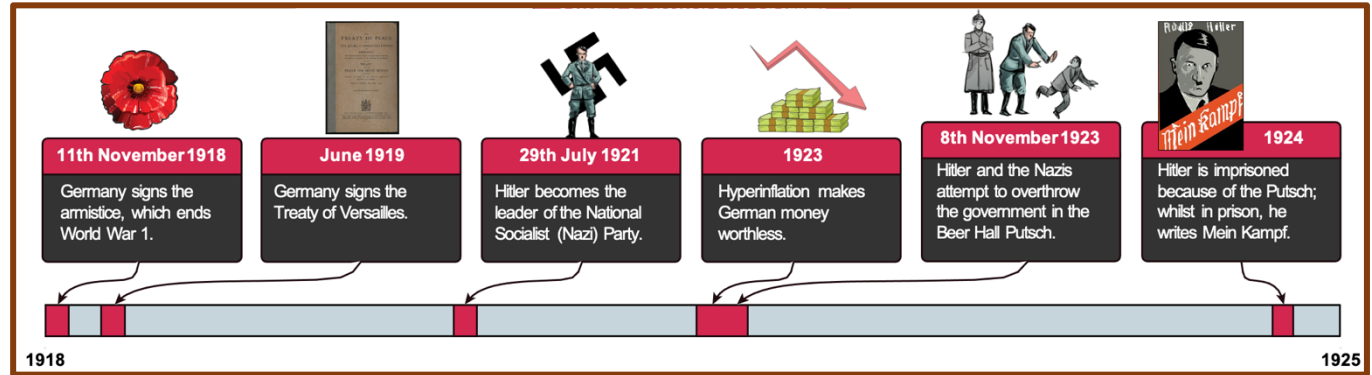


Y6 History: How did World War II impact everyday life in Britain?

Prior Learning

- I can chronologically sequence the periods already studied.
- I can name key events in the British history already studied, including changes to everyday life.
- I know that sources (artefacts, writing and photographs) can give different interpretations of the past.
- I understand the term 'Empire', and know that it caused an uneven distribution of wealth and power.
- I can name some positive and negative effects of colonisation and building an Empire.



World War II in Europe 1939–1941



How did WWII start?

1. Following humiliation after WWI, and terrible poverty during the Great Depression, **Adolf Hitler** had plans to make Germany great again.



2. He created jobs, built roads, and made the armed forces much bigger; he was also determined to get German territory back that was taken after WWI.

3. In March 1938, Germany took control of Austria; this worried France and Britain, so they asked Hitler to sign the Munich agreement.



4. This stated that Hitler was allowed to annex part of Czechoslovakia, if he agreed not to invade anywhere else.

5. British Prime Minister, **Neville Chamberlain**, saw this as a victory, declaring it to bring "Peace in our time"



6. However, in August 1939, Hitler broke the agreement and invaded all of Czechoslovakia, followed by Poland on 1st September.

7. Britain and France had a pact of support with Poland, so on 3rd September 1939, they declared war on Hitler's Germany.

The war brought shortages of key products, meaning what was available must be shared – regardless of wealth. This was rationing.

Rationing was caused by fighting in countries that produced goods, supply routes being interrupted by the enemy (including naval blockades, which prevented merchant ships from reaching Britain), and resources being diverted to the war effort.

The Blitz was Hitler's bombing campaign against Britain's towns and cities, which began in London on 7th September 1940. Air Raid Precautions were introduced by the government in response to the dangers of bombing raids, in an attempt to protect the civilian population and maintain order.

Spivs were criminals who sold goods on the 'black' market, which did not require a ration book, but sold goods at a much higher price.



Fuel was rationed in 1939, followed by many basic food items in 1940, cloth in 1941, and soap in 1942. Rationing continued after the war ended: bread, which was never rationed during wartime, was rationed in July 1946. Rationing was finally lifted in 1954.

A nationwide 'blackout' was ordered every night: windows were covered, street lamps remained off, and car lights were hooded, so as not to give away precise locations of towns and cities to enemy bombers.



Air raid wardens were responsible for issuing gas masks, helping put up home shelters, and looking after public shelters. They also enforced the blackout, assisted in fighting fires during air raids and with rescue work afterwards.

Evacuation meant moving children away from areas most likely to be bombed. They would be safe, and adults could concentrate on supporting the war effort, without worrying about their children. Although it wasn't law, propaganda was used to persuade parents, and about 3.5 million children were evacuated during the war.



Children were taken to the countryside, often without their parents; most lived with strangers who offered to take them in. Although difficult at first, many found it an exciting new experience. However, some were treated poorly, were separated from their siblings, and begged for their parents to return them home.

With thousands of men serving in the armed forces, women took on a variety of jobs for the war effort – often alongside the vital role of running households. At first, only single women were called up, but by 1944, over 7,000,000 women were engaged in war work: in factories, on the land or in the armed forces.



Women were called up as mechanics, engineers, munitions workers, air raid wardens, nurses and drivers for ambulances, buses and fire engines. They flew planes from factories to air-fields, helped decipher German coded messages, and were sent in secret to Europe to fight as part of the resistance movement.

Winston Churchill took over as Prime Minister in May 1940. He was skilled in military tactics and was an inspirational speaker. He gave many great speeches during Britain's darkest hours, and worked hard to secure the USA and Russia as allies.



Key Events

The Evacuation of Dunkirk
26th May – 4th June 1940
As the Nazis advanced across Europe, the Allies were forced to retreat to the beaches of Northern France. 338,000 French and British soldiers were rescued by hundreds of small vessels - many of them fishing boats.

Battle of Britain July – August 1940
Hitler needed to control Britain's skies. The Nazi Luftwaffe began bombing airfields, harbours, radar stations and aircraft factories. Of Spitfire and Hurricane pilots, Churchill said, 'Never has so much been owed by so many to so few.'



The Dambusters
16th – 17th May 1943
Specially developed 'bouncing bombs' were dropped by Lancaster bombers on three German dams, which were providing power to military factories. It didn't slow Nazi war progress as much as was hoped, but its success was a great boost to British morale.

D-Day: The Normandy Landings
6th June 1944
The Normandy landings were the first stage of the Allied operation to drive the Nazis out of France. Operation Overlord succeeded in its aim on 30th August 1944: France was finally liberated.

