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The Diplomacy of Appeasement: Anglo-French Relations and the Prelude to World War II

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Anglo-French " Napoleon. In 1915, the British got together with other nations and defeated Emperor Napoleon of France. After that, peace prevailed over their relationships in the dawn of the 19 century. They became close allies because of World War I and II. They heroically fought against Germany's Nazism until it was rooted out from the world. Anglo-French and Ireland. Ireland faced the French invasion in 1798. It was in support of a rebellion in Ireland who at that time was popular among the people. However, the British supported their Irish counterparts in defeating the French invasion. Thi World War I and the Great Depression had taken a drastic toll on British and French military strength. Their finances were strained to the point where Britain was forced off the gold standard in 1931. The diplomatic dance that we now call appeasement failed, but it was a damned sight better than the alternatives available at the time"capitulation or war. The British and French chose a rational path of diplomatic engagement and compromise, and Hitler threw it back in their faces. World War II happened because Hitler was wedded to an irrational course of unlimited expansion. He imagined that somehow his relatively small and resource-poor nation could one day rule the world, or at least the Eurasian landmass. The Online Books Page. The Diplomacy of Appeasement: Anglo-French Relations and the Prelude to World War II, 1931-1938. Title: The Diplomacy of Appeasement: Anglo-French Relations and the Prelude to World War II, 1931-1938. Author: Furnia, Arthur H. (Arthur Homer), 1926-1997. Note: Washington: University Press of Washington DC, c1960. Link: page images at HathiTrust. 1 Kanya-Forstner, A. S., "French African Policy and the Anglo-French Agreement of 5 August 1890", The Historical Journal, XII (12. 1969), 630"4. 2 Ribot to Waddington, 28 June 1890, personal letter, France, Archives du MinistÃ"re des affaires "trangÃ"res (hereafter cited as AMAE), Ribot Papers, III, fos. 212"15. However, the Hovas interpreted their text of the treaty as preserving their right to conduct relations with all foreign powers resident on the island. In addition, a following "explanatory letter", signed by the French negotiators but never recognized by the French Government, further restricted French powers on the island. The treaty was filled with ambiguities and did not represent the wishes of either party (Grandidier, *ibid.*). The total nature of World War II surpassed that of 1914"18 in that civilian populations not only contributed to the war effort but also became direct targets of aerial attack. Moreover, in 1941 the Nazi regime unleashed a war of extermination against Slavs, Jews, and other elements deemed inferior by Hitler's ideology, while Stalinist Russia extended its campaign. The rationale of appeasement. The civil war in Spain. The return of U.S. isolationism. Poland and the northern war. At first glance Germany might have seemed the underdog in the war launched by Hitler. The Wehrmacht numbered 54 active divisions, compared to 55 French, 30 Polish, and two British divisions available for the Continent.