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.
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
German Loss of Territory

- Germany lost all her colonies.
- North Schleswig given to Denmark.
- Danzig - a free city run by the League of Nations.
- Eupen and Malmedy given to Belgium.
- New government met here - so Germany was called the Weimar Republic.
- Posen - rich farmland given to Poland.
- Saar coalfields given to France for 15 years.
- Poland was given a 'corridor' to the Baltic Sea, cutting off East Prussia from Germany.
- France (which had lost this land to Germany in 1871).
- Germany was forbidden to unite with Austria.
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.

Germany Surrenders

General Alfred Jodl signing the document of unconditional German surrender
Germany

From Cold War to Reunification
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
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

The Berlin Airlift, also known as the Berlin Blockade, was an event in World War II that took place between 1948 and 1949. It occurred when the Allies - the United States, the United Kingdom, and France - attempted to supply West Berlin by airlift when the Soviet Union blockaded the city by land and sea. The map shows the main points of the airlift and the flags of the participating countries.
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.