**The outbreak of the Second World War**- 1st September Germany invaded Poland and Britain and France gave them a deadline of 2 days to withdraw or there would be war. The Germans didn’t withdraw…

**Alliances and agreements between Germany and other countries-**

**Non-aggression pact with Poland 1934**- Hitler no longer feared attack. **Rome-Berlin Axis 1936**- agreed to follow common foreign policy and stop the spread of communism. (Mussolini wanted close relations) **Anti-Comintern Pact 1936**- with Japan, limit communist influence in the world. **Pact of Steel 1939**- a full military alliance with Italy. Close economic bond. **Nazi-Soviet Pact 1939**- not to support attacks on each other, agreed to split up Poland, between ministers Ribbentrop and Molotov.

**The Disarmament Conference-**

In 1932, countries met to discuss what they might do to prevent any future wars. Hitler left, saying that he wanted Germany to be equal with other countries for self-defence. In October 1933, he withdrew from the League of Nations. All restrictions from the Treaty of Versailles were removed.

He built 1000 aircraft and introduced conscription.. **In 1933 In 1936 3.5 billion marks 26 billion marks 100,000 men 1,400,000 men**

This made Hitler popular as jobs were created and Germany was becoming stronger.

**Step 5-** The takeover of Czechoslovakia-1939- German troops were invited to restore order, even though there was no disorder. Germany took over the Czech provinces and controlled Slovakia. Even though Hitler hadn’t done anything illegal, Britain and France decided to end their policy of Appeasement towards Germany.

**Step 6**- Danzig and the Polish Corridor- 1939- Hitler invaded Poland on 1st September 1939. Britain had guaranteed Poland’s borders after the first world war.

**Hitler’s Attempts to Unify all German Speakers-**

**Step 1 –** Return of the Saarland- January 1935- It voted 477,000 to 48,000 to reunite with Germany.

**Step 2** – Re-militarising of the Rhineland- 1936- Hitler thought that Britain and France would do nothing. 98.8% vote in favour of reoccupation.

**Step 3-** Anschluss-1938- united with Austria after a failed attempt in 1934. Mussolini was now on his side which originally was what scared Hitler away.

**Step 4**- The Sudetenland Crisis- Sudetenland was a part of Czechoslovakia which contained 3 million German speakers and 25% of Czechoslovakia’s industry. Hitler ordered the Nazi party there to stir up trouble. Hitler used this to claim to back Sudeten Germans with military force. The four main leaders met and agreed it would be given to Germany. Chamberlain also met Hitler to announce an Anglo-Saxon treaty which stated that neither country would go to war with each other again.

**Stresa Front, April 1935-**

France, Italy and Britain met to discuss and protest German rearmament. However, after this there was the Anglo-German naval treaty which let Germany build a fleet 35% the size of Britain’s. Italy invaded Abyssinia which ruined their relationship with France and England.

**Rearmament and Conscription-**

After the recent world economic depression, countries were more concerned on internal problems than any problems abroad. The league of nations was seen as weak due to failure to stop the Japanese. The British people already felt Germany had been dealt with harshly following the first world war.

**Hitler’s foreign policy aims-**

1. Reverse the Treaty of Versailles- restore German territory and build up the German armed forces.

2. Lebensraum- to get ‘living space’ in Eastern Europe for all of greater Germany.

3. Unite all German speaking people into one main homeland.

Hitler’s foreign policy