland it finally gave Britain the realization of what Hitler is doing and even achieving!

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