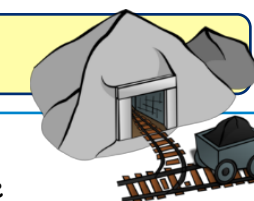




Depression, War and Recovery, 1930-1951



1.1

The Wall Street Crash

- On 29 October 1929, Wall Street, the US Stock exchange collapsed.
- The USA could no longer afford to lend money to European countries and recalled some of its loans.
- Depression soon hit the United Kingdom and the rest of Europe because of their over-dependence on the USA.
- There was a slump in world trade. Between 1929 and 1931 exports from Britain fell by a half.
- There was a growth in unemployment. By mid 1930, it had reached 2 million and rose to over 3 million by 1932.
- When the crash happened, it added further economic problems to a country that was already economically unstable.

1.2

Growing light industry

- Not everyone suffered equally during the Depression as there were many jobs available in certain areas of Wales and England.
- Many found good jobs and a higher standard of living in the Midlands and in the South East of England, where they were employed in newer industries such as motor vehicles and electrical goods.
- In London and the South-East and in certain parts of the English Midlands, government money was invested in the **new, light industries** and people here were much better off.
- They found work in the motor industry such as with **Morris of Oxford**, or **Ford of Dagenham**, or in factories producing new branded goods, such as **Mars in Slough**.
- Mass-production methods were applied to the motor car industry. By 1938, the number of cars sold in Britain had risen to approximately 2 million.
- The new technology of the production line required an efficient source of power - electricity.
- Electricity was clean, cheap and efficient and it began to replace coal as a main fuel supply.
- Electricity not only powered new industries, but by 1938, the number of consumers supplied with electricity to their homes had reached 9 million.

Some historians claim that the 1930s was a period of 'Two Nations' - where some parts of the country suffered, but other parts were extremely successful.



What were the main causes of the Depression?

Key terms

- Depression** - a long-term downturn in economic activity.
- Exports** - goods or services for sale in other countries.
- Imports** - goods or services brought into one country from another.
- Mass-production** - the manufacture of large quantities of one product.

1.3

Reasons for the decline of traditional industries

Britain was the first industrial nation. Its textile, coal, iron and steel industries profited from being sold all over the world. However by the 1920s, Britain had major economic rivals in the USA, Japan and Germany.

This meant that Britain was experiencing economic problems before the Wall Street Crash happened.

Competition from abroad

- The old industries depended on exports.
- Britain's traditional pre-World War One export markets, e.g. Canada, Australia and New Zealand, were instead buying:
 - US steel
 - German coal
 - Indian cotton



Losing these crucial markets resulted in British jobs being lost.

New markets

- Finding new markets to buy British goods was difficult.
- The government followed a policy of free trade in the 1920s, which allowed foreign goods to come into Britain freely.
- British companies that exported goods often had to pay import duties to foreign governments.
- Following the Wall Street Crash, import duties rose around the world and international trade declined sharply.
- The worst hit industry of all was shipbuilding. The demand for ships to transport goods also fell dramatically, and this led to a further fall in demand for steel and coal.

Obsolete methods

- During the 1920s in the USA new methods of production were seen in many of its industries.
- Mass-production was used in the production of the motor car and this was copied by industries producing other types of consumer goods.
- This was not the case in many of Britain's major industries. They were slow to use new, quicker and more efficient methods of production.

1.4

Coal

- Coal could be produced more cheaply abroad. In the mid-1920s coal could be produced in the USA for 65p a tonne, compared to £1.56 a tonne in Britain.
- Countries which had imported coal from Wales before WWI, now preferred to buy coal more cheaply from Poland and the USA.
- British coal was more expensive because it was more difficult to mine.
- Mines had not invested in up-to-date machinery or modernisation.
- Germany was making some of its reparation payments to countries in coal.
- There was less demand for ships and armaments in the years after WWI.
- Competitors such as the USA and Japan regularly undercut British prices and their steel making plants were larger, more efficient and modernised than Britain.
- In 1929, steel making ceased completely at Ebbw Vale, and in 1930, a major part of the steel works at Dowlais closed leaving 3,000 steel workers unemployed.

Iron and steel

1.5

Shipbuilding

- Shipbuilding declined more rapidly than other industries.
- There was a fall in world trade after the First World War. This meant less need for ships.
- International disarmament meant a fall in demand for warships.
- Foreign countries such as the USA and Japan could produce ships much more cheaply than Britain.



Textiles

- The market for textiles, such as wool and cotton declined as man-made fibres, invented in the 1920s became popular.
- When man-made fibres were mixed with cotton and wool they produced clothes that were more hardwearing and easier to wash.
- British textile industries also faced increasing competition from the USA and Japan and could not compete with cheaper cotton produced in India.

1.6

Unemployment

- There was a rapid growth in unemployment from 6 per cent of the population in 1929 to 15 per cent by 1932.
- This meant that over 3 million people no longer had a wage and could not buy consumer goods. This led to a further decrease in demand for British goods, causing more businesses to go bankrupt and creating greater unemployment.

Depression, War and Recovery, 1930-1951

2.1

The dole and the means test

- In 1920 the Unemployment Insurance Act created a system of payments for unemployed workers.
- The aim was to give some financial support to the unemployed whilst they looked for work. It provided 39 weeks of benefit and became known as 'the dole.'
- In 1931 the government introduced the means test. This was designed to control and reduce the amount of dole that was paid.
- Before people could receive the dole, people had to have their houses inspected to check all their possessions and their savings. The tests were carried out by inspectors from the local Public Assistance Committees (PACs).
- Families could be forced to sell possessions such as furniture, if they wanted to receive the dole.
- If a family had any other sources of income, such as a part-time job, deductions were made from the weekly payments.

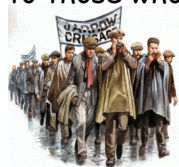
Reactions to the means test

- People hated having an inspector go through all of their belongings and then force them to sell some of them.
- It was humiliating for families to have to reveal their earnings, savings and the value of their possessions.
- People did not like having to make relatives go to live somewhere else if they wanted to receive the full amount each week.
- Some authorities applied the means test very harshly, while others refused to carry it out.

2.2

Causes of the Jarrow March

- Hunger marches had become a way for working people to express their concerns about their living and working conditions to those who governed them.
- In 1936, the most famous hunger march started in Jarrow and went to London.
- Jarrow was the worst affected town during the Depression. Most were dependent on one firm, Palmers shipyard, for their livelihood.
- The closure of the yard had a terrible effect on Jarrow with unemployment reaching 80 per cent.
- Malnutrition and poor health were widespread in the town and families tried to find anyway they could to survive.
- The aim of the march was to attract attention to the suffering of the town by taking a petition all the way to parliament.



How were people able to cope with the challenges of the Depression years?

2.3

Events of the Jarrow March?

- Two hundred men marched from Jarrow to London.
- It took the marchers eight months and they covered over 450 kilometres.
- The marchers received support and sympathy from the public.
- They were put up in church halls, given free meals and their shoes were repaired free of charge.
- The men returned to Jarrow as heroes.
- The police praised the Jarrow marchers for being well organised and disciplined.
- The march improved the public image of hunger marches, some of which had previously led to clashes with the police.
- The march and the petition did little or nothing to make the government take action. Stanley Baldwin ignored the Jarrow marchers' petition.



2.6

Popular entertainment

- Popular entertainment provided a distraction from the harsh reality of the Depression and provided an opportunity to escape their everyday lives.
- By 1939, there were 9 million registered radios in houses across Britain. The BBC broadcast schools programmes, plays and popular music. There were regular news reports and sport also featured on the radio.
- Cinema remained popular in the 1930s. In 1934, Wales had over 320 cinemas, with over 20 in Cardiff alone. People watched stars such as Clark Gable, Greta Garbo and Errol Flynn. The first Welsh language talkie was screened in 1935.
- Sport such as rugby and boxing was another pastime which helped people to cope, and grew in popularity and importance throughout these difficult times.



Emigration

- One of the worst affected areas of Britain was South Wales.
- People were emigrating from Wales in massive numbers. Between 1921 and 1938, approximately 440,000 people left Wales to find work and a better life elsewhere.
- Some migrants looked for a new start in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Others looked for work in more prosperous areas of Britain such as the Midlands and settled in towns such as Coventry, Oxford or Slough.

2.4

'Making ends meet' and 'self-help'

- Families lived by 'making ends meet.'
- One way was to buy cheaper food, but cheaper food could lead to malnutrition.
- The diets of wives and mothers were inadequate as they sacrificed their own needs for those of their husbands and children. They would eat the smallest portions at meal times as they struggled to feed their families.
- Women often neglected their own health, e.g. not purchasing medicine when they were ill.
- A poor diet led to the higher infant mortality rate and poorer health of children in depressed areas. Children were likely to catch bronchitis, pneumonia and suffer from rickets.
- There were many ways in which unemployed people helped themselves, others and their communities, e.g. neighbours rallied around during times of crises, for example child birth, intrusion by rent collectors or the police.
- Other organisations also attempted to 'help' the unemployed to 'help' themselves, for example, clubs for the unemployed were set up, often initiated by the Church.

2.5

Special Areas Act

- The worst hit areas of unemployment in Britain became known as the 'special areas.'
- In 1934, the government passed the Special Areas Act, which offered grants of £2 million to companies that would move to the special areas.
- Also, 44,000 workers were encouraged to move to other towns, and 30,000 unemployed men were put on retraining courses, allowing them to learn new skills.
- In 1936, a further Special Areas Act was passed. This offered factories and businesses remission of rents, rates and payment of taxes of up to 100 per cent.
- Many companies in the newer industries were reluctant to move to the special areas.
- The Treforest Industrial Estate in South Wales was established in June 1936 to provide some alternative forms of employment to the coal and steel industries, which had been hit hardest by the Depression.
- In 1937, three small factories were completed on the Estate, employing 69 people. By 1939, only 2,500 workers were employed there.
- The new light industries on these estates could not absorb all the unemployed from the coal mining and ship building areas. The government continued to invest in the industrial estate, and by 1945 there were 16,000 people working there.

Depression, War and Recovery, 1930-1951

1.1

The threat from Germany

By 1934, Adolf Hitler had become the Fuhrer of Germany and his main aim was to make Germany great again and rid Germany of the hated Treaty of Versailles.



His aims were:

- To unite all German-speaking people under his rule and create a 'Greater Germany'.
- To gain Lebensraum (living space) for the German people.
- To restore Germany as a great power.

In October 1933, Hitler took Germany out of the League of Nations. In 1935, Hitler announced that the army would be increased and conscription introduced.

By 1939 the German army had almost a million men. An air force was created, known as the Luftwaffe. By 1939, it had over 8000 aircraft.

1.2

Terms of the Treaty of Versailles

After the surrender of Germany in November 1918 the Treaty of Versailles was signed and imposed on Germany.

The treaty blamed Germany for the war and imposed strict rules and reparations on them.

- Germany's army was restricted to 100,000.
- Conscription was no longer allowed.
- It could not have tanks or an air force.
- Its navy was reduced in size, and it could not have submarines.

Land was taken from Germany and given to European countries which meant that millions of German were now living in these countries.

The Rhineland, was demilitarised, leaving Germany unable to protect its border with France.

Germany was forbidden from uniting with Austria.

L = LAND

A = ARMY

M = MONEY

B = BLAME



How effectively did Britain prepare for war?



Key terms

De-militarise - remove all military forces from an area.

Reparations - compensation for war damage paid by a defeated state.

Conscription - compulsory enlistment into the armed forces.

1.3

Steps to war

The Rhineland

In March 1936, Hitler ordered German troops into the Rhineland. The German army was not yet large enough to take on France. The German troops were under orders to retreat if the French army marched to meet them. France was not willing to act without British support and Britain refused to cooperate.

Anschluss

In March 1938 German troops entered Austria. Opponents of this action were either eliminated or put in concentration camps. Approximately 80,000 were put in camps. Britain and France protested about what had happened, but did nothing to stop it.



1.4

Czechoslovakia

Hitler wanted the Sudetenland to become part of Germany as it contained German-speaking people.

On 30 September, Germany, Britain, Italy and France signed the Munich Agreement.

The terms were:

- The Sudetenland would become part of Germany.
- Hitler and Chamberlain would sign a declaration that Britain and Germany would never to war.
- Britain and France would guarantee the independence of the rest of Czechoslovakia.

Chamberlain returned to London with the signed declaration and claimed that he had won 'peace for our time.'

By March 1939, German troops moved in to occupy the rest of Czechoslovakia.

1.5

The outbreak of war

The Nazi-Soviet Pact

On 23 August 1939, an agreement known as the Nazi-Soviet Pact was announced between Germany and the Soviet Union. As part of this pact, Poland was to be shared between Germany and the Soviet Union.

Invasion of Poland

- On 1 September 1939, German troops entered Poland to claim the areas agreed in the Nazi-Soviet Pact.
- Two days later, as Britain had an agreement that it would defend Poland, an ultimatum was given to Germany: withdraw these troops or go to war.

➤ This was ignored by Hitler.

➤ On 3 September 1939, Britain declared war on Germany.



1.6

Policy of appeasement

Neville Chamberlain, the British Prime Minister, was keen to avoid war. He believed this could be achieved through the use of negotiation, agreements and diplomacy. His policy was to appease Hitler, which usually meant giving in to Hitler's territorial demands.

Arguments for appeasement

➤ The horrors of the First World War were still in people's minds - anything that could avoid this happening again should be followed.

➤ Britain in the 1930s was struggling with the impact of the Depression, and so the country could not afford another war and heavy rearmament.

➤ Many felt that the Treaty of Versailles had been too strict, and that Germany had a right to try and regain lost lands and to rebuild its weakened forces

➤ Britain needed time to build up its army, navy and air force.

Arguments against appeasement

➤ It made Hitler more confident that he could keep demanding more and would always get what he wanted.

➤ Each act of appeasement allowed Hitler to become stronger politically, economically and territorially.

➤ Appeasement made the USSR join the war on the side of Germany. Britain and France were not helping to defend countries that were invaded by Germany, so the Soviet Union decided it was better to join sides with Germany.

Depression, War and Recovery, 1930-1951



2.1

Preparations for war

Britain's preparations for war were carried out mostly during the later months of 1938 and the beginning of 1939.

Some of the preparations were based on lessons that had been learnt during the First World War.

It was expected that in a future war, the country would be bombed from the air as well as attacked on ground, so many of the preparations reflected this

By the time Britain declared war on Germany, the following were in place:

- People had been encouraged to cut up and donate metal that could be melted down for the manufacture of war machinery and ammunition.
- People were encouraged to plant vegetables on any spare ground to supplement rations. The government had been making plans since 1936 to combat food shortages in the event of a war but the first stage in the rationing process was National Registration Day, 29 September 1939.
- The government had started a programme to build new warships for the navy.
- The government spent money informing people about rationing, blackouts and gasmasks.

2.2



In 1939, Britain was not adequately prepared to fight a major conflict, and it would take time to match the sheer size and effectiveness of the German forces.

- The Royal Navy was the organisation best prepared for war.
- The Royal Air Force (RAF) were well-trained with good aircraft (the Hurricane and the Spitfire were the best fighter planes in the world.)
- The army was regarded by some as too small and lacking sufficient equipment.

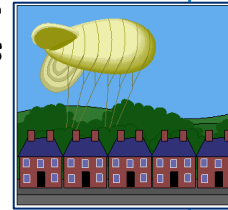
By appeasing Hitler in September 1938, the country gained another 12 months to prepare for war.

Following the declaration of war in September 1939, the next six months were known as the 'phoney war' as no military action took place, giving Britain more time to prepare.

2.3

Barrage Balloons

- Barrage balloons were designed to 'float' in the air above London to try and stop the German bombers from coming in too low - this reduced the level of success of the bombing campaigns.



Anti-aircraft guns and radar

- Anti-aircraft guns were also built to try to limit the potential damage the German bombers could cause.
- Radar stations made it possible to track German planes and so concentrate the defence just where it was needed.

Home Guard

- It became clear that Britain was at serious risk of being invaded by the strong German forces.
- The Home Guard were volunteers who were armed and trained to defend the British towns and cities if the German forces successfully landed.
- It was operational from 1940 until 1944, and composed of 1.5 million local volunteers.

2.4

Conscription

- The government introduced conscription to cope with the demands of war.
- The **Military Training Act** of April 1939 made it compulsory for men aged between 20 and 22 to join the armed forces.
- In September 1939, the **National Services Act** made it compulsory for men aged between 18 and 41 to join.
- By the end of 1939 over 1.5 million men had been brought in to join the British armed forces.

Reserved occupations

- It was vital to keep workers in certain occupations free to continue their roles, especially if they would help the war effort.
- Learning from the lessons of World War One, in 1938 a **Schedule of Reserved Occupations** had been drawn up, exempting certain key skilled workers from conscription.
- This covered 5 million men in a vast range of jobs. These included engineers, rail workers, dock workers, miners, farmers, agricultural workers, schoolteachers and doctors

2.5

Air Raid Wardens

Wardens

During 1937, the Air Raid Wardens Service was created, and by 1938, 200,000 people had joined.

By September 1939, it had changed its name to the Air Raid Precautions (ARP), and 1.5 million were enrolled.



Their role was:

- To enforce the 'blackout'.
- To sound sirens during an air attack.
- To help people to communal shelters, and check on those who had their own shelters.
- To carry out first aid, put out small fires and co-ordinate other emergency services once a bombing raid was over.

2.6

Air raid shelters

- The first shelters, known as Anderson shelters were delivered in February 1939.
- In total, 400,000 Anderson shelters were distributed.
- Anderson shelters were not popular because they meant sleeping outside.
- Some people used Morrison shelters, which were given out in 1941. These were steel cages, which fitted under a dining table with enough room for two adults and two small children.
- Many people had no shelters. Some moved in with friends or relatives during raids. Some cellars were constructed into safe rooms.
- When the raids became more serious in 1940, people began to force their way into underground stations in London.
- People preferred the underground stations as shelters because they could socialise with other families and share a common threat.
- In addition, voluntary services began to provide hot drinks.





Depression, War and Recovery, 1930-1951

1.1

For the first six months of the war, there was little fighting in the West, as the German military concentrated on their invasion and campaign in Poland. This period is often called the 'Phoney War'.

September 1940

- The Luftwaffe began bombing British cities, particularly London. This became known as the Blitz, from the German Blitzkrieg.
- Its aim was to break the morale of the British people, destroy the homes and lives of the population and destroy industry to force Britain to surrender.

By the autumn of 1940 it was clear that the war would affect all civilians, not just those involved in combat.

This was 'total war'.

1.2

Bombing

Before the war broke out, civilians had been issued with gas masks and Anderson shelters. In London, after several nights of relentless bombing and lack of sleep, people took to the underground to seek safety from the attacks. In Cardiff, people used the cellars of the castle for protection.



Women worked in factories to produce essential war material, such as aircraft, vehicles and munitions.

London was bombed every night from 7 September to 2 November. Over 15,000 people were killed and 250,000 made homeless. Important buildings such as St Paul's Cathedral, the House of Commons and Buckingham Palace were also bombed. The raids continued into 1941.

Coventry suffered its worst attack on 14 November 1940. In that one night, over 30,000 incendiary bombs were dropped, 554 people were killed and 50,000 houses were destroyed.

Swansea was bombed on the nights of 19,20,21 February 1941 - 'The Three Nights' Blitz.'. 230 people were killed and 397 injured. Gas and water supplies were cut off, roads were blocked with masonry and electric cables were cut.

Most other major cities such as Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Liverpool and Manchester also experienced bombing by the Luftwaffe.

Wartime propaganda and the press praised the spirit of the Blitz to show that the people were united, brave and would not be broken.

How did people in Britain cope with the experience of war?

Key terms

Black Market - illegal buying or selling of controlled or scarce goods.

Incendiary bomb - a bomb designed to start fires when detonated.

Rations - a fixed amount of food or product allowed to each person during a time of shortage.

1.3

Contribution of women

- From 1939, many women joined an organisation called the **Women's Voluntary Service (WVS)**. They helped in numerous ways to ease suffering. This group had one million members by 1943 and usually consisted of older women.
- Women's contribution to the war was not properly organised until 1941, when the labour shortages became apparent.
- From December 1941, women aged 19-30 were conscripted for war work and by 1943, 17 million women were either in the forces or engaged in work for the war. Government propaganda urged women to aid the war effort.

1.4

The role of women

Women enlisted in a number of different forces:

- Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF)
- Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS)
- Women's Royal Naval Service (WRENS)



By the end of the war in 1945, there were 450,000 women in the military. They also performed nursing roles at hospitals, including military ones.

Many of the code breakers at Bletchley Park were women.

In nearly all occupations however, women performing the same task as men were paid less.

The **Women's Land Army** was created during both World War One and World War Two to help ease the shortage of male farm labour.

This was essential to secure food production and operate farm machinery.

1.5

Evacuation

Evacuation began on 1 September 1939. Approximately 1.5 million people moved around the country in search of safety in the first wave of evacuation.

During the 'Phoney War', many evacuees drifted back home only to return once the Blitz started.

The experiences of the evacuees were mixed.

- Many were welcomed and felt a part of the family.
- Some had a better standard of living than before the war, including a healthier diet, fresh air and walks in the countryside. Some were mistreated or abused.
- Some experienced bed wetting and nightmares.
- A number of evacuees were homesick and children were sometimes split up from their brothers and sisters.
- Evacuees were not used to rural life and there was a clash between city and country values.
- Some were used as unpaid workers.
- Not everyone in Wales spoke English and evacuees from England couldn't speak Welsh at first.



1.6

Rationing

- The government had been making plans since 1936 to combat food shortages in the event of a war and gradually, food rationing was introduced.
- The first stage in the rationing process was National Registration Day, 29 September 1939.
- The government had to ensure that there was sufficient food for everyone and that everyone received a fair and equal amount.
- During wartime, it was important to bring in price controls to prevent profiteering, but also to ensure that Britain did not run out of the necessary items.
- Britain's supplies, many of which were transported by merchant ships, were also at risk from German U-boat attacks. In March 1942 alone, the Germans sank 275 British merchant ships.
- Basic food such as eggs, bread, sugar, meat and butter were rationed as well as items such as soap, clothing and petrol.
- Many had healthier diets because of rationing such as young children who were given milk and orange juice.

The black market became a problem as some sellers sold these rationed items at much higher prices. The government imposed fines of up to £500 and imprison the guilty for up to two years.

Depression, War and Recovery, 1930-1951



2.1 Maintaining morale

- Maintaining the civilian population's morale was an essential part of the war on the Home Front.
- The **Emergency Powers Defence Act**, passed in the summer of 1939, gave the Government the power to create laws without going through Parliament in the interest of the country's safety.
- It allowed the government to use emergency powers to secure public safety, defend the country and carry out the war effectively.
- Campaigns were launched to help civilians cope with the day-to-day impact of **total war** from bombing, rationing, blackouts and evacuation. These campaigns often actively involved civilians.

Propaganda & censorship

The government had to make sure that people would support the war at all costs.

Propaganda was used to maintain unity, loyalty and confidence throughout the war.

Censorship was also introduced to ensure that information would not be given to the enemy. The government also wanted to ensure that information that might damage morale was not given to the people of Britain.

Victories were emphasised whereas discussion of defeats was kept to a minimum.

- In order to ensure that propaganda and censorship were carried out effectively, the **Ministry of Information** was set up within hours of the outbreak of war.
- By the end of the war, more than 3,000 people worked in the ministry.

2.2 Propaganda posters

- Posters ranged from ones emphasising bravery and togetherness, the 'bulldog spirit', and for women to work in munitions factories to join the war effort.
- Posters were cleverly designed to promote the war effort. For example, some emphasised bravery, togetherness and the 'bulldog spirit' whilst others instructed women to 'make do and mend' instead of purchasing new items, and that careful use of food could help defeat Hitler.



The aim of propaganda posters was to:

- Encourage support for the war
- Convince people to act and think a certain way
- Educate people about key issues during the war
- Appeal to people's sense of patriotism

How important was it to maintain people's morale during the war?

2.3 Why was Churchill appointed Prime Minister?

On 10 May 1940, Winston Churchill was appointed Prime Minister of Britain.

- Churchill had criticised appeasement during the late 1930s and had been proved right.
- He had improved relations with the Labour Party, so people thought he could create a cohesive wartime government.
- Opinion polls suggested that the public likes and supported him.
- His speeches were admired and he was popular with the press.

2.4 Churchill as a wartime leader



- Churchill provided strong leadership during the war.
- He kept up the morale of the British people and made them believe in ultimate victory with strong speeches and tours of the country.
- His speeches were so powerful that it was said that he 'mobilised the English language' as part of the war effort.
- Churchill was determined to stop Hitler. There was no talk of surrender.
- For him, the defeat of Nazism was all that mattered. Churchill convinced many in Britain that victory was possible provided that people came together, and the enemy was defeated together.

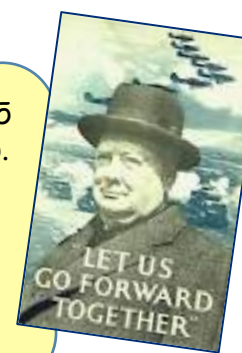
Instead of trying to negotiate a peace with Hitler, Churchill set about the following:

- Organising the military
- Ensuring that the air force could control the skies
- Organising the war economy
- Ensuring close relations with the USA, and securing the Lend-Lease Scheme, which meant that Britain received support to fight the war.

To many British people, the Allied victory in 1945 was due largely to Churchill's inspired leadership.

He symbolised defiance, a fighting spirit and a stubborn refusal to surrender.

Many people believed that Churchill was a key factor in the British victory.



2.5 Radio

- The Government controlled, or censored, the information which was broadcast on the radio to maintain the **people's war spirit**.
- However, because the BBC 'self-censored', it rarely needed to interfere.
- Radio broadcasts spoke of the key successes such as the Battle of Britain to spread positive messages, and they spoke about the bravery and determination of people during the Blitz.
- The BBC was an important part of maintaining morale as it was heard in the home via the radio.
- A popular radio broadcast was 'It's That Man Again.' It was a comedy that made fun of both the enemy and British methods of coping with the war.

Cinema

- The Government used the cinema to help promote the war effort, raise people's spirits and share victories.
- People were shown newsreels before the main feature film which informed them about the events of the war.
- The film industry produced pro-British and pro-war films.
- One of the most popular and powerful films about the war was *Went the Day Well?* This featured an English village captured by German paratroopers. The local Home Guard and villagers worked together to defeat the invaders.

2.6 Campaigns

Dig for Victory

The government wanted people to waste less food and to grow their own. This would help them cope with rationing.



This campaign urged people to use any spare land to grow vegetables. People were asked to turn their flowerbeds into allotments. Recipes were also given out suggesting new ways to cook vegetables, including 'curried carrot'.

By 1943, there were 3.5 million allotments in Britain and over a million tonnes of vegetables were produced



Spitfire Fund

Appeals were created to encourage people to give money towards the production of the Spitfire planes. Local newspapers listed the people and groups who had donated.

In fact, almost every big British town had their names on Spitfires to show how they had generously donated. This would have made people feel they were part of the war effort.

Depression, War and Recovery, 1930-1951

1.1 Effects of war on Wales and England?

Huge debt from fighting war.

Lost 30% of wealth.

Rationing continued. Rebuilding slow.

DEMOBILISATION.

4M servicemen to be demobbed

Lack of available jobs/homes.

WAR DAMAGE

60,000 killed and 100,000 seriously injured by German air raids.

500,000 homes destroyed and 3M badly damaged.

Shortage of houses and high rents.

People forced to move in with relatives, squat in ruins, live in tents or live in deserted army camps.

Slums still existed.

1.3 The setting up of the NHS. NHS Bill 1946 ANEURIN BEVAN.

Labour's attack on disease.

AIM = to provide free healthcare for all.

Paid for by National Insurance contributions and general tax.

Many doctors against idea as they would lose money from private practice.

Conservative Party and British Medical Association also against NHS.

Agreement finally reached. Doctors could keep some private patients but work mainly for NHS.

Most people supported NHS.

First year cost soared past £500 M and by 1951 govt had to bring in charges for dental and optical services.

How difficult were conditions in 1945? How did Labour Party deal with problems?

1.2 THE 1945 GENERAL ELECTION.

People still remembered depression years. Determined this should never happen again. Therefore VOTED LABOUR.

BEVERIDGE REPORT.

Published Dec. 1942. Promised govt would look after people 'from cradle to grave.'

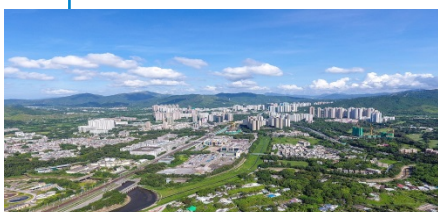
Said govt should attack 5 GIANTS responsible for problems – WANT, IGNORANCE, DISEASE, SQUALOR and IDLENESS.

Labour promised Beveridge Report immediately. Many Labour politicians gained experience during war. Evacuation made people aware of poverty. Labour promised to build more houses. People became used to Labour ideas as govt followed War Socialism. Conservatives relied too much on Churchill.



1.4 Changes in education and housing

1944 Education Act - all children up to 16 should have free secondary education. 3 types of school - Grammar schools for academic subjects if pass 11+. Technical Schools for vocational skills and Secondary Modern for everyone else. RESULT - more children staying in school and going to uni. HOUSING - 'Homes for all' policy. Attack on squalor. 800,000 homes built but still not enough. Prefabs built. NEW TOWNS built - Cwmbran, Stevenage. Some slums demolished.



1.5 Nationalisation

Labour believed main industries should be owned by the people. Because coal, docks and canals were in need of investment the Conservatives allowed them to be nationalised. Run by govt boards. Compensation for owners.



1.6 Reaction to Labour's policies

After 5 years in office Attlee had to call a general election in 1950.

RESULT - shock for Labour supporters. Their huge majority had been reduced to a single figure.

Attlee and Welfare State policies were popular but people felt things had not improved since end of war.

Rationing still remained and many foods/goods were in short supply.

Inflation was growing and was disliked by the m/c.

Taxation remained high.

Attlee called another election in 1951.

Conservative victory and Churchill returns. HOWEVER, Welfare State and other Labour social/economic policies remained.

