

abdicate

to give up a
throne

annexation

the taking of a piece
of land by one
country from another

anschluss

union of Austria
and Germany

anti-Semitism

hatred of Jews

appeasement

policy of compromising
dictators to avoid
conflict

Aryan

North European
racial type

autarky

economic self-
sufficiency

Axis

the German-Italian-
Japanese alliance

blitz

German bombing
of British cities

blitzkrieg

lightning war,
German military
tactics

collaborator

a person who assists an enemy against his or her own country

collective security

the principle of nations collectively helping a victim against an aggressor

comintern

communist body encouraging revolution

conscription

forcible enlistment of people into armed forces

demilitarisation

removal of any military presence

einsatzgruppen

SS murder
squads

euthanasia

Nazi policy of killing
mentally ill and
handicapped people

fascist

extreme right-wing
political group

ghetto

enclosed area into
which Jews were
placed

holocaust

systematic elimination
of Europe's Jews by
the Nazis