



# Germany

From the Treaty of Versailles to  
World War II

# The Treaty of Versailles

- ▶ After WWI much of Europe was destroyed.
- ▶ After losing WWI in 1918, Germany was severely punished for its role in the war. The terms were set in the Treaty of Versailles.
- ▶ This made it even more difficult for Germany to recover and rebuild after the war.
- ▶ Other factors that contributed to their difficulty were the worldwide Depression and a flu pandemic.

# Treaty of Versailles

- ▶ On 28 June 1919, the Treaty of Versailles was signed with Germany. The Germans had not been allowed to send any delegates and had to accept whatever was decided.
- ▶ It weakened Germany militarily, economically, and territorially.

# Signing of the Treaty of Versailles

French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau,  
British Prime Minister Lloyd George,  
American President Woodrow Wilson, and  
Italian Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando





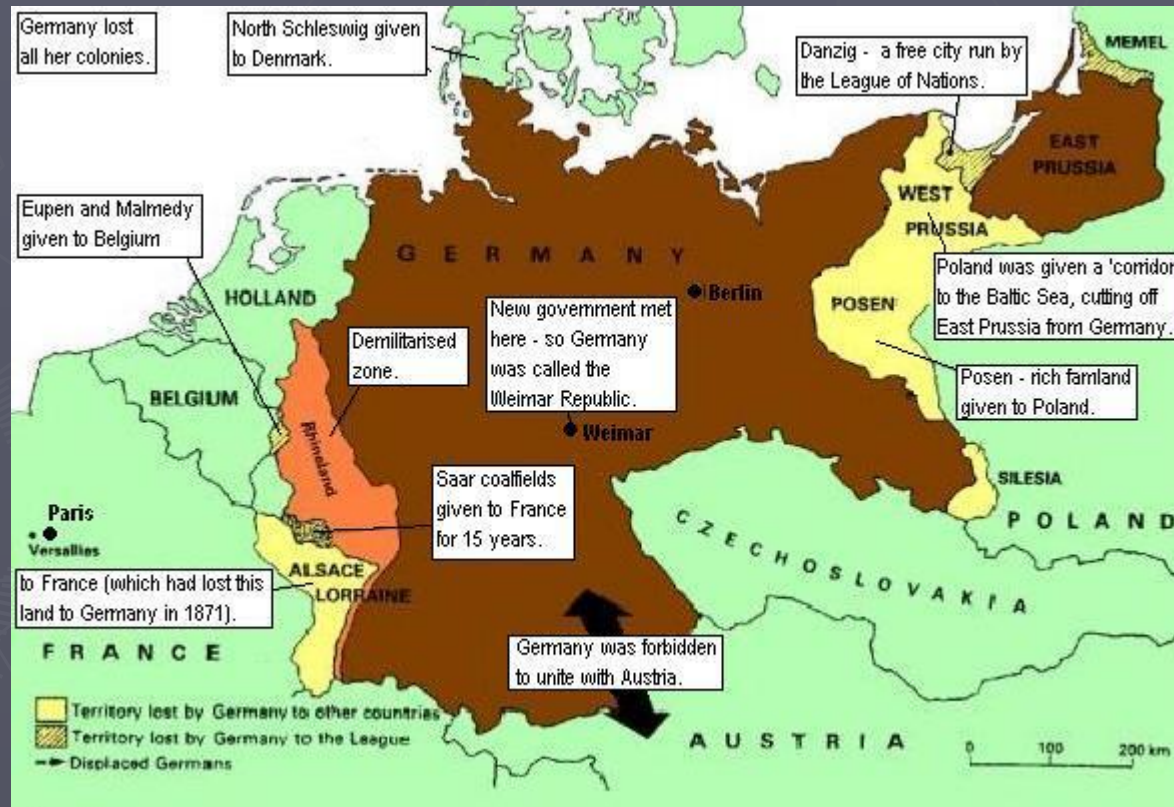
# Terms of Treaty of Versailles

- ▶ Germany had to accept the blame 'for causing all the loss and damage' of the war.
- ▶ Germany had to pay for all damages of war- eventually set at 6.600 million Euros.
- ▶ Loss of land, colonies, industries, and a significant reduction in military

# German Losses

- ▶ 10% of its land
- ▶ All of its colonies
- ▶ 12% of its population
- ▶ 16% of its coalfields
- ▶ 50% of its iron and steel industry
- ▶ Most of its army and navy
- ▶ All of its air force
- ▶ Info and map from [www.johndclare.net](http://www.johndclare.net)

# German Loss of Territory



# Europe After 1919



# Germany in 1933

- ▶ Germans were desperate and elected Adolph Hitler into power.
- ▶ He represented the National Socialist Party or Nazi Party.
- ▶ He promised to strengthen Germany and bring the Germans out of poverty.
- ▶ He began building up the military and started empire building, which led to tensions among the European nations.

# Adolph Hitler

- ▶ Blamed economic problems on German Jews
- ▶ Claimed Jews and other ethnic groups were inferior to Germans
- ▶ Claimed the Germans were a superior race and should lead Europe



# The Holocaust

- ▶ In addition to empire building, Hitler also waged a war of genocide known as the Holocaust.
- ▶ The Germans had forced many Jews, Gypsies, Slavs, Communists, and other groups into prison camps where many were killed.
- ▶ Approximately 6,000,000 Jews were killed.



# Dachau

- ▶ First concentration camp in Germany
- ▶ Memorial to its victims



# Never Again

Memorials for those who died during the  
Holocaust



# 1939

- ▶ Germany signed a non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union.
- ▶ Germany invaded Poland and the Soviet Union occupied Eastern Poland and annexed Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.
- ▶ This was the start of WWII.

# 1941

- ▶ The Soviet Union joined the Allied Forces after Germany invaded the USSR.
- ▶ The USA entered the war after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.





# The Surrender of Germany

- ▶ On April 30, 1945, as Russian troops fought to within yards of his subterranean bunker, Adolph Hitler put a pistol to his head, pulled the trigger and closed the curtain on the Third Reich. Before his death, Hitler anointed Admiral Karl Donitz as his successor with orders to continue the fighting. Hitler was unaware that the German surrender had already begun.
- ▶ On the day before his death all German troops in Italy laid down their arms. On May 4, German forces in Holland, Denmark and northwest Germany surrendered to British Field Marshall Montgomery. On May 6, Donitz authorized General Alfred Jodl to "conclude an armistice agreement" with General Eisenhower. The Germans wanted a separate peace with the allied troops in the West in order to continue their battle with the Russians in the East. Eisenhower would have none of it. He ordered the Germans to surrender unconditionally the next day. The Germans acquiesced, signing the surrender document on May 7, in the French city of Reims. The cessation of fighting took effect at 11:01 PM on May 8. The Russians insisted that a separate signing take place in Berlin on May 9. After six catastrophic years, the war in Europe was over.
- ▶ **References:** Blond, G., *The Death of Hitler's Germany* (1954); Toland, John, *The last Hundred Days* (1966).

# Germany Surrenders

- ▶ General Alfred Jodl signing the document of unconditional German surrender





# Germany

From Cold War to Reunification



# After WWII

- ▶ After the war, Germany was divided and occupied by the Four Powers: USA, UK, France, and the Soviet Union.
- ▶ This was determined at the Potsdam Conference



# The Potsdam Conference

From left to right: British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, U.S. President Harry S. Truman, Soviet Premier Josef Stalin



# Terms

- ▶ Some of the terms reached at the conference were as follows:
- ▶ Prosecution of all Nazi war criminals
- ▶ Reversal of all German **annexations** after 1937
- ▶ Destruction or control of all military potential

# Potsdam Conference

- ▶ Held from 17 July to 2 August 1945



**The city of Berlin (located in East Germany) was also divided between the Allies.**



# 1948-49: Berlin Airlift



What is the main idea of this cartoon?



# How were West and East Germany different?

- ▶ The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), which was West Germany, developed into a **capitalist** country with a social **market** economy and a **parliamentary republic** government.
- ▶ The German Democratic Republic (GDR), which was East Germany, developed into a communist country with an **authoritarian** government and a **command** economy.



# The Cold War

- ▶ The Cold War (1945-1990) was a period of great tension and competition between the democratic countries of the West and the communist countries of the East led by the USSR.
- ▶ The two sides formed alliances: NATO (Western alliance) and the Warsaw Pact (communist alliance)
- ▶ NATO stands for North Atlantic Treaty Organization



Blue=NATO countries

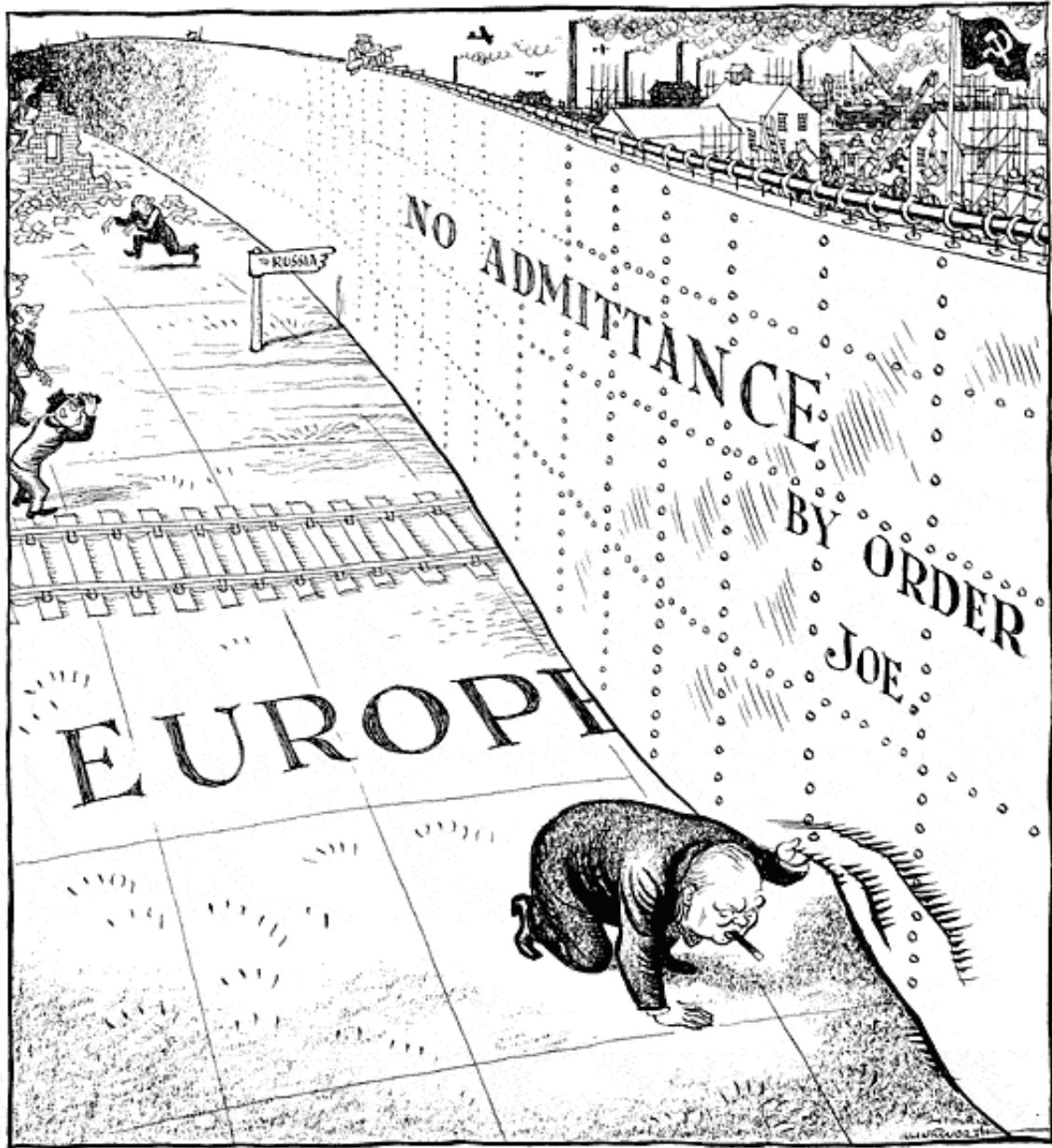
Red=Warsaw Pact countries

Yellow=Non-alliance countries



# The Iron Curtain

- The **Iron Curtain** was an invisible wall that rose between Eastern and Western European countries after WWII. The eastern side was communist and the western side was democratic.
- People of the East were restricted from leaving their countries, and people of the West who wanted to visit the East were restricted as well.





# The Berlin Wall





# The Berlin Wall

- ▶ Built to stop daily migration of huge numbers of professionals and highly skilled workers from East to West Berlin
- ▶ East Germany claimed it was constructed as a “border protection system.”



# Checkpoint Charlie



# The Berlin Wall

- ▶ Families split
- ▶ Cut off from jobs



# The Berlin Wall

- ▶ Initially constructed on 13 August 1961
- ▶ Improved reinforcements over the years
- ▶ Dismantled on 9 November 1989

# The Berlin Wall

- ▶ 96 miles long
- ▶ 45,000 sections of reinforced concrete (12 feet high; 4 feet wide)
- ▶ Top lined with smooth pipe
- ▶ Reinforced with fencing, barbed wire, anti-vehicle trenches
- ▶ Mined and booby trapped with tripwires
- ▶ 116 watch towers; 20 bunkers



- ▶ On August 13, 1961, Berlin was cut in two by a concrete wall. The purpose of the wall: to hinder the people of socialist East Germany from fleeing into the normal world. The wall was constantly perfected and strengthened, transformed from a normal wall into a system of impassable technical hindrances of traps, elaborate signals, concrete shooting cells, watchtowers, anti-tank tetrahedrons and self-firing guns, which killed the fugitives without the intervention of the border guards.

But the more work, ingenuity, money and steel the communists allocated to the further development of the wall, the clearer it became: human beings can be kept in a communist society only by impenetrable obstructions, barbed wire, dogs and by shooting in the back. The wall meant that the system which the communists had built attracted no-one. It repelled.

- ▶ —Viktor Suvorov, **'The Shadow of the Victory, chapter 7**



# Satellite View of the Berlin Wall

The yellow line indicates the length of the Wall.



# Escape from Berlin





“Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.”



# Two Plus Four Talks

- ▶ Involved East and West Germany and the four occupation forces of USA, UK, France, and the Soviet Union
- ▶ Signed in Moscow on 12 September 1990
- ▶ Led way to **reunification** on 3 October 1990

# Terms for Reunification

- ▶ Germany limited to number of armed forces
- ▶ Could not manufacture or possess nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons
- ▶ No foreign armed forces or nuclear weapons stationed in former GDR
- ▶ Germany accepted the border made between Germany and Poland after 1945
- ▶ Four Powers renounced all rights in Germany, including Berlin – all occupation forces left in 1994



# Effects of Reunification

- ▶ West Germany absorbed most of the cost of rebuilding East Germany.
- ▶ East German businesses collapsed when competing with West German businesses.
- ▶ Most of former GDR de-industrialized, causing a 25% unemployment rate in some parts of the country.

# Problems with Reunification

- ▶ Since the fall of communism, East Germans have freedom and more choices; but many are having difficulty with the loss of free child and medical care, more expensive living costs, and no guarantees for jobs.
- ▶ Since the West Germans helped to rebuild the East's economy, many feel that the East Germans should be more grateful.