

The Treaty of Versailles and World War II

Name: _____

Date: _____

Treaty of Versailles Clauses (1919)

Surrender of all German overseas investments

Germany to pay billions of dollars in war reparations

Germany to surrender the coal-rich Saar Basin to France

Germany to be denied naval and air forces; military severely limited

Germany to accept the war guilt clause, which assigned blame for the war solely to the German people

Post-War Consequences (1920s)

→ stopped flow of trade (\$) into GR
 → in deep debt, depression!
 → loss of resources
 → massive inflation
 → high unemployment

→ weakened a proud military nation, robbed Germans of military pride
 → left Germany open to attack

→ tried to make all Germans feel guilty
 → they felt humiliated, angry
 → wanted revenge

Relationship to the Rise of Fascism and Hitler (Jan. 1933)

→ needed a strong leader to pull country out of depression
 → Hitler stopped making reparations payments, created jobs (military), people were working, industry boomed
 → got people on his side

→ Hitler promised to restore the military (∴ pride)
 → started munitions factories (gave jobs and wages) without question
 → military pomp and parades

→ H. played on these feelings
 → focused their hatred on Jews to unite them in the fight to restore Germany (common enemy)
 → led to WWII and the Holocaust