



The Man With the Plan

Springboard:

The students should read “ _____ ” and answer the questions.

Objective: The student will be able to explain Hitler’s plans for Germany leading up to World War II.

Materials: “ _____ ” (Springboard handout)
In His Words (handout)
What’s the Plan? (handout)

Terms to know: **inflation** - rapid rise in cost of goods and services
empire - country that controls itself and others
repeal - to undo a law or treaty
expel - to kick out; force someone to leave

Procedure:

- After reviewing the Springboard, explain that *this lesson examines the plans Adolf Hitler laid out for Germany that would cause tension and fear in Europe and eventually lead to war.*
- Distribute “In His Words” and “What’s the Plan?” The student(s) should work independently or in pairs to read the speech and complete the analysis form. (FYI: “In His Words” is a combination of an actual speech given by Hitler in 1930 and information from the Nazi party platform that was published in 1920.)
- Have them share their ideas and discuss. (Answers may vary and include: *repeal the Versailles Treaty, gain more territory for Germany, expel non-Germans, etc.*) Then lead a discussion of the following questions:
 - ? Who do you think might have responded positively to these plans? (*The German people who were suffering economically and humiliated and angry over the Versailles Treaty.*)
 - ? Why do you think these plans would cause tension and fear in Europe? (*Hitler’s words and intentions were very aggressive. He seemed to be trying to inflame the anger that was already present in Germany. Also, the people of Europe well-remembered how Germany started World War I.*)

Europe faced many problems in the years after World War I. Since the war was fought mainly on European soil, much was destroyed. After the war ended, countries immediately set about the tasks of replanting their fields and rebuilding their factories. Still, the process was long and costly.

The situation in Germany was even worse than elsewhere, since the Treaty of Versailles had stripped the country of all means of making money. Without trade, ships or mines, Germany was doomed to debt. **Inflation** in the country skyrocketed, such that the German mark was worthless! The Weimar Republic, the government the Allies had helped establish, was extremely unpopular with the German people. They blamed their new government for accepting the hated treaty and for their economic problems as well.

When the worldwide depression began in 1929, Germany’s misery worsened. The people were desperate for help, which did come with the election of Adolf Hitler in 1933. Representing the new National Socialist Party (or Nazi Party), Hitler promised to strengthen Germany and relieve the people’s poverty. This he did by beginning a massive military build-up. The Germans once again had jobs and hope.

Next, Hitler set out to restore Germany’s wounded national pride. In 1936 he joined with Italy to form the Axis Powers and began empire building. The League of Nations, a peacekeeping organization formed after the war, tried to stop Hitler’s aggression; but without armies the League was truly powerless. Neighboring nations were once again alarmed and began their own military build-ups. Once again a rival alliance, “the Allies,” formed, and once again tensions rose.

The best title for this passage would be

- A. Treaty of Versailles
- B. Depression in Europe
- C. Years Between the Wars
- D. Adolph Hitler and the Axis

The term “**inflation**” in the second paragraph **MOST LIKELY** has to do with

- A. manufacturing.
- B. war
- C. trade.
- D. money.

Which statement best describes a **CAUSE** of the Treaty of Versailles?

- A. Germany deserved to be punished since it started the war.
- B. The Allies established the Weimar Republic in Germany.
- C. Germans blamed their government for all their problems.
- D. Adolf Hitler was elected to power in Germany in 1933.

Which statement does **NOT** explain Hitler’s rise to power in Germany?

- A. Germans had to replant farms and rebuild factories.
- B. The German people hated the Treaty of Versailles.
- C. A worldwide depression hit Germany very hard.
- D. Hitler promised to relieve the people’s poverty.

Answers and Explanations for “_____”

Europe faced many problems in the years after World War I. Since the war was fought mainly on European soil, much was destroyed. After the war ended, countries immediately set about the tasks of replanting their fields and rebuilding their factories. Still, the process was long and costly.

The situation in Germany was even worse than elsewhere, since the Treaty of Versailles had stripped the country of all means of making money. Without trade, ships or mines, Germany was doomed to debt. **Inflation** in the country skyrocketed, such that the German mark was worthless! The Weimar Republic, the government the Allies had helped establish, was extremely unpopular with the German people. They blamed their new government for accepting the hated treaty and for their economic problems as well.

When the worldwide depression began in 1929, Germany’s misery worsened. The people were desperate for help, which did come with the election of Adolf Hitler in 1933. Representing the new National Socialist Party (or Nazi Party), Hitler promised to strengthen Germany and relieve the people’s poverty. This he did by beginning a massive military build-up. The Germans once again had jobs and hope.

Next, Hitler set out to restore Germany’s wounded national pride. In 1936 he joined with Italy to form the Axis Powers and began empire building. The League of Nations, a peacekeeping organization formed after the war, tried to stop Hitler’s aggression; but without armies the League was truly powerless. Neighboring nations were once again alarmed and began their own military build-ups. Once again a rival alliance, “the Allies,” formed, and once again tensions rose.

The best title for this passage would be

- A. Treaty of Versailles
 - B. Depression in Europe
 - C. Years Between the Wars *
 - D. Adolph Hitler and the Axis
- (C is the most general of the four choices; the rest are details.)*

The term “inflation” in the second paragraph **MOST LIKELY** has to do with

- A. manufacturing.
 - B. war
 - C. trade.
 - D. money. *
- (The sentence refers to the value of the German mark, Germany’s currency.)*

Which statement best describes a **CAUSE** of the Treaty of Versailles?

- A. Germany deserved to be punished since it started the war. *
 - B. The Allies established the Weimar Republic in Germany.
 - C. Germans blamed their government for all their problems.
 - D. Adolf Hitler was elected to power in Germany in 1933.
- (Choices B, C and D are effects or part of the treaty.)*

Which statement does **NOT** explain Hitler’s rise to power in Germany?

- A. Germans had to replant farms and rebuild factories. *
 - B. The German people hated the Treaty of Versailles.
 - C. A worldwide depression hit Germany very hard.
 - D. Hitler made Germans feel good about themselves.
- (While it could be argued that Choice A contributed to it, all of Europe had to rebuild and didn’t fall to dictators like Hitler. The other situations all contributed to Germans’ misery and desire to regain their glory.)*

In His Words



“My dear German people, the time has come for us to stand up and demand the respect and equality that has been denied us in the world recently. We must expect and demand that the terrible Treaty of Versailles be repealed. The terms of this vile document assume that we will take the abuse it has heaped upon us like a dying animal ...lying down. But no! Parliaments do not create the rights of people on this earth; force creates rights!

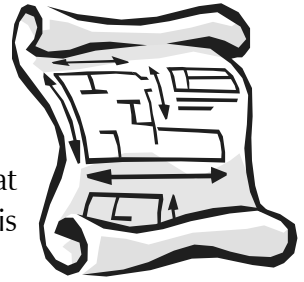
If the German people do not solve the problems this wicked treaty has wrought, and if we do not open up markets for its industry, then 2,000 years of our glorious history have been in vain, a complete waste. If this is what you my people want, than I will gladly join you in exiting the world stage, and nations with more vigor can take our place.

But, if you believe like I do that our place among world nations must be fought for and maintained. If you think, as I do, that people who are lazy have no right to the soil. If you agree that soil is for him that tills it and protects it, then you must fight with me! We have more right to our soil than all the other nations because we are so thickly populated. So you must demand what I demand! We must demand the union of all German peoples in one Great Germany. We must demand land and territory for the feeding of our people and the settlement of our surplus population! We must demand our mines and our ships, our strength!

But this is not all dear Germans. We have to protect ourselves from the enemies that live in our midst. We must insist that only members of our nation can be citizens. Only those of true German blood should be members of the great German nation. Those who are not citizens can live in Germany but only as guests living under our laws. The state will take care of its own, but only its own. Citizens will be provided with work, but if it is not possible to feed the entire population, non-citizens must be expelled to save valuable resources for the German people.

If you join me, proud people of Germany, you will see the sky is the limit for us. We will take back what has been wrongly stolen from us. We join once more with our German brothers and sisters who have been forced to live under new borders established by the despicable Versailles Treaty. We will once again work and provide for our families in the factories and mines that are rightfully ours. We will defend ourselves from our enemies. And most importantly, once and for all, we will hold our heads high as Germans – a people of a proud land!”

WHAT'S THE PLAN?



DIRECTIONS: Using passages from the speech, determine what Hitler wants and is willing to do to achieve his goals. Then, decide if his actions are reasonable or not, explaining your answers.

Goals/Plans	Evidence from the speech	Reasonable?