Poland before World War II

1. **Look at the two maps and compare the Polish borders before World War II and now.**

2. **Read the text and answer the question: What factors made the situation of Poland between 1918 and 1939 difficult?**

After the war the allies decided that Poland should have access to the sea. They gave Poland a piece of land called the Polish corridor, which cut through Germany. It meant that East Prussia was cut off from the rest of Germany. Danzig (Gdansk) was made an independent city state.

In its early years Poland fought border wars. In 1919 it fought a brief war with Czechoslovakia. However a much longer war was fought against Russia in 1919-1921.

As well as wars the Polish republic faced other problems. In 1922 the President, Gabriel Narutowicz was assassinated. Then in May 1926 Pilsudski led a military revolt and became

dictator. Pilsudski kept the outward forms of democracy. The Parliament continued to meet and political parties were allowed to continue. However Pilsudski held real power until his death in 1935.

Meanwhile in the 1930s Poland was threatened by both Nazi Germany and Communist Russia. In 1939 the two signed a secret agreement to divide Poland between them.

3. **Look at the photos and answer the question: What did ordinary life look like in Poland between the two world wars?**