

Source Based Questions (Term 1 Work)

Treaty of Versailles:

- The Treaty of Versailles was signed at the end of WWI and it placed most of the blame on Germany
- Germany didn't agree with the treaty at all
- Some of the conditions in the treaty:
 - Germany had to accept that they had started the war
 - Germany had to give up some land
 - Germany had to pay reparations for damages caused during the war
 - Germany had to limit their army/navy
- Before the treaty was signed, Germany was a monarchy (they had an emperor called the Kaiser)
 - They were forced to become a democracy
- The democracy became known as the Weimar Republic

The Weimar Republic:

- The Weimar government were the ones to surrender World War I, once they realised they were losing
- German people were angry about the peace treaty and some blamed the Weimar government for signing it
- Some others wanted to take revenge on the other countries
- The Treaty of Versailles ultimately caused World War II instead of peace
- Certain people were opposed to the Weimar Republic as they associated it with the peace treaty
- The Weimar Republic had a very fair constitution, with very revolutionary articles such as:
 - Men and women older than 20 can vote
 - All Germans are equal in front of the law
 - Men and women have the same rights and obligations
 - Religious practices are protected by the constitution
- The 4 main factors for the failure of the Weimar Republic:
 - Worldwide Depression
 - Government of Brüning
 - Government of von Papen
 - Hitler appointed as chancellor

Formation of the Nazis:

- Treaty of Versailles caused Germany's economy to collapse due to massive reparations and hyperinflation.
- Adolf Hitler emerged as the leader of the Nazi Party.
 - Hitler joined the Nazis in 1920 and began building support among the citizens.
- In 1923, the Nazis attempted a coup known as the "Beer Hall Putsch" or "Munich Putsch," but it failed, leading to Hitler's imprisonment for 5 years.
 - Hitler was released from prison after serving only 9 months.
 - During his imprisonment, Hitler wrote "Mein Kampf," emphasizing his political and racist ideologies.
- Germany introduced a new currency called the Rentenmark in 1924 to combat the Great Depression.
- Hitler blamed Jewish people for Germany's problems.
- The US lent money to Germany under the 1924 Dawes Plan, which helped the German economy recover and decreased support for the Nazis.

The Great Depression (1929):

- The Great Depression, a global economic crisis, began in 1929 and had a severe impact on Germany.
 - The USA withdrew the money they had lent to Germany, causing the country to suffer economically.
- Millions of workers lost their jobs, leading to a loss of support for the Weimar government.
- The Weimar government was Germany's first democratic government and lacked experience, which made it difficult to address the crisis.
 - The parliament lost a lot of power, causing the democratic system to fail.
- Hitler blamed the Jews for hoarding wealth during the Great Depression.

Reasons for the Nazis' Support:

- The failure of the Weimar government led people to turn to the Nazis and Adolf Hitler for solutions.

- The Nazis promised law and order, job opportunities, and the restoration of Germany's strength.
- Hitler pledged to change the unpopular terms of the Treaty of Versailles.
- The Nazis effectively used propaganda to gain support and spread their message, utilizing newspapers, posters, radios, and other mediums.
 - Hitler's skills as a public speaker were highly regarded, and he delivered numerous speeches to rally support.
 - The Nazis employed stormtroopers, armed units of the party, to intimidate people and disrupt other political parties through illegal or violent acts.
- By 1932, the Nazis had become the most popular party, receiving 37% of the votes.
- In 1933, Hitler was appointed Chancellor, but the Nazis still only held 44% of the votes.

Burning of the Reichstag:

- In 1933, just 4 weeks after Hitler was sworn in as chancellor, the Reichstag Building (German parliament) was burnt down
- Hitler blamed the fire on communists
- Hitler made it seem like the communists were plotting against the Germans and wanted to take them down
 - This gained further support for the Nazis

Enabling Act of 1933:

- Hitler aimed to pass laws without parliamentary consent, but he needed a two-thirds majority.
- In March 1933, the German parliament passed the Enabling Act, granting the government special powers to address issues.
 - The Enabling Act also paved the way for the Nazis to establish complete control, leading to Germany becoming a Nazi dictatorship.
- In 1934, following the death of President Hindenburg, Hitler declared himself President and Chancellor.
- Hitler then assumed the title of Führer (leader).
- Germany was proclaimed as the Third Reich under Nazi rule.
- Changes implemented by Hitler included:
 - Banning of other political parties.

- Closure of the parliament.
- Increase in the size of the army and police forces, which created job opportunities.
- Adoption of the Nazi flag, featuring the swastika, as the new flag of Germany.
- Nazis gained control over the courts.
- Trade unions were banned, compelling teachers to join the Nazi Teachers' League.

Source Based Questions (Term 2 Work)

End of World War II:

- A “Grand Alliance” was formed by the Soviet Union, Britain and the USA to fight Germany during WWII, even though there were tensions between the countries
 - However, after Germany surrendered, the tensions between them increased and they broke apart
- The main disagreement between the US and the Soviet Union was their political/economic systems
 - The Soviets believed in communism while the United States believed in capitalism
- Differences between communism and capitalism:

	Communism	Capitalism
System of Govt.	Single party controls decision-making for society	Regular elections with many political parties Branches of govt. work separately and can't influence each other Constitution must be followed by everyone as well as the government
Economic System	State ownership of resources Profits used for public benefit No individual property ownership	Private ownership of farms, factories, etc. Profits belong to owners Free market economy with limited government interference

Human Rights	Restricted human rights (no freedom of speech and movement) Government criticism not allowed	Constitutional protection of human rights Media has the freedom to criticize the government
Social Structure	Lower standard of living, but reduced wealth gap No class divisions from unequal wealth distribution	Significant wealth gap between the rich and poor Higher standard of living, but unequal wealth distribution
Services	State provides housing, medical services, pension, education	Encouragement of private services (e.g., doctors and schools) Emphasis on a free enterprise system with competition between companies
Basic Philosophy	Emphasis on common good over individual freedom Equality prioritized over freedom and democracy	Freedom from government control prioritized over equality Recognition of competition's benefits for innovation and progress

- Tensions between the USSR and the West:
 - Tensions between communism and the West sparked in 1917 after a communist government took control in Russia during a revolution.
 - Suspicion and fear persisted between the West and Russia.
 - During World War II, the tensions were set aside temporarily, but resurfaced towards the end of the war in Europe.
 - Different approaches to post-war Germany intensified the tensions.
 - The USSR wanted reparations from Germany, while the West aimed to avoid punishing Germany based on their WWI experience.

- The USSR desired to maintain control over liberated countries in Eastern Europe.
- The USA kept the development of the atomic bomb secret from the USSR, despite being wartime allies.
- Tensions escalated further after the end of the war in Europe in May 1945.
 - The West believed the USSR was attempting to spread communism across Europe and was determined to stop it.
 - The USSR suspected the US of seeking domination over Europe.
- Both sides faced the urgent task of ending the war in the Pacific, where allied soldiers faced strong resistance from Japan.
- The ultimate end of WWII is considered to be the dropping of the atomic bombs in Japan

The Arms Race:

- At the end of World War II, only the USA had atomic bombs, making the Russians feel insecure.
 - In response, the Russians worked quickly to develop their own atomic bomb, which they achieved by 1949.
 - This started an arms race between the USA and the Soviet Union during the Cold War.
- Both sides focused on creating hydrogen bombs (H-bombs), which were much more powerful than atomic bombs.
 - They also built long-range rockets called Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) to carry nuclear bombs to distant targets.
- Both superpowers stockpiled nuclear weapons and spent vast amounts of money on their military and weapons.
 - It is estimated that by 1980, global military spending reached around \$450 billion per year.
- The possession of large nuclear arsenals created constant fear of a possible nuclear war.
- Both sides believed that having enough weapons would deter the other side from attacking, leading to more spending on developing deadlier weapons.

The Space Race:

- The superpowers engaged in a competition to explore space.
 - In 1957, the USSR launched the first satellite called Sputnik, shocking the USA and highlighting Soviet advancements in science and technology.
- The US feared that the USSR's space achievements could lead to the ability to launch nuclear bombs from space.
- The USSR further alarmed the US by sending the first man into space, Yuri Gagarin, in 1961, scoring another propaganda victory.
 - The USSR also achieved another milestone by sending the first woman, Valentina Tereshkova, into space.
- In response, the USA made an extensive effort to be the first country to land a human on the moon.
 - They succeeded in 1969 when Neil Armstrong became the first person to step onto the moon's surface.
 - Armstrong's famous words were, "That's one small step for man, but one giant leap for mankind."

Build-up to the Dropping of the Atomic Bombs:

- After the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Japan expanded its empire in the Pacific, occupying large areas of Asia and numerous islands.
 - The Japanese empire relied on their powerful navy for supply and protection.
- In 1942, the US achieved a decisive victory over Japan at Midway Island, breaking Japanese naval power and becoming a turning point in the war in the Pacific.
- The Allies gradually liberated areas under Japanese control, advancing island by island towards Japan itself.
 - The Japanese were determined to fight to the death and considered surrender dishonorable.
- Some Japanese volunteered as kamikaze pilots, deliberately crashing explosive-filled planes into Allied warships.
- Allied planes began bombing Japanese cities, causing significant destruction and casualties.
- By 1945, Japan was suffering from shortages of resources and food, and the population was experiencing hardships.

- Despite the challenges, the Japanese government remained determined not to surrender.

The Dropping of the Atomic Bombs:

- On August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, resulting in intense heat that caused immediate death for those closest to the blast. Around 80,000 people died.
 - Despite the devastation, the Japanese government did not surrender.
 - The bomb was nicknamed “Little Boy”
- Three days later, on August 9, a second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, causing even greater destruction.
 - The bomb was nicknamed “Fat Man”
- On August 14, 1945, Japan finally surrendered, marking the end of World War II.

Why the USA dropped the Bombs:

- The US government established a project to develop the atomic bomb during the war.
- Some scientists didn't want to create a weapon of mass destruction but wanted to ensure the Allies developed it before the Nazis.
- By July 1945, the atomic bomb was ready, and the US decided to use it against Japan to hasten the end of the war.
- Reasons for using the bomb included:
 - The Japanese didn't surrender because it was seen as dishonourable to their emperor, and Kamikaze pilots exemplified this.
 - A full-scale invasion of Japan would cost millions of lives, so dropping the atomic bomb was seen as a way to end the war quickly and save lives.
 - The Japanese had initiated the war by attacking Pearl Harbour.

Justification for the Decision to Use the Bombs:

- After the Japanese surrender, the long-term effects of the atomic bombs became apparent, causing radiation sickness, cancer, and birth defects among survivors' children.
- The decision to use the bomb remains controversial, as many believe it was not justified for the following factors:

- Economic Factors:
 - The government had spent \$2M developing the atomic bombs, and they felt it would be a waste of money to not use them
- Political Factors:
 - The \$2M was also an important political issue as the public wanted their tax money to be used well and not irresponsibly
 - The USA and USSR had opposite ideologies
 - The USA didn't want the USSR to beat Japan, due to fears they would try to spread communism in the East
 - People called the potential spread of communism in the East the "Domino Effect" as the communism would spread from country to country similar to how dominoes fall from one to the other
- Military Calculations:
 - The US worried about how expensive a full-scale invasion on Japan would be
 - They calculated it would cost too many troops and resources
 - The Japanese had captured many prisoners of war from the Allied troops, and threatened to kill them if the USA invaded them
 - The USA believed the dropping of the bombs would cause less death than an invasion
 - Some say these calculations were irrelevant, as:
 - The emperor was considering surrender as the Japanese didn't have enough resources to fight for another whole year
- Moral/Ethical Questions:
 - The estimated deaths from a full scale invasion were weighed against the calculated deaths of dropping the bombs by the US government, which led to a moral dilemma
 - Lots of soldiers didn't support the bomb as it was not a fair or honourable way to fight

- The public was sceptical about the bomb, because:
 - They felt it was cruel to use it
 - They claimed there were better options e.g. getting help from the Soviets to invade Japan
 - There were long-term causes of the bomb on people and the environment
 - Radiation would cause cancer and kill many people in the long term
 - Wildlife and plants would be obliterated
- Some people supported the bomb, saying:
 - What the Japanese were doing was worse (they tortured POWs and did terrible acts of violence)
 - President Harry Truman didn't have much choice and he was forced to make the decision
- Japan was already weakened and unable to continue fighting, lacking resources and facing starvation.
- Some members of the Japanese government were open to peace negotiations, supported by the Japanese emperor.
- Germany had surrendered, leaving Japan without support in the war.
- Japanese cities had already been heavily damaged by previous bombing raids.
- The destructive power of the atomic bomb was known to the Americans through their testing, making it morally unacceptable to use such force against unarmed civilians.

The Beginning of the Cold War:

- At the end of WWII, the USSR wanted to spread communism in Europe and Asia, but the US wanted to prevent that
- Between the 1950's and the 1980's the USA and the USSR had multiple small conflicts
 - This period was called the Cold War as there was no war declared, and no full-scale conflict
 - Examples of these small conflicts were the arms race and the space race
- During the Cold War Germany was divided between the West (USA, Britain and France) and the East (USSR)

- Berlin (Germany's capital) became a symbol of the Cold War

Essay Question: Cold War and Division of Germany

- The main points you should include in your essay are:
 - Introduction
 - Talk about the end of WWII and briefly describe what the essay will cover
 - Division of Germany
 - Talk about:
 - The division of Germany into four zones controlled by the Allied powers
 - The British, French, and American zones merged into West Germany, while the Soviet zone became East Germany
 - The division of Berlin into West Berlin and East Berlin
 - The Truman Doctrine
 - Talk about:
 - How Soviet leader Joseph Stalin created communist satellite states in Eastern Europe
 - Winston Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech and his warning about Soviet expansionism
 - The Truman Doctrine as a U.S. foreign policy aimed at containing communism in Europe
 - Fear of the domino effect and the belief that communism thrived in poverty
 - Economic and Political Divisions between East and West Germany
 - Talk about:
 - The rapid economic recovery and democratic/capitalist development in West Germany, particularly in West Berlin
 - The limited economic and political freedoms experienced in East Germany, including East Berlin
 - The migration of skilled workers from East to West Germany

- The Berlin Blockade
 - Talk about:
 - Stalin's concern about the standard of living gap between East and West Berlin
 - The total road and rail blockade implemented by the Soviet Union
 - The reasons behind the blockade, including the introduction of a new currency in the Western zones
 - The Berlin Airlift as a response by the United States and its Allies to provide vital supplies to West Berlin
 - The lifting of the blockade and the victory for the West
- The Berlin Wall
 - Talk about:
 - The mass migration of East Germans to the West and the humiliation it caused the USSR
 - Nikita Khrushchev's decision to block East Berlin from West Berlin
 - The construction of the Berlin Wall, including the barbed wire fences and later the concrete structure
 - The purpose of the wall to prevent East German immigration to West Berlin
 - The symbolism of the Berlin Wall as a representation of the Cold War divide
- Conclusion
 - Talk about:
 - The main points discussed in the essay
 - The significance of the division of Germany and the Berlin Wall during the Cold War
 - The lasting impact and symbolism of the Berlin Wall