

1. Versailles to Munich
 - a. Politics of the Peace
 - i. After failure at Gallipoli, 1915
 - ii. 1916, Press campaign for new PM
 - iii. New election 1918, first in 8 years, first in which women could vote
 - (1) David Lloyd George, the Liberal “PM who won the war” seeks mandate
 - (2) women’s vote goes to Conservatives
 - (3) “Squeeze them until the Pips squeak.”
 - iv. Paris Peace Conference fallout
 - (1) reparations crisis of 1923-24 (Dawes plan)
 - (2) Britain awarded League of Nations mandates
 - (3) Harsh settlement factor in world-wide depression of 1930s
 - b. British Domestic Politics, 1920s
 - i. Conservatives in 1920s under Stanley Baldwin embrace social reform
 - ii. 1929: Labour wins, and Ramsay MacDonald forms 2nd Labour Gov’t.
 - c. British Foreign Policy, 1920s
 - i. Empire?, Ireland?, Continent?
 - (1) Balfour Declaration, Nov. 1917 “His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people”
 - (2) Controlling Iraq/Mesopotamia
 - (3) Irish Question solved?
 - (a) end of World War I is “Time of Troubles” in Ireland
 - (b) General Election of 14 December 1918
 - (c) Attempt to institute Home Rule c. Dec. 1920
 - (d) Dáil Éireann, meets Dublin (21 Jan. 1919)
 - (e) Collins organizes the first modern guerilla war of selective terrorism
 - (f) Truce 11 July 1921
 - (g) Civil War 1922-1923
 - (i) Irish Free State Army (formed out of same IRA as their opponents) battles anti-treaty Republicans in gruesome war (5-800 dead officially [probably 1,600 unofficially], 77 executions, 3,000 wounded, 13,000 prisoners [10,000 held without trial], in less than a year)
 - ii. The Communist Question
 - (1) Labour party leads coalition to power briefly in 1924
 - (2) “A Communist,” wrote one Labour MP, 1914, “is no more a left wing member of the Labour Party than an atheist is a left wing member of the Christian Church”
 - iii. Conservative government and the Age of Satisfaction
 - (1) Stanley Baldwin and the Spirit of Locarno, 1925
 - d. The Great Depression at Home
 - i. 1920s: increase of class consciousness during the war, heightened by disorganized demobilization of war veterans (“first in, first out”)
 - (1) leads to decline in deference; increase in # strikes
 - ii. Great Depression
 - (1) In 1930s, Labour Cabinet divides over whether to cut expenses (such as cutting unemployment benefit) to balance the budget, or increase aid to the unemployed

- (2) MacDonald resigns, King George V convinces him to lead a National Government coalition (with Baldwin)
 - (a) reduces benefits, more rigorous Means Test (1931)
 - (b) 1931 elections vote of confidence in NG,
- (3) National Government
 - (a) 1931 Act restricts use of employment insurance fund to limited, short-term benefits, with assistance to the long term unemployed only after a Means Test (determining household value and income)
 - (b) Unemployment Act 1934 retained the Means Test.
 - (c) MacDonald loses support of Labour, resigns though NG renewed in elections of 1935
 - (d) 1935: Baldwin and Conservatives (428); Labour (157)
 - (e) 1937, Baldwin resigns and Chamberlain becomes PM
- iii. Depression was not just about the unemployed: Value of exports halved between 1929 and 1932; shattered faith in market economy
 - (1) Most acute in areas of declining traditional industries—coal, steel, textiles, shipbuilding—in the North and the West
 - (2) 1932 worst year of the Slump
- e. The Great Depression Abroad: The Gathering Storm
 - i. Sir Winston Churchill's 1st volume of his history of 2nd World War (1948)
 - ii. By 1935, Germany and Britain recovering from economic depression.
 - iii. International issues and foreign policy in 1930s
 - (1) 1935: Germany begins to rearm; Italy invades Ethiopia
 - (2) 1936 (year of abdication crisis of Edward VII in favor of brother George VI): Germany remilitarizes Rhineland; Spanish Civil War
 - (3) British reaction: indecision, middle road response, appeasement
 - (4) Germany's remilitarization of Rhineland viewed seriously because violated both Versailles Treaty and Treaty of Locarno
 - (a) Britain begins to rearm. Defense budget
 - (i) 1935 (£127 million)
 - (ii) 1938 (£343 million)
 - (iii) 1939 (£630 million)
 - (b) aircraft production increases 4 X
 - (5) Spanish Civil War: British volunteers (Orwell and others) fight for Spanish Republic against Franco's fascists. But British government joins with 26 other nations (not Italy nor Germany) to NOT support either side with arms
- f. Appeasement Crisis: 1938
 - i. Germany annexes Austria (*Anschluss*): Britain does little
 - ii. Germany demands "reunion" of parts of Czechoslovakia including 50% or more German-speaking. Crisis over what would be international response to German demands
 - (1) Sept. 1938, Chamberlain meets Hitler, settles agreement to turn over areas of Czech. only to find Hitler now demanding to turn over control by 1 Oct.
 - (2) Final conference, agrees to postpone German takeover for 10 days
 - iii. Why Appeasement?
 - (1) Appeasement, in general, and Neville Chamberlain, in particular (Conservative P.M., 1937-1940), have not had a good press since 1939. But what is it?
 - (a) Pacification through settlement of issues through

- negotiation and compromise
- (2) Both the Left Book Club and Churchill had been warning of the Hitler menace for several years
- (3) But appeasement and Chamberlain had support.
- (4) Why this strong belief in appeasement? In Chamberlain and throughout Britain?
 - (a) Not approval of Hitler, nor of fascism
 - (i) Britain did have fascists: Mosely's British Union of Fascists
 - (b) Instead, appeasement came from the mud of France and Flanders' fields, and from the Depression.
 - (i) general anti-war feeling
 - (ii) fear that next war would be worse: chemical, gas, and air power
 - (iii) Government and politicians recognize Britain's strategic, economic, and diplomatic weakness
 - (iv) result: feeble diplomacy
- (5) end of appeasement
 - (a) March 1939 German troops march into Prague.
 - (i) Chamberlain's popularity plummets
 - (ii) Britain quickly makes an alliance with Poland
 - (iii) May 1939, military conscription introduced
 - (iv) 3 Sept. 1939, as German troops pour into Poland, Britain demands Germany pull out.
 - (b) Winter 1939-40, the "phony war" as there is little Britain can do immediately to defend Poland
 - (i) May 1940, Censure of Chamberlain by Labour and some conservatives
 - (ii) Churchill brought in to run government