

## Causes of WWII - Europe

### Background

According to the traditional version of history, the immediate cause of the Second World War was the German invasion of Poland in September 1939.

This explanation is very simplistic!

In truth, the Second World War started as a series of much smaller conflicts.

Often rooted in the Paris Peace Settlement, these conflicts were made much worse because of the Great Depression.

When the League of Nations proved unwilling to enforce collective security, these conflicts grew like weeds.

From this field of weeds we got the Second World War . . . a period of global warfare between September 1939 and August 1945.

This class is all about the causes of the Second World War.

While we already have massive background knowledge on this topic, today we are looking at the influence of the Spanish Civil War.

### Assignment

1) Summarize the causes of the Second World War that we have already studied.

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b) \_\_\_\_\_  
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c) \_\_\_\_\_  
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2) Complete the following chart . . .

<i>Members of the Regime</i>	
<i>Opposition to the Regime</i>	
<i>Spanish Republic (1931)</i>	

3) List the events leading to the Spanish Civil War step-by-step.

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4) Identify and describe the two factions in the Spanish Civil War.

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5) Who won the Spanish Civil War?

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6) What sort of government was established in Spain?

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7) What can be learned from watching the great powers in the Spanish Civil War?

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8) Describe the role of the following countries in the Spanish Civil War.

<i>Britain &amp; France</i>	
<i>USSR</i>	
<i>Germany</i>	
<i>Italy</i>	

9) What did Hitler learn from the Spanish Civil War?

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10) What did Stalin learn from the Spanish Civil War?

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11) What was learned by the Liberal and Labour Parties in Britain?

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12) What caused the formation of the Stresa Front?

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13) What caused the breakup of the Stresa Front?

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14) What does the Stresa Front tell us about the relationship between Hitler and Mussolini?

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