



# WWII

## 1939-1945

# CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY WARS

## CAUSES OF WAR

### WAR: WORLD WAR TWO

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#### CAUSE - ECONOMIC

##### Paris Peace Conference

Reparations – caused tension

##### Wall Street Crash 1929 – DEPRESSION

1. Withdrawal of US capital from European investment
2. General fall in prices of industrial and agricultural goods
3. Led to the rise of extremists to power (i.e.: rise of the Nazi Party)
4. Led to governments to focus on short-term nationalistic measures (“Every man for himself-policy”) instead of international co-operation

Ended the “*spirit of international cooperation*” – now it was “*Every man for himself*” (evidence: many nations abandoned the “*Gold Standard*” (so they had the opportunity to print larger quantities of paper money) - most nations built up tariff barriers - the establishment of NSDAP and Hitler in Germany)

##### German expansion

**Hossbach Memorandum.** The conference of 5 November 1937 had been called in response to complaints from Admiral Raeder that the Navy (Kriegsmarine) was not receiving sufficient allocations of steel and other raw materials, and as a result, the entire Kriegsmarine building program was in danger of collapse. Neither the Luftwaffe nor the Army were willing to see any reductions of their steel allocations. In Hitler's view, the German economy had reached such a state of crisis that the only way of stopping a drastic fall in living standards in Germany was to embark on a policy of aggression sooner rather than later to provide sufficient Lebensraum by seizing **Austria** and **Czechoslovakia**.

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#### CAUSE – IDEOLOGY

**Fear of Communism** – led to Western suspicion against Stalin and the USSR and an unwillingness to cooperate with him. The Conservatives, liberals and even Social Democrats in several European countries were very critical towards the USSR. The “Red Scare” was widely spread...

**Fascism** – Mussolini became Prime Minister in Italy 1922. In 1925 Italy became a one-party state and Mussolini compared his Italy with Rome (that completely controlled the Mediterranean). Foreign policy based on expansion and war

**Nazism** – Hitler became Chancellor 1933 and in 1934 Germany became a one-party state. One of the basic ideas of Nazism was an aggressive foreign policy to create German Living Space (Lebensraum). Hitler started the German expansion in 1935...

**Spanish Civil War** – the struggle between ideologies (USSR – Communism supporting the Republicans against Germany – Nazism and Italy – Fascism supporting the Nationalists). So in the battle between the ideologies in the Spanish Civil War Communism lost.

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## **CAUSE - POLITICAL**

### **Germany's aggressive foreign policy under Adolf Hitler and NSDAP:**

1. German remilitarization of the Rhineland
2. Germany's involvement in the Spanish Civil War
3. Rome-Berlin Axis
4. Anti-Comintern Pact
5. Hossbach Memorandum
6. Anschluss Germany – Austria
7. Sudetenland
8. Czechoslovakia
9. Danzig – Poland

### **Appeasement Policy by Great Britain and France in the 1930's towards Germany and Adolf Hitler**

1. Rewarded and encouraged aggression
2. Inconsistent – unpredictable (changed policy in 1939)
3. Gave Hitler the opportunity to rearm and then expand
4. Policy meant Germany became too strong to challenge
5. Dishonorable – sacrifice of Czechoslovakia
6. Great Britain did not use the extra time to rearm
7. Every time Hitler was appeased it strengthen his domestic position and weakened his opposition
8. Alienated the USSR – Litvinov tried to create an “anti-fascist alliance”
9. Policy led to the Nazi-Soviet (Molotov-Ribbentrop) pact – and that unleashed WWII

### **Reorganization of Europe did not produce more democratic states:**

1. Dictatorships in Italy, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Spain, Portugal...
2. Semi-dictatorship in Austria
3. Only Czechoslovakia established a stable democracy among the “new” states

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## **CAUSE - TERRITORIAL**

### **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk**

1. Russian losses of land (Poland, Baltic States, Finland, etc...)

### **Paris Peace Settlements after WWI**

1. German lost territory – the Polish Corridor with Danzig
2. Italy – did not received what they had expected after the agreements with Great Britain and France...
3. Russia was not even invited. The losses of land for Russia therefore became permanent

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## CAUSE – “OTHER”

### Failure of the League of Nations (“*Collective Security*”)

1. Changing membership of the League: Japan left 1933; Germany left 1933; Italy left 1937; Spain left 1939 and the USSR was forced to leave 1939 (so was Austria)
2. Absence of major powers: USA (never joined), USSR (to 1934) and Germany (to 1926)
3. Weakness of Central European States
4. Crisis 1920’s – Ruhr Crisis 1923 (French and Belgian invasion of the Ruhr Area)
5. Crisis 1930’s – DEPRESSION (This was not the failure of the League of Nations, but it changed countries policies – “*Every Nation for themselves*” instead of a willingness to cooperate)
6. Crisis 1930’s – Manchurian Crisis 1931-1933 (Japanese invasion)
7. Crisis 1930’s – Abyssinian Crisis 1935 (Italian invasion)
8. Disarmament failed (Geneva Disarmament Conference 1932-34)

### Paris Peace Settlements after WWI

1. It was an uneasy compromise.
2. Redrawn boundaries of Europe did not satisfy all (Germany; Italy...)
3. New frontiers avoided the minority problems.
4. The whole idea of reparations “*contained the seeds of future disputes*”

### Nationalism

German nationalism – Create a “Greater Germany” + Racism (“race superiority”)

Italian nationalism – recreate the Roman Empire + colonial ambitions

### Militarism

Germany – a German tradition. Great rearmament in the 1930’s

Italy – Mussolini and fascists. Rearmament and colonial war (Abyssinia)

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## LONG-TERM CAUSES

### The Paris Peace Settlements (esp. Treaty of Versailles)

**Orthodox view:** Many historians see the settlement in Paris 1919 as a failed compromise between the idealism of Wilson (the US President) and the realism and selfishness of the European powers

**Revisionist view:** Other historians see the settlement in Paris 1919 as an achievement but the architects failed to follow through the principles laid down at Paris and by their failure ensured a German revival

### The League of Nations

1. Absence of major powers: USA (never joined), USSR (to 1934) and Germany (to 1926)
2. Weakness of Central European States
3. Crisis 1920’s – Ruhr Crisis 1923 (French and Belgian invasion of the Ruhr Area)

Historians like **AJP Taylor** have supported the view that the League of Nations was poorly organized in the 1930’s and that its repeated mistakes led to its failure.

Another argument supported by Historian **James Joll** is that the league had a lot of challenges in the 1930’s due to the Wall Street Crash and the attitudes of the member nations that made it difficult for them to take proper decisions.

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## SHORT-TERM CAUSES

### Wall Street Crash – Depression

#### Germany and Adolf Hitler – Aggressive foreign policy

**A.J.P. Taylor** disagrees with the view that WWII was “**Hitler’s War**”. He blames the contemporary European statesmen as well as Hitler for the outbreak of WWII. Hitler did not, according to A.J.P. Taylor have a “*blueprint*” plan on what he would do when he came into power and later on in the 1930’s. Hitler was an opportunist who did not act on his own but he “reacted” to the actions of other European leaders. Hitler’s success in dismantling the Versailles Treaty and expand the German territory was the fault of the other European leaders who failed to contain Hitler and Germany. A.J.P. Taylor sees a German tradition – Bismarck, Wilhelm II and his Chancellors + Hitler – none of them had a strict plan to follow they acted when the opportunity was given! The reason why WWII broke out according to A.J.P. Taylor was that Great Britain and France abandoned their previous appeasement policy. For this Hitler and Germany can’t be blamed...

#### Appeasement

**Orthodox view:** Chamberlain’s conduct of British foreign policy was “*diplomacy of illusion*”. Chamberlain’s inability to deal with Hitler and Germany made the aggressive German foreign policy possible. It also ensured that, when the war broke out, Britain and France had no major allies, and that they were also in a very weak military position

**Revisionist view:** When the archives were opened (30-40 years after WWII) on the subject of appeasement we can see a trend of treating Chamberlain and the policy of appeasement far more sympathetically. Most revisionists avoid moral judgments on Chamberlain and instead focus on social, economic and strategic factors

#### The League of Nations

1. Changing membership of the League: Japan left 1933; Germany left 1933; Italy left 1937; Spain left 1939 and the USSR was forced to leave 1939 (so was Austria)
2. Crisis 1930’s – DEPRESSION (This was not the failure of the League of Nations, but it changed countries policies – “*Every Nation for themselves*” instead of a willingness to cooperate)
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## IMMEDIATE CAUSE

**Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between the USSR and Germany in August 1939.** This was a “**blank check**” for WWII

#### German attack on Poland in September 1939

- **October 1938:** Ribbentrop (German foreign minister) asks for the return of Danzig and the creation of an extra-territorial corridor to link Danzig with the rest of Germany. Poland refuses.
- **January 5th 1938:** Hitler offered the Ukraine (then Soviet territory) in return for Danzig and the Polish Corridor!
- **March 1939:** Britain offers to guarantee Polish territory. Hitler decides to deal with Poland not as a possible ally but as a state to be attacked.
- **April 3rd 1939:** Hitler orders the army to prepare for plans to attack Poland.
- **April 28th 1939:** Hitler denounces the non-aggression pact made with Poland in 1934.
- **May 22nd 1939:** Pact of Steel between Germany and Italy. USSR makes offers of an agreement with France and Britain but negotiations are so slow the USSR becomes suspicious of their motives.
- **August 24th 1939:** Non-Aggression Pact (***Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact***) between Germany and the USSR contains a “**Secret Protocol**” whereby they agreed on the division of Poland.
- **September 1st 1939:** German troops invade Poland.
- **September 3rd 1939:** Great Britain and France declare war on Germany.

# CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY WARS

## PRACTICES OF WAR – IMPACT ON THE OUTCOME

### WAR: WORLD WAR TWO

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TYPE OF WAR (Civil War; War between states; Guerrilla War; Limited War; Total War)

#### TOTAL WAR

If we compare with WWI we can see several **similarities**: the dependence on industries, the mobilization of all resources, government control of their people and technical development

The **differences** were:

WWII was a war of mobility with periods of rapid and decisive movements.

WWII – Air warfare

WWII – Tank warfare

WWII depended more on skilled leadership (in movement, logistics and management)

WWII depended more on industries on the Homefront (“the strong industrial base was as important as the battlefield)

WWII – Civilians became war targets – for economic and morale reasons

WWII – Racism (although WWI had seen the massacre on Armenians by Turkey)

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#### TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

- The Blitzkrieg tactical warfare (lightning war)
- The biggest difference in weapons from WW1 as compared to WW2 was the use of tanks and aircraft.
- Radar, and its underwater cousin, sonar.
- Cavity magnetron which enabled improved radar to be used on ships and planes and gave us microwave ovens...
- The Germans developed rocket propulsion that made the first ever long-range missiles possible – V1 and V2.
- Jet engines. The Germans were the first to produce a jet fighter.
- The Norden Bombsight – a system that allowed it to directly measure the aircraft's ground speed and direction
- The Proximity Fuse. This is a fuse that detonates an explosive device automatically when the distance to the target becomes smaller than a predetermined value
- The Atomic Bomb. Little Boy and Fat Man...
- Computers and Code Breaking. Great Britain – Colossus...
- Aircraft carriers replaced battleships as the centerpiece of naval warfare doctrine.
- The Germans developed a rubber coating for their U-boats.
- Amphibious Landing Vehicles, the landing craft developed in the lead up to D-Day.
- Mass-production of sub machine guns such as the MP40 or Thompson automatic.
- Plastics and synthetic rubber.
- Canned foods
- Magnetic detonators for sea mines and torpedoes

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## THEATRE OF WAR: AIR

After France was defeated in 1940 Germany expected Great Britain to ask for peace – this did not happen. Germany therefore decided to solve this the military way – Operation Sea Lion. The German air force (Luftwaffe) was given the assignment to destroy Britain's coastal defense, eliminate the ability of the British air force (RAF) and prevent British ground forces to operate once the German invasion was underway. This was called:

**Battle of Britain** – a military campaign of the Second World War, in which the Royal Air Force (RAF) defended the United Kingdom (UK) against large-scale attacks by the German Air Force (Luftwaffe). It has been described as the first major military campaign fought entirely by air forces. The planned invasion of Britain failed!

This was due to the British radar; Luftwaffe suffered more losses of airplanes; the British *Spitfire* was equal (if not superior) to the German *Messerschmitt* and the British *Hurricane* could be produced at a large number faster than the Messerschmitt. Since this took place over Britain the RAF had the advantage of repairing aircrafts easier, pilots could be recover, and the German planes could not stay in the air too long – they needed refuel in France. Britain had also cracked several of the German codes, so they knew what would happen.

In an attempt to crush the British morale Hitler ordered the German bombers to attack London (and other urban areas). This is referred to as *the Blitz*. It also failed. The British were well prepared (they had built shelters, they had gas masks and all urban areas had to follow blackout regulations which made it very difficult to spot the targets. This tactic also failed.

**Strategic Bombing.** There were two sorts of strategic bombing – area bombing and precision bombing. The German air force never developed the long-range bombers. Britain built the "*Lancaster*" and the US built several long-range bombers like the "*Flying Fortress*" (B17), the "*Liberator* (B24) and the "*Superfortress*" (B29). This made it possible for the Allies to fly far into the enemy territory and cause damage (industries, railroads, cities, troops and defenses). Several missions were carried out – over Berlin, Cologne and in 1945 Dresden (that created a terrible firestorm). Most of the German bombers were middle-sized bombers that could not reach that far (like the Junker Ju 88).

Inventions of excellent daylight bombsights and the new fighter plane the *P-51 Mustang* outmatched the Luftwaffe.

**Missiles and jet planes:** German inventors had developed a pilotless air weapon – the V1 by 1943. This flying bomb was launched over Britain (and later the V2 that was a ballistic missile) with lots of damage – but too late to make a difference in the outcome of the war. At the end of the war (mid-1944) Germany produced a jet plane - *Messerschmitt Me 262*. Just like the V1 and V2 – it was too late, and they were not produced in any large numbers.

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## THEATRE OF WAR: LAND

**BLITZKRIEG (Lighting War):** After WWI Germany (especially) and the other countries learned that in order to break through the enemy lines you needed a concentrated attack by storm troopers supported by tanks and tactical air cover. At the beginning of WWII, the German military leadership put these theories into practice. The difference from WWI (that was mostly a defensive war) was the possibility to conduct an **offensive war** due to the movement of tanks, armored vehicles, mechanized transport, and the air planes. An air strike took out the opposing air force and communication centers on the ground – then parachutists were dropped behind enemy lines. The swift moving tanks and motorized infantry – supported by air power – would then split the enemy lines. Blitzkrieg was a success for Germany. Germany was not superior in equipment – it was the performance and surprise of this tactic that defeated their enemies up to 1941. (German tanks used: **Panzer Mark III and IV**)

**NOTE:** Germany had carried out several "tests" to refine Blitzkrieg during the Spanish Civil War.

**Operation Barbarossa:** This operation showed that Blitzkrieg worked well in short wars in confined areas – not in a large area like Russia. Germany did not have enough men and equipment for such a huge operation. Russia with its huge areas of land and resources could withstand initial losses, reorganize its economy and military and then strike back. The enemy had learnt from previous mistakes and could now counter attack. They had also learnt how to conduct blitzkrieg and used it against the German forces. From 1944 the Allies also controlled the war in the air – on all fronts! The medium sized tanks mostly used in WWII were **Panzer Mark IV** (Germany); **T-34** (Russia); **M4 Sherman** (USA)

**Battle of Kursk** - involved as many as 6,000 tanks, 4,000 aircraft and 2 million fighting men and is remembered as the greatest tank battle in history. (Germany had now produced some heavy tanks against the T-34 – the **Tiger** tanks)

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## THEATRE OF WAR: SEA

**Battle of the Atlantic** was the longest continuous military campaign in World War II, running from 1939 to the defeat of Germany in 1945. At its core was the Allied naval blockade of Germany, announced the day after the declaration of war, and Germany's subsequent counter-blockade.

Great Britain – an island nation needed a lot of import every week to survive. They had a huge merchant navy to manage this (around 3000 ships). To every 14 merchant ships the Royal Navy could offer one escort ship. Germany had also constructed a lot of new ships but some spectacular losses of battleships like **Graf Spee**, **Bismarck** and **Scheer** convinced the German High Command that it was better, cheaper and more successful to develop the U-boat program. The German submarines were going to “strangle” (blockade) Britain and thereby force her out of the war.

In 1942 Germany had around 300 submarines. Rather than hunting and attacking by their own they worked together in a “**Wolf Pack**”. This tactic became a problem for the allies. It would take new tactic, more production of ships and a developed technology to defeat the German threat.

### Allied anti-submarine warfare

**Detection and defensive:** Tactic – Convoy system; ASDIC (Sonar), Radar, Hydrophones and magnetic detectors

**Offensive:** depth charge, “**Hedgehogs**” (24 projectiles in front of the ship), Long-range aircraft (like the Sunderland Flying Boat and PBY Catalina) and absolute altimeters on the airplanes

**Radar!** The radar was an important invention. It was used at land to spot incoming airplanes; in aircrafts to find targets at sea; on ships to spot surfaced U-boats; and as a help to aim anti-aircraft guns.

**Anti-Radar.** Artillery that shot grenades with aluminium pieces was a countermeasure. Airplanes received radar detectors, so they knew if they were being hit by radio waves – and then could try to find some countermeasure.

**US shipbuilding industry** mobilized and invented the “**Liberty Ship**”. The components to this ship was built all over the US. Then they were transported to the shipyards by the coast and assembled. This meant that they could built ships much faster than Germany could build U-boats and sink them.

All the improvements above (anti-submarine technology and the US shipbuilding) meant that by the end of 1943 the Allies were sinking U-boats twice as fast as Germans could replace them. In 1945 75% of all German submariners had been killed.

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## MOBILIZATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

	Mobilized (thousands)
British Empire	8,720
China	8,000
France	6,000
Germany	11,000
Italy	4,500
Japan	6,095
Poland	1,000
USA	14,900
USSR	12,500
Total from above countries	72,715

**MILITARY:** Around **72,7 million** men were mobilized during WWII.

**AXIS:** Throughout the war the Germans were famously handicapped by their Italian allies. Mussolini expanded the Italian navy in both surface vessels and submarines. Counter- intuitively, though, because Italy rearmed before all the other European powers, her material was obsolete first as well and she lacked the economic resources to modernize before she entered the war. The Italian military/industrial complex had some of the same economic weaknesses that the German military did, without the real ability to conquer new territories to compensate for them. These weaknesses were exacerbated by poor leadership in all branches of the military and indeed up to Il Duce himself.

**ALLIES:** In **Britain**, military conscription was introduced from the beginning of the conflict (unlike in World War One), but it was carefully controlled to ensure that key workers were left in the important industries, such as coal

mining. By September 1939 the British army mustered four divisions to send to France. By May 1940 conscription had raised this number to 50 divisions. By the time the smoke of the Battle of France had settled, the British army numbered some 1.6 million men. The Royal Air Force (RAF) had 900 bombers and 600 fighters with which to defend

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### **MOBILIZATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

the island. The Royal Navy was the largest in the world, although still stretched thin having to defend outposts as far away as Hong Kong and Singapore, the Mediterranean and the home islands.

**USSR:** When the war against Germany started factories from the western regions were moved east. 1360 factories were moved east in 1942 and 2250 new units were established between 1942-1944. By the end of 1943 the Trans-Ural region produced 2.5 the rate of the complete Soviet Industry in 1940. This year the Soviet military production also exceeded the German (30.000 tanks and 40.000 air crafts). Stalin also re-introduced privileges of higher military ranks. The military also got much more influence in the Party. 1941 - 15% and in 1945 - over 50%!

**Religion:** Stalin rehabilitated the Orthodox Church which blessed the work of "*our government*". They condemned traitors and excommunicated them (expelled them from the Church). In 1943 the Church got to elect a new Patriarch. By 1945 24.000 churches were reopened and 74 bishops were back in office...

**WOMEN AND THE MILITARY:** Women joined the military in non-combat roles except in USSR where they fully participated.

**Great Britain:** Britain recruited women for non-combat military work. By 1943 180 000 women were members of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force working at radar stations, erecting barrage balloons, and anti-aircraft artillery. Another 100 000 women served in the Women's Royal Navy Service (WRNS) as drivers, cleaners, cooks and a few operating smaller harbor ships and mechanics and anti-air artillery. Over 200 000 women served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service as mechanics, drivers, cleaners and cooks. There were 90 000 women serving in the Women's Land Army. In 1945 460 000 women were employed in non-combat work within the military.

**USSR:** Over 800 000 women served in the Soviet armed forces. Three military aircraft units were composed entirely of women, including pilots, crews and mechanics. These air units completed over 50 000 missions against Axis targets between 1942-1945. Hundreds of thousands of women served in the army as well, where many found success as snipers. By 1945 40% of all army doctors were women and many anti-aircraft batteries were manned by women. Many tank crews were entirely composed by women and by the end of the war 500 000 women remained in uniform helping to carry out the occupation of Germany.

**USA:** Over 300 000 women joined the military serving in the US Army, Navy and Marines – in almost every capacity except combat. (Army – the Women's Army Corps – WAC; Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (Waves – Navy...); Women Air Force Service Pilots – WASPs).

# WAR: WORLD WAR TWO

## MOBILIZATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

**WAR PRODUCTION:** German war production was hindered by Axis partners and lack of resources. War production was very successful in the Allied countries and according to many historians made them win the war.

**ALLIES:** The war production of the Allies provided the means to defeat Germany according to many historians. US military production was critical to the Allied war effort. Almost 30% of all British military equipment was made in the USA. Lend-Lease supplies to the USSR shows the importance of the US industry: 400 000 motor vehicles (mostly trucks), 2000 locomotive engines, 11 000 freight cars, 540 000 tons of railroad rails, food supplies capable of feeding the entire Soviet Army. Great Britain and the USSR also produced a lot of war goods. In Britain 33% of the adult population worked within the war industries. In the USSR there was a mass conscription of children, women and the elderly for the factories. They increased the war production constantly and starved...

USA was the most industrialized country in the world and the largest producer of petroleum. It had a large population that was quickly organized to produce war goods. Millions of women were employed which helped increase the production (and it increased every month through the war). Another important aspect was that the US production never had to be hindered by air attacks and bombing. By 1945 the US had over 16 million men in the armed forces which they manage to support. On top of this the US supported millions of people among the Allies. To be able to do this the US had over 66 million men and women working in the industry by 1945. US production was the crucial factor in the US success against Japan.

### War production for the Second World War in Europe and north Africa.

	USA*	Britain	USSR	Germany	Italy
Tanks	88,500	30,000	105,000	67,000	2,500
Aircraft	300,000	130,000	145,000	120,000	11,000
Artillery units	257,000	125,000	500,000	160,000	7,200
Trucks	2,400,000	480,000	200,000	345,000	83,000
Machine guns	2,700,000	NA	1,500,000	675,000	NA
Submarine	200	170	NA	1,100	28
Surface warships	1,200	730	NA	42	15
Tons of merchant shipping	34,000,000	6,300,000	NA	NA	1,500,000
Tons of coal	2,100,000,000	1,400,000,000	590,000,000	2,400,000,000	17,000,000
Tons of iron ore	400,000,000	120,000,000	71,000,000	240,000,000	4,000,000
Tons of oil	830,000,000	91,000,000	110,000,000	33,000,000	0
NA, not available.					
*Production for the simultaneous war in Asia and the Pacific.					

**AXIS:** German war production was disorganized. Private industries competed for contracts and raw materials + various designs of weapons. This increased production and the number of workers. In 1942 the industry was reorganized with the government directing all the production. After February 1943 German economy was officially placed on a war footing. This led to further government control of production and a severe reduction in non-war production. Germany was by far the most industrialized Axis nation. Italy contributed to some extent but in 1943 they joined the Allies. Romania contributed with 25 million tons of oil – an extremely important product for Germany.

**WOMEN WWII:** Women were discouraged from war production in Axis countries. Employed by millions in the Allied countries. In the USSR many even served as soldiers. In occupied countries women participated in great numbers in the resistance movements.

**Germany:** At the beginning of WWII Germany resisted the idea of calling women into the industrial production due to the ideology (Nazism). Women should be at home raising children and perform domestic duties. The German economy required more workers so already in 1939 14.6 million women worked outside home (37% of all workers). During the war approximately 250 000 more women joined the workforce – but never in military service. Instead of making more women work during the war Germany turned to foreign workers. By 1943 around 20% of the total workforce were from other countries (most of them as forced labor). In 1944 there were 7 487 000 foreign workers in Germany.

**Great Britain:** Britain employed millions of women during the war. In early 1941 all women between 18-60 were required to register with the government in preparation for being conscripted into the industrial workforce. By 1943 90% of all unmarried women and 80% of married women were in jobs related to the war effort. By the end of the war 6.5 million women were employed in factories or shipyards producing war goods. Still they faced discrimination in terms of wages (significantly lower than men).

**Japan:** Japan discouraged women to join the war production – still millions did in order to be able to feed their families.

**USA:** US Women and minorities participated more fully in war production than in any other nation except the USSR. In 1941 over 14.5 million women worked outside the home. By 1945 over 19 million women worked outside the home (around 39% of the workforce). Women's participation in new war-related industries was significant. By 1943 10% of the shipbuilders were women – "*Rosie the Riveter*" (none had been employed in shipbuilding before WWII).

**USSR:** USSR employed women in greater numbers than any other nation involved in WWII. Almost all agricultural laborers were women (many animals were taken from farms, so women had to pull farm equipment to till fields).

**RATIONING:** Rationing of food, fuel and other products occurred in all countries.

**Germany:** Germany started food rationing in late August 1939 just before the invasion of Poland. During the war the calorie intake decreased from around 3000 calories daily to 2000 calories in 1944. Up to 1943 food shipments came from several occupied areas so the Germans did not face any threat of starvation but were short of sugar and fruit. When Germany focused on military production 1943 fewer consumer products were available. By the end of 1944 the German economy nearly collapsed due to the heavily bombed transportation system. Especially fuel was missing.

**Great Britain:** All oil-based products (rubber, fuel) were severely rationed at the breakout of war. In 1940 certain food products like sugar and butter were rationed. Soon nearly all products except fish were rationed. In 1942 civilians could no longer buy petrol. Around 50% of all industry in Britain was developed to war production so there were not a lot of consumer goods for civilians during WWII.

**Italy:** Italy began rationing a year before she joined the war (1939). In 1941 civilians could no longer buy petrol. Newspapers were limited to two pages and each citizen was only allowed one pair of shoes or a few pieces of clothing annually – not both. People living in the cities received less than 1000 calories daily by the end of the war.

**Japan:** Japan imposed a strict system of rationing 1941. Clothing, metal objects and fuel were rationed. Most serious was the rationing of food since Japan had to import most of its food supply. Chemicals used for fertilizers was used in the war industry. Result – less food production. Air and submarine attacks destroyed most shipping by 1943. Japan's annual rice supply was halved 1941-1945. Hungry workers were often absent as they went to the country-side to try to get some food directly from the farmers. Malnourishment led to weakened immune systems and therefore more illness causing even more people to be absent from the war industry. By the end of the war millions were starving.

**USA:** A system of strict rationing was introduced in 1942. The car factories switched over to military equipment so no cars for civilian use was produced during the war. Tyres (depended on rubber from south-east Asia – areas occupied by Japan). So synthetic rubber made from petroleum became more common. Leisure and races were banned during the war. Food was rationed. People had to present rationing books when they went to the store (to avoid hoarding and over-consumption). USA produced enormous quantities of food. Rationing allowed the US to supply food for their Allies (esp. Britain that heavily relied on food imports).

**USSR:** Rationing was severe and necessary in the USSR after June 1941 (lots of land areas were occupied by Germany). Peasants were either enrolled in the military or conscripted to work in war production. Children and elderly were granted 700 calories of food daily while adult factory workers received around 1500 calories a day. Fuel (coal from coalmines) was extremely important for the whole Russian war effort. That's why coalminers received over 4000 calories a day. To fight starvation in the USSR over five million gardens were established in cities all over Russia. Food was scarce even after 1944. At the black market one kg of bread cost a whole week's salary for a factory worker.

**Imprisonment and labor camps:** In Germany and the USSR millions of soldiers – POWs (Prisoner of War) died. Especially Russian and Polish soldiers (in Germany) and German soldiers (in Russia) In Germany racial laws discriminated Jews before the war. During the war the discrimination escalated and around 6 million Jews were killed in labor and extermination camps (or shot in masses by specific Nazi death squadrons on the Eastern front). Homosexuals, Roma, people of Arab or African ancestry, Jehovah's Witnesses, criminals, the mentally ill and several Roman Catholic Priests were also imprisoned. The ones that were counted as racially inferior were killed. This is referred to as the **Holocaust**. Britain did not want to keep prisoners in Great Britain before 1943 and many were therefore sent to Canada. They got to choose if they wanted to be kept in prison or help in agricultural and construction works. They received the same rations as British soldiers. In most countries hundred of thousands of people were imprisoned because they were "enemy aliens". Their native country was in war with the country where they lived. Several of these prisoners lost their homes and businesses. In the US the Japanese especially were affected by this.

## WAR: WORLD WAR TWO

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### MOBILIZATION OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES (+ GOVERNMENT CONTROL)

**Germany:** In Germany, there was little change to the economy at the beginning of the war, as the early victories did not put much strain on the home front. When Albert Speer, the Minister of Armaments and War Production, tried to organize the deployment of human resources more effectively from 1942 onwards, he found little support. The regional and police authorities were reluctant to accept national schemes that affected their regions, and having women in the workplace went against Hitler's idea that women should focus on **Kinder, Kirche, Küche** ("**Children, Church, Kitchen**"). Hitler also insisted that consumer goods production remain a priority, and so workers in nonessential industries could not be transferred.

**Government:** Even though Germany was a single-party state planning remained confused and decentralized. In 1942 Albert Speer was put in charge of the Central Planning Board and in 1944 Joseph Goebbels, the Propaganda Minister, was appointed Commissioner for Total Mobilization of Resources for War. Yet neither appointment overcame the problems of a system that was "*poorly coordinated, uncooperative and obstructive*". Until 1943, Germany also focused on high-quality and technical sophistication rather than trying to mass produce massive quantities of standard weapons. It thus failed to produce weapons on a large enough scale and, as you have read, the Soviet Union, although having a smaller industrial base, greatly out-produced the German empire throughout the war.

**Great Britain:** In 1940 Winston Churchill formed a coalition government and exercised supreme political and military power. Mines, shipping and railroads was put under state control. Rationing was used, and conscription came for both men and women. The Minister of Labor Ernest Bevin improved healthcare, set up nurseries to look after children for working mothers and he made sure that factories with more than 250 people had a canteen and a welfare officer. Bevin also made special food rations and vitamin supplements available to young children and mothers. He rationalized the chaotic health system and ensured that public transport became a public service rather than a private business.

**Japan:** Even before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the military government in Japan had strengthened its powers. In 1940, all the main political parties went into "*voluntary*" dissolution, and in their place a monolithic party of national unity, the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, was set up. Trade unions were also closed down; they were replaced with the Great Japan Patriotic Industrial Association, which included employers and workers. As in Germany, however, it was difficult for the government to maintain tight control of war production due to the independent positions of the Zaibatsu (big companies) and the rivalries between the army and the navy.

**USA:** In the USA, the government also took control of industrial production. The War Production Board, which was established in January 1942, changed production priorities to the needs of the military. Car factories now produced tanks and planes. The War Commission recruited workers for where they were needed most, and new industries were created, particularly for the production of synthetic materials. However, the USA mainly relied on American business, with its expertise in mass production and technical innovation, and it granted contracts out to the big industries to produce what was needed. Without changing the free-market nature of the American economy, the USA was able to expand its manufacturing capacity immensely, ending the war as the most powerful economy in the world.

**USSR:** In the Soviet Union, the already centralized nature of the state allowed civilians to be mobilized effectively from the beginning. Coercion also played a key role. Workers were forced to move to those areas of the Soviet Union in which they were most needed, hours of work increased, and crash training programmes were developed to make up for the shortage of skilled labor. Slacking or absenteeism could be punished by labor camps or death.

**Government:** In the Soviet Union, the centralized all-powerful state already existed. Its survival after 1941 was due to careful planning and mass production, as well as the efforts of the Soviet people. The USSR was turned into Stalin's "*single war camp*", where war production was the only priority. A single national war plan was drawn up in 1943 and the planners were given the powers for getting their objectives completed. The military share of the budget rose from 29% to 57% and, unlike in Germany, Soviet planners concentrated on large numbers of weapons to be produced as simply and quickly as possible.

# CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY WARS

## EFFECTS OF WAR

### WAR: WORLD WAR TWO

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#### SUCCESS OF PEACEMAKING

**The Paris Peace Conference** (July 29 to October 15, 1946) resulted in the Paris Peace Treaties signed on February 10, 1947. The victorious wartime Allied powers (principally USA, Great Britain, France and the USSR) negotiated the details of treaties of Italy, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Finland. The treaties allowed Italy, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Finland to reassume their responsibilities as sovereign states in international affairs and to qualify for membership in the United Nations. The settlement elaborated in the peace treaties included payment of war reparations, commitment to minority rights and territorial adjustments including the end of the Italian colonial empire in Africa and changes to the Hungarian-Slovak, Romanian-Hungarian, Soviet-Romanian, Bulgarian-Romanian and Soviet-Finnish frontiers.

**Austria:** The Allied Commission for Austria was established by the Agreement on control machinery in Austria signed in the European Advisory Commission in London on July 4, 1945. It entered into force on July 24, 1945 on the day that the United States gave notification of approval, the last of the four powers to do so. It was supplemented by agreement of June 28, 1946, with its seat in Vienna. The Commission was dismantled following the conclusion of the Austrian State Treaty on May 15, 1955.

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#### FAILURE OF PEACEMAKING

**Germany:** The Allied Control Council (ACC) for Germany oversaw the **Allied Occupation Zones** in Germany. Its members were Great Britain, France, the USSR and the USA. Decision could only be made by consensus. Cooperation by the ACC broke down, as the Soviet representative withdrew on March 20, 1948. After that date, the ACC, even though in existence, no longer met, thus paving the way for the partition of Germany into two states.

After the breakdown of the ACC, West Germany (and West Berlin) was ruled by the **Allied High Commission** with membership from Britain, France, and USA while East Germany (and East Berlin) was ruled by the Chairman of the Soviet Control Commission, later the Soviet High Commissioner. The role of the High Commissioners ceased when each German state gained full sovereignty. The ACC convened again in 1971, leading to agreement on transit arrangements in Berlin. During the talks for unification of Germany in late 1989, it was decided to convene the ACC again as a forum for solving the issue of Allied rights and privileges in Germany. The disbanding of the ACC was officially announced by the Two Plus Four Agreement of September 12, 1990, effective as of March 15, 1991.

No final agreement was reached over reparations. Russia demanded some \$20 billion from Germany, which was rejected by the Western powers. Russia was left to take what it could from their zone of occupation and to get some reparation from the Western zones.

**EAST EUROPE:** Western leaders were shocked over developments in Poland as well as Eastern and Central Europe. There were "*sharp exchanges*" and the West claimed that Stalin didn't follow the spirit of the Declaration of Liberated Europe (from the Yalta Conference February 1945).

**OPERATION UNTHINKABLE:** Operation Unthinkable was a code name of two related plans by the Western Allies against the Soviet Union. The planning's were ordered by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in 1945 at the end of World War II in Europe. The first of the two assumed a surprise attack on the Soviet forces stationed in Germany in order to "*impose the will of the Western Allies*" on the Soviets. "*The will*" was qualified as "*square deal for Poland*" (which probably meant enforcing the recently signed Yalta Agreement). The battle plan more in detail included the use of up to 100,000 German troops to back up half a million British and American soldiers attacking through northern Germany. The war cabinet plan ruled out "**total war**" against the Red Army, which outnumbered the Allies by more than two to one, adding that there was no reason why an Anglo-American invasion of Russia would fare any better than Hitler's Operation Barbarossa so the original plan was abandoned. The code name was used instead for a defensive scenario, in which the British were to defend against a Soviet drive towards the North Sea and the Atlantic following the withdrawal of the American forces from the continent. Mutual suspicion led to the "**Cold War**"!

# WAR: WORLD WAR TWO

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## TERRITORIAL CHANGES

**USSR gained:** The USSR had notably suffered the greatest civilian and military losses of all victorious powers in World War II. Stalin was therefore able to claim large territorial gains for the USSR. This meant that the following areas became incorporated with the country: the Baltic States, parts of Finland, parts of East Prussia, parts of Poland and the Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands (from Japan). In addition, Soviet troops occupied Eastern Europe and most of the Balkans, which Stalin now transformed into Soviet satellite states. Under leaders mostly trained in Moscow - loyal to Stalin, and with assistance from the NKVD (Soviet People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs - the "*Secret Police*" under the leadership of Beria), Communist systems were established in these countries that sought to mirror the political and social set-up of the USSR.

**Poland:** Poland lost most of its eastern regions to the USSR. These areas had been seized from the USSR just after the First World War and were reannexed when the Soviets invaded Poland in 1939. After Germany's defeat, the USSR reoccupied these areas. The Allies compensated Poland for this loss by awarding it much of the German province of East Prussia and the major port city of Danzig, and by moving Poland's western border further into Germany to the Oder and Neisse Rivers. Territorial changes meant that Poland was 20 % smaller after the war.

**Germany:** Germany lost areas it had annexed after 1937, including Austria, Sudetenland and parts of France, as well as its eastern regions to Poland, accounting for 25 per cent of its territory. The resource-rich and industrialized Saar district was placed under French administration. Germany was occupied by the Allies and was temporarily divided into four separately administered zones (see page 183). In time these were consolidated into two zones, one administered by the USA and its economic partners France and Britain, and the other by the USSR. This division led to the creation of two states: West Germany and East Germany.

**JEWS IN EUROPE:** Surviving Jews mostly left central and eastern Europe, settling in the USA and the British mandate of Palestine, which became the self-proclaimed Jewish state of Israel in 1948.

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## POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS

**USSR:** Among some non-Russians there had been sympathy for the Germans. In Lithuania there had been a rebellion, the Ukrainian anti-Soviet partisans had killed the Red Army General Vatulín and an anti-Soviet army had been formed under General Vlasov. Stalin was swift and brutal in his response. From Lithuania 280.000 people were deported between 1946-1949. The allies handed the Vlasovite army back to Soviet after the war. General Vlasov was hanged on a meat hook at the Red Square. Millions of Chechens, Tartars, Koreans, Finns, Poles, Ingush and many other groups were moved to central Asia or into Siberia in the country's north-east; over 40 per cent of these people died during the move or within the next year. Once the war was concluded, German families who had lived outside Germany, sometimes for hundreds of years, were expelled from some countries they lived in. Germans were forced to leave Poland, whose borders were moved west into Germany, Czechoslovakia, Romania, the USSR and other nations. Poles were moved out of the USSR, and Hungarians fled in large numbers from Romania.

**WAR CRIMES:** Allied leaders had discussed the issue of holding the German leadership responsible for both the start and the conduct of the war on several occasions. Once Stalin's suggestion of summary execution had been dismissed, it was decided on a tribunal approach in which representatives of the four occupying powers would sit in judgment of the accused. The accused, both individuals as well as collectives such as the SS, were charged with one or more of the following: planning an aggressive war, carrying out an aggressive war, war crimes and/or crimes against humanity. The main trials were held in Nuremberg, but others were also held around Germany as well as in combatant countries such as France, Belgium and Canada. The trials continued into 1949, although mostly under the auspices of the United States. The political will to continue the trials dissipated as the Cold War intensified. The trials had never been popular in Germany and with an increasingly aggressive Soviet Union, the United States determined that they needed the support of West Germans more than they needed the convictions of by then minor Nazi officials.

**USA:** The political rhetoric was still geared against totalitarianism - now with the USSR as the main enemy. The *fear of communism* increased with the political development in Eastern Europe, the Berlin crisis and blockade 1948-1949, the development and successful explosion of the first USSR atomic bomb 1949, the foundation of the Peoples Republic of China in October 1949 and the Korean war 1950. Evidence of this fear in the US is the **Taft-Hartley Act (1947); McCarthyism 1948-1954; McCarran Act (1950)**

## WAR: WORLD WAR TWO

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### ECONOMIC IMPACT

**MONEY SPENT:** USA - \$341 billion (\$50 billion – Lend-Lease); Germany - \$272 billion; USSR - \$192 billion; Great Britain - \$120 billion; Italy - \$94 billion and Japan \$56 billion.

**USSR:** Cities were ruined, the land destroyed and most of the farm animals were killed. Some numbers: 70,000 villages, 98,000 kolkhozes, 1,876 sovkhoses had been destroyed and 17 million head of cattle + 7 million horses had been driven away. All railroad bridges into "Europe" and 65,000 km of railroad tracks had been destroyed.

**USA:** After WWII USA was the world's richest country. It's defense industry had lifted the economy into unprecedented levels of production and prosperity. Some signs of US wealth:

- the American average income was twice the British and seven times the USSR
- half of the world's motor vehicles were registered in the US
- more than half of telephones and refrigerators were American
- US was consuming 40% of the world's energy + "far more than its share of almost all the resources" - Watson

**EUROPEAN DEVASTATION AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY:** One of the many lessons that came out of the flawed settlement to the First World War was the realization that Europe could not be left on its own to recover. The destruction of infrastructure, urban areas and industrial centers were far more widespread than it had been in 1918. Nearly all the major cities of the combatants in WWII suffered damage and some were nearly completely destroyed (like Warsaw, Cologne and Dresden). The political instability of the inter-war period was seen by many as a product of the weak global economy of the 1920s and 1930s. As early as **1944** at **Bretton Woods** the Allied leaders planned to re-establish trade and sound currencies as soon as hostilities ceased.

**BRETTON WOODS:** The Bretton Woods system was the first example of a fully negotiated monetary order intended to govern monetary relations among independent states. The chief features of the Bretton Woods system were an obligation for each country to adopt a monetary policy that maintained its external exchange rates within 1 percent by tying its currency to gold and the ability of the IMF to bridge temporary imbalances of payments. Also, there was a need to address the lack of cooperation among other countries and to prevent competitive devaluation of the currencies as well.

**IMF:** The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (later the World Bank) and the International Monetary Fund set up in 1944 provided short-term loans for reconstruction and development. The IMF was to be the keeper of the rules and the main instrument of public international management. The Fund commenced its financial operations on 1 March 1947. IMF approval was necessary for any change in exchange rates in excess of 10%. It advised countries on policies affecting the monetary system and lent reserve currencies to nations that had incurred balance of payment debts.

**US AID:** In the immediate post-war period, direct aid in the form of food, fuel and loans poured from the US into western Europe. By 1947 the European economy had regained much of its lost industrial capacity, but the extent to which it could be self-sustaining was in doubt.

**EUROPEAN RECOVERY PLAN (MARSHALL PLAN):** It was to answer this pressing issue and to remove central economic planning or economic nationalism as a potential answer to any resulting economic despair in Europe that the US announced the Marshall Plan in 1947. Aid credits allowing for the improvement of infrastructure and free trade, a condition of Marshall Aid, made recovery more efficient. The United States economy also benefited as wartime demand was replaced with European recovery demand. The plan exacerbated deteriorating US/Soviet relations and was a major accelerant in the Cold War.

**OEEC, EFTA and EEC:** Western Europe began to co-operate economically and tried to lower its tariffs. **OEEC** was formed in 1948 to administer American and Canadian aid in the framework of the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe. In the 1950s, the OEEC provided the framework for negotiations aimed at determining conditions for setting up a European Free Trade Area (**EFTA**), to bring the European Economic Community (**EEC**) of the six and the other OEEC members together on a multilateral basis.

## WAR: WORLD WAR TWO

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### SOCIAL IMPACT

**CLASS CHANGES:** Class changes were obvious in areas where communism took power and broke the stranglehold of traditional élites. Social change was considerable in non-communist countries, too. In both Britain and Germany there was a rise of a meritocratic middle class and a decline of the aristocracy. Sustained wartime effort needed an efficient and technologically aware leadership. In Germany the conservative upper class suffered from its attempt to remove Hitler in the Bomb Plot of 1944 and from Hitler's impatience with the traditional Prussian military and administrative élite. Defeat in Japan ousted the military aristocracy and imperial cliques. The monarchy was swept away in Italy after the fall of Mussolini. The post-war world was considerably less deferential, and dependence on new technology meant that more highly trained people from all backgrounds were needed.

**PRIVATE CONSUMPTION:** Social changes, too, such as more working women, encouraged the development of new domestic appliances. A developing consumer industry, with its origins in pre-war change, helped to sustain prosperity in the late 1940s and 1950s.

**WELFARE STATES:** In Western and Northern Europe we saw a development of welfare states. The welfare state is a concept of government in which the state plays a key role in the protection and promotion of the social and economic well-being of its citizens. It is based on the principles of equality of opportunity, equitable distribution of wealth, and public responsibility for those unable to avail themselves of the minimal provisions for a good life.

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### CHANGES IN THE ROLE AND STATUS OF WOMEN

To wage total war, prejudices had to be abandoned, but despite some measurable gains for women – such as gaining the right to vote in France in 1944 – much ground won in the war was lost in the return to peace. However, whether it was the direct experience of war, the expansion of female education, greater labor-saving devices in the home, or the wider availability of contraception, there was a distinct change in the role of women between 1939 and 2000, even if a lot of attitudes remain rooted in the past. The growth of the post-war feminist movement and campaigns for equal pay and rights were influenced by wartime experience.

However, for some the war merely added to the burden of looking after their family. The support given in terms of child care and cheap meals did not often survive the war. The 'baby boom' of the 1950s caused more pressure to look after children, and returning soldiers often took back jobs done by women. The greater independence of American women was not shared by many African-Americans, who continued in low-paid or domestic employment.

In the West, the post-war prosperity apparent in the 1950s tended to glorify family life at the expense of female independence, and it was not until the 1960s that a women's movement emerged in reaction to this, and rediscovered the achievements of wartime women.

In totalitarian states, there was more official equality of reward and status. This was partly ideological – with the belief that oppression of women was equivalent to the oppression of social classes – and partly practical. So many men had died that women were needed to fulfil large-scale economic plans. At local level, though, there was more of a gap between the declared goals of sexual equality and centuries of ingrained male domination. The end of Nazi and fascist rule, which brought women into political and community life, may have been a regressive step, as liberal consumer capitalism rested to some extent on women playing the more dependent role as wives, mothers and consumers.

**Family:** Family life had been considerably disrupted by urban bombings, mass conscription and the absence of heads of families for long periods. Traditional morality was undermined by the presence of foreign workers or forces, and the absence of husbands and fathers. In a situation where sudden death was a daily reality, sexual release ceased to carry pre-war stigmas. This could lead to problems and even tragedies – in Norway, for instance, the children of Norwegian mothers and German fathers were treated badly after the war. French women who had had relations with the occupying forces were treated savagely in the 'liberation'. The hundreds of thousands of German women raped by Soviet forces in Germany in 1945 found it difficult to rebuild a normal family life. Postwar juvenile problems and crime were blamed on wartime disruption, but the social effects in terms of the relationship between men and women, children and adults, employers and workforce may be immeasurable. The widespread increase in cigarette smoking in the war may have been as disastrous to long-term health as aspects of wartime wounds. Conflict on the scale of the Second World War profoundly affected a whole variety of human relations and aspects of everyday life.