



Course details

Course title

History: What really led to The Second World War?

Course code

Q00020098

Course date

Start: 14/01/25

End: 04/03/25

Number of classes

8 sessions

Timetable

Tue 14th Jan, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 21st Jan, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 28th Jan, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 4th Feb, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 11th Feb, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 18th Feb, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 25th Feb, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 4th Mar, 10:30 to 12:30

Tutor

Mark Barnard

Fee range

Free to £67.20

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes at the venue indicated. Some materials may be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

In venue

Venue

Nottingham Mechanics (Nottingham)
3 North Sherwood Street
Nottingham
NG1 4EZ

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

Churchill said: 'It could have been prevented without a single shot being fired, but no one would listen.' His counterpart, Neville Chamberlain, wrote: 'I know I can save the country and I do not believe anyone else can.' Some in France, meanwhile, initially failed to take Hitler seriously. Unlike Poland, both France and Chamberlain have been blamed for failing to stand up to Hitler. But is this fair, given the memories of the First World War? Beginning with the Polish port of Gdańsk (Danzig) and the 'Polish Corridor,' this course explores how Britain, France, Germany and Italy became involved in one of the world's most formative events whose legacy continues to be felt today.

Course description

After only a decade post-1918, despite 'the war to end all wars', Britain and Germany went to war again in 1939 – a war which was more total in that civilian involvement and casualties were far greater than any preceding one. Unmatched in its ferocity, the conflict claimed about 30 million deaths - half of them civilian - and even those who were not born then often feel it as part of their experience or, at very least, holds enduring interest...

Why then did Britain really declare war against Nazi Germany after unremittingly pursuing a policy of appeasement? Was it in defence of Poland or was there another underlying agenda? Why did France not stop Hitler when it could 'easily' have done so in 1936? What was the so-called 'Maginot Mindedness' of France and what role did the 'Great Wall of France' - much admired by Italy – play? Mussolini – Italy's first fascist dictator – has often been relatively down-played or belittled; the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Curzon, remarked on Mussolini's visit to London in 1922 that: 'He is really quite absurd.' So why was Britain so concerned about Italy's ambitions and what were they? What was Italy's diplomatic role in the prelude to war?

Beginning with the Treaty of Versailles which ended the First or 'Great' War of 1914-1918, the residual resentments and fears of Germany, Italy and France will be evaluated to see how they influenced Britain's path to war...

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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