

CAUSATION: WORLD WAR II

Purpose

Evaluating the reasons why World War II began can be tricky, but by categorizing the causes, you'll see once again that there can be multiple causes for a historical event. This will continue to sharpen your causation skills, enabling you to look at different accounts in history and make your own viable historical explanations and causal arguments to explain historical events from your own perspective.

Process

1. Read or review "[The Second World War](#)" and "[Economics of World War II](#)." Use the table below to list as many causes and consequences as you can find. You'll use this information to complete the Causation Tool on the next page.

Causes of World War II	Consequences of World War II

2. On the next page, you'll see the Causation Tool.
 - Fill in the information about the event (dates, location, description).
 - Categorize the causes in the table above into long term, intermediate term, and short term, and add the effects.
 - Use the legend on the tool to categorize the causes and effects by type. Then, categorize the causes by role.

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Causation Tool

Add the event you are analyzing and corresponding information. Then, if your teacher asks you to create a causal map, use your answers here to help construct that causal representation.

Event	
Dates	
Location	
Brief description	

List your causes and use the legend to help you label type and role.

Causes: Long-term	Intermediate-term	Short-term

List the effects of the event and use the legend to help you label type and role.

Effects

Legend

Type		Role
(P) Political (I) Innovation (S) Economic	(C) Cultural (E) Environmental (S) Social	 Triggering event—the most immediate cause of an event <u>Necessary</u> <u>Relevant</u>

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3. Use your causes and consequences from the tool to create a causal map. Your causal map should have World War II in the center circle/box with the causes leading to this war as well as any consequences that were the result of it.

Causal Map

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for students to draw a causal map. The box is centered on the page and occupies most of the lower half of the document.

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4. In the space below, write a two-paragraph response to this prompt: *What were two of the most significant causes AND what were two of the most significant consequences of World War II?* Remember that you can use your completed tool, the articles, and your causal map to help you write your paragraphs. Make sure to explain your reasoning for why the causes and consequences you chose are the most significant ones, and remember to use the acronym ADE to help determine historical significance:

- **Amount**—Think about how *many* people were impacted by the cause/effect.
- **Depth**—Think about how *strongly* people were impacted by the cause/effect.
- **Endurance**—Think about how *long* this cause/effect impacted people.