10 The Second World War

In this unit you will find out the answers to these questions:

➤ What were the causes of the Second World War?

➤ What were the key events of the Second World War?

➤ What was the economic and human impact of the conflict?

➤ What were the consequences of the war?

➤ What were the characteristics of Functionalism and Abstract art?

Before you start, check you understand the meaning of the words in blue.

KEY WORDS

Second World War: global military conflict that took place between 1939 and 1945

Functionalism: new style of architecture which became popular in the mid-20th century

Abstract art: art which does not attempt to reproduce reality
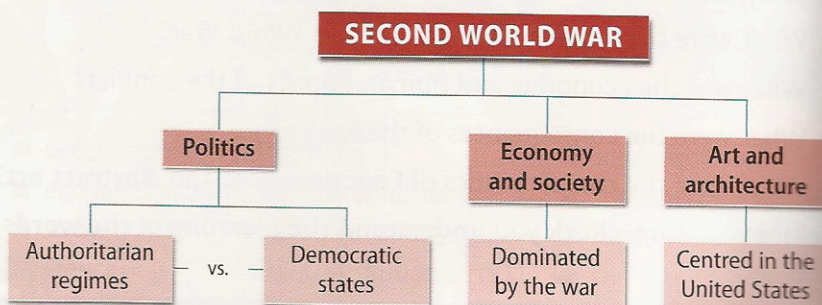
1 The world at war 1939–1945

After the First World War, the **League of Nations** was established to **guarantee** peace in Europe and around the world. However, by the late 1930s, political and economic factors had created a series of problems which led to the outbreak of the **Second World War** in 1939.

- The peace treaties signed after the First World War imposed harsh conditions on the defeated powers, including the payment of **reparations**. These treaties led to feelings of **resentment,** especially in Germany.

- The **Great Depression** of the 1930s resulted in high unemployment and growing poverty in both the United States and Europe. The situation was especially severe in Germany, which had to continue paying reparations until 1932.

Unemployed Americans protest in Washington (1932)

- During the 1920s and 1930s, authoritarian regimes had come to power in **Italy** and **Germany.** Once in power, these governments pursued **expansionist** foreign policies, **annexing** and invading other countries. Democratic countries such as Great Britain and France did little to oppose this expansionism.

- During the Second World War, the world's **economy** was once again dominated by military needs, and the human impact of the conflict was immense.

- Artistic activity **shifted** from Europe to the relative security of the **United States.**

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                    SECOND WORLD WAR

        Politics            Economy         Art and
                          and society    architecture

Authoritarian  — vs. —  Democratic    Dominated     Centred in the
regimes                   states       by the war    United States
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2.1. The long-term causes of the war

A number of political and economic factors combined during the 1930s to increase tensions both in Europe and in other parts of the world.

Protectionism

During the **Great Depression,** many countries implemented protectionist policies to reduce competition from imports. These measures forced countries to find new **markets** for their products. In some cases, this led to expansionist foreign policies.

The Treaty of Versailles

In Germany, people resented the Treaty of Versailles, which Hitler had promised to **destroy.** He broke its conditions, firstly by rebuilding Germany's armed forces. Then in 1936 he reoccupied the **Rhineland,** an important industrial region which had been made a demilitarised zone by the treaty.
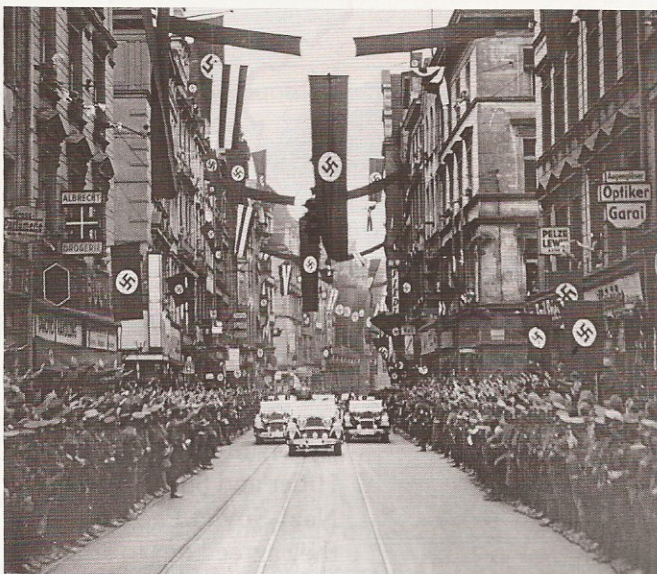
The reoccupation of the Rhineland (1936)

Expansionism

Authoritarian regimes in **Germany, Italy** and **Japan** felt that they needed to expand the territory under their control in order to acquire more **raw materials** and establish new markets for their exports. They also aimed to increase their international power and influence.

Appeasement policies

In order to keep the peace and avoid another war, democracies such as Great Britain supported a policy of appeasement. As a result, they did not use military force to prevent Japanese, German and Italian expansionism in the 1930s.

Munich conference (1938)

The failure of the League of Nations

The League of Nations was created to keep the peace, but it was unable to prevent the Second World War. In general, the organisation failed because it could not **enforce** treaties or **impose** its decisions.

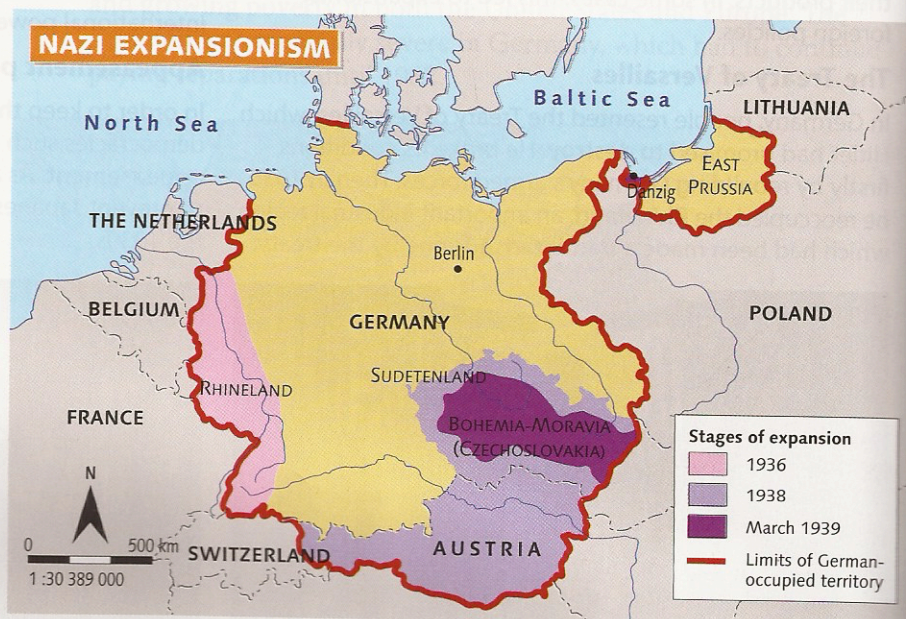In practice, its powers were limited to:

- **Sanctions** – the League could prohibit its members from having economic and diplomatic relations with countries that acted aggressively. For example, when Italy invaded **Abyssinia** in 1935, the League of Nations supported sanctions.

- **Expelling countries from the League** – this could happen if a member country threatened the peace. For example, the USSR was expelled in 1939 after it invaded Finland.

Countries that wanted to pursue expansionist policies often left the League. This was the case with Japan (1933), Germany (1933) and Italy (1937).

2.2. Increasing tensions

During the 1930s, Japan, Italy and Germany took advantage of **appeasement** and proceeded to annex or invade other countries.

- In 1931, the Japanese army invaded **Manchuria,** a region in northeast China.

- In 1935, Mussolini invaded **Abyssinia.** Germany supported Italy's actions by signing a friendship pact in 1936.

- In 1938, Germany annexed **Austria** and occupied the **Sudetenland** region of Czechoslovakia. In March of the following year, Germany invaded and occupied the rest of Czechoslovakia.

NAZI EXPANSIONISM

North Sea
Baltic Sea
LITHUANIA
EAST PRUSSIA
Danzig
THE NETHERLANDS
Berlin
BELGIUM
POLAND
GERMANY
RHINELAND
SUDETENLAND
FRANCE
BOHEMIA-MORAVIA (CZECHOSLOVAKIA)
N
SWITZERLAND
AUSTRIA
0   500 km
1 : 30 389 000

Stages of expansion
- 1936
- 1938
- March 1939
- Limits of German-occupied territory

The outbreak of war

August 1939 caricature depicting the Nazi-Soviet Pact

On 23 August 1939, Hitler and Stalin signed the **Nazi-Soviet Pact,** in which they agreed not to attack each other. They also decided to invade **Poland** and divide the country between them.

In response to the Nazi-Soviet Pact, on 25 August, Great Britain joined France and Poland in an **alliance** of mutual protection.

One week later, Germany invaded **Poland** and on 3 September 1939, Great Britain and France **declared war** on Germany.

Prelude to the Second World War

| 1931 | | 1935 | 1938 | March 1939 | September 1939 |

Japan invaded Manchuria

Italy invaded Abyssinia

Germany annexed Austria and the Sudetenland

Germany invaded Czechoslovakia

Germany invaded Poland

Activities

1 Are these sentences true or false? Correct the false sentences in your exercise book.

a) The United Nations was established after the First World War to guarantee peace.

b) The peace treaties that were signed after the First World War helped countries bring about reconciliation.

c) In the 1930s, peaceful governments were in power in Germany and Italy.

d) According to the Treaty of Versailles, Germany had to pay compensation to other nations.

e) The needs of the war shaped the world economy from 1939 to 1945.

f) Artistic activity continued to be centred in Europe.

2 Copy and complete the text in your exercise book, using these words: *access, annexing, competition, demilitarised, foreign, imports, industrialised, markets, materials, policies, reoccupied*. Then listen and check your answers.

> In the 1930s, many countries introduced protectionist trade _____ to reduce _____ from foreign _____. As a result, _____ nations had to find new _____ for their products. In order to do so, some countries pursued expansionist _____ policies, _____ and invading other countries. This also gave them _____ to more raw _____. In order to reactivate German industry, Hitler also _____ the Rhineland, which had been _____ after the First World War.

3 Answer the questions in your exercise book. Then discuss your answers with a partner.

a) Why did Hitler tell the German people that he was going to destroy the Treaty of Versailles?

b) Why didn't the governments of democratic nations oppose German, Italian and Japanese expansion?

c) Why do you think the German and Italian people supported the actions of their governments during the 1930s?

d) What could the League of Nations do to maintain peace and prevent war?

e) Why wasn't the League of Nations effective?

4 In pairs, look at the photograph on the left-hand side of section 2.1. Then answer the questions.

a) What event does the photograph depict?

b) Describe what you see in the photograph.

c) Why did this event happen?

d) According to the photograph, how did people respond to the event?

e) Do you think this photograph is a reliable source?

5 Copy and complete the table in your exercise book, using these events.

- Germany and Japan left the League of Nations.
- Russia was expelled from the League of Nations.
- Germany annexed Austria and occupied the Sudetenland.
- Italy left the League of Nations.
- Japan invaded Manchuria.
- Germany invaded and occupied Czechoslovakia.
- Italy invaded Abyssinia.
- Germany and Italy signed a friendship pact.

Year	
1931	
1933	
1935	
1936	
1937	
1938	
1939	

6 In pairs, look at the image and discuss the questions below.

Political caricature with the caption 'Wonder how long the honeymoon will last?' (1939)

a) Who are the people in the caricature?

b) What historical event does the caricature represent?

c) What does the caption mean?

d) Is the caricature's attitude towards the event depicted positive or critical?

e) In which country do you think it was probably published?

f) Compare it to the caricature in section 2.2. Which do you think is more effective? Explain your answer.

3 The Second World War

The Second World War began in Europe, but it soon spread to other parts of the world.

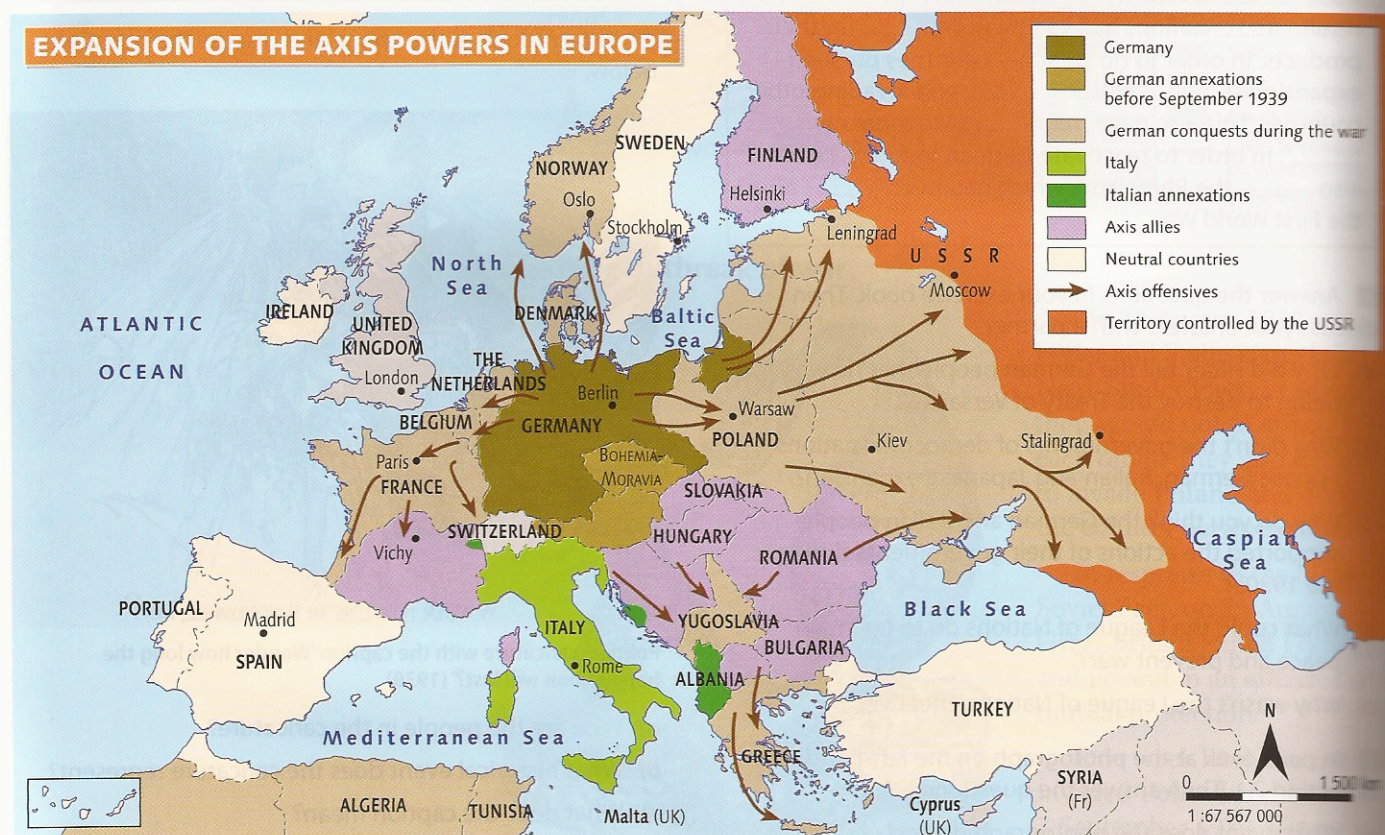## 3.1. The war's participants and phases

The war was fought by **two** opposing sides: the **Axis Powers** and the **Allied Powers.**

- **The Axis Powers:** Germany, Italy, and after 1940, Japan
- **The Allied Powers:** initially Great Britain, France and Poland, later joined by members of the **Commonwealth** like Canada and Australia, the USSR and the United States.

First phase: Axis offensives 1939–1941

Europe: Germany had a number of early victories in Europe, occupying Poland, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France. These victories were due to the German's **blitzkrieg** strategy.

In April 1941, Italy and Germany invaded Greece, and more countries joined the Axis powers, including Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Bulgaria. In June 1941, Germany attacked the **USSR,** which responded by joining the Allies.

EXPANSION OF THE AXIS POWERS IN EUROPE

Legend:
- Germany
- German annexations before September 1939
- German conquests during the war
- Italy
- Italian annexations
- Axis allies
- Neutral countries
- → Axis offensives
- Territory controlled by the USSR

Africa: in September 1940, Italy attacked British military positions in Egypt, but then needed German support to continue with their invasion.

Asia and Oceania: Japan invaded several Allied colonies in Asia and Oceania. Then on 7 December 1941, Japanese forces carried out a surprise attack on **Pearl Harbor** – an important American naval base in Hawaii. As a result, the **United States** declared war on Japan and entered the conflict.

Second phase: Allied victories 1942–1943

Europe: during the 1942–1943 **Battle of Stalingrad**, German forces occupied the city of Stalingrad in the USSR. The Soviet army **counter-attacked** and **surrounded** the German forces for months, during a very cold winter. In February 1943, the Germans finally **surrendered**. This was humiliating **defeat** for the Nazi regime.

In Africa: in Egypt, Great Britain defeated German forces in the 1942 **Battle of El Alamein.** This important British victory was made possible by Allied reinforcements from India and Australia.

Asia and Oceania: the United States defeated Japanese forces in the 1942 **Battle of Midway,** one of the most important **naval** conflicts of the war. The United States also won the **Battle of Guadalcanal** (1942–1943) and took control of several important Pacific islands.

Third phase: final Allied advances 1943–1945

Africa: German and Italian forces were defeated in Libya in 1943. This allowed the Allies to cross the Mediterranean and invade **Italy.**

Europe: on 6 June 1944, the **Normandy Landings** took place in France. Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy and began liberating France from German control.

After that, the Allies attacked Germany in three directions: from France, Italy and the USSR. In May 1945, the Allies entered Berlin and Germany **surrendered.**

Asia and Oceania: the Allies were making important advances, but Japan **refused** to surrender. In August 1945, the United States dropped **atomic bombs** on the Japanese cities of **Hiroshima** and **Nagasaki.** As a result, Japan finally **surrendered** on 2 September 1945.

KEY WORDS

counter-attack: attack in response to an earlier one by the enemy

surround: be all around someone or something so there is no possibility of escape

surrender: give up, stop fighting

Normandy Landings: largest amphibian invasion in military history, also known as D-day

refuse: say no to something

atomic bomb: bomb whose destructive power comes from the release of energy produced by nuclear fission

THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN ASIA AND OCEANIA

3.2. Spain during the war

While Europe was preparing for war in the autumn of 1939, the **Spanish Civil War** had already ended. The **Nationalists** had won the war and **General Franco** had established a dictatorship.

In October 1940, Hitler and Franco met in the French city of **Hendaye**. In exchange for entering the war in support of the Axis Powers, Franco asked Hitler to give Spain **Gibraltar** and **France's** North African colonies. However, Hitler did not accept these conditions.

In the end, Spain remained neutral throughout the Second World War. This decision allowed Franco to concentrate on his **domestic** problems. These included:

- **An economic crisis** – the civil war had destroyed agricultural lands, factories and infrastructure, such as roads and railways. The Spanish economy was severely weakened as a result of this destruction.

- **A demographic crisis** – hundreds of thousands of people had died during the civil war and many Republicans had emigrated to other countries. Spain's birth-rate had also fallen dramatically.

- **Political opposition** – the civil war had ended, but Spanish society remained divided into **two** groups: those who supported Franco's regime, and those who had fought against the Nationalists in the war.

Although Spain did not formally join the Axis Powers, Franco supported Nazi Germany by sending volunteer troops, called the **Blue Division,** to fight against the Soviet Union on the eastern front. In 1943, the Blue Division **withdrew** from the conflict and Spain remained neutral for the rest of the war.

Members of the Blue Division travelling to the eastern front (date unknown)

Hitler and Franco at Hendaye

In their 1940 meeting at Hendaye, Hitler and his entourage formed a rather poor impression of Franco and the Spanish forces. One of Hitler's men wrote that 'the Spanish honour guard was deplorable and their rifles were so rusty that they were useless'. In the end, the two leaders did not come to a satisfactory agreement. Hitler did not receive a date for Spanish entry into the war, and Franco did not receive the territory that he had demanded.

J. TUSELL
'El siglo xx hasta la Constitución de 1978', *Historia de España*, Vol. IV
Durvan (Translated and adapted)

Activities

7 Look at the text and map in section 3.1. Then copy and complete the table in your exercise book.

Axis Powers (initial)	Axis Powers (later)	Allied Powers (initial)	Allied Powers (later)
Germany			

8 In pairs, answer the questions about the first phase of the war.

a) What was the German blitzkrieg strategy?

b) Why do you think it was effective?

c) Which countries did Germany invade and occupy during this phase of the war?

d) When and why did the Soviet Union join the Allies?

e) Where did the Italians attack the British in 1940?

f) Where were the Allied colonies that were attacked by Japan during this period?

g) When and why did the United States enter the war?

9 Look at the information on the second and third phases of the war in section 3.1. In your exercise book, match the military events to the descriptions and complete the year in which each event took place.

_____ Battle of Stalingrad	American naval victory over Japan
_____ Battle of El Alamein	Allied invasion to liberate France
_____ Normandy Landings	British victory over the Germans in Africa
_____ Battle of Midway	Soviet defeat of German forces

10 Choose one of the military events mentioned in exercise 9. Use reference books and the Internet to find more information about it, including how it contributed to the Allies' final victory. Then make a poster to present your information. You can include photographs, maps and diagrams, along with text, but remember to indicate the sources of all your materials.

11 🎧 Copy and complete the sentences, choosing the correct word. Then listen and check your answers.

a) The Battle of Guadalcanal was an important American victory in the *Atlantic / Pacific* _____ .

b) The Allies' 1943 victory over Axis forces in *Egypt / Libya* _____ enabled them to invade Italy.

c) The June *1945 / 1944* _____ Normandy Landings were the largest amphibian invasion in history.

d) In 1944–1945, the Allies were attacking the Germans in *two / three* _____ different directions.

12 Read the text below. Then answer the questions in your exercise book.
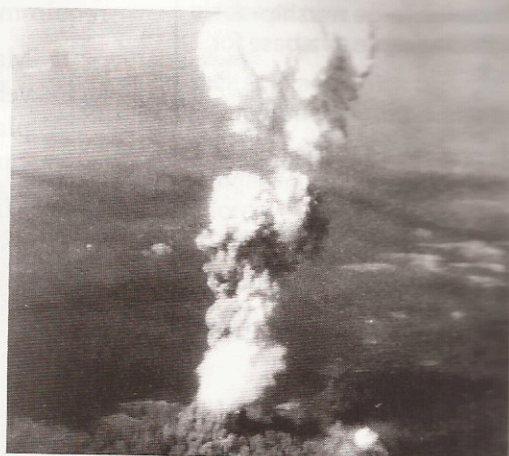
The atomic bombing exploding over Hiroshima (1945)

On 6 August 1945, the first atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. In total around 135 000 people died: about half died instantly from the bomb's impact, and the rest from the fires and radiation sickness that resulted from its explosion. More than 60% of Hiroshima's buildings were destroyed. United States President Harry S. Truman believed that it was necessary to use the atomic bomb because hundreds of thousands of American troops would die if the Allies were forced to invade Japan. Hiroshima was chosen because unlike other Japanese cities such as Tokyo, it had not been heavily bombed by the Allies. This meant that the bomb's effectiveness could be more accurately measured there.

www.bbc.co.uk (Adapted)

a) How many people died in Hiroshima?

b) What were the main causes of these deaths?

c) Why did the United States decide to use the atomic bomb against Japan?

d) Why was Hiroshima chosen?

e) Do you agree with Truman's decision to use the bomb? Explain your answer.

13 Copy and complete the sentences in your exercise book, using these words: *Blue Division, demographic, civil war, divided, Gibraltar, neutral, North Africa, 1940.*

a) Franco met Hitler in October _____ . He agreed to bring Spain into the war if Hitler gave him _____ and French colonies in _____ .

b) Spain stayed _____ throughout the war, although Franco sent the _____ to fight with the Germans on the eastern front.

c) Franco faced a number of domestic problems, including an economic crisis and a _____ crisis, both of which were results of the _____ .

d) Although the civil war had ended, Spanish society was still deeply _____ .

fighter plane: fast military aeroplane designed for attacking enemy aeroplanes

aircraft carrier: large warship designed to serve as a base for aeroplanes

oil: fuel derived from petroleum

civilian: person not in the armed forces

shortage: when there is not enough of something

black market: illegal trade in goods, usually at a much higher price than normal

lend: give a loan

4 The wartime economy

Between 1939 and 1945, European countries operated under a **war economy,** in which economic activity was directed towards military requirements. This included a series of changes in production.

- Manufacturing industries concentrated on producing military vehicles. Some vehicles were improved, such as tanks and **fighter planes,** and new types of vehicles were also built, such as **aircraft carriers** and helicopters.

- Mines and foundries increased their extraction and processing of resources such as carbon, iron and nickel, in order to provide raw materials for industry.

- The extraction and refining of **oil** was also increased in order to provide **fuel** for industry and for military vehicles.
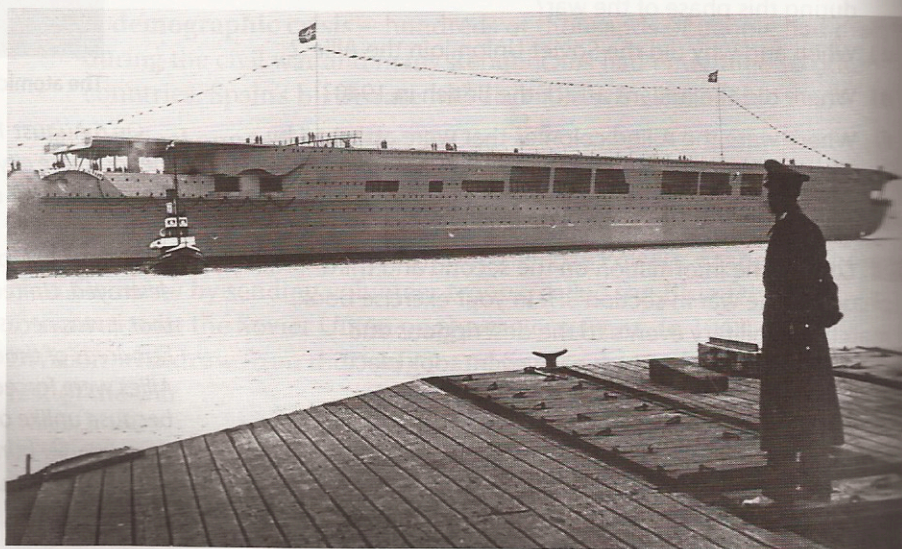
German *Graf Zeppelin* aircraft carrier (date unknown)

Scientific research also led to the development of a new weapon: the **atomic bomb.** This weapon was incredibly powerful, but it also produced radioactive contamination that caused cancer and produced physical deformities in new-born children.

The dedication of money and resources to the war effort also had a **negative** effect on many countries' economies. For example, the production of consumer goods decreased and prices went up significantly.

Civilians often suffered from **shortages** and **rationing** systems were introduced to distribute basic products, such as bread, flour and cooking oil. As had happened in the First World War, there was also a profitable **black market** for certain consumer goods.

Support from the United States

The United States made a major contribution to the Allied war effort by:

- **lending** the Allies $50,000 million for equipment and food
- sending large amounts of military equipment to the USSR
- defending the Asia-Pacific front against Japanese attacks
- sending troops to help liberate Europe from the Nazis.

5 The human impact of the war

The Second World War had a direct or indirect impact on almost the entire **population** of the world, because so many countries were involved in the conflict. However, the effects of the war were particularly severe in those countries where most of the fighting took place.

5.1. Social disruption

The war had enormous effects on people's everyday lives.

- **Evacuation:** many people moved to rural areas because towns and cities often became battlegrounds or the targets of **air raids**.

- **Blackouts and shelters:** to avoid being bombed at night, people turned off their lights and covered their windows. Street lights were also **blacked out** in towns and cities. During air raids, people went to underground **shelters,** including cellars and underground stations, for additional protection.

People sleeping in the London Underground (1940)

- **Emigration:** the disruption of everyday life was most dramatic in countries that were **occupied** by the Nazis. Many people were afraid of being arrested or killed, so they left their homes and moved to other countries where they would be safer. Many **refugees** went to North and South America to escape from the war.

5.2. Resistance and collaboration

In German-occupied areas, there were some people who fought against the Nazis, while others cooperated with or assisted the occupiers.

- **Resistance fighters:** some people organised themselves into secret resistance movements to attack the Nazis and help the Allies.

French resistance fighters (1944)

- **Collaborators:** other people in occupied territories **collaborated** with the Germans and helped them to carry out their military plans.

5.3. The Holocaust

The Nazi regime was profoundly **anti-Semitic**. In Germany and Nazi-occupied countries, Jewish people were marginalised, **persecuted** and forced to live in **ghettos**. As the war progressed, Jewish people were sent to **concentration camps** where they were systematically killed. By the end of the war, approximately 6 million Jews had died in a planned **genocide** known as the **Holocaust**.

Group of Jewish people arrested by Nazi soldiers in Warsaw, Poland (1943)

The Nazis also systematically killed other groups of people, including **Roma, Slavs**, homosexuals, political and religious opponents, people with physical disabilities and prisoners of war.

The Holocaust

Genocide is the systematic extermination of people who share a particular nationality, ethnic background, culture or religion. During the Second World War, the Nazis engineered the genocide of the Jews in Germany and German-occupied countries.

Children liberated from Auschwitz by the Soviets (1944)

'Arbeit macht frei' ('Work makes you free'), entrance to Auschwitz

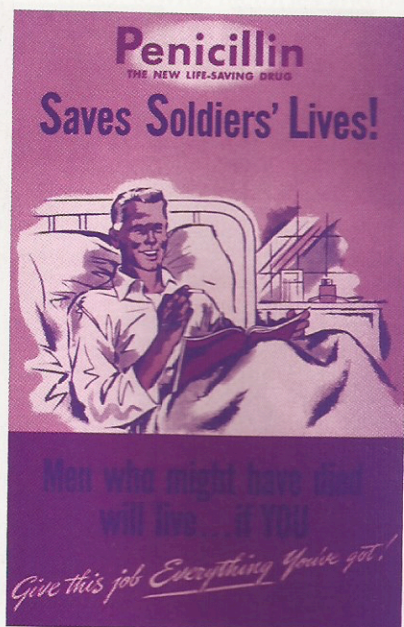In Nazi concentration camps such as Auschwitz and Treblinka in Poland, people were forced to work until they died from exhaustion or starvation. Other people were tortured or subjected to horrific scientific experiments. People who were too young, old, or ill to work were executed by **firing squads** or **exterminated** in gas chambers. The victims' bodies were buried in mass graves or burnt in enormous ovens.

Activities

14 How did the war effort affect European economies? Copy and complete the table in your exercise book.

Manufacturing industries	
Mining	
Oil industry	
Consumer goods	

15 💿 Listen to the recording about penicillin's importance during the war. Then answer the questions below in your exercise book.

Penicillin
THE NEW LIFE-SAVING DRUG

Saves Soldiers' Lives!

Men who might have died will live... if YOU

Give this job Everything You've got!

a) Who discovered penicillin, and when?

b) When and why was penicillin first mass-produced?

c) How was penicillin used during the Normandy Landings?

d) What does the speaker say about the version of penicillin available in 1945?

16 In pairs, look at the image above and answer the questions.

a) Describe what you see in the image.

b) Who do you think this poster is appealing to?

c) What do you think its message is?

17 Answer the questions in your exercise book.

a) How much money did the United States lend to the Allies during the Second World War?

b) Where did the United States use most of its naval forces to fight the Axis Powers?

c) How did the Americans help the USSR during the war?

d) Do you think the Allies could have won the war without American assistance?

18 How did the war affect people's everyday lives? In your exercise book, match the two parts of the sentences.

a) Many people moved to the countryside…

b) People went to underground shelters…

c) House and street lights were turned off at night…

d) People emigrated from German-occupied territories…

e) Some people in occupied territories formed groups…

I. to resist the Nazi invaders and help the Allied forces.

II. because it was safer than staying in towns and cities.

III. so enemy pilots couldn't see where to drop their bombs.

IV. because they were afraid of being arrested or killed.

V. to protect themselves during enemy air raids.

19 Use reference books and the Internet to find information about one of these topics. Then write a short report about it in your exercise book.

- Resistance groups
- Spies
- The Enigma code

20 💿 Read and listen to the text about Anne Frank. Then answer the questions below in your exercise book.

Anne Frank was one of over one million Jewish children who died in the Holocaust. She was born in Germany, but in 1933 her family emigrated to the Netherlands. After the May 1940 Nazi invasion of the Netherlands, Jewish people suffered increasing restrictions. In July 1942, the Frank family went into hiding in a secret apartment behind the Amsterdam offices of Anne's father Otto's business. Along with four Dutch Jews, they spent over two years in hiding in what Anne called 'the secret annex'. They were assisted by Otto's employees, who brought them food and clothes. During this period, Anne wrote a diary in which she recorded her experiences and hopes for the future. However, in August 1944 all eight occupants of the annex were arrested by the Gestapo. They were sent to Auschwitz, where all except Anne's father died. After the war, Anne's diary was published and read by millions of people all over the world.

http://www.ushmm.org (Adapted)

a) What was the Holocaust?

b) What was Auschwitz?

c) Why do you think the Frank family left Germany in 1933?

d) What was the 'secret annex'? Who lived there and for how long?

e) How did the occupants of the secret annex survive?

f) What happened in August 1944?

g) How do we know about Anne and her life during the war?

national self-determination: right of the inhabitants of a geographical area to choose their own political system and government

sanctions: breaking economic or diplomatic relations with a country in order to enforce obedience to an agreement or treaty

blue beret: name for a member of UN peace-keeping forces, who wear distinctive blue hats called berets

6 Peace and its consequences

6.1. The peace agreements

In 1945, there were several meetings between the Allied leaders to discuss how they would deal with the defeated Axis Powers.

■ **The Yalta Conference:** United States President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Churchill and Soviet leader Stalin met in February 1945. They agreed that the Allies would occupy **Germany** and **Japan**, and that the Soviet Union would receive part of eastern **Poland**. They also agreed on the creation of a new international organisation to guarantee peace: the **United Nations.**

Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin (from left to right), at the Yalta Conference

■ **The Potsdam Conference:** at this meeting held in summer 1945, Truman replaced Roosevelt, who had died in April, while Churchill was succeeded by Attlee, the new British prime minister. The leaders agreed to divide Germany into four zones, each one occupied by one of the major Allied powers: Great Britain, the United States, the USSR and France.

The birth of the United Nations

At the 1945 San Francisco Conference, the **United Nations** (UN) was created to replace the **League of Nations.** The UN's main objectives were to prevent or resolve conflicts between countries and defend basic **human rights,** including the right of a national self-determination. One of the UN's first measures was to adopt the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**

The UN was similar to the League of Nations in some ways. For example, it could impose sanctions. However, the UN could also enforce its decisions, using **armed forces** that were provided by its member states. Today, the UN's blue-beret troops continue to enforce international peace treaties and carry out peace-keeping missions in conflict zones.

6.2. The consequences of the Second World War

The Second World War was the biggest armed conflict in history.

Demographic consequences

The Second World War caused the **greatest loss of human life** in any war in history. Among those victims, more than 50% were **civilians.** In many countries, the population of working age fell dramatically, as did the birth-rate. This had a drastic effect on post-war economic recovery.

Economic consequences

Air raids, bombardments and fighting destroyed large areas of farm land, as well as cities, towns, factories and basic **infrastructure,** such as roads and factories. The cost of reconstruction was extremely high. Many European countries lacked the money to rebuild immediately.

The destruction of Dresden

Dresden (1945)

In February 1945, the German city of Dresden was attacked by around 800 British bombers, which dropped several thousand tonnes of high explosive bombs. The city was almost completely destroyed and about 25 000 people were killed.

Second World War casualties

Historians do not agree how many people died as a result of the war and it is very difficult to measure the total number of deaths. It is estimated that the conflict caused between 36 and 50 million deaths.

- **Civilian deaths:** more than half of all war dead were civilians (between 19 and 30 million people). This included the 6 million Jews who were exterminated by the Nazis. In the Soviet Union alone, there were more than 10 million civilian deaths. In Germany about 2.5 million civilians died, and in Yugoslavia there were between 600 000 and 1.7 million civilian deaths.

- **Military deaths:** these included 8.6–10 million Soviet soldiers, at least 4 million Germans, 2.5 million Chinese, 2 million Japanese, 400 000 Italians, 300 000 British and 274 000 Americans.

SOURCE: VARIOUS AUTHORS, *The Oxford Companion to World War II,* OUP; TONY JUDT, *Postwar: a history of Europe since 1945,* Vintage Books

Political consequences

The German, Italian and Japanese regimes were **dismantled** after the war. Germany was occupied by the Allies, and new democratic governments were established in both Italy and Japan.

Due to the war's impact, Great Britain and France were **weakened** and lost much of their status as global powers. The United States and the USSR became the world's new **superpowers**.
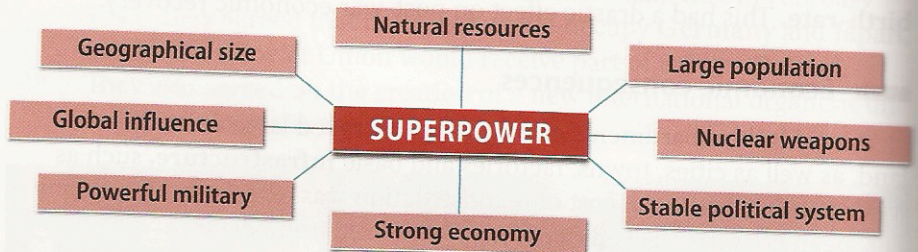
As a result, a **new world order** was established, in which the globe was divided into **two** main **spheres of influence**: the **Western Bloc**, led by the United States, and the **Eastern Bloc**, led by the USSR.

Territorial consequences

After the war, the map of Europe changed dramatically once more. The defeated powers lost land (mainly to either Poland or the Soviet Union) and German was divided into **four** zones of occupation.

EUROPE AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Poland received part of eastern Germany and half of East Prussia.

Germany and Austria were divided into four zones.

Italy lost its African colonies and Trieste, which became a free territory under UN supervision.

OCCUPATION OF GERMANY

The USSR received Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as parts of eastern Poland, Finland and Romania.

Acquired by the USSR
Acquired by Poland
Acquired by Yugoslavia
Acquired by Bulgaria
Under international control

7 Functionalism and Abstract art

During the Second World War, the United States became the centre of the artistic world, because many European artists had moved there to escape from the conflict. At the same time, European countries such as France became less important than they had been previously.

7.1. Functionalism

A new style of architecture called **Functionalism** became popular in Europe before the Second World War, and then spread to the United States between 1940 and 1960.

The main characteristics of this new style were:

- Functionalist buildings were designed to be strictly **functional**, with no unnecessary decoration.
- their designs emphasised horizontal and vertical lines, as well as using simple geometric shapes.
- Functionalist buildings were made of **reinforced concrete**, steel and glass. These materials allowed architects to design very tall buildings known as **skyscrapers.**

The basic elements of Functionalist style were established by the German **Bauhaus** School. When the school was closed down by the Nazis, its directors went into exile in the United States, where their ideas had an important influence on architecture.

The most representative architects of Functionalism were:

- Van der Rohe, who designed the Lake Shore Drive Apartments in Chicago and the Seagram Building in New York
- **Le Corbusier,** who designed the Villa Savoye, near Paris.

In **Spain,** Functionalist style was represented by a group of architects known as the **GATPAC.** However, the work of this group was interrupted by the **Spanish Civil War.**

Lake Shore Drive Apartments, designed by Van der Rohe
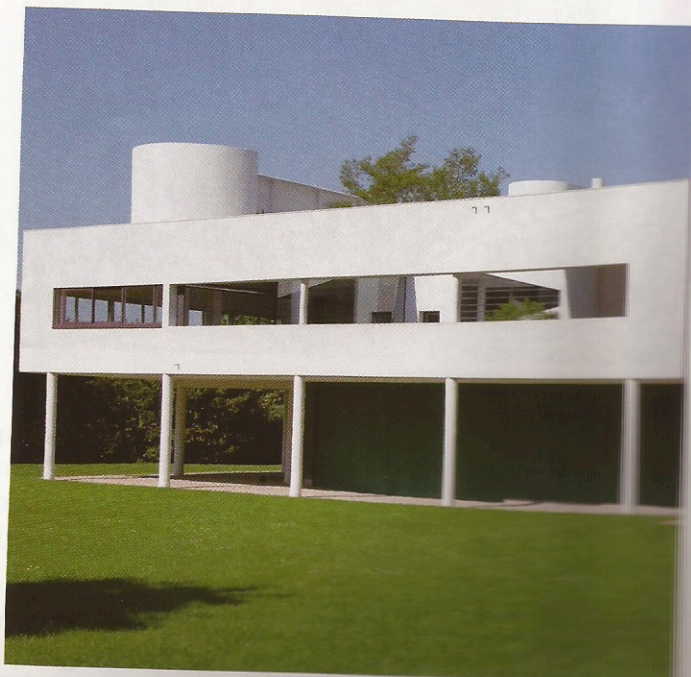
Villa Savoye, designed by Le Corbusier

7.2. Abstract art

Abstract art was an avant-garde style that influenced painting and sculpture during the second half of the 20th century. It originated in Europe after the Second World War, and then spread to the United States.

One of the most famous Abstract painters was Kandinsky *(Yellow-red-blue)*, whose work helped to define the style's main characteristics.

- Abstract artists believed that art should speak its own language and did not need to depict real scenes or objects.

- They also thought that paintings should be composed of colours and shapes, so a work of art was a simply a combination of colours.

In Abstract art, colour was used to create **two** types of painting.

- **Geometric Abstraction:** colours were often used to make a variety of geometric shapes and lines. Some paintings were composed of simple horizontal and vertical lines and blocks of colours, such as Mondrian's *Composition II in red, blue and yellow.*

- **Abstract Expressionism:** colours were applied freely with techniques such as **dripping,** in which the artist allowed paint to fall on a canvas. Jackson Pollock *(No. 5, 1948)* used this technique for many of his works. In this type of Abstract art, the different colours and splashes of paint were considered to have great artistic significance.

No. 5, 1948 (Jackson Pollock, 1948)

Bird in space (Constantin Brancusi, 1932–1940)

Abstract **sculptures** represented human figures or animals by simplifying their shapes. Some sculptures, such as those by Brancusi *(Bird in space),* were compact and solid. Other sculptures, such as those by Henry Moore *(Reclining figure),* had holes and open spaces.

In **Spain**, Abstract art developed in the 1950s, thanks to the work of several groups of painters and sculptors. In Andalucía, the **Equipo Córdoba** group experimented with Geometric Abstraction, while the Madrid-based **El Paso** group preferred Abstract Expressionism.

Activities

Copy and complete the table in your exercise book.

	Yalta	Potsdam
Date		
Leaders		
Agreements		

Copy and complete the text in your exercise book, using these words: *armed forces, blue berets, conflict, human rights, League of Nations, peace, sanctions, San Francisco.* Then listen and check your answers.

The United Nations was established at the _____ Conference in 1945. Its aims were to prevent international _____ and protect _____. It had some similarities to the old _____. For example, it could use _____ against countries that threatened peace. However, it could also use _____ from member states to enforce agreements and keep _____. These troops are known as the _____.

Use reference books or the Internet to find a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Then answer the questions in your exercise book.

How many articles does the declaration include?

What types of rights do they protect?

In your opinion, which five articles are the most important? Explain your answer.

Would you include any additional articles?

In pairs, look at section 6.2. Then answer the questions.

Make a bar chart to show either the number of civilian deaths for each nationality mentioned or the number of military deaths.

Why do you think it has been difficult for historians to agree on the total number of war deaths?

How many Soviet civilians died as a result of the war?

Why do you think this figure was so high?

Which countries had the highest totals of military deaths?

Which countries had the lowest totals of military deaths?

What demographic and economic consequences did war casualties produce?

What other factors related to the war produced economic consequences?

Which countries do you think found recovering and rebuilding the most difficult? Explain your answer.

How did international relations change as a result of the war?

25 Look at the map in section 6.2. In your exercise book, write a short description of how each of these countries was affected by territorial changes after the Second World War.

- Germany
- France
- United States
- Great Britain
- Poland
- USSR

26 Copy and complete the sentences in your exercise book, choosing the correct words.

a) Functionalist buildings had a very *practical / decorative* _____ design.

b) Functionalism emphasised *simple / complex* _____ lines and shapes.

c) Buildings were often made of concrete and *brick / steel* _____.

d) The Bauhaus School was founded in *Germany / the United States* _____.

e) The GATPAC was a group of Spanish *painters / architects* _____.

f) The Villa Savoye was designed by *Le Corbusier / Van der Rohe* _____.

27 In pairs, look at the images and then answer the questions below.

a) Describe what you see in each image.

b) What artistic style is each work?

c) Compare the painting to Pollock's *No. 5, 1948* in section 7.2., and the sculpture to Brancusi's *Bird in space* in the same section.

Revision activities

1 Define the following terms:

a) reparations
b) expansionism
c) annexation
d) appeasement
e) Abyssinia
f) Sudetenland
g) Nazi-Soviet Pact
h) blitzkrieg
i) Pearl Harbour
j) Blue Division
k) Holocaust
l) rationing
m) air raid
n) refugee
o) United Nations
p) Abstract Expressionism.

2 Copy these events in your exercise book in chronological order and complete the date. Then make a timeline.

a) _____ The Americans won the Battle of Midway
b) _____ Germany invaded Poland
c) _____ Start of the Battle of Stalingrad
d) _____ Germany invaded Czechoslovakia
e) _____ The Japanese Empire surrendered
f) _____ End of the Spanish Civil War
g) _____ Meeting of Hitler and Franco in Hendaye
h) _____ Germany attacked the USSR
i) _____ Italy attacked British bases in Egypt

3 Use the information in section 2.4. and these phrases to write a summary of Spain's position during the Second World War.

a) When the Second World War broke out…
b) Franco faced many domestic problems…
c) Hitler and Franco met…
d) Franco asked Hitler…
e) In the end, Franco decided…
f) However, he sent…

4 Look at the map below and answer the questions in your exercise book.

a) Which European countries remained neutral during the war?
b) Which group of powers controlled most of West Africa?
c) Where did Italy conquer territory during the Second World War?
d) Which side did the nations of North and South America support during the war?
e) Which parts of East and South-east Asia were occupied by the Axis Powers?
f) Which Axis Power do you think occupied these places?

THE OPPOSING FORCES IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

- Germany and German-occupied territories
- Italy and Italian-occupied territories
- Japan and Japanese-occupied territories
- Axis-controlled territory
- Neutral countries
- Allied countries
- Territory gained by the USSR

0   5 000 km
1 : 225 560 000

5 Answer the questions in your exercise book.

a) What was the most important economic priority during the war?

b) How were manufacturing industries affected by the outbreak of war?

c) Why did mines and foundries have to increase production?

d) Why did the civilian population suffer shortages of food and basic consumer goods?

e) Why did people in Europe move away from towns and cities during the war?

f) What other measures did people take to protect themselves from enemy attacks?

6 In pairs, discuss the questions.

a) How were Jewish people particularly affected by the events of the Second World War?

b) What other ethnic and social groups suffered under the Nazis?

c) Do you know of any other examples of genocide in human history? Use reference books and the Internet to check your answer.

7 Copy and complete the table in your exercise book.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR	
Demographic	
Economic	
Political	
Territorial	

The Seagram Building, designed by Van der Rohe

8 Look at the images below. Then answer the questions in your exercise book.

a) Which characteristics of Functionalism can you see in the image of the Seagram Building?

b) Compare the Seagram Building to the Villa Savoye in section 6.1. What are the differences?

c) What style is Mondrian's *Composition II*?

d) Which characteristics of that style can you see?

e) What are the differences between Mondrian's painting and the works by Kandinsky and Pollock in this unit?

Talking points

9 In pairs or small groups, discuss the consequences of the Second World War. Which do you think was the most important?

- The use of the atomic bomb
- The division of the world into two blocs
- The human impact of the war
- The economic impact of the war
- The defeat of Nazism

10 Imagine you are advising one of the political leaders at the Yalta and Potsdam conferences. Decide what your advice would be on these issues. Then role play the conversation with a partner.

- What to do with Germany
- What to do with Japan
- What to do with Poland
- What to do with the colonies that had been controlled by the Axis powers
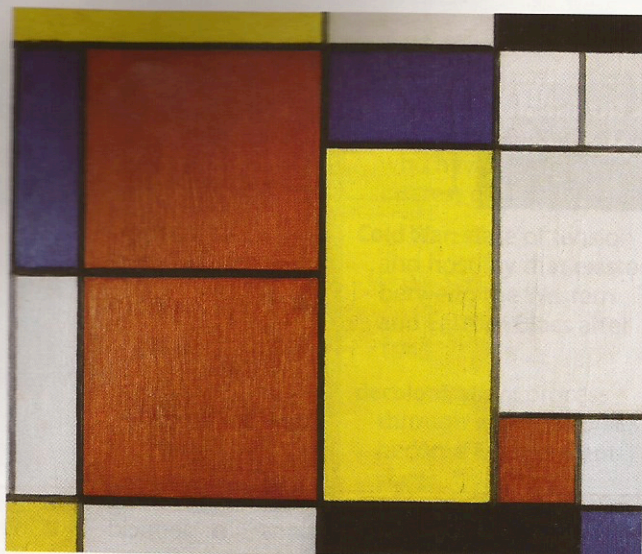
Composition II in red, blue and yellow (Piet Mondrian, 1930)