

You will use the following 5 documents to answer this prompt:

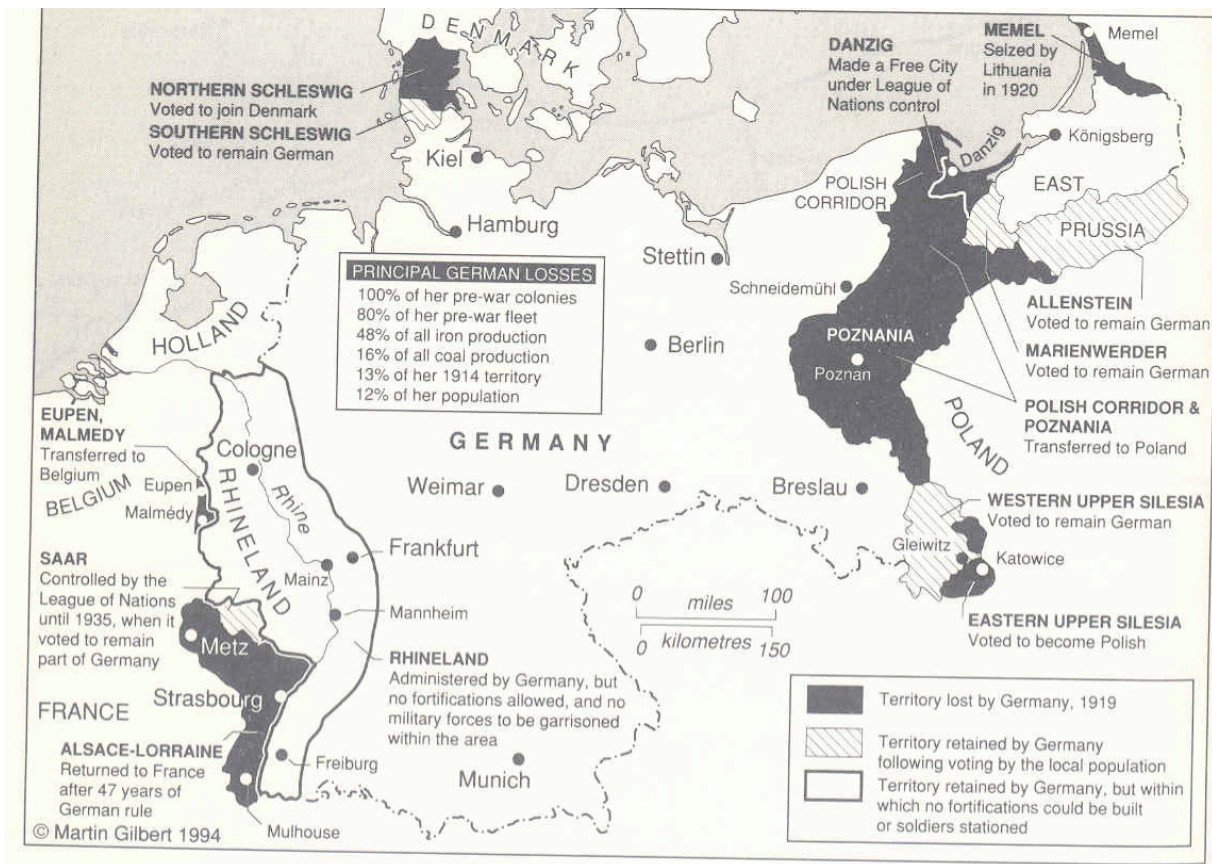
What is the most logical explanation for the foreign policy decisions Hitler made in the 1930s?

Write a one page summary that explains the documents below and provides some possible explanations for the choices Hitler made with respect to German Foreign policy. Use your mind-web, as well, in making your argument

The documents are:

1. The Treaty of Versailles/Germany (map)
2. The German Diaspora (map)
3. Percentage of Germans living in Czechoslovakia (map)
4. The Spread of Hitlerism (newspaper article)
5. Notes from a meeting in Berlin on German Foreign Policy (memo)
6. The Expansion of Germany in the Mid to Late 1930s (map)

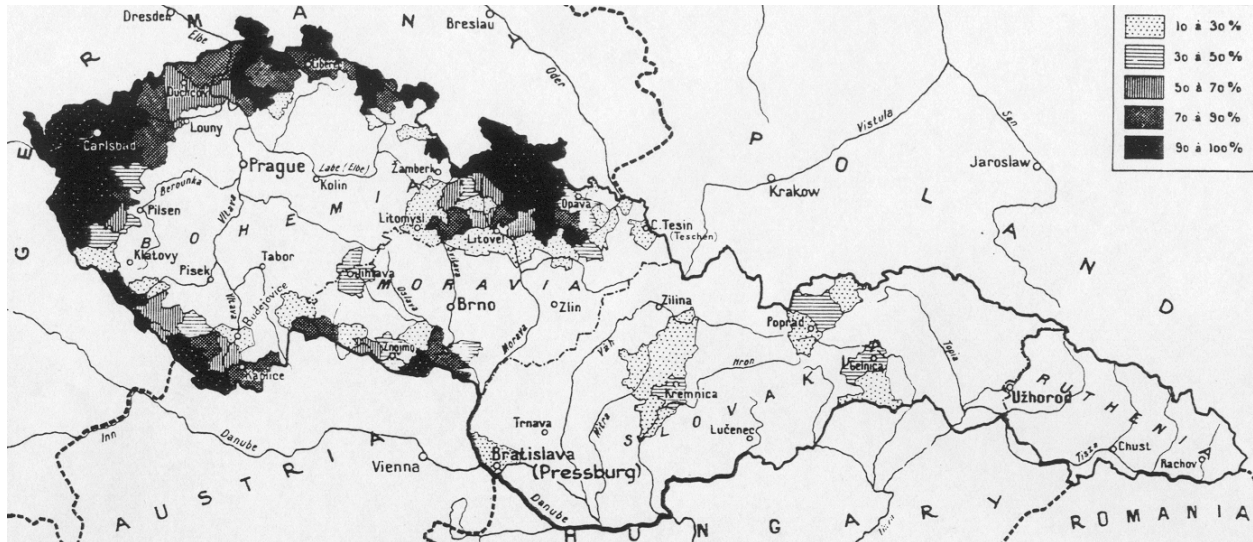
Doc 1. The Treaty of Versailles/Germany



Doc 2. The title of this map is “the German Diaspora in the 1920s”, and refers to the numbers of German speakers living outside the actual country of Germany. The shading on the map indicates where these German speakers live.



Doc. 3 Population of Germans living in Czechoslovakia, 1930. (The darker the color, the more Germans)



Doc 4. *The Spread of Hitlerism*
M. W. Fodor, *The Nation*, 5 February 1936

“The desire of these Germans in Austria and Czecho-Slovakia for union with the German fatherland after the war was genuine and strong. Plebiscites in the Tyrol and Salzburg in the postwar years yielded enormous majorities in favor of *Anschluss*. But the peace treaties stood in the way...A change came with the swift growth of National Socialism in Germany....

Near the German border in Czecho-Slovakia are 3,500,000 Germans--out of a population of 14,000,000 who in the event of an armed conflict would be a potential danger to Czecho-Slovakia. This German population has always been German nationalist in sympathy.

No National Socialist Party exists in Hungary. Yet a visit to the villages in western Hungary or in the Swabian settlements round Budapest suffices to convince one that the atmosphere in these German villages is National Socialist [Nazi]. The Germans in Berlin complained bitterly about the persecution of the German voters at the recent elections in Hungary.

Equally difficult is the situation in Poland with 600,000 Germans. During the last few years they have been subjected to intense National Socialist propaganda directed from

Berlin, and in many municipalities the Nazis have succeeded in capturing the majority of the offices.

The penetration of Nazism among the Germans in Central and Southeastern Europe is magnificently organized. Before an astonished world has time to recover from the shock, one country after the other, it seems probable, will fall before this cleverly launched attack. If Austria goes, Czecho-Slovakia will not be able to survive, and subsequently the Germans of Hungary will be incorporated into Greater Germany.”

Doc. 5

**Minutes of a Conference in the Reich Chancellery, Berlin, November 5, 1937,
FROM 4:15 to 8:30 P.M.**

The Fuehrer [said]:

The aim of German policy was to make secure and to preserve the racial community [Volksmasse] and to enlarge it. It was therefore a question of space.

The German racial community comprised over 85 million people and, because of their number and the narrow limits of habitable space in Europe, constituted a tightly packed racial core such as was not to be met in any other country and such as implied the right to a greater living space than in the case of other peoples.... Instead of increase, sterility was setting in, and ... disorders of a social character must arise in course of time, since political and ideological ideas remain effective only so long as they furnish the basis for the realization of the essential vital demands of a people. Germany's future was therefore wholly conditional upon the solving of the need for space, and such a solution could be sought, of course, only for a foreseeable period of about one to three generations.

The question for Germany ran: where could she achieve the greatest gain at the lowest cost.

German policy had to reckon with two hate-inspired antagonists, Britain and France, to whom a German colossus in the center of Europe was a thorn in the flesh, and both countries were opposed to any further strengthening of Germany's position either in Europe or overseas; in support of this opposition they were able to count on the agreement of all their political parties. Both countries saw in the establishment of German military bases overseas a threat to their own communications, a safeguarding of German commerce, and, as a consequence, a strengthening of Germany's position in Europe.

Germany's problem could only be solved by means of force and this was never without attendant risk...

Doc. 6. This map indicates the expansion of Germany in the mid to late 1930s.

