

Adolf Hitler's role in causing World War II is a subject of historical debate. While it is essential to acknowledge that a complex web of factors contributed to the outbreak of the war, including economic, political, and territorial disputes among various nations, it is also evident that Hitler played a central and highly influential role in instigating the conflict. This essay will examine the extent to which Hitler can be held responsible for World War II by exploring his expansionist policies, aggressive actions, and ideological motivations. *This is a nice set up but fails, like the essay, to answer the question.*

Expansionist Policies:

One of the primary ways Hitler contributed to the outbreak of World War II was through his expansionist policies, which aimed to revise the post-World War I settlement and expand German territory. *How did these events cause the war?*

1. Treaty Violations:

- **Reoccupation of the Rhineland (1936):** In violation of the Treaty of Versailles and international agreements, Hitler ordered the German military to reoccupy the demilitarized Rhineland. This aggressive move went unopposed by Western powers, emboldening Hitler to pursue further expansion. *This seemed fair to France and Britain who were suffering still from WW1. The annexation of Austria?*
- **Occupation of the Sudetenland (1938):** Hitler's demands for the Sudetenland, a region of Czechoslovakia with a significant ethnic German population, led to the Munich Agreement, which granted him this territory. The agreement, negotiated by Britain and France, was a policy of appeasement that only encouraged Hitler's territorial ambitions. *Britain and France believed Hitler was a good person, they also believed the German Military was too inferior to be of concern.*

2. Expansion into Czechoslovakia (1939):

- After securing the Sudetenland, Hitler continued to dismantle Czechoslovakia. In March 1939, he occupied the remainder of the country, which not only violated *the Munich treaty signed in 1938* international agreements but also heightened tensions in Europe. *It showed up both the French and British Governments, who decided to scale up their military forces and production lines.*

3. The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (1939):

- Hitler's signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact with the Soviet Union in August 1939 was a pivotal moment. ~~This non-aggression pact included a secret protocol dividing Eastern Europe into Nazi and Soviet spheres of influence. It allowed~~ allowing Hitler to invade Poland without fear of Soviet intervention. *Hitler's belief Britain and France would not intervene, allow him to pacify Stalin.*

Aggressive Actions:

~~Hitler's aggressive military actions, especially his invasion of Poland, directly triggered the outbreak of World War II.~~

1. Invasion of Poland (1939):

- ~~On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. This blatant act of aggression prompted Britain and France to fulfill their mutual defence commitments and declare war on Germany on September 3, 1939, marking the official beginning of World War II.~~

2. Blitzkrieg Tactics:

- ~~Hitler's military strategy in Poland, known as blitzkrieg (lightning war), demonstrated his readiness for aggressive warfare. The speed and ferocity of the attack caught Poland off guard and showcased the effectiveness of his armed forces.~~

3. Expansion into Western Europe:

- Following the fall of Poland, Hitler continued to expand into Western Europe. In 1940, Germany invaded Denmark and Norway and, later that year, launched a rapid and devastating attack on France, forcing an armistice. These actions further demonstrated Hitler's aggressive intentions. *Do not answer the question, they show the events between the start date and the launch of active western front invasion May 1940. Only needs one sentence in the conclusion. These events also came to worry the President of USA.*

Ideological Motivations:

Hitler's ideological motivations, rooted in a virulent form of nationalism and expansionist ambitions, were a driving force behind his actions and contributed to the outbreak of World War II.

1. Aryan Supremacy and Lebensraum:

- Hitler's belief in Aryan racial superiority and the need for Lebensraum (living space) for the German people drove his expansionist goals. He sought to create a Greater German Empire by annexing or dominating neighbouring territories. *Drove his military and industrial expansion. His promise of a 1,000-year Reich playing into the pride of the German people.*

2. Reversal of the Treaty of Versailles:

- Hitler vehemently opposed the Treaty of Versailles, viewing it as an unjust imposition on Germany. His aim to overturn the treaty's provisions, particularly those regarding territorial losses and military restrictions, was a central element of his foreign policy. *Most every German hated the treaty of Versailles, it had contributed to hyper-inflation and was humiliating to the proud people, who did not feel the 'lost' WW1.*

3. The Nazi-Soviet Ideological Conflict:

- Hitler's ideological conflict with the Soviet Union also played a role. His anti-communist stance and desire to eliminate what he viewed as the Soviet threat drove his military ambitions in Eastern Europe. *WW1, belief by many Germans of 'stab in the back' by communists at home. Germans also felt the treat from the Soviet, they believe if there is the International Expansion of Communism, they are the first to have to deal with it.*

4. Belief in Military Superiority:

- Hitler's belief in the military superiority of Nazi Germany further emboldened him to pursue aggressive actions. He believed that his armed forces were capable of achieving rapid conquests, which he demonstrated in the early stages of the war. *WW1, belief by many Germans of 'stab in the back' by communists at home.*

In conclusion, while it is essential to acknowledge the complex web of factors that contributed to the outbreak of World War II, Adolf Hitler's actions, expansionist policies, and ideological motivations played a central and decisive role. His disregard for international agreements, military aggression, and

quest for territorial revisionism led to the invasion of Poland in 1939, directly triggering the war. Hitler's vision of a Greater German Empire, driven by his extreme nationalism and Aryan supremacy ideology, propelled him to pursue military conquests that ultimately resulted in the global conflict. Thus, while multiple factors were involved, Hitler's actions and ambitions make him a central figure responsible for the outbreak of World War II. *Fails to setup a conclusion of the question asked. It is talking to his motivations and has failed to speak of the Soviets, Britian, or France.*