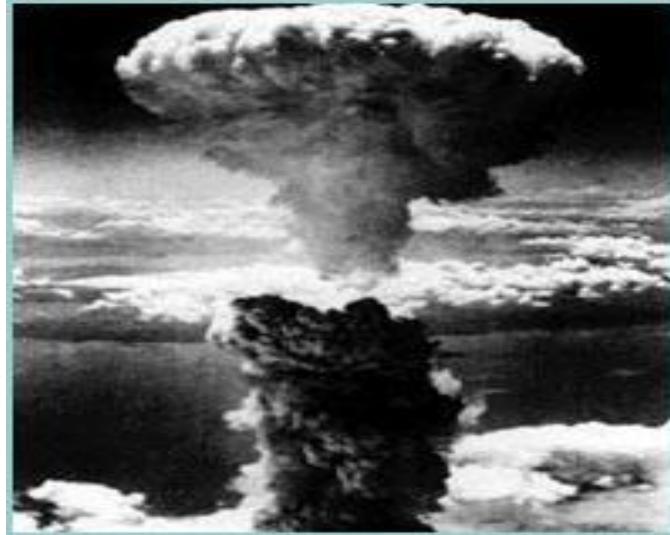


## Grade 9 Social Sciences Worksheet

### World War 2 in context

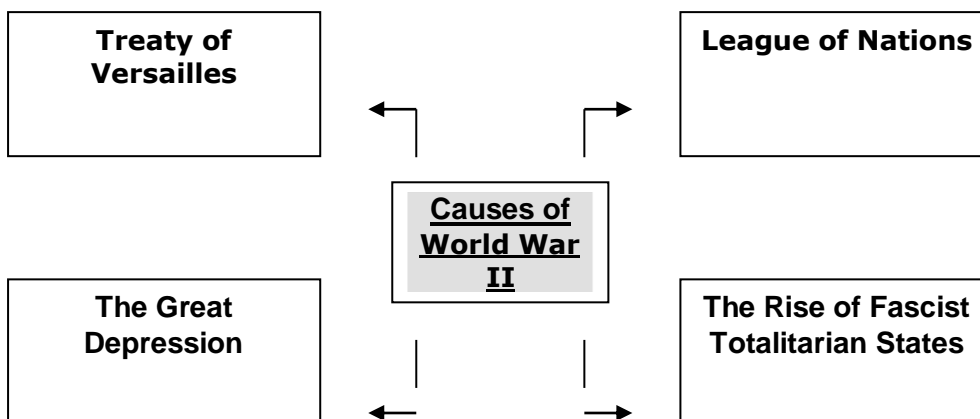


*The Atom Bomb, which was dropped on both Hiroshima and Nagasaki*

### Human rights issues during and after World War Two

World War II refers to a worldwide conflict that took place between 1939 and 1945. It was an expensive and destructive war that involved extreme human suffering, fierce propaganda and indoctrination, and the use of devastating new weapons [e.g. Atom Bomb].

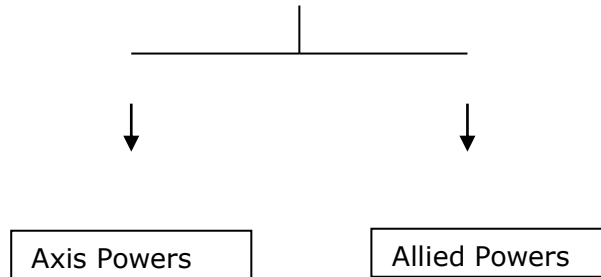
There were numerous causes that contributed to the outbreak of World War II. Although historians debate over the causes, the following factors did play a role:



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In the build-up to the outbreak of World War II, two sides were formed that fought against each other during the war.



1. Name the Axis and Allied powers. [6]

Germany and the Axis powers were eventually defeated by the Allied powers in 1945. The USA and Russia emerged as the “Superpowers” after World War II. It has been estimated that between 40 – 60 million people died as a result of the war – many of them being civilians. The high rate of death amongst civilians was due to the Holocaust [genocide] and the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

2. Draw a timeline in which you place the following events of WW2 into context.

1914 – Outbreak of World War I  
1918 – End of World War I  
1919 – Signing of the Treaty of Versailles  
1920 – Formation of the League of Nations  
1929 – The Great Depression  
1934 – Hitler becomes dictator of Germany  
1939 – Outbreak of World War II  
1941 – Bombing of Pearl Harbour  
1944 – D-Day Landings  
1945 – Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

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Read the extract on the Great Depression below and answer the questions.

### What was the Great Depression?

The Great Depression was an economic and industrial slump that affected North America, Europe and other industrialised areas of the world, as well as their trading partners in less developed nations. It began in 1929 and lasted until 1939. The Depression started in the United States but soon turned into a worldwide economic crisis. In Germany, for example, unemployment rose sharply, factory production levels halved, and the value of the German currency, the mark, plummeted. Germans blamed their system of government, a view that later helped the Nazi Party to rise to power.



*Life during the Great Depression*

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- 3.1 Name the country whose stock exchange collapsed causing the Great Depression. [1]
- 3.2 Why do you think the period between 1929 and 1939 is called the Great Depression? [2]
- 3.3 Why was Germany so badly affected by the Great Depression? [3]
- 3.4 The figures below show unemployment statistics in Germany during the Great Depression:
- 1929 – 1 320 000
  - 1930 – 3 000 000
  - 1931 – 4 350 000
  - 1932 – 5 102 000
  - 1933 – 6 000 000
- Plot the figures on a bar or line graph. [5]
- 3.5 Use the information from your graph to say which year showed the biggest increase in the unemployment rate in Germany. [1]
- 3.6 The German economic collapse paved the way for Hitler to rise to power. Explain. [3]

**[15 Marks]**

4. Explain the meaning of the following words within the context of the work on World War II:

World War  
propaganda  
indoctrination  
genocide  
Holocaust  
dictator  
fascist  
superpower  
League of Nations  
depression

[10]

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### Suggested Solutions

1. AXIS – Germany, Italy, Japan ALLIED – Great Britain, USA, Russia
2. Draw a timeline in which you place the following events of WW2 into context.

1914– Outbreak of World War I

1918 – End of World War I

1919 – Signing of the Treaty of Versailles

1920 – Formation of the League of Nations

1929 – The Great Depression

1934 – Hitler becomes dictator of Germany

1939 – Outbreak of World War 2

1941 – Bombing of Pearl Harbour

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1944 – D-Day Landings

1945 – Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

3.1 USA

3.2 The economic slow-down was the biggest ever and affected the whole world.

3.3 They were still recovering from WW1 and the economic burden imposed by the reparations after WW1 in the Treaty of Versailles.

3.4



3.5 1930

3.6 People were desperate and Hitler blamed the Jews and the Allies for the German plight. He was very positive about Germans.

4. *World War* – a war being fought in several different parts of the world by a large number of countries

*propaganda* – biased information designed to deliver a particular political message

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*indoctrination* – continually telling people to believe certain untruths so often that they actually do believe them

*genocide* – the mass murder of a particular group of people of similar genetic origin, e.g. the Jews

*Holocaust* – the mass murder of the Jews by the Nazis [literally a ‘fire storm’]

*dictator* – a leader who rules by absolute power

*fascist* – a radical authoritarian form of government

*superpower* – a country that has sufficient military and political power to influence events on a global scale

*League of Nations* – a group of nations formed after WW1 to promote world co-operation

*depression* – a period of economic slow-down resulting in large-scale unemployment