

Warnings Ignored

How treaty terms and a weak League helped create conditions for war

USII.4.f "examining how post-war sanctions and the failure of the League of Nations set the stage for World War II."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how the Treaty of Versailles caused anger or resentment in Germany. Circle two details that show why the League of Nations could not stop aggression, then use your marks to trace how these problems made another war more likely.

After the First World War

- ① After World War I, the Treaty of Versailles placed harsh terms on Germany. Germany had to accept blame for causing the war, pay reparations, give up land and colonies, and limit its military. Many Germans felt humiliated and angry. Reparations added pressure during hard economic years, although other problems also hurt Germany. Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party used these feelings in speeches. They promised to reject the treaty, rebuild the military, and restore German strength. These promises helped Hitler gain support.
- ② The League of Nations was created to help countries settle disputes before fighting began. However, it had serious weaknesses. The United States never joined, and the League had no army of its own. Important decisions often needed agreement from all members, which made quick action difficult. When Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931, the League criticized Japan but did not stop the invasion. This failure showed that the League's warnings could be ignored by powerful countries.
- ③ In 1935, Italy invaded Ethiopia, another League member. The League placed limited economic sanctions on Italy, but major powers did not fully enforce them, and Italy kept control of Ethiopia. Hitler watched as the League failed to stop aggression. Germany later broke the Treaty of Versailles by rebuilding its armed forces and sending troops into the Rhineland in 1936. Other nations did not use force to stop him. The treaty's resentment and the League's weakness did not cause war alone, but together they helped set the stage for World War II.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which two Treaty of Versailles terms in the passage could have made many Germans feel angry or humiliated?

2 How did Hitler and the Nazi Party use German resentment of the treaty to gain support?

3 Why did the League of Nations fail to stop Japan's invasion of Manchuria? Use one League weakness and what the League did.

4 How did the failures involving Japan and Italy affect Hitler's choices about Germany's military and the Rhineland?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences for a newspaper reader in 1936. Explain how one result of the Treaty of Versailles and one League weakness or failure could make another war more likely.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how the Treaty of Versailles caused anger or resentment in Germany. Circle two details that show why the League of Nations could not stop aggression, then use your marks to trace how these problems made another war more likely. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two Treaty of Versailles terms in the passage could have made many Germans feel angry or humiliated?	Any two: accepting blame for the war, paying reparations, giving up land and colonies, or limiting the military.
2	How did Hitler and the Nazi Party use German resentment of the treaty to gain support?	They promised to reject the treaty, rebuild the military, and restore German strength.
3	Why did the League of Nations fail to stop Japan's invasion of Manchuria? Use one League weakness and what the League did.	The League had weaknesses, including no army and difficulty making quick decisions. It criticized Japan but did not stop the invasion.
4	How did the failures involving Japan and Italy affect Hitler's choices about Germany's military and the Rhineland?	The failures showed that League warnings could be ignored. Hitler then rebuilt Germany's armed forces and sent troops into the Rhineland, while other nations did not use force to stop him.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Treaty of Versailles made many Germans resent the limits placed on their country. Hitler gained support by promising to reject those limits and rebuild Germany's military. Because the League had not stopped invasions, Hitler could believe other nations might not stop Germany, making another war more likely.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect explanations that connect German resentment to support for Hitler and League weakness to unchecked aggression. Students may use different treaty terms or League weaknesses named in the passage.