The terms of the Treaty of Versailles stated that:

- The League of Nations was to control the Saar for 15 years but France was to control the coalfields.

In January 1935 90% of the people voted in favour of returning to Germany.
- 8% wanted to remain under the control of the League.
- 2% wanted to join France.

The events in the Saar was not an example of Hitler breaking the Treaty of Versailles, or even of him confronting the international community, but they were a major step in his build up to World War Two.

The Nazi Party celebrated the plebiscite result as a great victory.
- Greeted with huge celebration in Germany.
- One historian stated that, ‘the greatest triumph of the Nazis in a free election’ = massive boost to Hitler's prestige.
- It showed that Germans outside Germany hated the Treaty of Versailles & loved Germany more than they feared Hitler.
- It gave moral authority to Hitler’s claims on Austria/Sudetenland.
- The Nazi Party presented it as the first of the injustices of Versailles to be removed.
- The return of the Saar was not illegal. Hitler had kept within the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

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**CAN YOU SPELL?**
- Saar
- plebiscite
- Treaty of Versailles