

1923

France occupied the Ruhr. Six months later, Italy bombed the Greek island of Corfu. When the League of Nations discussed these events, the governments of France and Italy threatened to withdraw from the organization if serious action were taken against them.

1931

Japan occupied Manchuria, a province of China. China appealed to the League of Nations under Article 11. Britain proposed an inquiry, but the United States, in order not to upset Japan, advised against it.

1933

MARCH 27: Japan gave notice of its withdrawal from the League of Nations.

OCTOBER 21: Germany gave notice of its withdrawal from the League of Nations.

1935

JANUARY 13: Plebiscite held in the Saar Territory, which was taken from Germany under the *Treaty of Versailles* and was governed by the League of Nations for 15 years, while its coal was mined by France. In the plebiscite, the people of the Saar Territory voted 90.3% in favour of returning to Germany.

JANUARY 17: The Council decided that the Saar Territory should be reunited with Germany.

1936

MARCH 7: Germany re-occupied the Rhineland and challenged the willingness of France and the League to act to enforce the *Treaty of Versailles*.

1937

DECEMBER 11: Italy gave notice of its withdrawal from the League.

MARCH 12: Austria was annexed by Germany.

1938

SEPTEMBER 29: British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, Hitler, Prime Minister Daladier of France, and Mussolini signed the *Munich Agreement*, giving Sudetenland (an area of Czechoslovakia in which the majority of people were German) to Germany in return for Hitler's promise not to invade Czechoslovakia, a move that Prime Minister King applauded as saving the world from war.

MARCH 15: German troops occupied Czechoslovakia.

APRIL: Britain and France guaranteed to help Greece, Romania, and Poland if they were attacked by Germany or Italy.

MAY 22: Germany and Italy signed the *Pact of Friendship and Alliance* (Pact of Steel).

1939

AUGUST 23: Germany and the USSR signed a secret non-aggression pact (Nazi-Soviet Pact).

SEPTEMBER 1: Germany invaded Poland.

SEPTEMBER 3: Britain and France declared war on Germany.

SEPTEMBER 10: Canada declared war on Germany.

1. While events in history are not inevitable, some historians believe that the *Treaty of Versailles* played a key role in causing the Second World War. Fill in an organizer like the one opposite.
2. Prepare a timeline to show the six most important events leading up to the Second World War. Give written reasons to support your choices.
3. Working with a small group, prepare a role play about a key event in Section Four with two possible outcomes. Be sure to identify how the event might have had a different outcome if different actions had taken place.

The *Treaty of Versailles* caused the Second World War.

	Evidence that supports	Evidence that opposes
Decision		
Reasons		

AFTER READING