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Final Persuasive Essay

Read the following prompts. Choose one to write a persuasive essay response to. Highlight your choice. 450 words minimum. If you use information from books or online, cite the author or add a link.

1. What holiday is better, Christmas or Chinese New Year? Why is your choice better than the other? Use specific examples to support your reasoning.
2. If there were one rule or situation you could change at your school, what would it be? How would you change it? Why does it need to be changed? Use specific examples.
3. Make up your own prompt. Choose something you have always wanted to write about. Write the prompt above the line and highlight it. Make sure it is a prompt asking for a persuasive essay. Be careful!

[France was the country mainly responsible for World War II.](#)

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LT : [France was the main cause of WW2.](#)

TS1 : [The French came up with many harsh punishments on Germany in the Treaty of Versailles.](#)

CD: [The French not only forced Germany to cede French territory back to France, they also made Germany give up Pomerania and Silesia to Poland, splitting Germany into two.](#)

TS2: [The French did not prepare well before ww2 started.](#)

CD: [The French were still issuing rifles designed in the 1870s to soldiers in the 1930s.](#)

TS3: [The French made many mistakes in the German invasion of France in 1940.](#)

CD: [The French supreme commander, General Gamelin, simply refused to believe that the Germans tanks were swarming into French territory.](#)

In 1939, Hitler launched an attack on Poland, starting World War II. France and Britain immediately declared war on Germany, but did nothing to stop the German rampage in Poland. Little did they know that by not attacking Nazi Germany, they were allowing the largest war in history, the Second World War, to happen. This devastating war claimed more than 60 million lives and displaced millions. The common perception is that the axis countries started the whole disaster by invading other countries in the first place. However, France had bred WW2 20 years before WW2 actually broke out, making France the country most responsible for the Second World War.

The first reason why France was the main cause of the Second World War is because France came up with many harsh punishments on Germany after World War I. After World War I, the victorious allies forced Germany to sign the treaty of Versailles, a treaty full of cruel punishments on Germany. For example, not only did Germany cede French territory to France, Germany also gave up Pomerania and Silesia to Poland, thus dividing Germany itself into half. The humiliation of losing territory fueled the future rise of Nazism in Germany. Also, Germany had to pay 132 billion gold marks, or USD 33 billion, to the allies, and this beggared Germany. The terrible economy made the Germans angry towards the allies, especially France, which called for punishing Germany severely. The economic misery led to the German population's support for Hitler, which gave rise to WW2. Owing to French Prime Minister Clemenceau's policy of punishing Germany heavily, the Treaty of Versailles placed full responsibility of WW1 on Germany, infuriating Germany. The heavy punishments robbed Germany of its prosperity and dignity, and this caused Germany to seek revenge after WW1. To summarize, the heavy punishments, many of which created by France, was responsible for the German wrath that fueled WW2.

While hatred of the allies grew in Germany, France thought the Treaty of Versailles rendered the German army ineffective. France, which felt Germany was too crippled to have powerful military forces,

decided not to upgrade its weaponry and improve its military tactics, which contributed to the start of WW2 and early German success in WW2. For example, France was still issuing the outdated Fusil Gras mle 1874 rifle to soldiers in 1940, right before the German invasion. France's inferior equipment led to its swift defeat by German forces, and this French defeat boosted German morale and expanded the war. With improved weapons, France could have held off the Germans, as the Britain-France coalition had logistical advantages, such as more fuel, and potential US support. However, the French military was in bad shape not only because it had terrible weapons, but also due to its ineffective tactics. The French army was used to fight trench battles, which did not require high mobility. The German's new Blitzkrieg tactic, which involved soldiers and tanks swiftly attacking the enemy, completely crushed the slow French forces, which induced the start of other theaters in WW2, as the Germans could now turn their attention to other places. Overall, the poor state of the French army was a main reason why the German invasion in 1940 turned out to be a world war.

Despite the French army being in a bad state before the war, the ample resources, such as ammunition and minerals, that France and Britain possessed still gave them a chance to stall German attacks. The ill-conceived French defense plans and decisions were the last straw. Even though Germany had the new Blitzkrieg tactic, Hitler caused a traffic jam on the road to France by making all military vehicles drive together. French reconnaissance aircraft spotted the Germans, and reported this traffic jam to General Gamelin, supreme commander of the French army. Gamelin, however, refused to believe this news, and lost this chance to stop WW2. Had the French bombed and shelled the German columns, they would have destroyed thousands of German tanks and other vehicles and prevented the Second World War from happening at all.

In summary, France was the main cause of WW2 as it prompted Germany to start WW2, did not prepare well for war and performed poorly in the first 10 months of WW2, before France's own defeat by Germany. Thanks to France's mistakes, the world lost 60 million lives and left many countries in ruins. As a result, we should reflect on the mistakes made by France to prevent other wars from happening instead of always focusing on Germany; sometimes countries cause other countries to start conflicts. In the JEATH war museum, 'forgive but not forget', a quote that commemorates the losses in WW2, shall always remind the world how lack of leniency and preparedness led to a huge disaster.