

# RHINELAND REMILITARISED 1936

# C → B → A → A\* JUDGE

- The Treaty of Versailles **demilitarised the Rhineland** this meant that Germany would not be able to keep military forces in a 50km stretch of the Rhineland.
- Hitler resented this term because it made Germany vulnerable to invasion. Hitler was determined to rearm Germany and strengthen German borders.

## DESCRIBE GRADE C

- Whilst the rest of the world was watching Abyssinia, Hitler ordered his troops to occupy the Rhineland.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> March 1936 German troops moved back into the **Rhineland**.
- This was German territory but had been declared demilitarised at the Treaty of Versailles.
- This was a calculated risk by Hitler.
- It was a clear breach of the **Treaty of Versailles** and broke the terms of the Locarno Treaty.
- Hitler and his generals were nervous. It was a **bluff** - the German army had only 22,000 soldiers and had strict orders to retreat if they met any resistance.
- German troops were in no position to stand up to the French army if it reacted.

## EXPLAIN GRADE B

- There was no resistance because France was preoccupied with domestic problems and Britain was not keen to provoke Germany.
- *"Germany was only 'going into her own back garden'"* Lord Lothian.
- British government now believed that the Treaty of Versailles had been unfair. A righting of wrongs.
- Hitler's gamble paid off.
- The League of Nations condemned Hitler's action but did nothing about it.
- Hitler offered to make a peace treaty that would last for 25 years. This was his way of calming those countries that wanted peace.



## ASSESS RESULTS GRADE A

- Hitler openly broke the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations let him.
- Hitler's prestige soared - especially in Germany.
- Hitler's position strengthened & it increased his **confidence**.
- It was the start of a feeling that he would always get away with it (Britain & France would always back down) that led to WWII in the end.
- Led to the signing of the **Rome-Berlin Axis**.
- Encourages Hitler to try to reunite with Austria - *Anschluss*.

## CAN YOU SPELL?

Rhineland      Remilitarised  
Treaty of Versailles

