

## SOAPSTONE - Appeasement

Please read the six primary source documents below and then answer the questions.

### DOCUMENT 1

"One blood demands one Reich. Never will the German nation have the moral right to enter into colonial politics until, at least, it includes its own sons within a single state... Oppressed territories are led back to the bosom of a common Reich, not by flaming protests, but by a mighty sword."

*Mein Kampf* by Adolf Hitler

### DOCUMENT 2

*Hitler promised to tear up the Treaty of Versailles. Specifically the Treaty forbade German troops from entering the Rhineland, a buffer zone between France and Germany.*

#### Hitler Sends German Troops Into Rhineland

Berlin, March 7 - Germany today cast off the shackles fastened upon her by the Treaty of Versailles when Adolf Hitler, commander-in-chief of the Reich's defense force, sent his new battalions into the Rhineland's demilitarized zone... "After three years of ceaseless battle," Hitler concluded, "I look upon this day as marking the close of the of the struggle for German equality status and with that re-won equality the path is now clear for Germany's return to European collective cooperation."

New York Times, March 18, 1936

### DOCUMENT 3

*As German aggression continued in 1938, Britain, France, and Italy met with Hitler to discuss his demands for the Sudetenland, a part of Czechoslovakia. This radio broadcast by William Shirer describes what happened at this meeting.*

William Shirer: "It took the Big Four just four hours and twenty-five minutes here in Munich today to dispel the clouds of war and come to an agreement over the partition of Czechoslovakia. There is to be no European war...the price of that peace is...the ceding by Czechoslovakia of the Sudeten territory to Herr Hitler's Germany. The German Fuhrer gets what he wanted...His waiting ten short days has saved Europe from a world war...most of the people of Europe are happy that they won't have to go marching off to war...Probably only the Czechs...are not too happy. But there seems very little that they can do about it in face of all the might and power represented here."

### DOCUMENT 4

*In this speech to Parliament, Neville Chamberlain explains why he favored a policy of appeasement in dealing with Hitler at Munich in 1938.*

And in *The Times* (of London): "I shall not give up the hope of a peaceful solution...we sympathize with a small nation faced by a big and powerful neighbor. But we cannot involve the whole British Empire in war simply on her account. If we have to fight, it must be on larger issues than that...I am a man of peace...Yet if I were sure any nation had made up its mind to dominate the world by fear of its force, I should feel that it must be resisted...But war is a fearful thing."

*The Times* (London), 1938

### DOCUMENT 5

*Winston Churchill disagreed with Chamberlain's policy of appeasement. In this speech to Parliament (from 1938) Churchill warned about following a policy of appeasement.*

"I have always held the view that keeping the peace depends on holding back the aggressor. After Hitler's seizure of Austria in March, I appealed to the government. I asked that Britain, together with France and other powers, guarantee the security of Czechoslovakia. If that course had been followed, events would not have fallen into this disasterous state...in time, Czechoslovakia will be swallowed by the Nazi regime...I think of all the opportunities to stop the growth of Nazi power which have been thrown away. The responsibility must rests with those who have control of our political affairs. They neither prevented Germany from rearming, nor did they rearm us in time. The weakened the League of Nations...Thus they left us in the hour of trial without a strong national defense or system of international security."

### DOCUMENT 6

"Can any sane man suppose...that other countries could have intervened with armed force in 1933 to overthrow Hitler when he had come to power by constitutional means and was apparently supported by a majority of the German people. The Germans put Hitler in power; they were the only ones who could turn him out. Also, the "appeasers" feared that the defeat of Germany would be followed by a Russian domination over much of Europe."

*The Origins of the Second World War* by A.J.P. Taylor (New York: Atheneum, 1965)

This SOAPSTONE adapted from *Document-Based Assessment for Global History Classes* by J. Western Walch, 1999

# SOAPSTONE - Appeasement and World War II

		1	2	3	4	5	6
S	<b>Who is the Speaker (Artist)?</b> Identification of the historical person who created the primary source. What do we know about this person?						
O	<b>What is the Occasion?</b> What is the time and place? The context in which the primary source was created?						
A	<b>Who is the Audience?</b> The readers to whom this document is directed. The audience may be one person or a group.						
P	<b>What is the Purpose?</b> What is the reason behind the text? Why was it written? What goal did the author have in mind?						
S	<b>What is the Subject?</b> What is the general topic, content, or idea contained in the text? Summarize in a few words or phrase.						
tone	<b>What is the Tone?</b> What is the attitude? Examine the words, emotions, and imagery used.						

1. What does Hitler suggest is needed for Germany? How might that lead to war?  
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2. How does Hitler defy the Treaty of Versailles? How does he explain his actions?  
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3. What happened at this Munich Conference according to Shirer? What is the reaction in Europe and Czechoslovakia?  
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4. Why does Chamberlain suggest appeasement? Under what conditions would he fight?  
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5. What strategy does Churchill suggest for keeping peace and stopping the growth of Nazi power?  
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6. What were two reasons A.J.P. Taylor used to explain why appeasement was the logical option at the time?  
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7. Please answer the following question on a separate paper: Why was the world plunged into World War II in 1939? What is the most effective response to aggression - appeasement or collective security?