Treaty of Versailles & its Impact on WWII
I. An Unfair treaty

a. Terms of the treaty included:
   - Germany had to take **full responsibility** for the war
   - Germany had to pay for all the war damage (reparations)—later set a $6 billion.
   - Germany’s **army** was reduced to 100,000 men.
   - Germany could have no **air force** or submarines, and was limited to 6 large ships
   - Germany had to lose territory on all sides
     - France got the **Rhineland** & Germany was split in two by the new nation of **Poland**
     - Germany to lose all colonies
II. Impact of the Treaty of Versailles
   a) German citizens were very upset
      • The government expected to get *fair* treatment
      • However, they were in no position to *demand* anything and simply had to agree with the treaty
      • Most Germans were *humiliated* & horrified by the treaty & disgusted at being made to take the *blame* for the entire war & having to pay for it
b) The door is left wide open for someone to unite Germany

- Terrible Conditions in Germany
  - The Depression hit the U.S. & we could not lend Germany the money they needed to pay the war reparations
  - Germany was unable to pay its war reparations to England & France
    - The result was a severe depression in Germany
    - German money became close to worthless
• Once he became Chancellor, Hitler used the bitterness & resentment many Germans had toward the Treaty of Versailles & the Allied powers to unite Germany

• Hitler brings extreme nationalism to the German people

• Hitler withdraws from the League of Nations & begins to build up the German military
• Hitler creates a scapegoat for the hardships many Germans are experiencing
  – Hitler blamed outsiders & Jews for the problems of the nation
  – He argued that if pure Germans known as Aryans controlled the destiny of Germany, it would return to greatness

• Here begins the building of the German/Nazi war machine & the beginnings of World War II
Conclusion

• The Treaty of Versailles & its harsh terms toward Germany left the German people feeling vulnerable & they were susceptible to being taken advantage of in order to get their country back on track. This longing to get their country back allowed Hitler to take power by promising to do just that. He ended up taking advantage of the German people by appealing to their nationalism.