

## History - Causes of World War 2

World war 2 (WW2) lasted from 1939 until 1945. It began little more than twenty years after the end of WW1 when so many people died in what some people called "The war to end all wars".

Why did the world go to war again so quickly? There were several causes. Read the text below and then see if you can match them to the causes of playground conflict that we identified and ranked.

Some can be used more than once.

Some causes of playground conflict don't link to WW2 causes.

Some causes of WW2 don't link to playground conflict (but perhaps you can think of a way in which they do?)

1. It's all a misunderstanding
  2. Someone cheats in a game
  3. One person has hurt another person's friend
  4. Two people have been in an argument or a fight before
  5. Someone goes back on their word
  6. Someone is being racist or sexist
  7. One person is angry about something unconnected
  8. One person in the argument is just a bad person
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- a. Adolf Hitler and many others at the time believed that the best kind of people were blonde haired, blue eyed and tall. Others, including Jews, Black people, Gypsies, disabled people were inferior and had no right to live.
  - b. Britain decided to declare war on Germany after German soldiers invaded Poland. Britain and Poland were allies.
  - c. Germany was defeated in WW1. The winners of that war were Britain, America, France and Russia. They made Germany pay money to make up for the damage caused. For years afterwards, ordinary German people suffered and often couldn't afford much food.
  - d. Germany made a deal with Russia not to invade it. But then they invaded it anyway.
  - e. Politicians in Britain didn't want another war. For years, they ignored the terrible things that the Nazis were doing in Germany.
  - f. Hitler wanted to be a powerful person. He made himself Chancellor and President of Germany as well as a judge. That's like being the Prime Minister, the King, and the chief judge.