**Arguments For and Against Appeasement**

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| Many people felt that the Treaty of Versailles had been too harsh and therefore it was fair to allow Hitler and Germany to overturn parts of it like remilitarising the Rhineland. | Appeasement was morally wrong because it gave countries to the Nazis who then persecuted people who were not German. This was seen in Austria and Czechoslovakia. | People misjudged Hitler. They thought that he was reasonable. However, in the 1920s he had made it clear that violence was required so should have known better. |
| Britain was not in a position to fight another war in the early 1930s. It was not until 1936 that rearmament started and it was estimated it would take four years. | Following the Munich Agreement, Chamberlain was greeted as a hero. This reflected the view that the British public did not want war and Chamberlain was supporting them. | Hitler kept telling people, including the British, that he wanted peace in Europe. They believed him and at the beginning had no reason to doubt what he said. |
| As Hitler was given more, the more confident he grew at pushing the boundaries. This is clear when he was given the Sudetenland, he then knew he could take the rest of Czechoslovakia. Chamberlain could have stood up to Hitler’s demands earlier. | The effects of WWI were devastating. It was estimated that 17 million people were killed and a further 20 million were wounded. Therefore Chamberlain, who lost his own son, understood people’s pain had would do anything to avoid other people going through the same. | People of Britain clearly did not want another war. In 1934 a ‘Peace Ballot’ was held. The vast majority of people said that they had faith in the League of Nations and the idea of collective security. They felt strongly that military action should not be taken. |
| The Great Depression meant that Britain and France could not afford a war. Instead their people felt that they should concentrate on their own problems instead rather than dealing with issues involving other countries. | Many opportunities were missed to stop Hitler. Before remilitarising the Rhineland he said the German army was not strong enough. If France and Britain had acted the war may have been avoided. | Appeasement alienated the USSR. Stalin could have potentially been an ally for Britain and France who would have stopped Hitler. However appeasement strained relationships between these countries. |
| Events like Anschluss were overwhelmingly voted for. This showed that people wanted to be part of Greater Germany therefore it was right to allow them to do so. | The appeasers forced Czechoslovakia to back down. However, as a strong country they could have helped stop Hitler’s invasion. | Throughout, the USA said they would not get involved in a war. This meant that Britain and France did not have a strong, powerful ally to help them in a war. |
|  | The threat of Communism worried people in Britain much more than Hitler. People at the time felt that if Hitler was strong then he would be an ally against Communism so he needed a larger army and navy. |  |