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Date

Germany's Price for Losing World War II

Germany suffered greatly with the ending of World War I. It was blamed for the beginning of that war and experienced tremendous economic hardship as a result. That made it especially susceptible to wanting to reclaim its place as a global power, leading to its instigation of World War II, beginning with the 1939 invasion of Poland. Its participation in that war was to last until May of 1945. Again, Germany was viewed as responsible for the war in Europe, incurring economic difficulty for its people once more. In addition, the country had tremendous damage. For example, its communications systems were destroyed, including telephone systems and postal services.

Besides the communications systems, Germany had major damage to its transportation systems, including roads and railways. This interfered greatly with the transporting of needed goods and services, such as food, medical supplies, building supplies, etc. For example, a trip from Munich to Hamburg by train took 72 hours (Deighton 22). Repairs to the main transportation systems would take over a year. In addition, extensive damage was done to buildings, mostly due to artillery and bombing.

Impairment to the country's infrastructure and death of their country men and women was not the only aftermath of Germany's instigation of WW II. They were required to compensate the Allied forces with a payment of \$30 million. The purpose of this compensation was to reimburse the Allies for the cost of their involvement in the war. Moreover, Germany suffered a major reduction in the size of its military forces, with the disbandment of their Air Force and decrease in size of its army and navy. Finally, the Germans were required to return to France the land they had acquired as a result of the Franco-Prussia wars as well as to relinquish landholdings to Poland. (Deighton 24)

In summary, the Germans had started two world-wide wars that each cost them greatly. First, they were responsible for WW I, which caused them great economic hardship and loss of national pride. Then, they sought to reclaim what they had lost by beginning WW II. Again, they were defeated, and again, they suffered major consequences that resulted in economic hardship for their people. Finally, Germany will always be viewed by the world at large as an aggressive country that caused itself and other countries loss of life and financial stress.

Work Cited

Deighton, Len. *Blood, Tears and Folly: An Objective Look at World War II*. New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 1993. Print.