

Name:

Date:

Class:

Block #:

### Appeasement Background Essay

EQ: Was appeasing Hitler the right decision for Europe?

Paragraph 1: #/Caption	According to the Treaty of Versailles, the Rhineland, a strip of land inside Germany bordering on France, Belgium and the Netherlands, was to be de-militarized. That is, no German troops were to be stationed inside that area or any fortifications built. The aim was to increase French security by making it impossible for Germany to invade France by surprise. Other terms restricted the German army to 100,000 men and the navy to just six ships. Germany objected to the terms of the treaty but were told to sign it or the war would begin again.
Paragraph 2: #/Caption	In March of 1936, German troops marched into the Rhineland. It was Hitler's first illegal act in foreign relations since coming to power in 1933 and it threw the European allies, especially France and Britain, into confusion. The British people felt that the treaty was unfair on Germany and was over-restrictive, and so partly because of this, the British government decided to do nothing.
Paragraph 3: #/Caption	Hitler moved on from the Rhineland in 1936, to the annexation of neighboring Austria and he then set his sights on the seizure of the Sudetenland in 1938. The Sudetenland was an area in Czechoslovakia that had a large German population and was surrounded by Germany on all sides. Hitler argued that he wanted to unite all the German people into a single country and by adding Austria and Czechoslovakia; he would be able to take a large step towards accomplishing that.
Paragraph 4: #/Caption	At a conference at Munich, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain got an international agreement that Hitler should have Sudetenland in exchange for Germany making no further demands for land in Europe. Chamberlain said it was "Peace in our time." This would be known as <b>appeasement</b> or satisfying someone by giving into their demands. Hitler said he had "No more territorial demands to make in Europe." In October, German troops occupied the Sudetenland: Hitler got what he wanted without firing a shot. Hitler then moved to the take-over of the rest of Czechoslovakia in March 1939 and then Poland in September 1939.

## Document A: Neville Chamberlain (Modified)

*Neville Chamberlain met with Adolf Hitler twice in 1938 to discuss Germany's aggressive foreign policy. On September 30, 1938, they signed the Munich Pact, which gave the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia to Germany. In exchange, Hitler agreed that Germany would not seek to acquire additional territory. In this excerpt, Chamberlain defends the agreement in front of the United Kingdom's House of Commons.*

What is the alternative to this bleak and barren policy of the inevitability of war? In my view it is that we should seek by all means in our power to avoid war, by analyzing possible causes, by trying to remove them, by discussion in a spirit of collaboration and good will. I cannot believe that such a program would be rejected by the people of this country, even if it does mean the establishment of personal contact with dictators. . . .

I do indeed believe that we may yet secure peace for our time, but I never meant to suggest that we should do that by disarmament, until we can induce others to disarm too. Our past experience has shown us only too clearly that weakness in armed strength means weakness in diplomacy, and if we want to secure a lasting peace, I realize that diplomacy cannot be effective unless . . . behind the diplomacy is the strength to give effect. . . .

I cannot help feeling that if, after all, war had come upon us, the people of this Country would have lost their spiritual faith altogether. As it turned out the other way, I think we have all seen something like a new spiritual revival, and I know that everywhere there is a strong desire among the people to record their readiness to serve their Country, where-ever or however their services could be most useful.

*Source: Neville Chamberlain to the House of Commons, October 5, 1938.*

## Document #B: Military Spending

Below is the military aircraft production and defense spending in Britain, France, and Germany.

Defense spending (millions)				Military Aircraft Production (thousands)			
Year	Germany	France	Britain	Year	Germany	France	Britain
1936	2,332	995	892	1936	5112	890	1877
1937	3298	890	1245	1937	5603	743	2153
1938	7415	919	1863	1938	5235	1382	2827

### **Document C: Winston Churchill (Modified)**

*Winston Churchill was the loudest and most important critic of Chamberlain's policy of appeasement. He believed that Hitler and Germany needed to be dealt with more firmly. The following excerpt is from part of a speech Churchill made to the House of Commons as they debated the Munich Agreement.*

I will begin by saying what everybody would like to ignore or forget but which must nevertheless be stated, namely, that we have sustained a total . . . defeat. . . . The utmost he [Chamberlain] has been able to gain for Czechoslovakia and in the matters which were in dispute has been that the German dictator, instead of snatching his victuals from the table, has been content to have them served to him course by course. . . .

I have always held the view that the maintenance of peace depends upon the accumulation of deterrents against the aggressor, coupled with a sincere effort to redress grievances. . . . After the [German] seizure of Austria in March . . . I ventured to . . . pledge that in conjunction with France and other powers they would guarantee the security of Czechoslovakia while the Sudeten-Deutsch question was being examined either by a League of Nations Commission or some other impartial body, and I still believe that if that course had been followed events would not have fallen into this disastrous state. . . .

I venture to think that in the future the Czechoslovak State cannot be maintained as an independent entity. You will find that in a period of time, which may not be measured by years, but may be measured only by months, Czechoslovakia will be engulfed in the Nazi regime. . . . We are in the presence of a disaster of the first magnitude which has befallen Great Britain and France. . . . This is only the beginning of the reckoning.

*Source: Winston Churchill to the House of Commons, October 5, 1938.*

## **Document D: Bartlett (Modified)**

*Vernon Bartlett was an outspoken critic of the Munich Agreement. He was elected to Parliament in 1938, in part, because of his opposition to appeasement. He was in Godesberg, Germany, working as a reporter when Chamberlain and Hitler met on September 22, 1938. He wrote about the meeting in his book *And Now, Tomorrow* (1960). The following is an excerpt from the book.*

The mood of the German officials when it was announced that the Prime Minister (Chamberlain) would not see the Chancellor (Hitler) again was one almost of panic. This meant either war or a Hitler surrender. The crowds that applauded Chamberlain as he drove along the Rhine consisted not so much of ardent nationalists, delighted that a foreign statesman had come to make obeisance to their Fuehrer, as of ordinary human beings who wanted to be kept out of war.

Since history cannot - thank God - repeat itself, one cannot produce proof to support one's opinions, but I am firmly convinced that, had Chamberlain stood firm at Godesberg, Hitler would either have climbed down or would have begun war with far less support from his own people than he had a year later.

The British forces, one is told, were scandalously unprepared, and were able to make good some of their defects (become better prepared) during that year. But meanwhile the Western Allies lost the Czechoslovak Army - one of the best on the Continent - defending a country (Czechoslovakia) from which the German armies could be out-flanked.

*Source: Vernon Bartlett, *And Now, Tomorrow*, 1960.*

Document Analysis Chart

<b>Documents</b>	<b>For Appeasement</b>	<b>Against Appeasement</b>
<u>Document A</u>  Name:  Author:  Type:  Date:		
<u>Document B</u>  Name:  Author:  Type:  Date:		
<u>Document C</u>  Name:  Author:  Type:  Date:		
<u>Document D</u>  Name:  Author:  Type:  Date:		

Name:

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### Appeasement Thesis Statement

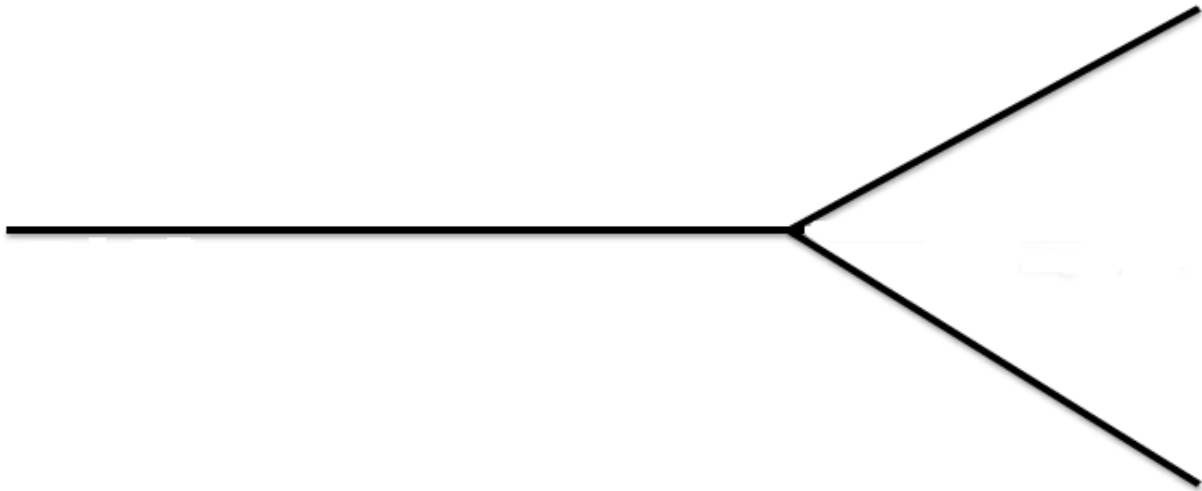
EQ: Do you think that appeasing Hitler the right decision for Europe?

**Directions:** Answer the essential question with two claims and find two counter arguments. Explain your claims as well as why the counter argument is faulty.

Identify Argument:

What is your thesis or what side did you choose? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you chose this side? EXPLAIN your two claims and support it using at least TWO pieces of evidence.



Thesis Statement:

Counter Argument Identification:

What are TWO pieces of evidence from the documents that OPPOSE your thesis? (Cite your source)

Why is this evidence faulty? Why is this argument weak? Explain: