

You are a member of the British government. You have some vital decisions to make regarding Hitler's actions.

<p>March 1935</p> <p>Hitler is now the Fuhrer and one of his first actions is to introduce conscription - in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles. What will you do?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Demand he stop - the Treaty of Versailles is a key aspect of the peace settlement. Discuss the situation with Hitler and allow him to increase the size of the German army. Ignore the breach - everyone knows Versailles was too harsh on Germany. Be happy - a strong Germany is a better buffer against the communists in the USSR. 	<p>June 1935</p> <p>Hitler wants to build more ships and develop new submarines so as to make the German navy stronger. The Versailles treaty forbade this as its aim was to keep Germany weak. What will you do?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Tell Hitler to stop. The Versailles peacemakers were right to be scared of an Arms Race. Discuss with France - maybe an agreement can be reached. Unilaterally sign an agreement with Hitler that allows the German navy to get bigger but ensures it is still smaller than Britain's navy. Praise Hitler for doing this - it is a sensible way to create jobs. Britain should do the same!
<p>March 1936</p> <p>Hitler has marched German troops into the Rhineland in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles. France is very worried and wants Britain to support her in demanding it be demilitarized again.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support France and present a united front. British and French soldiers will force Hitler to withdraw. Support France by agreeing she can move French troops into Rhineland to force a withdrawal. Play situation down with France - it's not such a big deal - it is German land after all. Totally ignore France's concerns - they always see the worst in Germany's actions - old enmities. 	<p>March 1938</p> <p>Hitler, at his second attempt, annexes Austria and this time Mussolini does not stop him so it is left to you to decide what to do about this blatant attempt to create the Anschluss, even though it was forbidden by the Paris Peace Settlement as it will strengthen Germany.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Work with France and the League of Nations to demand Hitler withdraws. Discuss the situation with Hitler. Ignore - they are all German-speakers and Hitler says they want to join with Germany. Be happy - anything that makes Germany stronger has to be a good thing. Communism - not Fascism - is the real danger.

Hitler and the policy of appeasement: You are a member of the British government. You have some decisions to make regarding Hitler's actions. What will you advise the government to do?

Situation	Your advice	Why are you advising this?	What actually happened	Reasons why
<p>Hitler has enlarged the German army by introducing C.....</p> <p>He says it needs to be bigger than the 100,000 men allowed by the Treaty of Versailles to protect Germany.</p>				
<p>Hitler wants more than the 100 battleships Germany is allowed. This could threaten Britain's control of the seas and start another a..... r..... between the great powers.</p>				

<p>France obtained a de Rhineland as a buffer zone on her border with Germany. Hitler has now re..... it.</p>				
<p>Hitler has a Austria - he says to protect the country. This is the first time his breaking of the Treaty has had a direct impact on t outside of Germany.</p>				

Hitler and appeasement - What really happened?

March 1935

The British government chose option C - with a possible nod towards option D from some members of the Conservative party. They did this because the feeling was that Treaty had been too harsh and that a strong, self-confident Germany would indeed be better for Britain - which is what Lloyd George had himself believed at the time of the Paris Peace Settlement.

June 1935

The British government chose option C - much to France's dismay. France felt Britain was failing in her duty as an ally and was not helping to keep Germany weak and therefore a limited threat to France. Britain signed the Anglo-German Naval Accord which meant Hitler could claim that Britain was complicit in his breaking of the Treaty.

March 1936

The British government chose option C - again France was horrified and dismayed that Britain seemed to attach so little importance to French concerns about having German armed forces on her border.

March 1938

The British government chose option C although it was with an element of wishful thinking. They had been pleased and relieved when Mussolini had stood up to Hitler before in 1934 and prevented the Anschluss as he had no desire to have German troops on the border with Italy but this time, after the Abyssinian Crisis, Mussolini is more friendly with Hitler than he is with Britain and France. The Stresa Front has been replaced by the Pact of Steel.