

## The Versailles peace settlement 1919

The Versailles peace settlement was the agreement which ended the First World War. Germany had to accept blame for causing the war and then had to accept all the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. This humiliated Germany and left them wanting revenge.

### What were the aims of the main powers?

- **USA** represented by **President Woodrow Wilson** – to punish Germany but not too harshly. To make sure that there was never another war like the First World War. To set up a League of Nations. To achieve **INTERNATIONALISM** and disarmament.
- **FRANCE** represented by **Prime Minister George Clemenceau** – to punish Germany harshly for causing the war. Revenge and security for France and to make Germany pay for the damages done in WW1.
- **UNITED KINGDOM** represented by **Prime Minister David Lloyd George** – to punish Germany but to make sure that the British Empire is protected and to keep trade.

### What were the key terms of the Treaty of Versailles?

- Germany was blamed for causing the First World War (Article 231)
- German military was reduced. (Army – 100,000 men; no air force; no tanks)
- Reparations (war debts) set at £6.6 billion
- Germany lost important land. (Alsace Lorraine; the Polish Corridor)
- Germany not allowed to join the League of Nations

### Why were there disagreements?

- Clemenceau and Lloyd George thought that Wilson was too idealistic.
- Clemenceau and Lloyd George were too self-interested.
- Many people thought that internationalism would not work.
- Clemenceau and Wilson did not agree about how to treat Germany.
- Wilson and Lloyd George disagreed about Wilson's freedom of seas plan.
- Clemenceau and Lloyd George disagreed about how to treat Germany.

### Why were many people unhappy with the treaty?

- Germany thought it was humiliating; Article 231 and reparations were unfair.
- The French thought that it wasn't harsh enough and Germany was still strong.
- The British thought that it was too harsh and Germany would want revenge.

## The League of Nations in the 1920s

The League of Nations came from President Wilson's 14 Points despite the fact that the USA did not join. The four permanent members of the League's Council were Britain, France, Italy and Japan. Its aim was to keep peace and to improve living and working conditions around the world.

### What successes did the League of Nations have in the 1920s?

The League was successful in the 1920s in keeping peace:

- In the **Aaland Islands** crisis the League kept peace between Sweden and Finland.
- In the **Upper Silesia** crisis the League organised a vote which divided the region between Germany and Poland.

The League was successful in the 1920s in improving working and living conditions:

- **The Refugee Committee** helped over 400,000 return home with the Nansen passport.
- **The ILO** improved working rights for women and children. Poisonous lead was banned from paint.
- **The Health Committee** developed vaccines against Leprosy and Malaria.

### Were there any failures?

The League failed in:

- The **Corfu** crisis in 1923 when Mussolini invaded the Greek island of Corfu and refused to leave until he got compensation for the murder of an Italian general.

## International Agreements in the 1920s

The USA did not join the League of Nations but that did not mean that it stayed out of world problems. In fact, the USA played a very important role in helping countries make agreements in the 1920s. There were **FOUR** agreements which made the world a safer and more secure place in the 1920s.

- The **Dawes Plan 1924** gave Germany longer to pay reparations and the USA gave loans to Germany to help them to pay reparations.
- The **Locarno Treaty 1925** was an agreement which improved relations between Germany and other countries in Europe.
- Germany accepted the western borders agreed at Versailles. As a result, Germany was allowed to join the League of Nations in 1926.
- The **Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928** was an agreement signed by 65 countries. It improved international relations because the 65 agreed that war should not be used to settle arguments.
- The **Young Plan 1929** further improved Germany's position because it reduced the reparations payment.

Germany was now only required to pay £2.2 billion instead of £6.6 billion.

## **Attempts at disarmament**

The League of Nations had aimed for countries to disarm. They planned to hold an international meeting to discuss this.

The only progress in disarmament was done outside the League. The Washington Naval Agreements 1922 saw some countries agreeing to limit the size of their navies.

## The impact of the worldwide economic depression

In 1929 the economy of the USA collapsed following the Wall Street Crash. This caused an economic depression which lasted well into the 1930s. The impact of the depression was felt worldwide.

### What was the impact of the economic depression?

The USA, Britain and France:

- Introduced taxes on foreign trade to protect their own businesses
- This just made matters worse because other countries did the same. So, businesses closed and unemployment got even worse.

Germany, Japan, Italy and Britain:

- All began rearmament as a way of ending unemployment.
- This made international relations worse as other countries introduced rearmament too, so they were not left behind.
- This made the world a more dangerous place as so many countries were armed.

Germany, Japan and Italy

- All became more aggressive.
- The depression helped Hitler come to power in Germany.
- The depression caused the Japanese to invade Manchuria.
- The depression was one cause of Mussolini's invasion of Abyssinia.

Britain and France:

- Both became selfish.
- Both started appeasing the dictators.

## Tension in Europe in the 1930s – the failure of the League

In the 1930s the League failed in Manchuria, in Abyssinia and failed to achieve disarmament.

### How did the League fail in Manchuria?

The Japanese invaded Chinese Manchuria in 1931:

- The League failed to act quickly. It took Lord Lytton a year to investigate.
- Japan ignored the League's order to withdraw from Manchuria. Instead, Japan left the League.
- This was a serious failure because Japan had been one of the five most important members of the League.

### How did the League fail in Abyssinia?

The Italians invaded Abyssinia in 1936:

- Mussolini refused to leave Abyssinia.
- Britain and France attempted to work outside of the League and let Mussolini keep two thirds of Abyssinia. This was called the Hoare Laval Pact.
- Abyssinia was a serious failure because Italy had been one of the five most important members of the League.
- The League was shown up as useless. The Hoare Laval Pact showed that Britain and France had no intention of trying to keep the League together.

### How did the League fail at disarmament?

The League failed to encourage disarmament.

In 1932 the Disarmament Conference finally opened in Geneva.

The Disarmament Conference failed. Germany walked out when the other countries refused to disarm to Germany's level.

## Tension in Europe in the 1930s – appeasement and war

From 1933, Hitler started to achieve his aims of reversing the Treaty of Versailles, uniting German speaking people and rearmament. As a result, Britain and France chose to appease him until his actions went too far and he invaded Poland in 1939.

### How did Hitler's actions create tension?

- 1 In 1933 Hitler began to rearm. This broke the Treaty of Versailles. Britain and France were concerned about a rearmed Germany but did nothing about it.
- 2 In 1936 Hitler remilitarised the Rhineland. France was very concerned but Britain took the view that Hitler was 'marching into his own backyard'.
- 3 In 1938 Hitler united with Austria. This broke Versailles again. Britain and France chose to appease Hitler.
- 4 In 1938 Hitler threatened Czechoslovakia by demanding the Sudetenland. Britain appeased Hitler by giving him the Sudetenland at Munich.
- 5 In 1938 Hitler broke Versailles and the Munich Agreement by invading the rest of Czechoslovakia. Britain and France guaranteed to protect Poland.
- 6 In August 1939 Hitler and Stalin agreed the Nazi-Soviet Pact which divided Poland between them.
- 7 In September 1939 Hitler invaded Poland. This event started the Second World War.

## Tension in Europe in the 1930s – appeasement and war

### How did Appeasement cause war?

Appeasement meant giving Hitler what he wanted. Appeasement bought Britain time to rearm but it helped cause war because:

- It encouraged the dictators to be more aggressive.
- When Hitler threatened to take Austria in 1938, Britain and France did nothing.
- By 1938 there was a belief that the Treaty of Versailles had been too harsh and so it was understandable why Britain and France let Hitler make changes.
- The trouble was that Hitler came to believe that Britain and France would never fight to protect the Treaty of Versailles.
- Hitler was interested in Czechoslovakia because its Sudetenland region contained 3 million German speaking people.
- In September 1938 it was clear that Hitler would go to war over the Sudetenland. Neville Chamberlain met Hitler three times to try to stop war.
- At the final meeting in Munich, Chamberlain and the French gave in again. Hitler was allowed to take the Sudetenland.
- At Munich, Hitler became convinced that Britain would not act and that he could keep achieving his aims.

### Why did war begin in September 1939?

- In March 1939 German troops invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia. This broke the Munich Agreement.
- Britain and France were not ready to go to war over Czechoslovakia but they did make it clear that they would protect Poland.
- Hitler faced a war on two fronts because he was not sure what the Russians would do.
- He had to stop a two front war so he made an agreement with Stalin. This was called the Nazi-Soviet Pact. Stalin would get half of Poland when Hitler invaded.
- Hitler invaded Poland on 1 September 1939. This started the Second World War.

## **The causes of the Cold War 1945-1950**

The USA and the USSR (Russia) had worked together in the Second World War. However, once the Nazis had been defeated, the relationship fell apart. What followed was a new conflict called the Cold War.

### **How did the relationship between the USA and the USSR break down?**

It was not really surprising that the USA and the USSR fell out. The USA was a democratic capitalist country; the USSR was the opposite – a communist dictatorship.

- In February 1945, Stalin of the USSR, Roosevelt of the USA and Churchill of the UK, met at Yalta.
- At the Yalta Conference Stalin agreed to allow free elections in Eastern Europe which his army had taken over as they pushed the Nazis out.
- At Yalta they agreed to divide Germany into four zones.
- In July 1945, Stalin met again with the leaders of the USA and Britain at Potsdam. But this time, there was new America president, Harry Truman.
- President Truman took a stronger approach to Stalin. He also kept the atomic bomb a secret. But Stalin knew about the bomb through his spies. This made him suspicious.
- Stalin had set up a communist government in Poland.

### **Churchill's Iron Curtain speech 1946**

- Winston Churchill visited the USA in 1946 where he made a speech.
- The speech described an imaginary 'iron curtain' dividing Europe. In the east Stalin was spreading communism. Churchill warned about this, comparing him to Hitler.
- The Iron Curtain speech was seen by many as the start of the Cold War.



## The causes of the Cold War 1945-1950

### What was the US response to Stalin's takeover of Eastern Europe?

Stalin claimed that his takeover of Eastern Europe was to protect the USSR from a future attack from the west. The USA saw it as Stalin spreading communism. So, the USA responded with actions to stop this.

- President Truman made a promise to help any country in Europe
- Truman's promise was backed up by \$17 billion of American money in the Marshall Plan.
- Marshall Aid was given to any country that was trying to stop the spread of communism.
- Stalin ordered the countries of Eastern Europe not to accept Marshall Aid.

### The Berlin Blockade and Airlift 1948

By 1948 the relationship between the USA and USSR had got worse. Both sides increased their supply of weapons and a propaganda battle developed. But both sides had stopped at the point of war, until the events in Berlin in 1948 took both sides nearer to war than ever before.

- In 1946 the western zones (UK, USA, FRANCE) had united to form West Germany.
- Berlin was in the Soviet zone. The city was also split in two. Stalin had to allow the western powers access to West Berlin.
- Stalin wanted the western powers out of Berlin.
- In 1948 Stalin blockaded Berlin. He closed the border which stopped the western powers getting to Berlin. If they forced their way through it could be seen as an act of war.
- The Americans were not prepared to lose Berlin so they started an airlift, For ten months, planes full of supplies kept the people of Berlin fed and clothed
- Stalin was forced to end the blockade. The first battle of the Cold War had been won by the USA.

## The causes of the Cold War 1945-1950

### NATO and the Warsaw Pact

These were both military alliances set up because of the dangers revealed by the Berlin Blockade and Airlift.

- In 1949 the Western powers formed NATO. Article 5 of the NATO Charter said that an attack on one member country would be considered as an attack on all.
- Stalin set up the Warsaw Pact as a response to NATO. The countries of Eastern Europe became the members of the Warsaw Pact.
- In August 1949 Stalin announced that the USSR had developed an atomic bomb. This made the world a far more dangerous place.

## The building of the Berlin Wall 1961 and its effects

The threat of nuclear war was present throughout the 1950s. Stalin died in 1953 but he was replaced by new Soviet leaders who were just as committed to fighting the Cold War. In 1961 Berlin was again the focus of conflict.

- East Germany (GDR) was run as a communist dictatorship. As a result many Germans used Berlin as a way of leaving the communist east for a better life.
- As the numbers of Germans escaped East Germany, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev was determined to stop it.
- In 1961, Khrushchev called on the new US president, John F Kennedy, to remove American troops from Berlin.
- Kennedy refused. Instead, he increased American forces by 150,000 in Germany.
- Khrushchev accused Kennedy of provoking conflict. He said that Berlin was a base for US spies.
- In August 1961 Khrushchev sealed off all crossing points except one (Checkpoint Charlie) and started putting up barbed wire.
- The barbed wire was replaced by concrete; a wall was built.
- Kennedy responded by sending 1500 troops to Berlin.
- On 27 October 1961, Soviet tanks pulled up to Checkpoint Charlie. US tanks faced them for 18 hours under the Soviet tanks pulled back.
- Kennedy said that a wall was better than a war.
- Kennedy had stood up to Khrushchev.
- Khrushchev had shown that he could build a wall in Berlin and the USA could not stop him.
- The Soviets presented the wall as a protective shield.
- The Americans presented the wall as a prison wall.
- The wall stayed until 1989.

## The Cuban Missile Crisis 1962

In 1959 there was a revolution in Cuba. Fidel Castro, a communist, took power. The Americans disliked the fact that there was a communist country only 90 miles from the coast of the USA. Castro feared that the USA would try to remove him from power, so he asked Khrushchev, the Soviet leader, to help.

- The USSR sent military equipment to Cuba.
- In 1961 the USA helped a group of anti-Castro Cubans to invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. It failed but soon the USSR started sending missiles to Cuba.
- In October 1962, the US discovered that there were Soviet missiles in Cuba and more were heading to Cuba on Soviet ships.
- President Kennedy could not accept the Soviet missiles on Cuba but he also did not want to risk nuclear war.
- Kennedy decided to blockade Cuba. He announced this on TV.
- Khrushchev believed that there was a chance that the USA might invade Cuba.
- When the blockade began, Soviet ships were still heading towards Cuba, It was a tense situation but eventually they stopped and turned around.
- The crisis ended when President Kennedy agreed not to invade Cuba if the Soviet missiles were removed.
- There was a secret agreement in which Kennedy agreed to remove American missiles from Turkey.
- The Cuban Missile Crisis was the nearest that the world came to nuclear war.
- The crisis ended up improving international relations slightly. Neither side wanted to risk nuclear war. A 'hot line' was set up between the White House and the Kremlin. In 1963 a Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed.

## Why did the USA become involved in Vietnam?

The Vietnam War was part of the Cold War. North Vietnam was Communist. South Vietnam was capitalist. The USA became involved because they were trying to stop communism spreading. Here are the reasons why the USA became involved in Vietnam.

- The USA believed in the **domino theory**. This was a belief that if one country in south-east Asia became communist then the rest would follow.
- A controversial view is that the US armed forces and US business encouraged the war because they both got something out of it.
- Under the US presidents up to Kennedy, only US military advisers were sent to Vietnam. This changed in 1964.
- In 1964 the USA claimed that the US Maddox, a battleship, had been attacked by North Vietnamese in the Gulf of Tonkin. There was some mystery surrounding this. But President Johnson used it as an excuse to send combat troops to Vietnam.

## What went wrong for the USA in Vietnam?

The USA had enormous military power. It seems impossible to believe that with all this firepower and soldiers the USA would be defeated by the North Vietnamese army and the Viet Cong, but this is exactly what happened. Here are the reasons why the USA failed in Vietnam:

- The USA were supporting a very unpopular and corrupt South Vietnamese government hated by most Vietnamese. But the USA could not be seen to lose.
- The Viet Cong used superior tactics:
  - \* Guerrilla warfare meant that there were no large scale battles. The VC did not wear a uniform. They blended in and worked in small groups. They attacked using ambushes.
  - \* The Viet Cong had a sophisticated tunnel system.
  - \* The Viet Cong kept the ordinary people on side.
  - \* The Viet Cong had a good supply line – The Ho Chi Minh trail.
  - \* The Viet Cong were prepared to suffer heavy casualties.
- The American tactics were ineffective:
  - \* Operation Rolling Thunder was the US bombing campaign on North Vietnam. It killed thousands of civilians but did not shut down the Ho Chi Minh trail. Instead, it turned the Vietnamese against the USA.
  - \* Search and destroy missions were chaotic and resulted in many civilians being killed.
  - \* Chemical weapons like Agent Orange and Napalm created such destruction that it made many Vietnamese turn against American help.
  - \* US troops were inexperienced. Their average age was 19. Most were drafted into the army. They had no wish to go to war.

## Why did the USA have to withdraw from Vietnam?

By 1975 the communists had taken Vietnam. The last US troops had left Vietnam in March 1973. There were several reasons why the USA had to leave Vietnam.

- In January 1968, the Viet Cong carried out attacks in 100 cities. This was called the Tet Offensive. They even attacked the US Embassy in Saigon. This persuaded many Americans that the war could not be won.
- The American media became more critical of the war. A well-respected CBS journalist called Walter Cronkite was unsure whether the war could be won.
- In December 1969, *Life* magazine reported the My Lai massacre. This was an attack on a village by US troops. They killed 400 innocent civilians. Many Americans turned against the war because of this.
- There was a powerful student peace movement in the USA. They criticised the cost of the war and the draft system. It seemed that African Americans were being drafted first while middle class white Americans could dodge the draft.
- TV news reported some shocking stories and images including Vietnamese children being burned by Napalm.
- Anti-war protests grew. 'Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids have you killed today?' was chanted outside the White House. Eventually President Johnson announced that he would not seek re-election as US president.
- Influential Americans like Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy openly criticised the war in Vietnam.
- In November 1969 700,000 anti-war protesters demonstrated in Washington DC. It was the largest protest in US history.

## What was the impact of the Vietnam War?

In 1969 Richard Nixon became US president. Nixon wanted to withdraw from Vietnam but not just give up. He introduced a policy called Vietnamisation where the US would hand the war back to the South Vietnamese. To him this was 'peace with honour'.

- The USA's military strength had not stopped the spread of communism.
- The USA had failed to stop communism spreading into Laos and Cambodia.
- The US Congress passed a law which limited the president's ability to go to war.
- The USA tried to improve relations with China.
- The USA entered a period of greater understanding with the USSR. It was called Détente.
- In 1972 the USA and the USSR agreed to SALT which reduced nuclear weapons.
- In 1975 leaders met in Helsinki to discuss human rights.












## INTERPRETATIONS OF APPEASEMENT KEY WORDS

Word	Definition
<b>Appeasement</b>	British policy which gave in to the dictators, allowing them to have what they wanted in the hope that they would stop.
<b>interpretation</b>	A view of history
<b>orthodox</b>	An accepted view
<b>revisionist</b>	Historians who change/modify the orthodox view
<b>Counter revisionist</b>	Historians who change/modify the revisionist view
<b>Cabinet</b>	The top advisers and ministers who help the prime minister.
<b>telegram</b>	A written message sent along a wire
<b>Munich</b>	Reference to the Munich Conference 1938 when Hitler was allowed to take the Sudetenland.
<b>Grand Alliance</b>	A union of the most important countries. Stalin wanted to create a Grand Alliance against Hitler but Chamberlain refused.

## LOCATION MAP



# SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE

<b>Adolf Hitler</b> 	<b>Neville Chamberlain</b> 	<b>Winston Churchill</b> 
<b>AJP Taylor</b> 	<b>David Dilks</b> 	<b>Donald Cameron Watt</b> 
<b>RAC Parker</b> 	<b>Niall Ferguson</b> 	<b>Tim Bouverie</b> 

## TIMELINE 1918 - 1933

<b>1936</b>	Hitler remilitarised the Rhineland – Britain appeased him. Abyssinian Crisis – Mussolini's aggression ignored.
<b>1937</b>	Neville Chamberlain became British prime minister.
<b>1938</b>	Hitler demanded the Sudetenland. 30 September – Munich Agreement gave Hitler the Sudetenland Chamberlain returned home a hero
<b>1939</b>	March – Hitler broke the Munich Agreement by invading Czechoslovakia. August – Nazi-Soviet Pact September – Hitler invaded Poland; WW2 began
<b>1940</b>	April – Germany invaded Denmark and Norway May – Winston Churchill became British prime minister; British army retreat to Dunkirk; France falls. Guilty Men published
<b>1948</b>	'The Gathering Storm' by Winston Churchill published.
<b>1958</b>	Public Records Act passed in Britain making secret documents available 30 years after they were written.
<b>1961</b>	AJP Taylor became the first revisionist historian arguing that Hitler did not plan for war.
<b>1993</b>	RAC publishes the counter revisionist book 'Chamberlain and Appeasement'
<b>2019</b>	Tim Bouverie published the counter revisionist view 'Appeasing Hitler' seeing Chamberlain as a narrow inflexible leader.

# Interpretation 1

## Popular majority view

### 'Well done Chamberlain!' (1937 – 1938)

**The interpretation is that:** Chamberlain stopped war. He kept the peace.

#### **Features of this interpretation:**

- In 1938 Chamberlain came back from Munich as a hero.
- The Munich Agreements had stopped war breaking out.
- 40,000 telegrams were sent to Chamberlain congratulating him.
- The king and queen celebrated Chamberlain on the Buckingham Palace balcony.

#### **Reasons why this interpretation came out at this time (1937-1938)**

- The British people still had memories of WW1; they did not want another war so supported Appeasement.
- The British people feared modern warfare. They had seen how deadly German bombing raids had been in the recent Spanish Civil War.
- Most British people had not heard of the Sudetenland so they would not support going to war to defend it.

# Interpretation 2

## Popular and political view

### 'The Guilty Men' (1939 – 1948)

**The interpretation is that:** Appeasement was foolish, cowardly, and immoral. It made Hitler stronger and Britain weaker.

#### Features of this interpretation:

- The dictators had been appeased which made them stronger.
- Japan had got away with Manchuria; Italy got away with Abyssinia and Hitler had been allowed the Sudetenland. This made Britain look weak.
- Britain was left unprepared for war.

#### Reasons why this interpretation came out at this time (1939-1948)

- Many people felt ashamed about Munich. Chamberlain had betrayed Czechoslovakia by letting Hitler have the Sudetenland.
- The war was going badly. France and Norway had been taken over by Nazi Germany. Chamberlain was blamed for this.
- Lord Beaverbrook paid for 'Guilty Men' to be published. He wanted his friend Winston Churchill to replace Chamberlain as prime minister.

# Interpretation 3

## The Orthodox view

(1948 – 1960s)

**The interpretation is that:** Appeasement was a misjudgement and miscalculation even though Chamberlain thought he was doing the right thing.

### Features of this interpretation:

- Churchill wrote his interpretation as a book called 'The Gathering Storm'.
- Churchill argued that Appeasement was wrong and had encouraged Hitler rather than stopping him.
- Churchill argued that Chamberlain was morally right to try to stop war but misjudged Hitler.
- Churchill argued that Chamberlain should have put together a 'Grand Alliance' of Britain, France, the USA and the USSR against Hitler.

### Reasons why this interpretation came out at this time (1948-1960s)

- Churchill wrote 'The Gathering Storm' to make himself remembered as the only politician who kept criticising Appeasement in the 1930s.
- Churchill was trying to warn the world that if you ignore dictators then disaster will follow. At the time Churchill was writing, Stalin was taking over Eastern Europe so Churchill compared Stalin to Hitler.

# Interpretation 4

## The Revisionist view

(1960s – 1990s)

**The interpretation is that:** Chamberlain was in an impossible position. He did the best he could have in the circumstances; he bought Britain time to re-arm.

### Features of this interpretation:

- AJP Taylor was the first revisionist. He praised and criticised Chamberlain saying that no one could have predicted Hitler's actions. Taylor did not see Appeasement as something positive.
- Historians like Donald Cameron Watt argued that there was nothing else Chamberlain could have done. He had other problems like the British Empire, money and the military.
- Appeasement bought time to re-arm. Britain had time to build up its air defences and the RAF.
- Britain was not ready to fight in 1938; it was in 1939 and the people were more supportive of going to war over Poland than the Sudetenland.

### Reasons why this interpretation came out at this time (1960s-1990s)

- The 1960s was a time when historians thought about history in different ways.
- War was seen as wrong by many. In America, their war in Vietnam was going very badly. The Americans had rejected peace. So, historians writing in the 1960s were affected by the peaceful attitudes of the time, so Chamberlain was seen as a hero again.
- The 1958 Records Act was passed in Britain which meant that historians could see documents from the 1930s which had been secret. They saw that Chamberlain had many other problems to deal with – Hitler was just one of many.

# **Interpretation 5**

## **The Counter Revisionist view**

**(1990s onwards)**

**The interpretation is that:** Chamberlain was part of the problem. He was vain and made the mistake of believing he could trust what Hitler told him.

### **Features of this interpretation:**

- RAC Parker was the first counter revisionist. He argued that Chamberlain overrated his abilities and made the mistake of trusting Hitler.
- Chamberlain refused to listen to the advice of those closest to him.
- Chamberlain ignore the USSR (Stalin's) attempts to make an alliance with Britain and France against Hitler. Consequently, this made Stalin make the Nazi-Soviet Pact with Hitler.
- Chamberlain betrayed Czechoslovakia at Munich.

### **Reasons why this interpretation came out at this time (1990 onwards)**

- Many historians like RAC Parker could not agree with the Revisionist view that Chamberlain had no other options. It is the job of professional historians to disagree with earlier views and attempt to make them better.
- When the Soviet Archives were opened, historians discovered documents which revealed that Stalin had tried several times to try to form an alliance with Britain against Hitler but Chamberlain had not responded.