Causes of the Second World War:

1. **The failure of the League of Nations**

2. **The failure of Naval Disarmament**

( A ) Background:

a) The powers discussed disarmament at the peace conference in order to prevent future wars.

b) They agreed to reduce the army but failed to reduce the navy.

( B ) Disarmament conferences during 1921-34:


b) The London Naval Conference in 1930 – The United States, Britain and Japan attended the conference.


( C ) Result:

a) They failed to reach a general agreement.

b) This failure started a new arms race among the powers.

c) The new arms race helped to bring the world nearer to war.

3. **Failure of Appeasement**

( A ) What is meant by Appeasement?

Appeasement is a policy of trying to satisfy someone by giving him what he wants.

The aim is to prevent war.

( B ) Why did Chamberlain, the British Prime Minister, adopted the policy of Appeasement?

i) He believed that Germany was unfairly treated at the Paris Peace Conference.

ii) His country longed for peace because:

   ~ Britain had grown weak after the WWI and was further hit by economic problems in the 1930s.

iii) Britain could not stop aggression by means of war.

( Hitler occupied Rhineland in 1936 and Austria in 1938 – Britain did not send any protest against these aggressive activities)

( C ) Result:

i) France followed Britain to adopt the policy of Appeasement.

j) The policy failed and encouraged Hitler to expand further which finally resulted in war.