

On 29 September 1938, the leaders of France, Britain and Italy met with Hitler in Munich. Without consulting Czechoslovakia, they signed the Munich Agreement giving Hitler all of the Sudetenland. Hitler said he would not demand any more territory. British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, then came to a private agreement with Hitler stating their joint commitment to the use of consultation and negotiation to resolve any future issues between them. Chamberlain famously claimed this would bring 'peace in our time'.

Source 8

Hugo Jaeger's 29 September 1938 photograph showing British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain with Nazi officials at Oberwiesenfeld airport, Munich. Chamberlain and French President Edouard Daladier were each taken from there to Hitler's Munich office to await his arrival.

Neville Chamberlain



Source 9

The famous photograph of 1 October 1938 showing Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain waving the piece of paper that he claimed would create 'peace in our time'



Source questions

- 1 What does source 8 indicate about Chamberlain's arrival in Munich? [Hint: Who was not present?]
- 2 Explain the context for source 9.

In March 1939, Hitler's troops took over the rest of Czechoslovakia. Poland was his next likely target and Britain and France told him they would go to war with Germany if he invaded Poland. Hitler did not take this threat seriously. Germany invaded Poland on 1 September 1939. On 2 September, Britain and France declared war on Germany.

Appeasement was at an end and Europe was at war. Within the next few months, German forces took over Belgium, Norway, the Netherlands and 60 per cent of France.

Japan and the origins of World War II

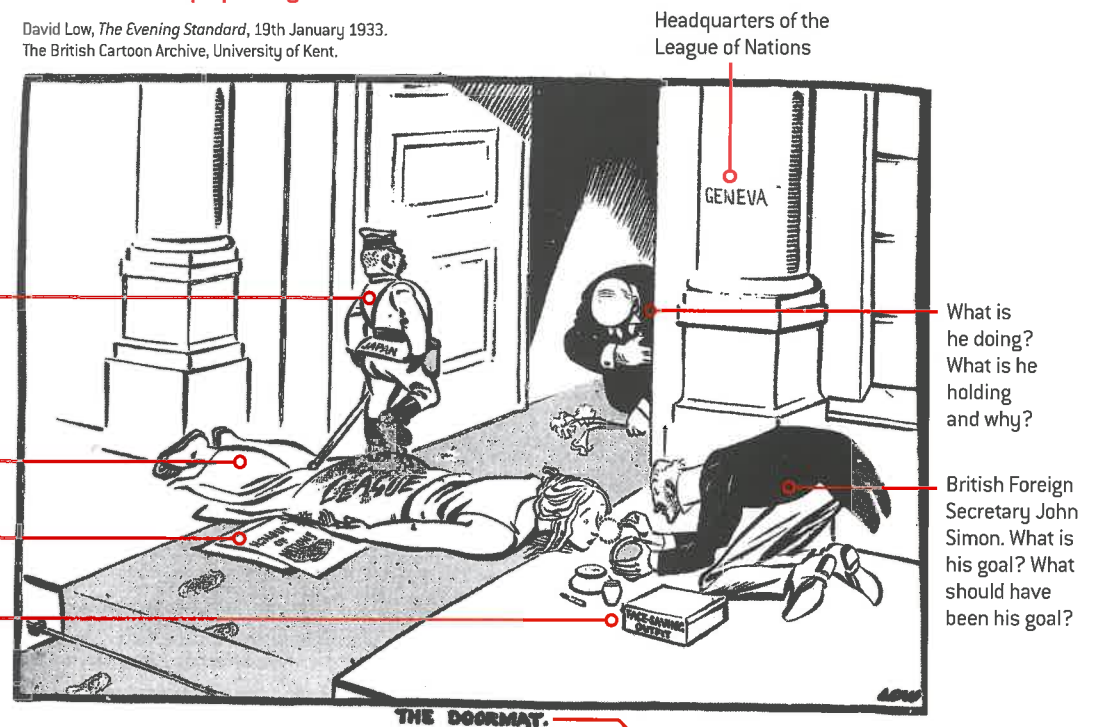
Japan suffered significantly during the Great Depression, especially when both China and the United States placed trade barriers on Japanese imports. The military gradually extended its influence within Japan's government. Its goal was to make Japan a world power and solve Japan's problems by forcefully taking land elsewhere.

In 1931, Japanese forces invaded Manchuria and in 1932 established it as the 'independent' state of Manchukuo (Manchukuo). This gave Japan access to important timber, coal, iron, oil and gold resources. Military commanders refused to obey Japan's civilian government's orders to withdraw and also began attacks on the Chinese city of Shanghai. In early 1933, the League of Nations ordered the Japanese out of Manchuria. Japan resigned its membership. The League had no army to enforce its decision and could not rely on its members to provide one.

Source 10

'The Doormat', a cartoon by famous New Zealand cartoonist David Low (1891–1963), whose work for the London newspaper the *Evening Standard* in the 1930s and 1940s led to the Gestapo placing him on a death list

David Low, *The Evening Standard*, 19th January 1933.
The British Cartoon Archive, University of Kent.



Which nation does this represent? Why is the character in uniform?

Who is she? How has the soldier treated her?

The Covenant of the League of Nations (i.e. its rule book)

Whose face? Why does it need saving? What is the significance?

What is he doing? What is he holding and why?

British Foreign Secretary John Simon. What is his goal? What should have been his goal?

Source questions

- 1 Describe what is happening in source 10.
- 2 What does source 10 indicate about Low's attitude to:
 - (a) Japan
 - (b) the League of Nations
 - (c) Great Britain?
- 3 What techniques does Low use to convey this message?

In July 1937, Japanese forces invaded east China. Japan also took advantage of the weaknesses of the powers who were involved in war in Europe. In 1940, Japan occupied French Indochina. Its next target was the rubber and oil resources in the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia). US President Franklin Roosevelt responded by:

- giving loans and military assistance to China
- freezing Japan's assets in the United States
- placing increasingly severe restrictions on trade with Japan.

On 7 December 1941, the US naval fleet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii was attacked by 300 Japanese planes. The following day, the United States announced that it was at war with Japan. The war in the Pacific had begun.

In 1940, Japan, Italy and Germany had signed the Three Power Pact, cementing their Axis power partnership. Because of this pact, Hitler declared war on the United States on 11 December 1941 bringing the United States into the European war as well. Britain drew her former colonies into the conflict. In June 1941, German troops invaded the