NameDate	
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DBQ: Causes of World War II

Historical Context:

Even though the 1920's began with a favorable outlook for peace, toward the end of the decade and throughout the 1930's the clouds of war were forming. Dictators arose in countries that were dissatisfied with the results of World War I. Germany, Italy and Japan took aggressive actions, and neither the League of Nations nor the democratic countries were able or willing to stop them. British Prime Minister Chamberlain suggested the best way to deal with Hitler was a policy of appearement. Actions were taken that moved Europe toward war. The debate over the causes of World War II provides different perspectives.

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying documents in Part A. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of the document and the author's point of view. Be sure to:

- 1. Carefully read the document-based question. Consider what you already know about this topic.
- 2. How would you answer the question if you had no documents to examine?
- 3. Now, read each document carefully, underlining key phrases and words that address the
- 4. document-based question. You may also wish to use the margin to make brief notes. Answer the questions which follow each document.
- 5. Based on your own knowledge and on the information found in the documents, formulate a thesis that directly answers the question.
- 6. Organize supportive and relevant information into a brief outline.
- 7. Write a well-organized essay proving your thesis. The essay should be logically presented and should include information both from the documents and from your own knowledge outside of the documents.

Question: Why was the world plunged into World War II in 1939? What is the most effective response to aggression—appearement or collective security?

Part A: The following documents provide information about the steps leading to World War II. Examine the documents carefully, and answer the questions that follow.

Document 1: In this excerpt from Mein Kampf, Adolph Hitler explains some of his ideas.

One blood demands one Reich. Never will the German nation have the moral right to enter into colonial politics until, at least, it includes its own sons within a single state. . . . Oppressed territories are led back to the bosom of a common Reich, not by flaming protests, but by a mighty sword.

Document 2: After Italy attacked Ethiopia, Haile Selassie, emperor of Ethiopia, asked the League of Nations for help in stopping the invasion. He asked for military sanctions but the League of Nations' response was ineffective. Haile Selassie used these words to the League of Nations:

God and history will remember your judgment. . . . It is us today. It will be you tomorrow.

Document 3: Hitler promised to tear up the Versailles Treaty. Specifically, the treaty forbade German troops from entering the Rhineland, a buffer zone between Germany and France. The texts of two

headlines and articles from The New York Times of March 8, 1936, explain this issue from the German and the French points of view.

HITLER SENDS GERMAN TROOPS INTO RHINELAND

Berlin, March 7—Germany today cast off the last shackles fastened upon her by the Treaty of Versailles when Adolf Hitler, as commander-in-chief of the Reich defense forces, sent his new battalions into the Rhineland's demilitarized zone. . . . "After three years of ceaseless battle," Hitler concluded, "I look upon this day as marking the close of the struggle for German equality status and with that re-won equality the path is now clear for Germany's return to European collective cooperation."

PARIS APPEALS TO LEAGUE

Paris, March 7—France has laid Germany's latest treaty violation before the Council of the League of Nations. At the same time the French government made it quite clear that there could be no negotiation with Germany . . . as long as a single German soldier remained in the Rhineland in contravention ([violation] of Germany's signed undertakings [agreements]. . . . What is essential, in the French view, is that the German government must be compelled by diplomatic pressure first and by stronger pressure if need be, to withdraw from the Rhineland.

Document 4: As German aggression continued in 1938, Britain, France, and Italy met with Hitler to discuss his demands for the Sudetenland, a section of Czechoslovakia. This radio broadcast by William Shirer describes what happened at this meeting.

William Shirer: It took the Big Four just five hours and twenty-five minutes here in Munich today to dispel the clouds of war and come to an agreement over the partition of Czechoslovakia. There is to be no European war... the price of that peace is... the ceding by Czechoslovakia of the Sudeten territory to Herr Hitler's Germany. The German Fuhrer gets what he wanted... His waiting ten short days has saved Europe from a world war... most of the peoples of Europe are happy that they won't have to go marching off to war... Probably only the Czechs... are not too happy. But there seems very little that they can do about it in face of all the might and power represented here.

Document 5

In this speech to Parliament, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain explains why he favored a policy of appearement in dealing with Hitler at Munich in 1938.

With a little good will and determination, it is possible to remove grievances and clear away suspicion...We must try to bring these four nations into friendly discussion. If they can settle their differences, we shall save the peace of Europe for a generation. And, in The Times (London): I shall not give up the hope of a peaceful solution. . . . We sympathize with a small nation faced by a big and powerful neighbor. But we cannot involve the whole British Empire in war simply on her account. If we have to fight, it must be on larger issues than that. . . . I am a man of peace. . . . Yet if I were sure that any nation had made up its mind to dominate the world by fear of its force, I should feel that it must be resisted. . . . But war is a fearful thing.

Document 6

Winston Churchill disagreed with Chamberlain's policy of appeasement. In this speech to Parliament, Churchill warned England about following a policy of appeasement.

I have always held the view that keeping peace depends on holding back the aggressor. After Hitler's seizure of Austria in March, I appealed to the government. I asked that Britain, together with France and other powers, guarantee the security of Czechoslovakia. If that course had been followed, events would not have fallen into this disastrous state. . . . in time, Czechoslovakia will be swallowed by the Nazi regime. . . . I think of all the opportunities to stop the growth of Nazi power which have been thrown away. The responsibility must rest with those who have control of our political affairs. They neither prevented Germany from rearming, nor did they rearm us in time. They weakened the League of Nations...Thus they left us in the hour of trial without a strong national defense or system of international security.

Document 7

In this excerpt from Russia and the West Under Lenin and Stalin, George F. Kennan offers another critical view of the Munich Agreement (Boston: Atlantic Little Brown, 1961).

The Munich Agreement was a . . . desperate act of appeasement at the cost of the Czechoslovak state, performed by Chamberlin and French premier, Daladier, in the vain hope that it would satisfy Hitler's stormy ambition, and thus secure for Europe a peaceful future. We know today that is was unnecessary...Because the Czech defenses were very strong . . . and because the German generals, conscious of Germany's relative weakness at that moment, were actually prepared to attempt to remove Hitler . . . had he continued to move forward.

Document 8

In this excerpt adapted from British historian A. J. P. Taylor's The Origins of the Second World War (New York: Atheneum, 1965, p. 291), another point of view on appearement is presented.

Can any sane man suppose . . . that other countries could have intervened by armed force in 1933 to overthrow Hitler when he had come to power by constitutional means and was apparently supported by a large majority of the German people. The Germans put Hitler in power; they were the only ones who could turn him out. Also the "appeasers" feared that the defeat of Germany would be followed by a Russian domination over much of Europe.

Document 9

In this excerpt by Keith Eubank from Origins of World War II, the author argues that the discussion about stopping Hitler prior to 1939 was not an issue for several reasons.

... neither the people nor the government of [Britain and France] were conditioned to the idea of war. ... Before September 1, 1939, Hitler had done nothing that any major power considered dangerous enough to warrant precipitating [starting] a major European war. Nor was there any existing coalition that could have opposed Hitler's massive forces. For Britain sought to appease Hitler [and] the French feared a repetition of the bloody sacrifices of 1914-1918. Stalin wanted an agreement with Hitler on partitioning Europe and the United States rejected all responsibility for Europe.

Part B—Essav

Why was the world plunged into World War II in 1939? What is the most effective response to aggression—appearement or collective security?

Rubric For Document Based Essays (DBQs)From New York State

Score of 5:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth
- Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates information)
- Incorporates relevant information from at least (1/2 +1) documents
- Incorporates substantial relevant outside information
- Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

Score of 4:

- Develops all aspects of the task but may do so somewhat unevenly
- Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates information)
- Incorporates relevant information from at least (1/2 + 1) documents
- Incorporates relevant outside information
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

Score of 3:

- Develops all aspects of the task with little depth or develops most aspects of the task in some depth
- Is more descriptive than analytical (applies, may analyze, and/or evaluate information)
- Incorporates some relevant information from some of the documents
- Incorporates limited relevant outside information
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details; may include some minor inaccuracies
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that may be a restatement of the theme

Score of 2:

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task or develops some aspects of the task in some depth
- Is primarily descriptive; may include faulty, weak, or isolated application or analysis
- Incorporates limited relevant information from the documents *or* consists primarily of relevant information copied from the documents
- Presents little or no relevant outside information
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details; may include some inaccuracies
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; may lack focus; may contain digressions; may not clearly identify which aspect of the task is being addressed; may lack an introduction and/or a conclusion

Score of 1:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task
- Is descriptive; may lack understanding, application, or analysis
- Makes vague, unclear references to the documents or consists primarily of relevant and irrelevant information copied from the documents
- Presents no relevant outside information
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details; may include inaccuracies
- May demonstrate a weakness in organization; may lack focus; may contain digressions; may not clearly identify which aspect of the task is being addressed; may lack an introduction and/or a conclusion

Name	Period	
	DBQ: Causes of World War II	
Document 1: What did Hitler s	suggest was needed for Germany? How would that lead to war?	
Document 2: According to Hai	ile SelassieWho should intervene in Ethiopia? Why?	
	efy the Treaty of Versialles? How did he justify this defiance?	
Document 3: How did France r	react to Hitler's violation of the Treaty of Versailles? Evaluate their response.	
Document 4: Describe what ha	appened at the Munich Conference. How does Shirer view the result?	

Document 6: What is Churchill's suggestion regarding the growth of Nazi power? What is his opinion of appeasement?
appeasement?
Document 7: Why does Kennan criticize the Munich Agreement?
Document 8: According to Taylor, why was appearement a logical strategy?
Document 9: According to this historian, why wasn't Hitler stopped prior to WWII?