

FOUNDATIONS OF DIPLOMACY

From Versailles to Rome: European Diplomacy in War and Peace

Weekly Outline

- Week 1** The legacy of the Versailles Treaty
- Week 2** Mussolini's "Roman Empire"
- Week 3** Stresemann to Hitler: German foreign policy
- Week 4** Spanish Civil War: The international implications
- Week 5** Soviet foreign policy 1918–41
- Week 6** Chamberlain, Churchill and appeasement
- Week 7** Diplomatic and military objectives of the Axis powers
- Week 8** Diplomatic and military objectives of the Allied powers
- Week 9** Origins of the Cold War in Europe 1945–49
- Week 10** Cold War America asserts its power: Anglo-French humiliation in Suez 1956

Intended learning outcomes

This course evaluates the fallout from the controversial Treaty of Versailles and evaluates the scholarly debate about its short term and long term effects. The aftermath of the Treaty spawned the collapse of the Weimar regime and the rise of Hitler whose foreign policy is analysed in depth. The revisionist powers of Mussolini's Italy and the Soviet Union under Stalin also play a vital role in diplomatic engagement in the inter war period, especially in relation to the appeasement policy pursued by Britain and France. The significance of the Spanish civil war to international relations is also stressed.

The military and diplomatic objectives of both Allied and Axis powers is analysed in WWII and the origins of the Cold War in Europe is considered in detail. The course concludes with the ramifications of the 1956 Suez crisis, spurring the moves towards European Integration, which bore fruit in the signing of the 1957 Treaty of Rome. To summarise over 40 years of European diplomacy, in both peace and war, is studied to a sophisticated academic standard.

