





# Hitler and the Rearmament of Germany 1933-35.

**Discover:** how Hitler broke the Treaty of Versailles between 1933-35 **Explore:** how he rebuilt the German army **Skills:** reading for purpose.



In 1933, Hitler told his army generals to prepare to treble the size of the army from 100 000 to 300,000 men and the Air Ministry to plan to build 1,000 war planes. He withdrew from the Geneva Disarmament Conference when the French refused to accept his plan that the French should disarm to the level of the Germans. For two years, the German military expanded in secret. By March 1935, Hitler felt strong enough to show off his illegal army in public which broke the terms of the Versailles Treaty. Europe learned that the Nazis had 2,500 war planes in its Luftwaffe and an army of 300,000 men in its Wehrmacht. Hitler also publicly announced that there would be compulsory military conscription in Germany. The French and British did nothing. They were recovering from the Depression and could not afford a conflict. The French preferred a defensive policy against a potential German threat and she spent time and money building the Maginot Line, a series of vast forts on the French and German border. The most Britain, France and Italy did was to form the Stresa Front which issued a protest against Hitler's rearmament policy. It seemed that Britain was even supporting Germany's breaking of the Treaty of Versailles. This treaty had clearly stated what Germany's navy should have no submarines and only six warships. However, in June, 1935, the Anglo-German Naval Agreement was signed. This allowed Germany to build more warships but at a ratio one third the number of the British. It also allowed an equal number of submarines.

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Army	Conscription	Luftwaffe	Navy
			
Situation in 1933: Versailles terms.	Situation in 1933: Versailles terms.	Situation in 1933 : Versailles terms.	Situation in 1933 : Versailles terms.
Situation by 1935:	Situation by 1935:	Situation by 1935:	Situation by 1935: