



# World War Two and the Holocaust Explained

KS3 Ages 11-14 ⌚ 4 min read

## What Caused World War Two?

**World War Two** started in **1939** when **Germany** invaded **Poland**. But the real causes began much earlier. After **World War One** ended in **1918**, **Germany** was punished heavily. The country had to pay huge amounts of money called **reparations** and lost territory and pride. This made many German people angry and poor.

A man named **Adolf Hitler** became the leader of **Germany**. He promised to make the country strong again. **Hitler** blamed Jewish people and other groups for **Germany's** problems, even though this wasn't true. He taught people to hate these groups. Many Germans followed him because they wanted their country to feel powerful again.

Think of it like: A school that lost a big competition might feel upset. If a bully comes along and says 'It's all the new kid's fault!' and promises to make everyone feel tough again, some students might believe him—even though he's wrong.

**Hitler** and his **Nazi** party took over **Germany**. They built up the army and invaded neighbouring countries. **Britain** and **France** declared war to stop **Hitler**. Soon, **America** and **Russia** joined the fight too.

## What Was the Holocaust?

The **Holocaust** was one of history's greatest tragedies. **Hitler** and the **Nazis** believed some people were better than others. They wanted to get rid of all **Jewish people**, as well as Roma people, disabled people, and anyone who disagreed with them.

The **Nazis** forced millions of people into **concentration camps**—prison camps where conditions were terrible. About **6 million Jewish people** were murdered in these camps and other places. Families were torn apart. People were treated cruelly. It was horrifying and evil.

Think of it like: Imagine if someone took away your friend's home and treated them badly because of how they looked or what their family believed. Except it was millions of people, and it was a million times worse.

The **Holocaust** teaches us an important lesson: we must stand up against bullying and hatred. When **World War Two** ended in **1945**, the world promised 'Never again.' Today, we remember the **Holocaust** to make sure something so terrible never happens again.