



Towards War!



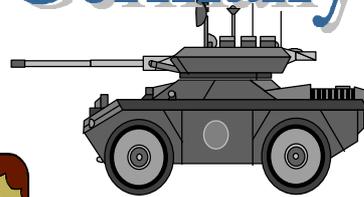
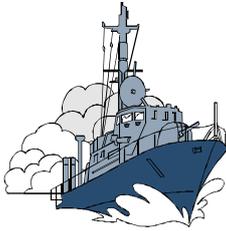
During the 1930's Europe suffered from a severe economic crisis. Germany, for example, had seven million people unemployed in 1932! The German people began to blame the government of their republic, which had been set up at the end of the First World War in 1918.

The Germans were defeated in the First World War and were held responsible for the death and destruction it had brought to millions of people throughout Europe. As a result of this the governments of the victorious countries ordered Germany to repay vast sums of money to repair the damage. This was decided at the Treaty of Versailles. The repayments were known as reparations.

Adolf Hitler's Nazi party were the government's biggest critics. His stirring speeches promising that Germany would once again be great, would no longer have to repay these vast sums of money and that all German people would have jobs appealed strongly to the mass of ordinary German people.

Adolf Hitler became the leader of Germany in 1933 and at once began to throw all his political opponents, particularly the communists into concentration camps. A huge army was formed and millions of people were given jobs to return to. For the German people in the early 1930's Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party promised to bring to an end the years of suffering that the Great Depression had brought to them.

The rise of Hitler's Germany!

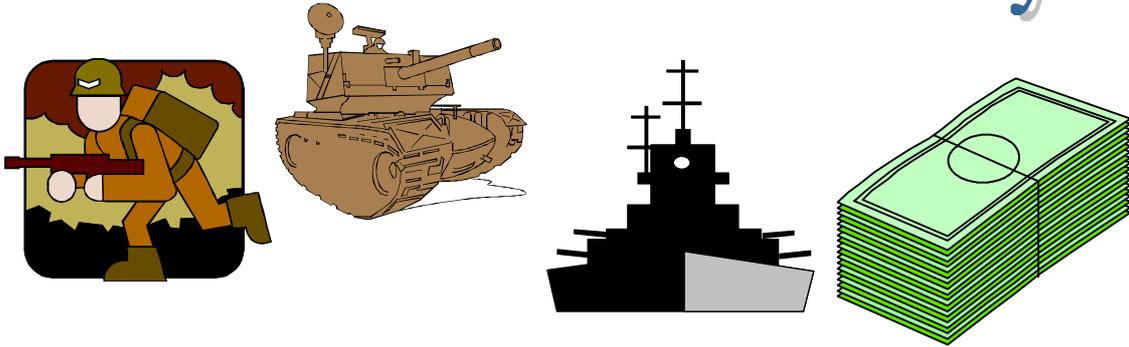


Once you have read through “Towards War!” Use the text to help you answer the following questions:

1. What does the term “economic crisis”, mean?
2. What does unemployment mean?
3. Why did the German people blame the government for their problems?
4. At which treaty was it decided that the Germans would have to repay vast sums of money?
5. What changes did Adolf Hitler propose to make?
6. What did Adolf Hitler do to a lot of his opponents?
7. Why do you think Hitler wanted to remove his opponents?
8. Although we now look back and say that Hitler was a very evil man, he was very popular in Germany during the 1930's. Why do you think this was?
9. Can you find a definition for the following words:

Economic	Government	Republic	Treaty	Reparations
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The rise of Hitler's Germany!



Use the text to help you complete the following:

1. Germany suffered from an economic crisis during the _____.
2. There were 7 million _____ people in Germany at the beginning of the 1930's.
3. The Germans were defeated in the _____.
4. Germany had to repay vast _____ for the damage and destruction caused during the _____ world war.
5. This was decided at the Treaty of _____.
6. The repayments were known as _____.
7. The government biggest critics were _____.
8. Adolf Hitler became the leader of Germany in _____.
9. Adolf Hitler through his political opponents into _____ camps.
10. Adolf Hitler promised to bring to an end _____
_____.