

World War II

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Chapter 1

Main article

1.1 World War II

“The Second World War” and “WWII” redirect here. For other uses, see The Second World War (disambiguation) and WWII (disambiguation).

World War II (**WWII** or **WW2**), also known as the **Second World War**, was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945, although related conflicts began earlier. It involved the vast majority of the world's nations—including all of the great powers—eventually forming two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis. It was the most widespread war in history, and directly involved more than 100 million people from over 30 countries. In a state of "total war", the major participants threw their entire economic, industrial, and scientific capabilities behind the war effort, erasing the distinction between civilian and military resources. Marked by mass deaths of civilians, including the Holocaust (in which approximately 11 million people were killed)*[1]*[2] and the strategic bombing of industrial and population centres (in which approximately one million were killed, and which included the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki),*[3] it resulted in an estimated 50 million to 85 million fatalities. These made World War II the deadliest conflict in human history.*[4]

The Empire of Japan aimed to dominate Asia and the Pacific and was already at war with the Republic of China in 1937,*[5] but the world war is generally said to have begun on 1 September 1939*[6] with the invasion of Poland by Germany and subsequent declarations of war on Germany by France and the United Kingdom. From late 1939 to early 1941, in a series of campaigns and treaties, Germany conquered or controlled much of continental Europe, and formed the Axis alliance with Italy and Japan. Under the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact of August 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union partitioned and annexed territories of their European neighbours, Poland, Finland, Romania and the Baltic states. The war continued primarily between the European Axis powers and the coalition of the United Kingdom and the British Commonwealth, with campaigns including the North Africa and East Africa campaigns, the aerial Battle of Britain, the Blitz bombing campaign, the Balkan Campaign as

well as the long-running Battle of the Atlantic. In June 1941, the European Axis powers launched an invasion of the Soviet Union, opening the largest land theatre of war in history, which trapped the major part of the Axis' military forces into a war of attrition. In December 1941, Japan attacked the United States and European territories in the Pacific Ocean, and quickly conquered much of the Western Pacific.

The Axis advance halted in 1942 when Japan lost the critical Battle of Midway, near Hawaii, and Germany was defeated in North Africa and then, decisively, at Stalingrad in the Soviet Union. In 1943, with a series of German defeats on the Eastern Front, the Allied invasion of Sicily and the Allied invasion of Italy which brought about Italian surrender, and Allied victories in the Pacific, the Axis lost the initiative and undertook strategic retreat on all fronts. In 1944, the Western Allies invaded German-occupied France, while the Soviet Union regained all of its territorial losses and invaded Germany and its allies. During 1944 and 1945 the Japanese suffered major reverses in mainland Asia in South Central China and Burma, while the Allies crippled the Japanese Navy and captured key Western Pacific islands.

The war in Europe concluded with an invasion of Germany by the Western Allies and the Soviet Union, culminating in the capture of Berlin by Soviet and Polish troops and the subsequent German unconditional surrender on 8 May 1945. Following the Potsdam Declaration by the Allies on 26 July 1945 and the refusal of Japan to surrender under its terms, the United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 August and 9 August respectively. With an invasion of the Japanese archipelago imminent, the possibility of additional atomic bombings, and the Soviet Union's declaration of war on Japan and invasion of Manchuria, Japan surrendered on 15 August 1945. Thus ended the war in Asia, cementing the total victory of the Allies.

World War II altered the political alignment and social structure of the world. The United Nations (UN) was established to foster international co-operation and prevent future conflicts. The victorious great powers—the United States, the Soviet Union, China, the United Kingdom, and France—became the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.*[7] The Soviet Union and the

United States emerged as rival superpowers, setting the stage for the Cold War, which lasted for the next 46 years. Meanwhile, the influence of European great powers waned, while the decolonisation of Asia and Africa began. Most countries whose industries had been damaged moved towards economic recovery. Political integration, especially in Europe, emerged as an effort to end pre-war enmities and to create a common identity.*[8]

1.1.1 Chronology

See also: Timeline of World War II

The start of the war in Europe is generally held to be 1 September 1939,*[9][10] beginning with the German invasion of Poland; Britain and France declared war on Germany two days later. The dates for the beginning of war in the Pacific include the start of the Second Sino-Japanese War on 7 July 1937,*[11] or even the Japanese invasion of Manchuria on 19 September 1931.*[12][13]

Others follow the British historian A. J. P. Taylor, who held that the Sino-Japanese War and war in Europe and its colonies occurred simultaneously and the two wars merged in 1941. This article uses the conventional dating. Other starting dates sometimes used for World War II include the Italian invasion of Abyssinia on 3 October 1935.*[14] The British historian Antony Beevor views the beginning of the Second World War as the Battles of Khalkhin Gol fought between Japan and the forces of Mongolia and the Soviet Union from May to September 1939.*[15]

The exact date of the war's end is also not universally agreed upon. It was generally accepted at the time that the war ended with the armistice of 14 August 1945 (V-J Day), rather than the formal surrender of Japan (2 September 1945). A peace treaty with Japan was signed in 1951 to formally tie up any loose ends such as compensation to be paid to Allied prisoners of war who had been victims of atrocities.*[16] A treaty regarding Germany's future allowed the reunification of East and West Germany to take place in 1990 and resolved other post-World War II issues.*[17]

1.1.2 Background

Main article: Causes of World War II

Europe

World War I had radically altered the political European map, with the defeat of the Central Powers—including Austria-Hungary, Germany and the Ottoman Empire—and the 1917 Bolshevik seizure of power in Russia, which eventually led to the founding of the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, the victorious Allies of World War I, such as France, Belgium, Italy, Greece and Romania, gained territory, and new nation-states were created out of the collapse of Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman and Russian Empires.

To prevent a future world war, the League of Nations was created during the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. The organisation's primary goals were to prevent armed conflict through collective security, military and naval disarmament, and settling international disputes through peaceful negotiations and arbitration.



The League of Nations assembly, held in Geneva, Switzerland, 1930

Despite strong pacifist sentiment after World War I,*[18] its aftermath still caused irredentist and revanchist nationalism in several European states. These sentiments were especially marked in Germany because of the significant territorial, colonial, and financial losses incurred by the Treaty of Versailles. Under the treaty, Germany lost around 13 percent of its home territory and all of its overseas colonies, while German annexation of other states was prohibited, reparations were imposed, and limits were placed on the size and capability of the country's armed forces.*[19]

The German Empire was dissolved in the German Revolution of 1918–1919, and a democratic government, later known as the Weimar Republic, was created. The inter-war period saw strife between supporters of the new republic and hardline opponents on both the right and left. Italy, as an Entente ally, had made some post-war territorial gains; however, Italian nationalists were angered that the promises made by Britain and France to secure Italian entrance into the war were not fulfilled with the peace settlement. From 1922 to 1925, the Fascist movement led by Benito Mussolini seized power in Italy with a nationalist, totalitarian, and class collaborationist agenda that abolished representative democracy, repressed socialist, left-wing and liberal forces, and pursued an aggressive expansionist foreign policy aimed at making Italy a world power, promising the creation of a "New Roman Empire".*[20]

Adolf Hitler, after an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the German government in 1923, eventually became the



Adolf Hitler at a German National Socialist political rally in Weimar, October 1930

Chancellor of Germany in 1933. He abolished democracy, espousing a radical, racially motivated revision of the world order, and soon began a massive rearmament campaign.*[21] It was at this time that political scientists began to predict that a second Great War might take place.*[22] Meanwhile, France, to secure its alliance, allowed Italy a free hand in Ethiopia, which Italy desired as a colonial possession. The situation was aggravated in early 1935 when the Territory of the Saar Basin was legally reunited with Germany and Hitler repudiated the Treaty of Versailles, accelerated his rearmament programme, and introduced conscription.*[23]

Hoping to contain Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Italy formed the Stresa Front; however, in June 1935, the United Kingdom made an independent naval agreement with Germany, easing prior restrictions. The Soviet Union, concerned by Germany's goals of capturing vast areas of eastern Europe, drafted a treaty of mutual assistance with France. Before taking effect though, the Franco-Soviet pact was required to go through the bureaucracy of the League of Nations, which rendered it essentially toothless.*[24] The United States, concerned with events in Europe and Asia, passed the Neutrality Act in August of the same year.*[25]

Hitler defied the Versailles and Locarno treaties by remilitarising the Rhineland in March 1936. He encountered little opposition from other European powers.*[26] In October 1936, Germany and Italy formed the Rome–Berlin Axis. A month later, Germany and Japan signed the Anti-Comintern Pact, which Italy would join in the following year.

Asia

The Kuomintang (KMT) party in China launched a unification campaign against regional warlords and nominally unified China in the mid-1920s, but was soon embroiled in a civil war against its former Chinese communist allies.*[27] In 1931, an increasingly militaristic Japanese Empire, which had long sought influence in

China*[28] as the first step of what its government saw as the country's right to rule Asia, used the Mukden Incident as a pretext to launch an invasion of Manchuria and establish the puppet state of Manchukuo.*[29]

Too weak to resist Japan, China appealed to the League of Nations for help. Japan withdrew from the League of Nations after being condemned for its incursion into Manchuria. The two nations then fought several battles, in Shanghai, Rehe and Hebei, until the Tangu Truce was signed in 1933. Thereafter, Chinese volunteer forces continued the resistance to Japanese aggression in Manchuria, and Chahar and Suiyuan.*[30] After the 1936 Xi'an Incident, the Kuomintang and communist forces agreed on a ceasefire to present a united front to oppose Japan.*[31]

1.1.3 Pre-war events

Italian invasion of Ethiopia (1935)

Main article: Second Italo-Abyssinian War

The Second Italo–Abyssinian War was a brief colonial



Italian soldiers recruited in 1935, on their way to fight the Second Italo-Abyssinian War

war that began in October 1935 and ended in May 1936. The war began with the invasion of the Ethiopian Empire (also known as Abyssinia) by the armed forces of the Kingdom of Italy (*Regno d'Italia*), which was launched from Italian Somaliland and Eritrea.*[32] The war resulted in the military occupation of Ethiopia and its annexation into the newly created colony of Italian East Africa (*Africa Orientale Italiana*, or AOI); in addition, it exposed the weakness of the League of Nations as a force to preserve peace. Both Italy and Ethiopia were member nations, but the League did nothing when the former clearly violated the League's own Article X.*[33] Germany was the only major European nation to support the invasion. Italy subsequently dropped its objections to Germany's goal of absorbing Austria.*[34]

Spanish Civil War (1936–39)

Main article: [Spanish Civil War](#)

When civil war broke out in Spain, Hitler and Mussolini



The bombing of Guernica in 1937, sparked Europe-wide fears that the next war would be based on bombing of cities with very high civilian casualties

lent military support to the Nationalist rebels, led by General Francisco Franco. The Soviet Union supported the existing government, the Spanish Republic. Over 30,000 foreign volunteers, known as the International Brigades, also fought against the Nationalists. Both Germany and the USSR used this proxy war as an opportunity to test in combat their most advanced weapons and tactics. The bombing of Guernica by the German Condor Legion in April 1937 heightened widespread concerns that the next major war would include extensive terror bombing attacks on civilians.*[35]*[36] The Nationalists won the civil war in April 1939; Franco, now dictator, bargained with both sides during the Second World War, but never concluded any major agreements. He did send volunteers to fight on the Eastern Front under German command but Spain remained neutral and did not allow either side to use its territory.*[37]

Japanese invasion of China (1937)

Main article: [Second Sino-Japanese War](#)

In July 1937, Japan captured the former Chinese imperial capital of Beijing after instigating the Marco Polo Bridge Incident, which culminated in the Japanese campaign to invade all of China.*[38] The Soviets quickly signed a non-aggression pact with China to lend materiel support, effectively ending China's prior co-operation with Germany. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek deployed his best army to defend Shanghai, but, after three months of fighting, Shanghai fell. The Japanese continued to push the Chinese forces back, capturing the capital Nanking in December 1937. After the fall of Nanking, tens of thousands if not hundreds of thousands of Chinese civilians and disarmed combatants were murdered by the Japanese.*[39]*[40]



Japanese Imperial Army soldiers during the Battle of Shanghai, 1937

In March 1938, Nationalist Chinese forces won their first major victory at Taierzhuang but then the city of Xuzhou was taken by Japanese in May.*[41] In June 1938, Chinese forces stalled the Japanese advance by flooding the Yellow River; this manoeuvre bought time for the Chinese to prepare their defences at Wuhan, but the city was taken by October.*[42] Japanese military victories did not bring about the collapse of Chinese resistance that Japan had hoped to achieve; instead the Chinese government relocated inland to Chongqing and continued the war.*[43]*[44]

Soviet-Japanese border conflicts



Red Army artillery unit during the Battle of Lake Khasan, 1938

Main article: [Soviet–Japanese border conflicts](#)

In the mid-to-late 1930s, Japanese forces in Manchukuo had sporadic border clashes with the Soviet Union and Mongolia. The Japanese doctrine of Hokushin-ron, which emphasised Japan's expansion northward, was favoured by the Imperial Army during this time. With the devastating Japanese defeat at Khalkin Gol in 1939 and ally Nazi Germany pursuing neutrality with the Soviets, this policy would prove difficult to maintain. Japan and the Soviet Union eventually signed a Neutrality Pact in April 1941, and Japan adopted the doctrine of Nanshin-

ron, promoted by the Navy, which took its focus southward, eventually leading to its war with the United States and the Western Allies.*[45]*[46]

European occupations and agreements

Further information: Anschluss, Appeasement, Munich Agreement, German occupation of Czechoslovakia and Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact

In Europe, Germany and Italy were becoming more



Chamberlain, Daladier, Hitler, Mussolini, and Ciano pictured just before signing the Munich Agreement, 29 September 1938

aggressive. In March 1938, Germany annexed Austria, again provoking little response from other European powers.*[47] Encouraged, Hitler began pressing German claims on the Sudetenland, an area of Czechoslovakia with a predominantly ethnic German population; and soon Britain and France followed the counsel of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and conceded this territory to Germany in the Munich Agreement, which was made against the wishes of the Czechoslovak government, in exchange for a promise of no further territorial demands.*[48] Soon afterwards, Germany and Italy forced Czechoslovakia to cede additional territory to Hungary and Poland.*[49]

Although all of Germany's stated demands had been satisfied by the agreement, privately Hitler was furious that British interference had prevented him from seizing all of Czechoslovakia in one operation. In subsequent speeches Hitler attacked British and Jewish "warmongers" and in January 1939 secretly ordered a major build-up of the German navy to challenge British naval supremacy. In March 1939, Germany invaded the remainder of Czechoslovakia and subsequently split it into the German Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and a pro-German client state, the Slovak Republic.*[50] Hitler also delivered an ultimatum to Lithuania, forcing the concession of the Klaipėda Region.

Greatly alarmed and with Hitler making further demands on the Free City of Danzig, Britain and France guaranteed their support for Polish independence; when Italy conquered Albania in April 1939, the same guaran-



German Foreign Minister Ribbentrop and the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, after signing the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact, 23 August 1939

tee was extended to Romania and Greece.*[51] Shortly after the Franco-British pledge to Poland, Germany and Italy formalised their own alliance with the Pact of Steel.*[52] Hitler accused Britain and Poland of trying to "encircle" Germany and renounced the Anglo-German Naval Agreement and the German–Polish Non-Aggression Pact.

In August 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union signed the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact,*[53] a non-aggression treaty with a secret protocol. The parties gave each other rights to "spheres of influence" (western Poland and Lithuania for Germany; eastern Poland, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Bessarabia for the USSR). It also raised the question of continuing Polish independence.*[54] The agreement was crucial to Hitler because it assured that Germany would not have to face the prospect of a two-front war, as it had in World War I, after it defeated Poland.

The situation reached a general crisis in late August as German troops continued to mobilise against the Polish border. In a private meeting with the Italian foreign minister, Count Ciano, Hitler asserted that Poland was a "doubtful neutral" that needed to either yield to his demands or be "liquidated" to prevent it from drawing off German troops in the future "unavoidable" war with the Western democracies. He did not believe Britain

or France would intervene in the conflict.*[55] On 23 August Hitler ordered the attack to proceed on 26 August, but upon hearing that Britain had concluded a formal mutual assistance pact with Poland and that Italy would maintain neutrality, he decided to delay it.*[56]

In response to British requests for direct negotiations to avoid war, Germany made demands on Poland, which only served as a pretext to worsen relations.*[57] On 29 August, Hitler demanded that a Polish plenipotentiary immediately travel to Berlin to negotiate the handover of Danzig, and to allow a plebiscite in the Polish Corridor in which the German minority would vote on secession.*[58] The Poles refused to comply with the German demands and on the night of 30–31 August in a violent meeting with the British ambassador Neville Henderson, Ribbentrop declared that Germany considered its claims rejected.*[59]

1.1.4 Course of the war

Further information: Diplomatic history of World War II

War breaks out in Europe (1939–40)

Main articles: Invasion of Poland, Occupation of Poland (1939–45), Nazi crimes against the Polish nation, Soviet invasion of Poland and Soviet repressions of Polish citizens (1939–46)

On 1 September 1939, Germany invaded Poland un-



Soldiers of the German Wehrmacht tearing down the border crossing between Poland and the Free City of Danzig, 1 September 1939

der the false pretext that the Poles had carried out a series of sabotage operations against German targets near the border.*[60] Two days later, on 3 September, after a British ultimatum to Germany to cease military operations was ignored, Britain and France, followed by the fully independent Dominions*[61] of the British Commonwealth*[62]—Australia (3 September), Canada (10 September), New Zealand (3 September), and South

Africa (6 September)—declared war on Germany. However, initially the alliance provided limited direct military support to Poland, consisting of a cautious, half-hearted French probe into the Saarland.*[63] The Western Allies also began a naval blockade of Germany, which aimed to damage the country's economy and war effort.*[64] Germany responded by ordering U-boat warfare against Allied merchant and warships, which was to later escalate into the Battle of the Atlantic.



German Panzer I tanks near the city of Bydgoszcz, during the Invasion of Poland, September 1939

On 17 September 1939, after signing a cease-fire with Japan, the Soviets invaded Poland from the east.*[65] The Polish army was defeated and Warsaw surrendered to the Germans on 27 September, with final pockets of resistance surrendering on 6 October. Poland's territory was divided between Germany and the Soviet Union, with Lithuania and Slovakia also receiving small shares. After the defeat of Poland's armed forces, the Polish resistance established an Underground State and a partisan Home Army.*[66] About 100,000 Polish military personnel were evacuated to Romania and the Baltic countries; many of these soldiers later fought against the Germans in other theatres of the war.*[67] Poland's Enigma codebreakers were also evacuated to France.*[68]

On 6 October Hitler made a public peace overture to Britain and France, but said that the future of Poland was to be determined exclusively by Germany and the Soviet Union. Chamberlain rejected this on 12 October, saying “Past experience has shown that no reliance can be placed upon the promises of the present German Government.”*[59] After this rejection Hitler ordered an immediate offensive against France,*[69] but bad weather forced repeated postponements until the spring of 1940.*[70]*[71]*[72]

After signing the German–Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Demarcation, the Soviet Union forced the Baltic countries—Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—to allow it to station Soviet troops in their countries under pacts of “mutual assistance”.*[73]*[74]*[75] Finland rejected territorial demands, prompting a Soviet invasion in November 1939.*[76] The resulting Winter War ended in March 1940 with Finnish concessions.*[77] Britain and

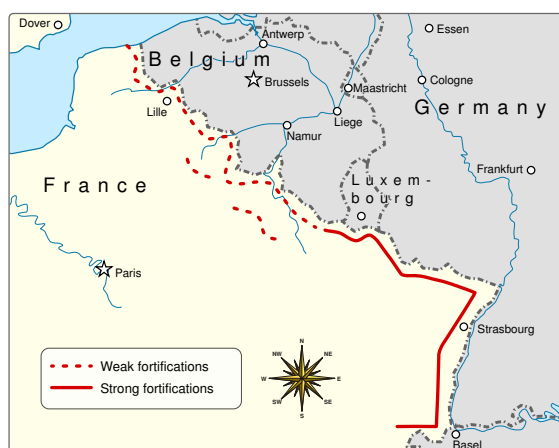


German and Soviet army officers pictured shaking hands—after Nazi Germany and Soviet Union annexed new territories in Eastern Europe, 1939

France, treating the Soviet attack on Finland as tantamount to its entering the war on the side of the Germans, responded to the Soviet invasion by supporting the USSR's expulsion from the League of Nations.*[75]

In June 1940, the Soviet Union forcibly annexed Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania,*[74] and the disputed Romanian regions of Bessarabia, Northern Bukovina and Hertza. Meanwhile, Nazi-Soviet political rapprochement and economic co-operation*[78]*[79] gradually stalled,*[80]*[81] and both states began preparations for war.*[82]

Western Europe (1940–41)



Map of the French Maginot Line

In April 1940, Germany invaded Denmark and Norway to protect shipments of iron ore from Sweden, which the Allies were attempting to cut off by unilaterally mining neutral Norwegian waters.*[83] Denmark capitulated after a few hours, and despite Allied support, during which the important harbour of Narvik temporarily was recaptured from the Germans, Norway was conquered within two months.*[84] British discontent over the Norwegian

campaign led to the replacement of the British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, with Winston Churchill on 10 May 1940.*[85]

Germany launched an offensive against France and, adhering to the Manstein Plan also attacked the neutral nations of Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg on 10 May 1940.*[86] That same day British forces landed in Iceland and the Faroes to preempt a possible German invasion of the islands.*[87] The U.S. in close co-operation with the Danish envoy to Washington D.C., agreed to protect Greenland, laying the political framework for the formal establishment of bases in April 1941. The Netherlands and Belgium were overrun using blitzkrieg tactics in a few days and weeks, respectively.*[88] The French-fortified Maginot Line and the main body the Allied forces which had moved into Belgium were circumvented by a flanking movement through the thickly wooded Ardennes region,*[89] mistakenly perceived by Allied planners as an impenetrable natural barrier against armoured vehicles.*[90]*[91] As a result, the bulk of the Allied armies found themselves trapped in an encirclement and were beaten. The majority were taken prisoner, whilst over 300,000, mostly British and French, were evacuated from the continent at Dunkirk by early June, although abandoning almost all of their equipment.*[92]

On 10 June, Italy invaded France, declaring war on both France and the United Kingdom.*[93] Paris fell to the Germans on 14 June and eight days later France signed an armistice with Germany and was soon divided into German and Italian occupation zones,*[94] and an unoccupied rump state under the Vichy Regime, which, though officially neutral, was generally aligned with Germany. France kept its fleet but the British feared the Germans would seize it, so on 3 July, the British attacked it.*[95]



View of London after the German Blitz, 29 December 1940

The Battle of Britain*[96] began in early July with Luftwaffe attacks on shipping and harbours.*[97] On 19 July, Hitler again publicly offered to end the war, say-

ing he had no desire to destroy the **British Empire**. The United Kingdom rejected this ultimatum.*[98] The main **German air superiority campaign** started in August but failed to defeat **RAF Fighter Command**, and a **proposed invasion** was postponed indefinitely on 17 September. The German **strategic bombing** offensive intensified as night attacks on London and other cities in the **Blitz**, but largely failed to disrupt the British war effort.*[97]



German Luftwaffe, Heinkel He 111 bombers during the Battle of Britain

Using newly captured French ports, the German Navy enjoyed success against an over-extended **Royal Navy**, using **U-boats** against British shipping in the **Atlantic**.*[99] The British scored a significant victory on 27 May 1941 by sinking the **German battleship Bismarck**.*[100] Perhaps most importantly, during the Battle of Britain the **Royal Air Force** had successfully resisted the Luftwaffe's assault, and the German bombing campaign largely ended in May 1941.*[101]

Throughout this period, the neutral United States took measures to assist China and the Western Allies. In November 1939, the **American Neutrality Act** was amended to allow “cash and carry” purchases by the Allies.*[102] In 1940, following the German capture of Paris, the size of the **United States Navy** was significantly increased. In September, the United States further agreed to a trade of **American destroyers** for **British bases**.*[103] Still, a large majority of the American public continued to oppose any direct military intervention into the conflict well into 1941.*[104]

Although Roosevelt had promised to keep the United States out of the war, he nevertheless took concrete steps to prepare for war. In December 1940 he accused Hitler of planning world conquest and ruled out negotiations as useless, calling for the US to become an “arsenal for democracy” and promoted the passage of **Lend-Lease** aid to support the British war effort.*[98] In January 1941 secret high level staff talks with the British began for the purposes of determining how to defeat Germany should the US enter the war. They decided on a number of of-

fensive policies, including an air offensive, the “early elimination” of Italy, raids, support of resistance groups, and the capture of positions to launch an offensive against Germany.*[105]

At the end of September 1940, the **Tripartite Pact** united Japan, Italy and Germany to formalise the **Axis Powers**. The Tripartite Pact stipulated that any country, with the exception of the Soviet Union, not in the war which attacked any Axis Power would be forced to go to war against all three.*[106] The Axis expanded in November 1940 when Hungary, Slovakia and Romania joined the Tripartite Pact.*[107] Romania would make a major contribution (as did Hungary) to the Axis war against the USSR, partially to recapture territory ceded to the USSR, partially to pursue its leader Ion Antonescu's desire to combat communism.*[108]

Mediterranean (1940–41)



Australian troops of the British Commonwealth Forces man a front-line trench during the Siege of Tobruk; North African Campaign, August 1941

Italy began operations in the Mediterranean, initiating a siege of Malta in June, conquering **British Somaliland** in August, and making an incursion into **British-held Egypt** in September 1940. In October 1940, Italy started the **Greco-Italian War** because of Mussolini's jealousy of Hitler's success but within days was repulsed and pushed back into Albania, where a stalemate soon occurred.*[109] The United Kingdom responded to Greek requests for assistance by sending troops to Crete and providing air support to Greece. Hitler decided that when the weather improved he would take action against Greece to assist the Italians and prevent the British from gaining a foothold in the Balkans, to strike against the British naval dominance of the Mediterranean, and to secure his hold on Romanian oil.*[110]

In December 1940, British Commonwealth forces began counter-offensives against Italian forces in **Egypt** and **Italian East Africa**.*[111] The offensive in North Africa was highly successful and by early February 1941 Italy

had lost control of eastern Libya and large numbers of Italian troops had been taken prisoner. The Italian Navy also suffered significant defeats, with the Royal Navy putting three Italian battleships out of commission by a carrier attack at Taranto, and neutralising several more warships at the Battle of Cape Matapan.*[112]



Captured German Afrika Korps soldiers, December 1941

The Germans soon intervened to assist Italy. Hitler sent German forces to Libya in February, and by the end of March they had launched an offensive which drove back the Commonwealth forces which had been weakened to support Greece.*[113] In under a month, Commonwealth forces were pushed back into Egypt with the exception of the besieged port of Tobruk.*[114] The Commonwealth attempted to dislodge Axis forces in May and again in June, but failed on both occasions.*[115]

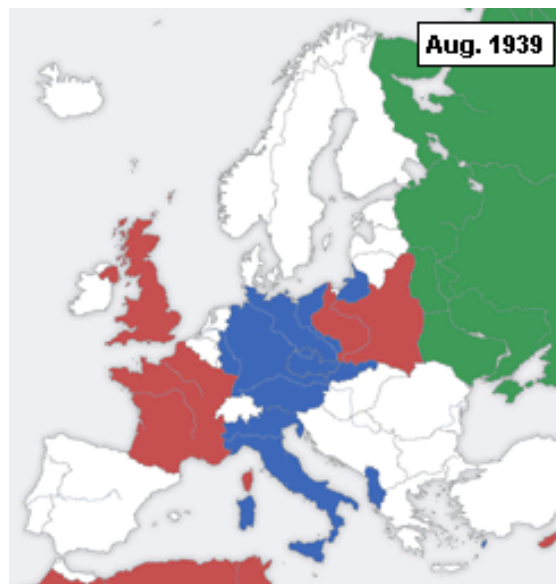
By late March 1941, following Bulgaria's signing of the Tripartite Pact, the Germans were in position to intervene in Greece. Plans were changed, however, because of developments in neighbouring Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav government had signed the Tripartite Pact on 25 March, only to be overthrown two days later by a British-encouraged coup. Hitler viewed the new regime as hostile and immediately decided to eliminate it. On 6 April Germany simultaneously invaded both Yugoslavia and Greece, making rapid progress and forcing both nations to surrender within the month. The British were driven from the Balkans after Germany conquered the Greek island of Crete by the end of May.*[116] Although the Axis victory was swift, bitter partisan warfare subsequently broke out against the Axis occupation of Yugoslavia, which continued until the end of the war.

The Allies did have some successes during this time. In the Middle East, Commonwealth forces first quashed an uprising in Iraq which had been supported by German aircraft from bases within Vichy-controlled Syria,*[117] then, with the assistance of the Free French, invaded Syria and Lebanon to prevent further such occurrences.*[118]

Axis attack on the USSR (1941)

Further information: Operation Barbarossa, Einsatzgruppen, World War II casualties of the Soviet Union and Nazi crimes against Soviet POWs

With the situation in Europe and Asia relatively stable,



European theatre of World War II animation map, 1939-1945 — Red: Western Allies and Soviet Union after 1941; Green: Soviet Union before 1941; Blue: Axis Powers



Soviet civilians in Leningrad leaving destroyed houses, after a German bombardment of the city; Battle of Leningrad, 10 December 1942

Germany, Japan, and the Soviet Union made preparations. With the Soviets wary of mounting tensions with Germany and the Japanese planning to take advantage of the European War by seizing resource-rich European possessions in Southeast Asia, the two powers signed the Soviet–Japanese Neutrality Pact in April 1941.*[119] By contrast, the Germans were steadily making preparations for an attack on the Soviet Union, massing forces on the Soviet border.*[120]

Hitler believed that Britain's refusal to end the war was based on the hope that the United States and the Soviet Union would enter the war against Germany sooner

or later.* [121] He therefore decided to try to strengthen Germany's relations with the Soviets, or failing that, to attack and eliminate them as a factor. In November 1940, negotiations took place to determine if the Soviet Union would join the Tripartite Pact. The Soviets showed some interest, but asked for concessions from Finland, Bulgaria, Turkey, and Japan that Germany considered unacceptable. On 18 December 1940, Hitler issued the directive to prepare for an invasion of the Soviet Union.

On 22 June 1941, Germany, supported by Italy and Romania, invaded the Soviet Union in Operation Barbarossa, with Germany accusing the Soviets of plotting against them. They were joined shortly by Finland and Hungary.* [122] The primary targets of this surprise offensive* [123] were the Baltic region, Moscow and Ukraine, with the ultimate goal of ending the 1941 campaign near the Arkhangelsk-Astrakhan line, from the Caspian to the White Seas. Hitler's objectives were to eliminate the Soviet Union as a military power, exterminate Communism, generate *Lebensraum* ("living space")* [124] by dispossessing the native population* [125] and guarantee access to the strategic resources needed to defeat Germany's remaining rivals.* [126]

Although the Red Army was preparing for strategic counter-offensives before the war,* [127] Barbarossa forced the Soviet supreme command to adopt a strategic defence. During the summer, the Axis made significant gains into Soviet territory, inflicting immense losses in both personnel and materiel. By the middle of August, however, the German Army High Command decided to suspend the offensive of a considerably depleted Army Group Centre, and to divert the 2nd Panzer Group to reinforce troops advancing towards central Ukraine and Leningrad.* [128] The Kiev offensive was overwhelmingly successful, resulting in encirclement and elimination of four Soviet armies, and made further advance into Crimea and industrially developed Eastern Ukraine (the First Battle of Kharkov) possible.* [129]

The diversion of three quarters of the Axis troops and the majority of their air forces from France and the central Mediterranean to the Eastern Front* [130] prompted Britain to reconsider its grand strategy.* [131] In July, the UK and the Soviet Union formed a military alliance against Germany* [132] The British and Soviets invaded Iran to secure the Persian Corridor and Iran's oil fields.* [133] In August, the United Kingdom and the United States jointly issued the Atlantic Charter.* [134]

By October Axis operational objectives in Ukraine and the Baltic region were achieved, with only the sieges of Leningrad* [135] and Sevastopol continuing.* [136] A major offensive against Moscow was renewed; after two months of fierce battles in increasingly harsh weather the German army almost reached the outer suburbs of Moscow, where the exhausted troops* [137] were forced to suspend their offensive.* [138] Large territorial gains were made by Axis forces, but their campaign had failed

to achieve its main objectives: two key cities remained in Soviet hands, the Soviet capability to resist was not broken, and the Soviet Union retained a considerable part of its military potential. The *blitzkrieg* phase of the war in Europe had ended.* [139]

By early December, freshly mobilised reserves* [140] allowed the Soviets to achieve numerical parity with Axis troops.* [141] This, as well as intelligence data which established that a minimal number of Soviet troops in the East would be sufficient to deter any attack by the Japanese Kwantung Army,* [142] allowed the Soviets to begin a massive counter-offensive that started on 5 December all along the front and pushed German troops 100–250 kilometres (62–155 mi) west.* [143]

War breaks out in the Pacific (1941)



Mitsubishi A6M2 "Zero" fighters on the Imperial Japanese Navy aircraft carrier Shōkaku, just before the attack on Pearl Harbor

In 1939 the United States had renounced its trade treaty with Japan and beginning with an aviation gasoline ban in July 1940 Japan had become subject to increasing economic pressure.* [98] During this time, Japan launched its first attack against Changsha, a strategically important Chinese city, but was repulsed by late September.* [144] Despite several offensives by both sides, the war between China and Japan was stalemated by 1940. To increase pressure on China by blocking supply routes, and to better position Japanese forces in the event of a war with the Western powers, Japan invaded and occupied northern Indochina.* [145] Afterwards, the United States embargoed iron, steel and mechanical parts against Japan.* [146] Other sanctions soon followed.

In August of that year, Chinese communists launched an offensive in Central China; in retaliation, Japan instituted harsh measures in occupied areas to reduce human and material resources for the communists.* [147] Continued antipathy between Chinese communist and nationalist forces culminated in armed clashes in January 1941, effectively ending their co-operation.* [148] In March, the Japanese 11th army attacked the headquarters of the Chi-

nese 19th army but was repulsed during **Battle of Shanghai**.^[149] In September, Japan attempted to take the city of **Changsha** again and clashed with Chinese nationalist forces.^[150]

German successes in Europe encouraged Japan to increase pressure on European governments in **Southeast Asia**. The Dutch government agreed to provide Japan some oil supplies from the **Dutch East Indies**, but negotiations for additional access to their resources ended in failure in June 1941.^[151] In July 1941 Japan sent troops to southern Indochina, thus threatening British and Dutch possessions in the Far East. The United States, United Kingdom and other Western governments reacted to this move with a freeze on Japanese assets and a total oil embargo.^[152]^[153]

Since early 1941 the United States and Japan had been engaged in negotiations in an attempt to improve their strained relations and end the war in China. During these negotiations Japan advanced a number of proposals which were dismissed by the Americans as inadequate.^[154] At the same time the US, Britain, and the Netherlands engaged in secret discussions for the joint defence of their territories, in the event of a Japanese attack against any of them.^[155] Roosevelt reinforced the **Philippines** (an American protectorate scheduled for independence in 1946) and warned Japan that the US would react to Japanese attacks against any “neighboring countries”.^[155]



USS Arizona during the Japanese surprise air attack on the American Pacific fleet, 7 December 1941

Frustrated at the lack of progress and feeling the pinch of the American-British-Dutch sanctions, Japan prepared for war. On 20 November it presented an interim proposal as its final offer. It called for the end of American aid to China and to supply oil and other resources to Japan. In exchange they promised not to launch any attacks in Southeast Asia and to withdraw their forces from their threatening positions in southern Indochina.^[154] The American counter-proposal of 26 November required that Japan evacuate all of China without conditions and conclude non-aggression pacts with all Pacific

powers.^[156] That meant Japan was essentially forced to choose between abandoning its ambitions in China, or seizing the natural resources it needed in the **Dutch East Indies** by force;^[157] the Japanese military did not consider the former an option, and many officers considered the oil embargo an unspoken declaration of war.^[158]

Japan planned to rapidly seize European colonies in Asia to create a large defensive perimeter stretching into the **Central Pacific**; the Japanese would then be free to exploit the resources of Southeast Asia while exhausting the over-stretched Allies by fighting a defensive war.^[159] To prevent American intervention while securing the perimeter it was further planned to neutralise the **United States Pacific Fleet** and the American military presence in the **Philippines** from the outset.^[160] On 7 December 1941 (8 December in Asian time zones), Japan attacked British and American holdings with near-simultaneous offensives against **Southeast Asia** and the **Central Pacific**.^[161] These included an attack on the American fleet at **Pearl Harbor**, the **Philippines**, landings in **Thailand** and **Malaya**^[161] and the **battle of Hong Kong**.

These attacks led the United States, Britain, China, Australia and several other states to formally declare war on Japan, whereas the Soviet Union, being heavily involved in large-scale hostilities with European Axis countries, maintained its neutrality agreement with Japan.^[162] Germany, followed by the other Axis states, declared war on the United States^[163] in solidarity with Japan, citing as justification the American attacks on German war vessels that had been ordered by Roosevelt.^[122]^[164]

Axis advance stalls (1942–43)



Seated at the Casablanca Conference; US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British PM Winston Churchill, January 1943

In January 1942, the **Big Four** (the United States, Britain, Soviet Union, China) and 22 smaller or exiled governments issued the **Declaration by United Nations**, thereby

affirming the *Atlantic Charter*,*[165] and agreeing to not to sign a separate peace with the Axis powers.

During 1942, Allied officials debated on the appropriate grand strategy to pursue. All agreed that defeating Germany was the primary objective. The Americans favoured a straightforward, large-scale attack on Germany through France. The Soviets were also demanding a second front. The British, on the other hand, argued that military operations should target peripheral areas to wear out German strength, lead to increasing demoralisation, and bolster resistance forces. Germany itself would be subject to a heavy bombing campaign. An offensive against Germany would then be launched primarily by Allied armour without using large-scale armies.*[166] Eventually, the British persuaded the Americans that a landing in France was infeasible in 1942 and they should instead focus on driving the Axis out of North Africa.*[167]

At the *Casablanca Conference* in early 1943, the Allies reiterated the statements issued in the 1942 Declaration by the United Nations, and demanded the unconditional surrender of their enemies. The British and Americans agreed to continue to press the initiative in the Mediterranean by invading Sicily to fully secure the Mediterranean supply routes.*[168] Although the British argued for further operations in the Balkans to bring Turkey into the war, in May 1943, the Americans extracted a British commitment to limit Allied operations in the Mediterranean to an invasion of the Italian mainland and to invade France in 1944.*[169]



Map of Japanese military advances, until mid-1942

Pacific (1942–43) By the end of April 1942, Japan and its ally Thailand had almost fully conquered Burma, Malaya, the Dutch East Indies, Singapore, and Rabaul, inflicting severe losses on Allied troops and taking a large number of prisoners.*[170] Despite stubborn resistance by Filipino and US forces, the Philippine Commonwealth was eventually captured in May 1942, forcing its government into exile.*[171] On 16 April, in Burma, 7,000 British soldiers were encircled by the Japanese 33rd Di-

vision during the *Battle of Yenangyaung* and rescued by the Chinese 38th Division.*[172] Japanese forces also achieved naval victories in the South China Sea, Java Sea and Indian Ocean,*[173] and bombed the Allied naval base at Darwin, Australia. In January 1942, the only Allied success against Japan was a Chinese victory at Changsha.*[174] These easy victories over unprepared US and European opponents left Japan overconfident, as well as overextended.*[175]

In early May 1942, Japan initiated operations to capture Port Moresby by amphibious assault and thus sever communications and supply lines between the United States and Australia. The planned invasion was thwarted when an Allied task force centered on two American fleet carriers fought Japanese naval forces to a draw in the *Battle of the Coral Sea*.*[176] Japan's next plan, motivated by the earlier *Doolittle Raid*, was to seize Midway Atoll and lure American carriers into battle to be eliminated; as a diversion, Japan would also send forces to occupy the Aleutian Islands in Alaska.*[177] In early June, Japan put its operations into action but the Americans, having broken Japanese naval codes in late May, were fully aware of the plans and force dispositions and used this knowledge to achieve a decisive victory at Midway over the Imperial Japanese Navy.*[178]



US Marines during the Guadalcanal Campaign, in the Pacific theatre, 1942

With its capacity for aggressive action greatly diminished as a result of the Midway battle, Japan chose to focus on a belated attempt to capture Port Moresby by an overland campaign in the Territory of Papua.*[179] The Americans planned a counter-attack against Japanese positions in the southern Solomon Islands, primarily Guadalcanal, as a first step towards capturing Rabaul, the main Japanese base in Southeast Asia.*[180]

Both plans started in July, but by mid-September, the *Battle for Guadalcanal* took priority for the Japanese, and troops in New Guinea were ordered to withdraw from the Port Moresby area to the northern part of the island, where they faced Australian and United States troops in the *Battle of Buna-Gona*.*[181] Guadalcanal soon be-

came a focal point for both sides with heavy commitments of troops and ships in the battle for Guadalcanal. By the start of 1943, the Japanese were defeated on the island and withdrew their troops.*[182] In Burma, Commonwealth forces mounted two operations. The first, an offensive into the Arakan region in late 1942, went disastrously, forcing a retreat back to India by May 1943.*[183] The second was the insertion of irregular forces behind Japanese front-lines in February which, by the end of April, had achieved mixed results.*[184]



Red Army soldiers on the counterattack, during the Battle of Stalingrad, February 1943

Eastern Front (1942–43) Despite considerable losses, in early 1942 Germany and its allies stopped a major Soviet offensive in central and southern Russia, keeping most territorial gains they had achieved during the previous year.*[185] In May the Germans defeated Soviet offensives in the Kerch Peninsula and at Kharkiv,*[186] and then launched their main summer offensive against southern Russia in June 1942, to seize the oil fields of the Caucasus and occupy Kuban steppe, while maintaining positions on the northern and central areas of the front. The Germans split Army Group South into two groups: Army Group A advanced to the lower Don River and struck south-east to the Caucasus, while Army Group B headed towards the Volga River. The Soviets decided to make their stand at Stalingrad on the Volga.*[187]

By mid-November, the Germans had nearly taken Stalingrad in bitter street fighting when the Soviets began their second winter counter-offensive, starting with an encirclement of German forces at Stalingrad*[188] and an assault on the Rzhev salient near Moscow, though the latter failed disastrously.*[189] By early February 1943, the German Army had taken tremendous losses; German troops at Stalingrad had been forced to surrender,*[190] and the front-line had been pushed back beyond its position before the summer offensive. In mid-February, after the Soviet push had tapered off, the Germans launched another attack on Kharkiv, creating a salient in their front line around the Russian city of Kursk.*[191]

Western Europe/Atlantic & Mediterranean (1942–43) Exploiting poor American naval command decisions, the German navy ravaged Allied shipping off the American Atlantic coast.*[192] By November 1941,



An American B-17 bombing raid, by the 8th Air Force, on the Focke Wulf factory in Germany, 9 October 1943

Commonwealth forces had launched a counter-offensive, Operation Crusader, in North Africa, and reclaimed all the gains the Germans and Italians had made.*[193] In North Africa, the Germans launched an offensive in January, pushing the British back to positions at the Gazala Line by early February,*[194] followed by a temporary lull in combat which Germany used to prepare for their upcoming offensives.*[195] Concerns the Japanese might use bases in Vichy-held Madagascar caused the British to invade the island in early May 1942.*[196] An Axis offensive in Libya forced an Allied retreat deep inside Egypt until Axis forces were stopped at El Alamein.*[197] On the Continent, raids of Allied commandos on strategic targets, culminating in the disastrous Dieppe Raid,*[198] demonstrated the Western Allies' inability to launch an invasion of continental Europe without much better preparation, equipment, and operational security.*[199]

In August 1942, the Allies succeeded in repelling a second attack against El Alamein*[200] and, at a high cost, managed to deliver desperately needed supplies to the besieged Malta.*[201] A few months later, the Allies commenced an attack of their own in Egypt, dislodging the Axis forces and beginning a drive west across Libya.*[202] This attack was followed up shortly after by Anglo-American landings in French North Africa, which resulted in the region joining the Allies.*[203] Hitler responded to the French colony's defection by ordering the occupation of Vichy France;*[203] although Vichy forces did not resist this violation of the armistice, they managed to scuttle their fleet to prevent its capture by German forces.*[204] The now pincered Axis forces in Africa withdrew into Tunisia, which was conquered by the Allies in May 1943.*[205]

In early 1943 the British and Americans began the Combined Bomber Offensive, a strategic bombing campaign against Germany. The goals were to disrupt the German war economy, reduce German morale, and "de-house" the civilian population.*[206]

Allies gain momentum (1943–44)



US Navy Douglas SBD Dauntless flies patrol over the USS Washington and USS Lexington during the Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaign, 1943

After the Guadalcanal Campaign, the Allies initiated several operations against Japan in the Pacific. In May 1943, Canadian and U.S. forces were sent to eliminate Japanese forces from the Aleutians.*[207] Soon after, the U.S. with support from Australian and New Zealand forces began major operations to isolate Rabaul by capturing surrounding islands, and to breach the Japanese Central Pacific perimeter at the Gilbert and Marshall Islands.*[208] By the end of March 1944, the Allies had completed both of these objectives, and additionally neutralised the major Japanese base at Truk in the Caroline Islands. In April, the Allies launched an operation to retake Western New Guinea.*[209]



Red Army troops following T-34 tanks, in a counter-offensive on German positions, at the Battle of Kursk, August 1943

In the Soviet Union, both the Germans and the Soviets spent the spring and early summer of 1943 preparing for large offensives in central Russia. On 4 July 1943, Germany attacked Soviet forces around the Kursk Bulge. Within a week, German forces had exhausted themselves against the Soviets' deeply echeloned and well-constructed defences*[210] and, for the first time in the war, Hitler cancelled the operation before it had achieved tactical or operational success.*[211] This decision was partially affected by the Western Allies' invasion of Sicily

launched on 9 July which, combined with previous Italian failures, resulted in the ousting and arrest of Mussolini later that month.*[212] Also, in July 1943 the British firebombed Hamburg killing over 40,000 people.

On 12 July 1943, the Soviets launched their own counter-offensives, thereby dispelling any chance of German victory or even stalemate in the east. The Soviet victory at Kursk marked the end of German superiority,*[213] giving the Soviet Union the initiative on the Eastern Front.*[214]*[215] The Germans tried to stabilise their eastern front along the hastily fortified Panther-Wotan line, but the Soviets broke through it at Smolensk and by the Lower Dnieper Offensives.*[216]

On 3 September 1943, the Western Allies invaded the Italian mainland, following Italy's armistice with the Allies.*[217] Germany responded by disarming Italian forces, seizing military control of Italian areas,*[218] and creating a series of defensive lines.*[219] German special forces then rescued Mussolini, who then soon established a new client state in German occupied Italy named the Italian Social Republic,*[220] causing an Italian civil war. The Western Allies fought through several lines until reaching the main German defensive line in mid-November.*[221]



The Allied leaders of the Asian and Pacific Theater: Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Winston Churchill meeting at the Cairo Conference, 25 November 1943

German operations in the Atlantic also suffered. By May 1943, as Allied counter-measures became increasingly effective, the resulting sizeable German submarine losses forced a temporary halt of the German Atlantic naval campaign.*[222] In November 1943, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill met with Chiang Kai-shek in Cairo and then with Joseph Stalin in Tehran.*[223] The former conference determined the post-war return of Japanese territory,*[224] while the latter included agreement that the Western Allies would invade Europe in 1944 and that the Soviet Union would declare war on Japan within three months of Germany's defeat.*[225]

From November 1943, during the seven-week Battle of Changde, the Chinese forced Japan to fight a costly war of



Ruins of the Benedictine monastery, during the Battle of Monte Cassino; Italian Campaign, May 1944



American troops approaching Omaha Beach, during the Invasion of Normandy on D-Day, 6 June 1944

attrition, while awaiting Allied relief. [226] [227] [228] In January 1944, the Allies launched a series of attacks in Italy against the line at Monte Cassino and tried to out-flank it with landings at Anzio. [229] By the end of January, a major Soviet offensive expelled German forces from the Leningrad region, [230] ending the longest and most lethal siege in history.

The following Soviet offensive was halted on the pre-war Estonian border by the German Army Group North aided by Estonians hoping to re-establish national independence. This delay slowed subsequent Soviet operations in the Baltic Sea region. [231] By late May 1944, the Soviets had liberated Crimea, largely expelled Axis forces from Ukraine, and made incursions into Romania, which were repulsed by the Axis troops. [232] The Allied offensives in Italy had succeeded and, at the expense of allowing several German divisions to retreat, on 4 June, Rome was captured. [233]

The Allies had mixed success in mainland Asia. In March 1944, the Japanese launched the first of two invasions, an operation against British positions in Assam, India, [234] and soon besieged Commonwealth positions at Imphal and Kohima. [235] In May 1944, British forces mounted a counter-offensive that drove Japanese troops back to Burma, [235] and Chinese forces that had invaded northern Burma in late 1943 besieged Japanese troops in Myitkyina. [236] The second Japanese invasion of China aimed to destroy China's main fighting forces, secure railways between Japanese-held territory and capture Allied airfields. [237] By June, the Japanese had conquered the province of Henan and begun a new attack on Changsha in the Hunan province. [238]

Allies close in (1944)

On 6 June 1944 (known as D-Day), after three years of Soviet pressure, [239] the Western Allies invaded northern France. After reassigning several Allied divisions from Italy, they also attacked southern France. [240] These landings were successful, and led to the defeat of the German Army units in France. Paris was liberated by

the local resistance assisted by the Free French Forces, both led by General Charles de Gaulle, on 25 August [241] and the Western Allies continued to push back German forces in western Europe during the latter part of the year. An attempt to advance into northern Germany spearheaded by a major airborne operation in the Netherlands failed. [242] After that, the Western Allies slowly pushed into Germany, but failed to cross the Rur river in a large offensive. In Italy, Allied advance also slowed due to the last major German defensive line. [243]

On 22 June, the Soviets launched a strategic offensive in Belarus ("Operation Bagration") that destroyed the German Army Group Centre almost completely. [244] Soon after that another Soviet strategic offensive forced German troops from Western Ukraine and Eastern Poland. The Soviet advance prompted resistance forces in Poland to initiate several uprisings against the German occupation. However, the largest of these in Warsaw where German soldiers massacred 200,000 civilians and a national uprising in Slovakia did not receive Soviet support and were subsequently suppressed by the Germans. [245] The Red Army's strategic offensive in eastern Romania cut off and destroyed the considerable German troops there and triggered a successful coup d'état in Romania and in Bulgaria, followed by those countries' shift to the Allied side. [246]

In September 1944, Soviet troops advanced into Yugoslavia and forced the rapid withdrawal of German Army Groups E and F in Greece, Albania and Yugoslavia to rescue them from being cut off. [247] By this point, the Communist-led Partisans under Marshal Josip Broz Tito, who had led an increasingly successful guerrilla campaign against the occupation since 1941, controlled much of the territory of Yugoslavia and engaged in delaying efforts against German forces further south. In northern Serbia, the Red Army, with limited support from Bulgarian forces, assisted the Partisans in a joint liberation of the capital city of Belgrade on 20 October. A few days later, the Soviets launched a massive assault against German-occupied Hungary that lasted until the fall of Budapest



German SS soldiers from the Dirlewanger Brigade, tasked with suppressing the Warsaw Uprising against Nazi occupation, August 1944

in February 1945.*[248] Unlike impressive Soviet victories in the Balkans, bitter Finnish resistance to the Soviet offensive in the Karelian Isthmus denied the Soviets occupation of Finland and led to a Soviet-Finnish armistice on relatively mild conditions,*[249]*[250] although Finland later shifted to the Allied side.

By the start of July 1944, Commonwealth forces in Southeast Asia had repelled the Japanese sieges in Assam, pushing the Japanese back to the Chindwin River*[251] while the Chinese captured Myitkyina. In China, the Japanese had more successes, having finally captured Changsha in mid-June and the city of Hengyang by early August.*[252] Soon after, they invaded the province of Guangxi, winning major engagements against Chinese forces at Guilin and Liuzhou by the end of November*[253] and successfully linking up their forces in China and Indochina by mid-December.*[254]

In the Pacific, US forces continued to press back the Japanese perimeter. In mid-June 1944, they began their offensive against the Mariana and Palau islands, and decisively defeated Japanese forces in the Battle of the Philippine Sea. These defeats led to the resignation of the Japanese Prime Minister, Hideki Tojo, and provided the United States with air bases to launch intensive heavy bomber attacks on the Japanese home islands. In late October, American forces invaded the Filipino island of Leyte; soon after, Allied naval forces scored another large victory in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, one of the largest naval battles in history.*[255]

Axis collapse, Allied victory (1944–45)

On 16 December 1944, Germany made a last attempt on the Western Front by using most of its remaining reserves to launch a massive counter-offensive in the Ardennes to split the Western Allies, encircle large portions of Western Allied troops and capture their primary supply port at Antwerp to prompt a political settlement.*[256] By January, the offensive had been repulsed with no strategic objectives fulfilled.*[256] In Italy, the Western Al-



Yalta Conference held in February 1945, with Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin

lies remained stalemated at the German defensive line. In mid-January 1945, the Soviets and Poles attacked in Poland, pushing from the Vistula to the Oder river in Germany, and overran East Prussia.*[257] On 4 February, US, British, and Soviet leaders met for the Yalta Conference. They agreed on the occupation of post-war Germany, and on when the Soviet Union would join the war against Japan.*[258]

In February, the Soviets entered Silesia and Pomerania, while Western Allies entered western Germany and closed to the Rhine river. By March, the Western Allies crossed the Rhine north and south of the Ruhr, encircling the German Army Group B,*[259] while the Soviets advanced to Vienna. In early April, the Western Allies finally pushed forward in Italy and swept across western Germany, while Soviet and Polish forces stormed Berlin in late April. American and Soviet forces joined on Elbe river on 25 April. On 30 April 1945, the Reichstag was captured, signalling the military defeat of Nazi Germany.*[260]

Several changes in leadership occurred during this period. On 12 April, President Roosevelt died and was succeeded by Harry Truman. Benito Mussolini was killed by Italian partisans on 28 April.*[261] Two days later, Hitler committed suicide, and was succeeded by Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz.*[262]

German forces surrendered in Italy on 29 April. Total and unconditional surrender was signed on 7 May, to be effective by the end of 8 May.*[263] German Army Group Centre resisted in Prague until 11 May.*[264]

In the Pacific theatre, American forces accompanied by the forces of the Philippine Commonwealth advanced in the Philippines, clearing Leyte by the end of April 1945. They landed on Luzon in January 1945 and recaptured Manila in March following a battle which reduced the city to ruins. Fighting continued on Luzon, Mindanao, and other islands of the Philippines until the



The German Reichstag after its capture by the Allies, 3 June 1945

end of the war.*[265] On the night of 9–10 March, B-29 bombers of the US Army Air Forces struck Tokyo with incendiary bombs, which killed 100,000 people within a few hours. Over the next five months, American bombers firebombed 66 other Japanese cities, causing the destruction of untold numbers of buildings and the deaths of between 350,000–500,000 Japanese civilians.*[266]



Japanese foreign affairs minister Mamoru Shigemitsu signs the Japanese Instrument of Surrender on board the USS Missouri, 2 September 1945

In May 1945, Australian troops landed in Borneo, overrunning the oilfields there. British, American, and Chinese forces defeated the Japanese in northern Burma in March, and the British pushed on to reach Rangoon by 3 May.*[267] Chinese forces started to counterattack in Battle of West Hunan that occurred between 6 April and 7 June 1945. American naval and amphibious forces also moved towards Japan, taking Iwo Jima by March, and Okinawa by the end of June.*[268] At the same time American bombers were destroying Japanese

cities, American submarines cut off Japanese imports, drastically reducing Japan's ability to supply its overseas forces.*[269]

On 11 July, Allied leaders met in Potsdam, Germany. They confirmed earlier agreements about Germany,*[270] and reiterated the demand for unconditional surrender of all Japanese forces by Japan, specifically stating that “the alternative for Japan is prompt and utter destruction” .*[271] During this conference, the United Kingdom held its general election, and Clement Attlee replaced Churchill as Prime Minister.*[272]

The Allies called for unconditional Japanese surrender in the Potsdam declaration of 27 July, but the Japanese government was internally divided on whether to make peace and did not respond. In early August, the United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Like the Japanese cities previously bombed by American airmen, the US and its allies justified the atomic bombings as military necessity to avoid invading the Japanese home islands which would cost the lives of between 250,000–500,000 Allied troops and millions of Japanese troops and civilians.*[273] Between the two bombings, the Soviets, pursuant to the Yalta agreement, invaded Japanese-held Manchuria, and quickly defeated the Kwantung Army, which was the largest Japanese fighting force.*[274]*[275] The Red Army also captured Sakhalin Island and the Kuril Islands. On 15 August 1945, Japan surrendered, with the surrender documents finally signed aboard the deck of the American battleship USS *Missouri* on 2 September 1945, ending the war.*[276]

1.1.5 Aftermath

Main articles: [Aftermath of World War II](#) and [Consequences of Nazism](#)

The Allies established occupation administrations in



Ruins of Warsaw in January 1945, after the deliberate destruction of the city by the occupying German forces



Post-war Soviet territorial expansion resulted in Central European border changes, the creation of a Communist Bloc and start of the Cold War

Austria and Germany. The former became a neutral state, non-aligned with any political bloc. The latter was divided into western and eastern occupation zones controlled by the Western Allies and the USSR, accordingly. A denazification program in Germany led to the prosecution of Nazi war criminals and the removal of ex-Nazis from power, although this policy moved towards amnesty and re-integration of ex-Nazis into West German society.^[277]

Germany lost a quarter of its pre-war (1937) territory. Among the eastern territories, Silesia, Neumark and most of Pomerania were taken over by Poland, East Prussia was divided between Poland and the USSR, followed by the expulsion of the 9 million Germans from these provinces, as well as the expulsion of 3 million Germans from the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia to Germany. By the 1950s, every fifth West German was a refugee from the east. The Soviet Union also took over the Polish provinces east of the Curzon line, from which 2 million Poles were expelled;^[278] north-east Romania,^[279]^[280] parts of eastern Finland,^[281] and the three Baltic states were also incorporated into the USSR.^[282]^[283]

In an effort to maintain peace,^[284] the Allies formed the United Nations, which officially came into existence on 24 October 1945,^[285] and adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, as a common standard for all member nations.^[286] The great powers that were the victors of the war—the United States, Soviet Union, China, Britain, and France—formed the permanent members of the UN's Security Council.^[7] The five permanent members remain so to the present, although there have been two seat changes, between the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China in 1971, and between the Soviet Union and its successor state, the Russian Federation, following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The alliance between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union had begun to deteriorate even before the war was over.^[287]

Germany had been *de facto* divided, and two independent states, the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic^[288] were created within the borders of Allied and Soviet occupation zones, accordingly. The rest of Europe was also divided into Western and Soviet spheres of influence.^[289] Most eastern and central European countries fell into the Soviet sphere, which led to establishment of Communist-led regimes, with full or partial support of the Soviet occupation authorities. As a result, Poland, Hungary, East Germany,^[290] Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Albania^[291] became Soviet satellite states. Communist Yugoslavia conducted a fully independent policy, causing tension with the USSR.^[292]

Post-war division of the world was formalised by two international military alliances, the United States-led NATO and the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact;^[293] the long period of political tensions and military competition between them, the Cold War, would be accompanied by an unprecedented arms race and proxy wars.^[294]

In Asia, the United States led the occupation of Japan and administrated Japan's former islands in the Western Pacific, while the Soviets annexed Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands.^[295] Korea, formerly under Japanese rule, was divided and occupied by the US in the South and the Soviet Union in the North between 1945 and 1948. Separate republics emerged on both sides of the 38th parallel in 1948, each claiming to be the legitimate government for all of Korea, which led ultimately to the Korean War.^[296]

In China, nationalist and communist forces resumed the civil war in June 1946. Communist forces were victorious and established the People's Republic of China on the mainland, while nationalist forces retreated to Taiwan in 1949.^[297] In the Middle East, the Arab rejection of the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine and the creation of Israel marked the escalation of the Arab-Israeli conflict. While European colonial powers attempted to retain some or all of their colonial empires, their losses of prestige and resources

during the war rendered this unsuccessful, leading to decolonisation.*[298]*[299]

The global economy suffered heavily from the war, although participating nations were affected differently. The US emerged much richer than any other nation; it had a baby boom and by 1950 its gross domestic product per person was much higher than that of any of the other powers and it dominated the world economy.*[300] The UK and US pursued a policy of industrial disarmament in Western Germany in the years 1945–1948.*[301] Because of international trade interdependencies this led to European economic stagnation and delayed European recovery for several years.*[302]*[303]

Recovery began with the mid-1948 currency reform in Western Germany, and was sped up by the liberalisation of European economic policy that the Marshall Plan (1948–1951) both directly and indirectly caused.*[304]*[305] The post-1948 West German recovery has been called the *German economic miracle*.*[306] Italy also experienced an economic boom*[307] and the French economy rebounded.*[308] By contrast, the United Kingdom was in a state of economic ruin,*[309] and although it received a quarter of the total Marshall Plan assistance, more than any other European country,*[310] continued relative economic decline for decades.*[311]

The Soviet Union, despite enormous human and material losses, also experienced rapid increase in production in the immediate post-war era.*[312] Japan experienced incredibly rapid economic growth, becoming one of the most powerful economies in the world by the 1980s.*[313] China returned to its pre-war industrial production by 1952.*[314]

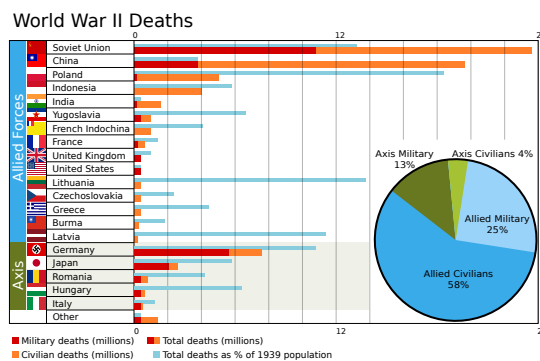
1.1.6 Impact

Casualties and war crimes

Main articles: World War II casualties, War crimes during World War II, War crimes in occupied Poland during World War II, German war crimes, War crimes of the Wehrmacht, Italian war crimes, Japanese war crimes, Allied war crimes during World War II and Soviet war crimes

Estimates for the total number of casualties in the war vary, because many deaths went unrecorded. Most suggest that some 75 million people died in the war, including about 20 million military personnel and 40 million civilians.*[315]*[316]*[317] Many of the civilians died because of deliberate genocide, massacres, mass-bombings, disease, and starvation.

The Soviet Union lost around 27 million people during the war,*[318] including 8.7 million military and 19 million civilian deaths. The largest portion of military dead were 5.7 million ethnic Russians, followed by 1.3 million ethnic Ukrainians.*[319] A quarter of the people in the



World War II deaths

Soviet Union were wounded or killed.*[320] Germany sustained 5.3 million military losses, mostly on the Eastern Front and during the final battles in Germany.*[321]

Of the total number of deaths in World War II, approximately 85 percent—mostly Soviet and Chinese—were on the Allied side and 15 percent were on the Axis side. Many of these deaths were caused by war crimes committed by German and Japanese forces in occupied territories. An estimated 11*[322] to 17 million*[323] civilians died either as a direct or as an indirect result of Nazi ideological policies, including the systematic genocide of around 6 million Jews during the Holocaust, along with a further 5 to 6 million ethnic Poles and other Slavs (including Ukrainians and Belarusians)*[324]—Roma, homosexuals, and other ethnic and minority groups.*[323] Hundreds of thousands (varying estimates) of ethnic Serbs, along with gypsies and Jews, were murdered by the Axis-aligned Croatian Ustaše in Yugoslavia,*[325] and retribution-related killings were committed just after the war ended.



Chinese civilians being buried alive by soldiers of the Imperial Japanese Army, during the Nanking Massacre, December 1937

In Asia and the Pacific, between 3 million and more than 10 million civilians, mostly Chinese (estimated at 7.5 million*[326]), were killed by the Japanese occu-

pation forces.* [327] The best-known Japanese atrocity was the **Nanking Massacre**, in which fifty to three hundred thousand Chinese civilians were raped and murdered.* [328] Mitsuyoshi Himeta reported that 2.7 million casualties occurred during the *Sankō Sakusen*. General Yasuji Okamura implemented the policy in Heipei and Shantung.* [329]

Axis forces employed biological and chemical weapons. The Imperial Japanese Army used a variety of such weapons during its invasion and occupation of China (see *Unit 731*)* [330]* [331] and in early conflicts against the Soviets.* [332] Both the Germans and Japanese tested such weapons against civilians* [333] and, sometimes on prisoners of war.* [334]

The Soviet Union was responsible for the **Katyn massacre** of 22,000 Polish officers,* [335] and the imprisonment or execution of thousands of political prisoners by the NKVD,* [336] in the Baltic states, and eastern Poland annexed by the Red Army.

The mass-bombing of civilian areas, notably the cities of Warsaw, Rotterdam and London; including the aerial targeting of hospitals and fleeing refugees* [337] by the German Luftwaffe, along with the bombing of Tokyo, and German cities of Dresden, Hamburg and Cologne by the Western Allies may be considered as war crimes. The latter resulted in the destruction of more than 160 cities and the death of more than 600,000 German civilians.* [338] However, no positive or specific customary international humanitarian law with respect to aerial warfare existed before or during World War II.* [339]

Concentration camps, slave labour, and genocide

Further information: **Genocide**, **The Holocaust**, **Nazi concentration camps**, **Extermination camp**, **Forced labour under German rule during World War II**, **Kidnapping of children by Nazi Germany** and **Nazi human experimentation**

The German government led by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party was responsible for the Holocaust, the killing of approximately 6 million Jews, as well as 2.7 million ethnic Poles,* [340] and 4 million others who were deemed "unworthy of life" (including the disabled and mentally ill, Soviet prisoners of war, homosexuals, Freemasons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Romani) as part of a programme of deliberate extermination. About 12 million, most of whom were Eastern Europeans, were employed in the German war economy as forced labourers.* [341]

In addition to Nazi concentration camps, the Soviet gulags (labour camps) led to the death of citizens of occupied countries such as Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, as well as German prisoners of war (POWs) and even Soviet citizens who had been or were thought to be supporters of the Nazis.* [342] Sixty percent of Soviet POWs of the Germans died during the war.* [343]



SS female camp guards remove prisoners' bodies from lorries and carry them to a mass grave, inside the German Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, 1945

Richard Overy gives the number of 5.7 million Soviet POWs. Of those, 57 percent died or were killed, a total of 3.6 million.* [344] Soviet ex-POWs and repatriated civilians were treated with great suspicion as potential Nazi collaborators, and some of them were sent to the Gulag upon being checked by the NKVD.* [345]



Prisoner identity photograph taken by the German SS of a fourteen-year-old Polish girl, deported as forced labour to Auschwitz, December 1942

Japanese prisoner-of-war camps, many of which were used as labour camps, also had high death rates. The International Military Tribunal for the Far East found the death rate of Western prisoners was 27.1 percent (for American POWs, 37 percent),* [346] seven times that of POWs under the Germans and Italians.* [347] While 37,583 prisoners from the UK, 28,500 from the Netherlands, and 14,473 from the United States were released after the surrender of Japan, the number of Chinese released was only 56.* [348]

According to historian Zhifen Ju, at least five million Chinese civilians from northern China and Manchukuo were enslaved between 1935 and 1941 by the East Asia Development Board, or *Kōain*, for work in mines and war industries. After 1942, the number reached 10 million.* [349] The US Library of Congress estimates that

in Java, between 4 and 10 million *romusha* (Japanese: “manual laborers”), were forced to work by the Japanese military. About 270,000 of these Javanese labourers were sent to other Japanese-held areas in South East Asia, and only 52,000 were repatriated to Java.*[350]

On 19 February 1942, Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, interning about 100,000 Japanese living on the West Coast. Canada had a similar program.*[351]*[352] In addition, 14,000 German and Italian citizens who had been assessed as being security risks were also interned.*[353]

In accordance with the Allied agreement made at the Yalta Conference millions of POWs and civilians were used as forced labour by the Soviet Union.*[354] In Hungary's case, Hungarians were forced to work for the Soviet Union until 1955.*[355]

Occupation

Main articles: German-occupied Europe, Lebensraum, Untermensch, Collaboration with the Axis Powers during World War II, Resistance during World War II and Nazi plunder

In Europe, occupation came under two forms. In West-



Polish civilians wearing blindfolds photographed just before their execution by German soldiers in Palmiry forest, 1940

ern, Northern and Central Europe (France, Norway, Denmark, the Low Countries, and the annexed portions of Czechoslovakia) Germany established economic policies through which it collected roughly 69.5 billion reichmarks (27.8 billion US Dollars) by the end of the war, this figure does not include the sizeable plunder of industrial products, military equipment, raw materials and other goods.*[356] Thus, the income from occupied nations was over 40 percent of the income Germany collected from taxation, a figure which increased to nearly 40 percent of total German income as the war went on.*[357]

In the East, the much hoped for bounties of *Lebensraum* were never attained as fluctuating front-lines and Soviet scorched earth policies denied resources to the German invaders.*[358] Unlike in the West, the Nazi racial policy encouraged excessive brutality against what it considered to be the “inferior people” of Slavic descent;



Russian Academy of Sciences in 1995 reported civilian victims in the USSR at German hands totaled 13.7 million dead, 20% of the 68 million persons in the occupied USSR

most German advances were thus followed by mass executions.*[359] Although resistance groups formed in most occupied territories, they did not significantly hamper German operations in either the East*[360] or the West*[361] until late 1943.

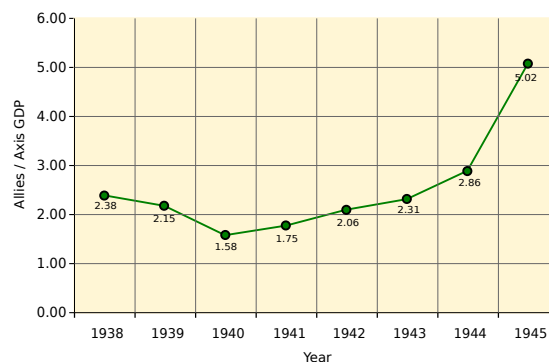
In Asia, Japan termed nations under its occupation as being part of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere, essentially a Japanese hegemony which it claimed was for purposes of liberating colonised peoples.*[362] Although Japanese forces were originally welcomed as liberators from European domination in some territories, their excessive brutality turned local public opinion against them within weeks.*[363] During Japan's initial conquest it captured 4,000,000 barrels (640,000 m³) of oil (~5.5×10⁵ tonnes) left behind by retreating Allied forces, and by 1943 was able to get production in the Dutch East Indies up to 50 million barrels (~6.8×10⁶ t), 76 percent of its 1940 output rate.*[363]

Home fronts and production

Main articles: Military production during World War II and Home front during World War II

In Europe, before the outbreak of the war, the Allies

Allies / Axis GDP



Allied to Axis GDP ratio

had significant advantages in both population and economics. In 1938, the Western Allies (United Kingdom, France, Poland and British Dominions) had a 30 percent larger population and a 30 percent higher gross domestic product than the European Axis (Germany and Italy); if colonies are included, it then gives the Allies more than a 5:1 advantage in population and nearly 2:1 advantage in GDP.*[364] In Asia at the same time, China had roughly six times the population of Japan, but only an 89 percent higher GDP; this is reduced to three times the population and only a 38 percent higher GDP if Japanese colonies are included.*[364]

Though the Allies' economic and population advantages were largely mitigated during the initial rapid blitzkrieg attacks of Germany and Japan, they became the decisive factor by 1942, after the United States and Soviet Union joined the Allies, as the war largely settled into one of attrition.*[365] While the Allies' ability to out-produce the Axis is often attributed to the Allies having more access to natural resources, other factors, such as Germany and Japan's reluctance to employ women in the labour force,*[366] Allied strategic bombing,*[367] and Germany's late shift to a war economy*[368] contributed significantly. Additionally, neither Germany nor Japan planned to fight a protracted war, and were not equipped to do so.*[369] To improve their production, Germany and Japan used millions of slave labourers;*[370] Germany used about 12 million people, mostly from Eastern Europe,*[341] while Japan used more than 18 million people in Far East Asia.*[349]*[350]

Advances in technology and warfare

Main article: [Technology during World War II](#)

Aircraft were used for reconnaissance, as fighters,



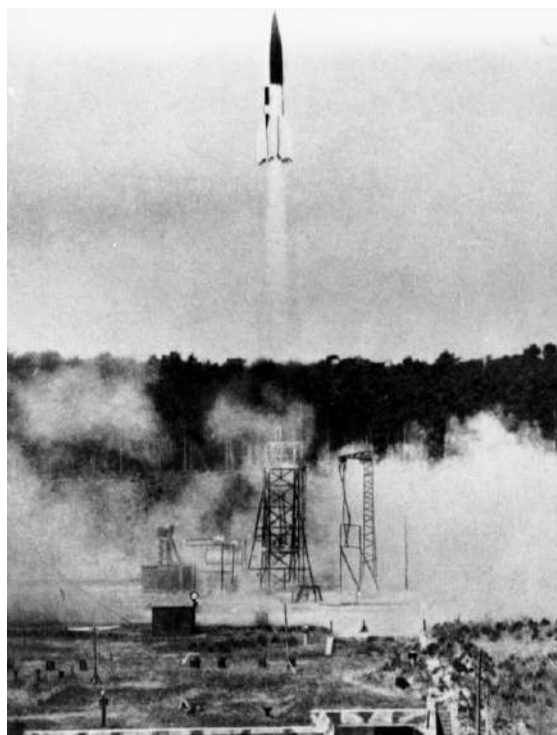
B-29 Superfortress strategic bombers on the Boeing assembly line in Wichita, Kansas, 1944

bombers, and ground-support, and each role was advanced considerably. Innovation included airlift (the capability to quickly move limited high-priority supplies, equipment, and personnel);*[371] and of strategic bomb-

ing (the bombing of enemy industrial and population centres to destroy the enemy's ability to wage war).*[372] Anti-aircraft weaponry also advanced, including defences such as radar and surface-to-air artillery, such as the German 88 mm gun. The use of the jet aircraft was pioneered and, though late introduction meant it had little impact, it led to jets becoming standard in air forces worldwide.*[373]

Advances were made in nearly every aspect of naval warfare, most notably with aircraft carriers and submarines. Although aeronautical warfare had relatively little success at the start of the war, actions at Taranto, Pearl Harbor, and the Coral Sea established the carrier as the dominant capital ship in place of the battleship.*[374]*[375]*[376]

In the Atlantic, escort carriers proved to be a vital part of Allied convoys, increasing the effective protection radius and helping to close the Mid-Atlantic gap.*[377] Carriers were also more economical than battleships because of the relatively low cost of aircraft*[378] and their not requiring to be as heavily armoured.*[379] Submarines, which had proved to be an effective weapon during the First World War,*[380] were anticipated by all sides to be important in the second. The British focused development on anti-submarine weaponry and tactics, such as sonar and convoys, while Germany focused on improving its offensive capability, with designs such as the Type VII submarine and wolfpack tactics.*[381] Gradually, improving Allied technologies such as the Leigh light, hedgehog, squid, and homing torpedoes proved victorious.



A V-2 rocket launched from a fixed site in Peenemünde, 1943

Land warfare changed from the static front lines of World

War I to increased mobility and combined arms. The tank, which had been used predominantly for infantry support in the First World War, had evolved into the primary weapon.*[382] In the late 1930s, tank design was considerably more advanced than it had been during World War I,*[383] and advances continued throughout the war with increases in speed, armour and firepower.

At the start of the war, most commanders thought enemy tanks should be met by tanks with superior specifications.*[384] This idea was challenged by the poor performance of the relatively light early tank guns against armour, and German doctrine of avoiding tank-versus-tank combat. This, along with Germany's use of combined arms, were among the key elements of their highly successful blitzkrieg tactics across Poland and France.*[382] Many means of destroying tanks, including indirect artillery, anti-tank guns (both towed and self-propelled), mines, short-ranged infantry antitank weapons, and other tanks were utilised.*[384] Even with large-scale mechanisation, infantry remained the backbone of all forces,*[385] and throughout the war, most infantry were equipped similarly to World War I.*[386]



Nuclear Gadget being raised to the top of the detonation tower, at Alamogordo Bombing Range; Trinity nuclear test, July 1945

The portable machine gun spread, a notable example being the German MG34, and various submachine guns which were suited to close combat in urban and jungle settings.*[386] The assault rifle, a late war development incorporating many features of the rifle and submachine gun, became the standard postwar infantry weapon for most armed forces.*[387]*[388]

Most major belligerents attempted to solve the problems of complexity and security involved in using large codebooks for cryptography by designing ciphering machines, the most well known being the German Enigma machine.*[389] Development of SIGINT (signals intelligence) and cryptanalysis enabled the countering process of decryption. Notable examples were the Allied decryption of Japanese naval codes* [390] and British Ultra, a pioneering method for decoding Enigma benefiting from information given to Britain by the Polish

Cipher Bureau, which had been decoding early versions of Enigma before the war.*[391] Another aspect of military intelligence was the use of deception, which the Allies used to great effect, such as in operations Mincemeat and Bodyguard.*[390]*[392] Other technological and engineering feats achieved during, or as a result of, the war include the world's first programmable computers (Z3, Colossus, and ENIAC), guided missiles and modern rockets, the Manhattan Project's development of nuclear weapons, operations research and the development of artificial harbours and oil pipelines under the English Channel.*[393]

1.1.7 See also

- Air warfare of World War II
- Bibliography of World War II
- Declarations of war during World War II
- Home front during World War II
- List of World War II battles
- List of World War II conferences
- List of World War II military operations
- Women in World War II
- World War II in popular culture
- List of World War II films

Documentaries

See also List of World War II documentary films

- *The World Wars (miniseries)* The World Wars is a three-part, six-hour event miniseries by the History Channel that premiered on Monday, May 26, 2014, (Memorial Day) airing for three consecutive nights. An extended version of the series with never before seen footage was subsequently broadcast on H2 and in more than 160 countries on June 22, 2014
- *Apocalypse: The Second World War* (2009), a six-part French documentary by Daniel Costelle and Isabelle Clarke about World War II
- *Battlefield*, a documentary television series initially issued in 1994–5, that explores many important World War II battles
- *BBC History of World War II*, a television series, initially issued from 1989 to 2005.
- *The World at War* (1974), a 26-part Thames Television series that covers most aspects of World War II from many points of view. It includes interviews with many key figures including Karl Dönitz, Albert Speer, and Anthony Eden.

- **Band of Brothers** (miniseries) (2001) is based on Easy Company's (U.S. 101st Airborne Division) experiences during the War.

1.1.8 Notes

- [1] Various other dates have been proposed as the date on which World War II began or ended.
- [2] Upon his death in 1989, Emperor Hirohito was posthumously proclaimed Emperor Shōwa. While either use is considered acceptable, his English name (Hirohito) is used here as it is this name by which he was known to most of the West during World War II.

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- [24] Mandelbaum 1988, p. 96; Record 2005, p. 50.
- [25] Schmitz 2000, p. 124.
- [26] Adamthwaite 1992, p. 52.
- [27] Preston 1998, p. 104.
- [28] Myers & Peattie 1987, p. 458.
- [29] Smith & Steadman 2004, p. 28.
- [30] Coogan 1993: "Although some Chinese troops in the Northeast managed to retreat south, others were trapped by the advancing Japanese Army and were faced with the choice of resistance in defiance of orders, or surrender. A few commanders submitted, receiving high office in the puppet government, but others took up arms against the invader. The forces they commanded were the first of the volunteer armies."
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- [50] Davies 2008, pp. 143–4.
- [51] Lowe & Marzari 2002, p. 330.
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- [62] Weinberg 2005, pp. 64–5.
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- [64] Beevor 2012, p. 32; Dear & Foot 2001, pp. 248–9; Roskill 1954, p. 64.
- [65] Zaloga 2002, pp. 80, 83.
- [66] Hempel 2005, p. 24.
- [67] Zaloga 2002, pp. 88–9.
- [68] Budiansky 2001, pp. 120–1.
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- [70] Liddell Hart 1977, pp. 39–40
- [71] Hitler: a Study in Tyranny, A Bullock, Penguin, 1983, p563-4, 566, 568–9, 574–5
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- [73] Smith et al. 2002, p. 24
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- [81] Roberts 2006, p. 56.
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- [83] Murray & Millett 2001, pp. 57–63.
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- [100] Steury 1987, p. 209; Zetterling & Tamelander 2009, p. 282.
- [101] Dear & Foot 2001, pp. 108–9.
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- [126] Hauner 1978.
- [127] Roberts 1995.
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- [129] Erickson 2003, pp. 114–37.
- [130] Glantz 2001, p. 9.
- [131] Farrell 1993.
- [132] Keeble 1990, p. 29.
- [133] Bueno de Mesquita et al. 2003, p. 425
- [134] Beevor 2012, p. 220.
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- [136] Jukes 2001, p. 113.
- [137] Glantz 2001, p. 26: “By 1 November [the Wehrmacht] had lost fully 20% of its committed strength (686,000 men), up to 2/3 of its ½-million motor vehicles, and 65 percent of its tanks. The German Army High Command (OKH) rated its 136 divisions as equivalent to 83 full-strength divisions.”
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- [140] Rotundo 1986.
- [141] Glantz 2001, p. 26.
- [142] Garthoff 1969.
- [143] Beevor 1998, pp. 41–2.
Evans 2008, pp. 213–4, notes that “Zhukov had pushed the Germans back to the point from which they had launched Operation Typhoon two months before. ... Only Stalin’s decision to attack all along the front instead of pushing home the advantage by concentrating his forces in an all-out assault against the retreating Germany Army Group Centre prevented the disaster from being even worse.”
- [144] Jowett & Andrew 2002, p. 14.
- [145] Overy & Wheatcroft 1999, p. 289
- [146] Morison 2002, p. 60.
- [147] Joes 2004, p. 224.
- [148] Fairbank & Goldman 2006, p. 320.
- [149] Hsu & Chang 1971, p. 30.
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- [158] Lightbody 2004, p. 125.
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- [169] The TRIDENT Conference—New Patterns: May 1943 Strategic Planning for Coalition Warfare, 1943–1944
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- [174] Ch'i 1992, p. 158.
- [175] Perez 1998, p. 145.
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- [193] Beevor 2012, pp. 224–8.
- [194] Molinari 2007, p. 91.
- [195] Mitcham 2007, p. 31.
- [196] Beevor 2012, pp. 380–1.
- [197] Rich 1992, p. 178.
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- [210] Glantz 1986; Glantz 1989, pp. 149–59.
- [211] Kershaw 2001, p. 592.
- [212] O'Reilly 2001, p. 32.

- [213] Bellamy 2007, p. 595.
- [214] O'Reilly 2001, p. 35.
- [215] Healy 1992, p. 90.
- [216] Glantz 2001, pp. 50–55.
- [217] Kolko 1990, p. 45: “On September 3, as Allied forces landed in Italy, Badoglio agreed to a secret armistice in the hope the Allies would land a major force north of Rome and save his government and the king. When he learned such a rescue would not occur he desperately attempted to call off his bargain with Eisenhower, who cut short the matter on September 8 by announcing news of its existence. The next day the hero of Abyssinia, his king, and a small retinue deserted Rome for the southeast tip of Italy, leaving most of Italy to the Nazis.”
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- [226] Beevor 2012, pp. 268–74.
- [227] Ch'i 1992, p. 161.
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- [231] Glantz 2002, pp. 367–414.
- [232] Chubarov 2001, p. 122.
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- [237] Ch'i 1992, p. 163.
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- [240] Weinberg 2005, p. 695.
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1.1.11 External links

- West Point Maps of the European War
- West Point Maps of the Asian-Pacific War
- Atlas of the World Battle Fronts (July 1943 to August 1945)

Chapter 2

Background

2.1 Causes of World War II



German battleship Schleswig-Holstein attacks Polish forts at the start of the war, September 1, 1939



Destroyer USS Shaw exploding during the Attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941

Some long-term **causes of World War II** are found in the conditions preceding World War I and seen as common for both World Wars. Supporters of this view paraphrase Clausewitz: World War II was a continuation of World War I by the same means. In fact, World Wars had been expected before Mussolini and Hitler came to power and Japan invaded China.*[1]

Among the causes of World War II were Italian fascism in the 1920s, Japanese militarism and invasions of China in the 1930s, and especially the political takeover in 1933 of Germany by Hitler and his Nazi Party house and its aggressive foreign policy. The immediate cause was Britain and France declaring war on Germany after it invaded Poland in September 1939.

Problems arose in Weimar Germany that experienced strong currents of revanchism after the Treaty of Versailles that concluded its defeat in World War I in 1918. Dissatisfactions of treaty provisions included the demilitarization of the Rhineland, the prohibition of unification with Austria and the loss of German-speaking territories such as Danzig, Eupen-Malmedy and Upper Silesia despite Wilson's Fourteen Points, the limitations on the Reichswehr making it a token military force, the war-guilt clause, and last but not least the heavy tribute that Germany had to pay in the form of war reparations, and that become an unbearable burden after the Great Depression. The most serious internal cause in Germany was the instability of the political system, as large sectors of politically active Germans rejected the legitimacy of the Weimar Republic.

After his rise and take-over of power in 1933 to a large part based on these grievances, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis heavily promoted them and also ideas of vastly ambitious additional demands based on Nazi ideology such as uniting all Germans (and further all Germanic peoples) in Europe in a single nation; the acquisition of "living space" (Lebensraum) for primarily agrarian settlers (Blut und Boden), creating a "pull towards the East" (Drang nach Osten) where such territories were to be found and colonized, in a model that the Nazis explicitly derived from the American Manifest Destiny in the Far West and its clearing of native inhabitants; the elimination of Bolshevism; and the hegemony of an "Aryan"/"Nordic" so-called Master Race over the "sub-humans" (Untermenschen) of inferior races, chief among them Slavs and Jews.

Tensions created by those ideologies and the dissatisfactions of those powers with the interwar international order steadily increased. Italy laid claim on Ethiopia and conquered it in 1935, Japan created a puppet state in Manchuria in 1931 and expanded beyond in China from

1937, and Germany systematically flouted the Versailles treaty, reintroducing conscription in 1935 with the Stresa Front's failure after having secretly started re-armament, remilitarizing the Rhineland in 1936, annexing Austria in March 1938, and the Sudetenland in October 1938.

All those aggressive moves met only feeble and ineffectual policies of appeasement from the League of Nations and the Entente Cordiale, in retrospect symbolized by the “peace for our time” speech following the Munich Conference, that had allowed the annexation of the Sudeten from interwar Czechoslovakia. When the German Führer broke the promise he had made at that conference to respect that country's future territorial integrity in March 1939 by sending troops into Prague, its capital, breaking off Slovakia as a German client state, and absorbing the rest of it as the “Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia”, Britain and France tried to switch to a policy of deterrence.

As Nazi attentions turned towards resolving the “Polish Corridor Question” during the summer of 1939, Britain and France committed themselves to an alliance with Poland, threatening Germany with a two-front war. On their side, the Germans assured themselves of the support of the USSR by signing a non-aggression pact with them in August, secretly dividing Eastern Europe into Nazi and Soviet spheres of influence.

The stage was then set for the Danzig crisis to become the immediate trigger of the war in Europe started on 1 September 1939. Following the Fall of France in June 1940, the Vichy regime signed an armistice, which tempted the Empire of Japan to join the Axis powers and invade French Indochina to improve their military situation in their war with China. This provoked the then neutral United States to respond with an embargo. The Japanese leadership, whose goal was Japanese domination of the Asia-Pacific, thought they had no option but to pre-emptively strike at the US Pacific fleet, which they did by attacking Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941.

2.1.1 Ideologies, doctrines, and philosophies

Anti-communism

Main article: Anti-communism

The internationalist-minded, radical Bolsheviks seized power in Russia in November 1917, with the goal of overthrowing capitalism across the world. They supported Communist parties in many lands and helped set up similar regimes in Hungary and Bavaria, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. This caused many Europeans to fear that a violent Communist revolution would overwhelm their own countries. The Red expansion was stopped outside Warsaw by the Polish army, and by 1920 there was a corridor of border states just west of Russia that rejected



“Bolshevik freedom” – Polish propaganda poster with nude caricature of Leon Trotsky

Communism. However, they feuded among themselves, and such alliances they formed, like the Little Entente, were unstable.*[2]

Both Italian and German fascism were in part a reaction to international communist and socialist uprisings, in conjunction with nationalist fears of a Slavic empire. A further factor in Germany was the success of Freikorps (voluntary paramilitary groups of World War I veterans) in crushing the Bolshevik Bavarian Soviet Republic in Munich in 1919. Many of these veterans became early components of the Nazis' SA (“Stormtroopers”), which would be the party's troops in the street warfare with the Communist armed militia in the decade before 1933. The street violence would help shift moderate opinion towards the need for Germany to find an anti-Communist strongman to restore stability to German life.*[3]*[4]

Expansionism

Expansionism is the doctrine of expanding the territorial base (or economic influence) of a country, usually by means of military aggression. In Europe, Italy under Benito Mussolini sought to create a New Roman Empire based around the Mediterranean. It invaded Albania in early 1939, at the start of the war, and later invaded Greece. Italy had also invaded Ethiopia as early as 1935. This provoked angry words and an oil embargo from the League of Nations, which failed.

Under the Nazi regime, Germany began its own program of expansion, seeking to restore the “rightful” boundaries of historic Germany. As a prelude toward these goals the Rhineland was remilitarized in March 1936.*[5]

Also, of importance was the idea of a Greater Germany, supporters hoped to unite the German people under one nation state, which included all territories where Germans lived, regardless of whether they happened to be a minority in a particular territory. After the Treaty of Versailles, a unification between Germany and a newly formed German-Austria, a successor rump state of Austria-Hungary, was prohibited by the Allies despite the majority of Austrian Germans supporting such a union.



Japanese march into Zhengyangmen of Beijing after capturing the city in July 1937

In Asia, the Empire of Japan harboured expansionist desires towards Manchuria and Republic of China.

Militarism

Main articles: Japanese militarism, Statism in Shōwa Japan and Militarism

Militarism is the principle or policy of maintaining a large military establishment, with the view that military efficiency is the supreme ideal of a state.*[6] A highly militaristic and aggressive national ideology prevailed in Germany, Japan and Italy.*[7] This attitude fuelled military advancement and expansion as well while their revolutionary motivated background were commanding an increase in propaganda, which led to increased tensions among the Axis powers and their opponents in the run up to the war. In addition to this, the leaders of militaristic countries often feel a need to prove that their armies are important and formidable, and this was often a contributing factor in the start of conflicts, including the aggressive foreign policy of Germany (European expansionism), Italy (the Second Italo-Abyssinian War) and Japan (the Second Sino-Japanese War), which in itself is a contributing factor to the World War.*[8]

Racism

Main articles: Racial policy of Nazi Germany, Lebensraum and Drang nach Osten

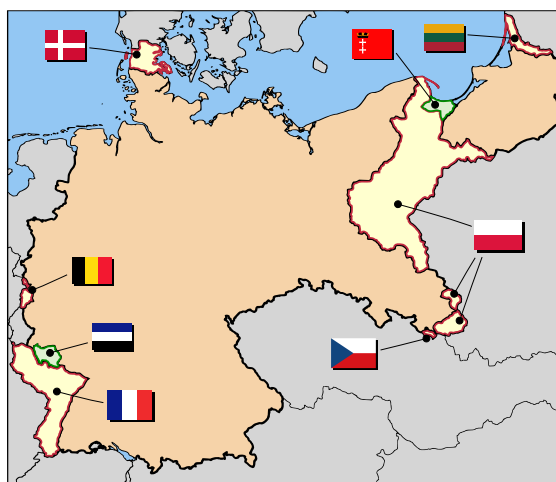
Twentieth-century events marked the culmination of a millennium-long process of intermingling between Germans and Slavs. Over the centuries, many Germans had settled in the east (examples being the Volga Germans invited to Russia by Catherine the Great, and the Ostsiedlung in medieval times). Such migratory patterns created enclaves and blurred ethnic frontiers. The rise of nationalism in the 19th century made race a centerpiece of political loyalty. The rise of the nation-state had given way to the politics of identity, including Pan-Germanism and Pan-Slavism. Furthermore, Social-Darwinist theories framed the coexistence as a “Teuton vs. Slav” struggle for domination, land and limited resources.*[9] Integrating these ideas into their own world-view, the Nazis believed that the Germans, the “Aryan race”, were the master race and that the Slavs were inferior.*[10]

2.1.2 Interrelations and economics

Problems with the Treaty of Versailles

Main article: Treaty of Versailles

The Treaty of Versailles was neither lenient enough to ap-



Germany after Versailles ----

Administered by the League of Nations

Annexed or transferred to neighboring countries by the treaty, or later via plebiscite and League of Nation action

Weimar Germany

pease Germany, nor harsh enough to prevent it from becoming the dominant continental power again.*[11] The treaty placed the blame, or “war guilt” on Germany and Austria-Hungary, and punished them for their “responsibility” rather than working out an agreement that would assure long-term peace. The treaty provided for harsh

monetary reparations, separated millions of ethnic Germans into neighboring countries, territorial dismemberment, and caused mass ethnic resettlement. In an effort to pay war reparations to Britain and France, the Weimar Republic printed trillions of marks, causing extremely high inflation of the German currency (see *Hyperinflation in the Weimar Republic*).

The treaty created bitter resentment towards the victors of World War I, who had promised the people of Germany that U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points would be a guideline for peace; however, the US played a minor role in World War I and Wilson could not convince the Allies to agree to adopt his Fourteen Points. Many Germans felt that the German government had agreed to an armistice based on this understanding, while others felt that the German Revolution of 1918–1919 had been orchestrated by the “November criminals” who later assumed office in the new Weimar Republic.

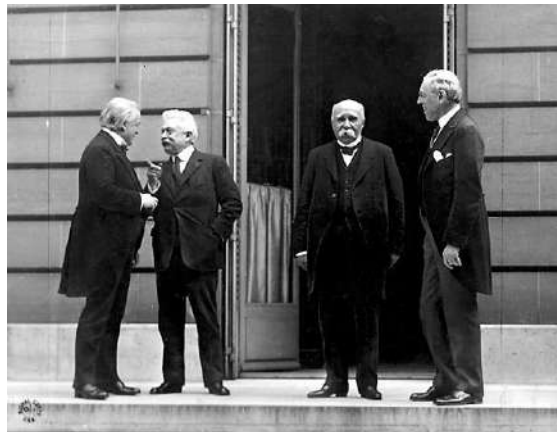
The German colonies were taken during the war, and Italy took the southern half of Tyrol after an armistice had been agreed upon. The war in the east ended with the defeat and collapse of Russian Empire, and German troops occupied large parts of Eastern and Central Europe (with varying degree of control), establishing various client states such as a kingdom of Poland and the United Baltic Duchy. After the destructive and indecisive battle of Jutland (1916) and the mutiny of its sailors in 1917, the Kaiserliche Marine spent most of the war in port, only to be turned over to the allies and scuttled at surrender by its own officers. The lack of an obvious military defeat was one of the pillars that held together the *Dolchstoßlegende* (“Stab-in-the-back myth”) and gave the Nazis another propaganda tool at their disposal.

French security demands

French security demands, such as reparations, coal payments, and a demilitarized Rhineland, took precedent at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 and shaped the Treaty of Versailles by severely punishing Germany; however, Austria found the treaty to be unjust which encouraged Hitler's popularity. Ginsberg argues, “France was greatly weakened and, in its weakness and fear of a resurgent Germany, sought to isolate and punish Germany....French revenge would come back to haunt France during the Nazi invasion and occupation twenty years later.” * [12]

Paris Peace Conference (1919) As World War I ended in 1918, France, along with the other victor countries, were in a desperate situation regarding their economies, security, and morale. The Paris Peace Conference of 1919 was their chance to punish Germany for starting the war. The war “must be someone's fault – and that's a very natural human reaction” analyzed historian Margaret MacMillan.* [13] Germany was charged with the sole responsibility of starting World War I. The

War Guilt Clause was the first step towards a satisfying revenge for the victor countries, namely France, against Germany. France understood that its position in 1918 was “artificial and transitory”.* [14] Thus, Clemenceau, the French leader at the time, worked to gain French security via the Treaty of Versailles.* [14]



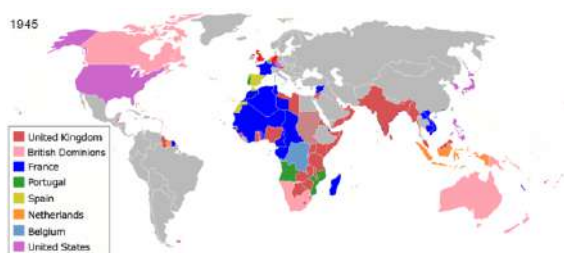
“The Big Four” made all the major decisions at the Paris Peace Conference (from left to right, David Lloyd George of Britain, Vittorio Emanuele Orlando of Italy, Georges Clemenceau of France, Woodrow Wilson of the U.S.)

The two main provisions of the French security agenda were reparations from Germany in the form of money and coal and a detached German Rhineland. The French government printed excess currency, which created inflation, to compensate for the lack of funds in addition to borrowing money from the United States. Reparations from Germany were necessary to stabilize the French economy.* [15] France also demanded that Germany give France their coal supply from the Ruhr to compensate for the destruction of French coalmines during the war. Because France feared for its safety as a country, the French demanded an amount of coal that was a “technical impossibility” for the Germans to pay back.* [16] France wanted the German Rhineland demilitarized because that would hinder a German attack. This gave France a physical security barrier between itself and Germany.* [17] The inordinate amount of reparations, coal payments, and the principle of a demilitarized Rhineland were viewed by the Germans to be insulting and unreasonable.

Germany's reaction to Treaty of Versailles “No postwar German government believed it could accept such a burden on future generations and survive...”.* [15] Paying reparations is a classic punishment of war but in this instance it was the “extreme immoderation” (History) that caused German resentment. Germany made its last World War I reparation payment on 3 October 2010,* [18] ninety-two years after the end of World War I. Germany also fell behind in their coal payments. They fell behind because of a passive resistance movement against the French.* [19] In response, the French invaded the Ruhr, the region filled with German coal, and occupied it.

At this point the majority of Germans were enraged with the French and placed the blame for their humiliation on the Weimar Republic. Adolf Hitler, a leader of the Nazi Party, attempted a coup d'état against the republic to establish a Greater German Reich* [20] known as the Beer Hall Putsch in 1923. Although this failed, Hitler gained recognition as a national hero amongst the German population. The demilitarized Rhineland and additional cutbacks on military infuriated the Germans. Although it is logical that France would want the Rhineland to be a neutral zone, the fact that France had the power to make that desire happen merely added onto the resentment of the Germans against the French. In addition, the Treaty of Versailles dissolved the German general staff and possession of navy ships, aircraft, poison gas, tanks, and heavy artillery was made illegal.* [17] The humiliation of being bossed around by the victor countries, especially France, and being stripped of their prized military made the Germans resent the Weimar Republic and idolize anyone who stood up to it.* [21]

Competition for resources and markets



World map of colonialism at the end of the Second World War in 1945

Other than a few coal and iron deposits, and a small oil field on Sakhalin Island, Japan lacked strategic mineral resources. At the start of the 20th century in the Russo-Japanese War, Japan had succeeded in pushing back the East Asian expansion of the Russian Empire in competition for Korea and Manchuria.

Japan's goal after 1931 was economic dominance of most of East Asia, often expressed in Pan-Asian terms of "Asia for the Asians."* [22] Japan was determined to dominate the China market, which the U.S. and other European powers had been dominating. On October 19, 1939, the American Ambassador to Japan, Joseph C. Grew, in a formal address to the America-Japan Society stated:

the new order in East Asia has appeared to include, among other things, depriving Americans of their long established rights in China, and to this the American people are opposed ... American rights and interests in China are being impaired or destroyed by the policies and actions of the Japanese authorities in China."

* [23]

In 1937 Japan invaded Manchuria and China proper. Under the guise of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere, with slogans as "Asia for the Asians!" Japan sought to remove the Western powers' influence in China and replace it with Japanese domination.* [24]* [25]

The ongoing conflict in China led to a deepening conflict with the U.S., where public opinion was alarmed by events such as the Nanking Massacre and growing Japanese power. Lengthy talks were held between the U.S. and Japan. When Japan moved into the southern part of French Indochina, President Roosevelt chose to freeze all Japanese assets in the U.S. The intended consequence of this was the halt of oil shipments from the U.S. to Japan, which had supplied 80 percent of Japanese oil imports. The Netherlands and Britain followed suit. With oil reserves that would last only a year and a half during peace time (much less during wartime), this ABCD line left Japan two choices: comply with the U.S.-led demand to pull out of China, or seize the oilfields in the East Indies from the Netherlands. The Japan government deemed it unacceptable to retreat from China.* [26]

Problems with the League of Nations

Main article: League of Nations

The League of Nations was an international organization founded after World War I to prevent future wars. The League's methods included disarmament; preventing war through collective security; settling disputes between countries through negotiation diplomacy; and improving global welfare. The diplomatic philosophy behind the League represented a fundamental shift in thought from the preceding century. The old philosophy of "concert of nations", growing out of the Congress of Vienna (1815), saw Europe as a shifting map of alliances among nation-states, creating a balance of power maintained by strong armies and secret agreements. Under the new philosophy, the League was a government of governments, with the role of settling disputes between individual nations in an open and legalist forum. The impetus for the founding of the League came from U.S. President Wilson, though the United States never joined. This lessened the power and credibility of the League—the addition of a burgeoning industrial and military world power would have added more force behind the League's demands and requests.

The League lacked an armed force of its own and so depended on the members to enforce its resolutions, uphold economic sanctions that the League ordered, or provide an army when needed for the League to use. However, they were often very reluctant to do so.

After numerous notable successes and some early failures in the 1920s, the League ultimately proved incapable of preventing aggression by the Axis powers in the 1930s. The reliance upon unanimous decisions, the lack of an armed force, and the continued self-interest of its



The official opening of the League of Nations, 15 November 1920

leading members meant that this failure was arguably inevitable.*[27]

The Mason-Overy Debate: “The Flight into War” theory

In the late 1980s the British historian **Richard Overy** was involved in a historical dispute with **Timothy Mason** that mostly played out over the pages of the *Past and Present* journal over the reasons for the outbreak of **World War II** in 1939. Mason had contended that a “flight into war” had been imposed on **Adolf Hitler** by a structural economic crisis, which confronted Hitler with the choice of making difficult economic decisions or aggression. Overy argued against Mason's thesis, maintaining that though Germany was faced with economic problems in 1939, the extent of these problems cannot explain aggression against **Poland** and the reasons for the outbreak of war were due to the choices made by the Nazi leadership.

Mason had argued that the German working-class was always opposed to the Nazi dictatorship; that in the over-heated German economy of the late 1930s, German workers could force employers to grant higher wages by leaving for another firm that would grant the desired wage increases; that this was a form of political resistance and this resistance forced **Adolf Hitler** to go to war in 1939.*[28] Thus, the outbreak of the **Second World War** was caused by structural economic problems, a “flight into war” imposed by a domestic crisis.*[28] The key aspects of the crisis were according to Mason, a shaky economic recovery was threatened by a rearmament program that was overwhelming the economy and in which the Nazi regime's nationalist bluster limited its options.*[28] In this way, Mason articulated a *Primat der Innenpolitik* (“primacy of domestic politics”) view of **World War II**'s origins through the concept of social imperialism.*[29] Mason's *Primat der Innenpolitik* thesis was in marked contrast to the *Primat der Außenpolitik* (“primacy of foreign politics) usually used to explain **World War II**.*[28] In Mason's opinion, German foreign policy

was driven by domestic political considerations, and the launch of **World War II** in 1939 was best understood as a “barbaric variant of social imperialism” .*[30]

Mason argued that “Nazi Germany was always bent *at some time* upon a major war of expansion.”*[31] However, Mason argued that the timing of a such a war was determined by domestic political pressures, especially as relating to a failing economy, and had nothing to do with what Hitler wanted.*[31] In Mason's view in the period between 1936–41, it was the state of the German economy, and not Hitler's 'will' or 'intentions' that was the most important determinate on German decision-making on foreign policy.*[32] Mason argued that the Nazi leaders were deeply haunted by the November Revolution of 1918, and was most unwilling to see any fall in working class living standards out of the fear that it might provoke another November Revolution.*[32] According to Mason, by 1939, the “overheating” of the German economy caused by rearmament, the failure of various rearmament plans produced by the shortages of skilled workers, industrial unrest caused by the breakdown of German social policies, and the sharp drop in living standards for the German working class forced Hitler into going to war at a time and place not of his choosing.*[33] Mason contended that when faced with the deep socio-economic crisis the Nazi leadership had decided to embark upon a ruthless 'smash and grab' foreign policy of seizing territory in Eastern Europe which could be pitilessly plundered to support living standards in Germany.*[34] Mason described German foreign policy as driven by an opportunistic 'next victim' syndrome after the *Anschluss*, in which the “promiscuity of aggressive intentions” was nurtured by every successful foreign policy move.*[35] In Mason's opinion, the decision to sign the German-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact with the Soviet Union and to attack Poland and the running of the risk of a war with Britain and France were the abandonment by Hitler of his foreign policy program outlined in *Mein Kampf* forced on him by his need to stop a collapsing German economy by seizing territory abroad to be plundered.*[33]

For Overy, the problem with Mason's thesis was that it rested on the assumption that in a way not shown by records, information was passed on to Hitler about the *Reich*'s economic problems.*[36] Overy argued that there was a difference between economic pressures induced by the problems of the **Four Year Plan** and economic motives to seize raw materials, industry and foreign reserves of neighboring states as a way of accelerating the **Four Year Plan**.*[37] Overy asserted that the repressive capacity of the German state as a way of dealing with domestic unhappiness was somewhat downplayed by Mason.*[36] Finally, Overy argued that there is considerable evidence that the German state felt they could master the economic problems of rearmament; as one civil servant put it in January 1940 “we have already mastered so many difficulties in the past, that here too, if one or other raw material became extremely scarce, ways and means will always yet

be found to get out of a fix” .*[38]

2.1.3 Specific developments

Nazi dictatorship

Main articles: [Nazi Germany](#) and [Nazi Party](#)

Hitler and his Nazis took full control of Germany in 1933–34 (*Machtergreifung*), turning it into a dictatorship with a highly hostile outlook toward the Treaty of Versailles and Jews.*[39] It solved its unemployment crisis by heavy military spending.*[40]

Hitler's diplomatic strategy was to make seemingly reasonable demands, threatening war if they were not met.*[41] When opponents tried to appease him, he accepted the gains that were offered, then went to the next target. That aggressive strategy worked as Germany pulled out of the League of Nations (1933), rejected the Versailles Treaty and began to re-arm (1935) with the [Anglo-German Naval Agreement](#), won back the Saar (1935), re-militarized the Rhineland (1936), formed an alliance (“axis”) with Mussolini's Italy (1936), sent massive military aid to Franco in the Spanish Civil War (1936–39), seized Austria (1938), took over Czechoslovakia after the British and French appeasement of the Munich Agreement of 1938, formed a peace pact with Stalin's Russia in August 1939, and finally invaded Poland in September 1939.*[42]

Re-militarization of the Rhineland

Main article: [Remilitarization of the Rhineland](#)

In violation of the Treaty of Versailles and the spirit



This coin was minted for Edward VIII.

of the Locarno Pact and the Stresa Front, Germany re-

militarized the Rhineland on March 7, 1936. It moved German troops into the part of western Germany where, according to the Versailles Treaty, they were not allowed. France could not act because of political instability at the time. According to his official Biography, King Edward VIII, who thought the Versailles provision was unjust,*[43] ordered the government to stand down.*[44]

Italian invasion of Ethiopia

Main article: [Second Italo-Abyssinian War](#)

After the [Stresa Conference](#) and even as a reaction to the [Anglo-German Naval Agreement](#), Italian dictator Benito Mussolini attempted to expand the Italian Empire in Africa by invading the Ethiopian Empire (also known as Abyssinia). The League of Nations declared Italy the aggressor and imposed sanctions on oil sales that proved ineffective. Italy annexed Ethiopia in May 7 and merged Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somaliland into a single colony known as Italian East Africa. On June 30, 1936, Emperor Haile Selassie gave a stirring speech before the League of Nations denouncing Italy's actions and criticizing the world community for standing by. He warned that “It is us today. It will be you tomorrow” . As a result of the League's condemnation of Italy, Mussolini declared the country's withdrawal from the organization.*[45]

Spanish Civil War

Main article: [Spanish Civil War](#)

Between 1936 and 1939, Germany and Italy lent support to the Nationalists led by general Francisco Franco in Spain, while the Soviet Union supported the existing democratically elected government, the Spanish Republic, led by Manuel Azaña. Both sides experimented with new weapons and tactics. The League of Nations was never involved, and the major powers of the League remained neutral and tried (with little success) to stop arms shipments into Spain. The Nationalists eventually defeated the Republicans in 1939.*[46]

Spain negotiated with joining the Axis but remained neutral during World War II, and did business with both sides. It also sent a volunteer unit to help the Germans against the USSR. Whilst it was considered in the 1940s and 1950s to be a prelude to World War II and It prefigured the war to some extent (as it changed it into an antifascists contest after 1941), it bore no resemblance to the war that started in 1939 and had no major role in causing it.*[47]*[48]

Second Sino-Japanese War

Main article: [Second Sino-Japanese War](#)

In 1931 Japan took advantage of China's weakness in the Warlord Era and fabricated the Mukden Incident in 1931 to set up the puppet state of Manchukuo in Manchuria, with Puyi, who had been the last emperor of China, as its emperor. In 1937 the Marco Polo Bridge Incident triggered the Second Sino-Japanese War.

The invasion was launched by the bombing of many cities such as Shanghai, Nanjing and Guangzhou. The latest, which began on 22 and 23 September 1937, called forth widespread protests culminating in a resolution by the Far Eastern Advisory Committee of the League of Nations. The Imperial Japanese Army captured the Chinese capital city of Nanjing, and committed war crimes in the Nanjing massacre. The war tied down large numbers of Chinese soldiers, so Japan set up three different Chinese puppet states to enlist some Chinese support.*[49]

Anschluss

Main article: [Anschluss](#)

The *Anschluss* was the 1938 annexation by threat of



Cheering crowds greet the Nazis in Innsbruck

force of Austria into Germany. Historically, the Pan-Germanism idea of creating a Greater Germany to include all ethnic Germans into one nation-state was popular for Germans in both Austria and Germany.

One of the Nazi party's points was “We demand the unification of all Germans in the Greater Germany on the basis of the people's right to self-determination.”

The Stresa Front of 1935 between Britain, France and Italy had guaranteed the independence of Austria, but after the creation of the Rome-Berlin Axis Mussolini was much less interested in upholding its independence.

The Austrian government resisted as long as possible, but had no outside support and finally gave in to Hitler's fiery demands. No fighting occurred as most Austrians were

enthusiastic, and Austria was fully absorbed as part of Germany. Outside powers did nothing. Italy had little reason for continued opposition to Germany, and was if anything drawn in closer to the Nazis.*[50]*[51]

Munich Agreement

Main articles: [Munich Agreement](#) and [Appeasement](#)

The Sudetenland was a predominantly German region inside Czechoslovakia alongside its border with Germany. Its more than 3 million ethnic Germans comprised almost a quarter of the population of Czechoslovakia. In the Treaty of Versailles it was given to the new Czechoslovak state against the wishes of much of the local population. The decision to disregard their right to self determination was based on French intent to weaken Germany. Much of Sudetenland was industrialized.*[52]



British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and Hitler at a meeting in Germany on 24 September 1938, where Hitler demanded annexation of Czech border areas without delay

Czechoslovakia had a modern army of 38 divisions, backed by a well-noted armament industry (Škoda) as well as military alliances with France and Soviet Union. However its defensive strategy against Germany was based on the mountains of the Sudetenland.

Hitler pressed for the Sudetenland's incorporation into the Reich, supporting German separatist groups within the Sudeten region. Alleged Czech brutality and perse-

cution under Prague helped to stir up nationalist tendencies, as did the Nazi press. After the Anschluss, all German parties (except German Social-Democratic party) merged with the **Sudeten German Party (SdP)**. Paramilitary activity and extremist violence peaked during this period and the Czechoslovakian government declared martial law in parts of the Sudetenland to maintain order. This only complicated the situation, especially now that Slovakian nationalism was rising, out of suspicion towards Prague and Nazi encouragement. Citing the need to protect the Germans in Czechoslovakia, Germany requested the immediate annexation of the Sudetenland.

In the **Munich Agreement** of September 30, 1938, British, French and Italian prime ministers appeased Hitler by giving him what he wanted, hoping he would not want any more. The conferring powers allowed Germany to move troops into the region and incorporate it into the Reich "for the sake of peace." In exchange for this, Hitler gave his word that Germany would make no further territorial claims in Europe.*[53] Czechoslovakia was not allowed to participate in the conference. When the French and British negotiators informed the Czechoslovak representatives about the agreement, and that if Czechoslovakia would not accept it, France and Britain would consider Czechoslovakia to be responsible for war, President **Edvard Beneš** capitulated. Germany took the Sudetenland unopposed.*[54]

German occupation and Slovak independence Main articles: Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia and Slovak Republic (1939–1945)

In March 1939, breaking the Munich Agreement, Ger-



All territories taken from Czechoslovakia by its neighbours in October 1938 ("Munich Dictate") and March 1939

man troops invaded Prague, and with the Slovaks declaring independence, the country of Czechoslovakia disappeared. The entire ordeal was the last show of the French and British policy of appeasement.

Italian invasion of Albania

Main article: [Italian invasion of Albania](#)

After the German occupation of Czechoslovakia, **Benito Mussolini** feared for Italy becoming a second-rate member of the Axis. Rome delivered Tirana an ultimatum on March 25, 1939, demanding that it accede to Italy's occupation of Albania. **King Zog** refused to accept money in exchange for countenancing a full Italian takeover and colonization of Albania. On April 7, 1939, Italian troops invaded Albania. Albania was occupied after a 3 days campaign with minimal resistance offered by the Albanian forces.

Soviet–Japanese Border War

Main article: [Battle of Khalkhin Gol](#)

In 1939, the Japanese attacked west from Manchuria into the **Mongolian People's Republic**, following the earlier **Battle of Lake Khasan** in 1938. They were decisively beaten by Soviet units under General **Georgy Zhukov**. Following this battle, the Soviet Union and Japan were at peace until 1945. Japan looked south to expand its empire, leading to conflict with the United States over the Philippines and control of shipping lanes to the Dutch East Indies. The Soviet Union focused on her western border, but leaving 1 million to 1.5 million troops to guard the frontier with Japan.

Danzig crisis



The Polish Corridor and the Free City of Danzig

See also: [Free City of Danzig \(interwar\)](#) and [Polish Corridor](#)

After the final fate of Czechoslovakia proved that the Führer's word could not be trusted, Britain and France decided to change tack. They decided any further unilateral German expansion would be met by force. The natural next target for the Third Reich's further expansion was

Poland, whose access to the Baltic sea had been carved out of West Prussia by the Versailles treaty, making East Prussia an exclave. The main port of the area, Danzig, had been made a free city-state under Polish influence guaranteed by the League of Nations, a stark reminder to German nationalists of the Napoleonic free city established after the French emperor's crushing victory over Prussia in 1807.

After taking power, the Nazi government made efforts to establish friendly relations with Poland, resulting in the signing of the ten-year German–Polish Non-Aggression Pact with the Piłsudski regime in 1934. In 1938, Poland participated in the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia by annexing Zaolzie. In 1939, Hitler claimed extra-territoriality for the Reichsautobahn Berlin–Königsberg and a change in Danzig's status, in exchange for promises of territory in Poland's neighbours and a 25-year extension of the non-aggression pact. Poland refused, fearing losing de facto access to the sea, subjugation as a German satellite state or client state, and future further German demands.* [55] * [56] In August 1939, Hitler delivered an ultimatum to Poland on Danzig's status.

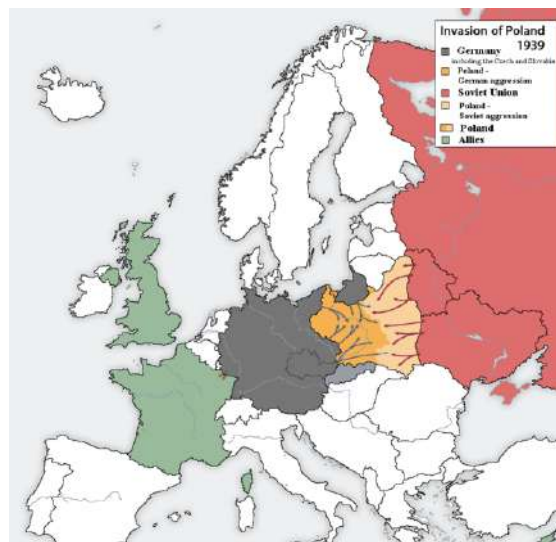
Polish alliance with the Entente Main articles: British-Polish Military Alliance and Franco-Polish alliance (1921)

In March 1939, Britain and France guaranteed the independence of Poland. Hitler's claims in the summer of 1939 on Danzig and the Polish provoked yet another international crisis. On August 25, Britain signed the Polish-British Common Defence Pact.

Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact Main articles: Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact, Soviet invasion of Poland, Occupation of the Baltic States, Soviet occupation of Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina and Winter War

Nominally, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was a non-aggression treaty between Germany and the Soviet Union. It was signed in Moscow on August 23, 1939, by the Soviet foreign minister Vyacheslav Molotov and the German foreign minister Joachim von Ribbentrop.

In 1939, neither Germany nor the Soviet Union were ready to go to war with each other. The Soviet Union had lost territory to Poland in 1920. Although officially labeled a “non-aggression treaty”, the pact included a secret protocol, in which the independent countries of Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania were divided into spheres of interest of the parties. The secret protocol explicitly assumed “territorial and political rearrangements” in the areas of these countries. Subsequently all the mentioned countries were invaded, occupied, or forced to cede part of their territory by either the Soviet Union, Germany, or both.



The Soviet Union joined Germany's Invasion of Poland.

Invasion of Poland Main article: Invasion of Poland (1939)

Between 1919 and 1939 Poland pursued a policy of balance between Soviet Union and Nazi Germany seeking non-aggression treaties with both* [57] In early 1939 Germany demanded that Poland join the Anti-Comintern Pact as a satellite state of Germany.* [58] Poland, fearing a loss of independence, refused, and Hitler told his generals on 23 May 1939 that the reason for invading Poland was “Danzig is not the object to which it goes. It is for us the extension of the living space in the East.”* [59] To deter Hitler, Britain and France announced that an invasion meant war, and tried to convince the Soviet Union to join in this deterrence. Moscow played along but found it could gain control of the Baltic states and parts of Poland by allying with Germany, which it did in August 1939. London's deterrence had failed, but Hitler did not expect a wider war. Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939 and rejected the British and French demands that it withdraw resulting in their declaration of war on September 3, 1939 in accordance to the defense treaties they signed with Poland and publicly announced.* [60] * [61]

Invasion of the Soviet Union

Main articles: Operation Barbarossa and Soviet offensive plans controversy

Germany attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941. Hitler believed that the Soviet Union could be defeated in a fast-paced and relentless assault that capitalized on the Soviet Union's ill-prepared state, and hoped that success there would bring Britain to the negotiation table, ending the war altogether. Hitler further wanted to preempt an attack by the Soviet Union, and in doing so catch the Soviets off-guard.

Attack on Pearl Harbor

For more details on this topic, see [Events leading to the attack on Pearl Harbor](#).

Usually, the US government and the American public in general had been supportive of China, condemning the colonialist policies of the European powers and Japan in that country, and promoting a so-called [Open Door Policy](#). Also, many Americans viewed the Japanese as an aggressive or inferior race, or both. The [Nationalist Government of Chiang Kai-Shek](#) held close relations with the United States, which opposed Japan's invasion of China in 1937 that it considered an illegal violation of the sovereignty of the Republic of China, and offered the Nationalist Government diplomatic, economic, and military assistance during its war against Japan. Diplomatic friction between the US and Japan manifested itself in events like the [Panay incident](#) in 1937 and the [Allison incident](#) in 1938.



Japanese troops entering Saigon

Reacting to Japanese pressure on French authorities of French Indochina to stop trade with China, the U.S. began restricting trade with Japan in July 1940. The cut-off of all oil shipments in 1941 was decisive, for the U.S., Britain and the Netherlands provided almost all of Japan's oil.*[62] In September 1940, the Japanese invaded Vichy French Indochina and occupied Tonkin in order to prevent China from importing arms and fuel through French Indochina along the Sino-Vietnamese Railway, from the port of Haiphong through Hanoi to Kunming in Yunnan.*[63] This tightening of the blockade of China made a continuation of the drawn-out Battle of South Guangxi unnecessary. The agreement also allowed Japan to station troops in the rest of Indochina, though this did not happen immediately.

Taking advantage of the situation, Thailand launched the Franco-Thai War in October 1940. In November 1940, American military aviator Claire Lee Chennault upon observing the dire situation in the air war between China and Japan, set out to organize a volunteer squadron of American fighter pilots to fight alongside the Chinese

against Japan, known as the [Flying Tigers](#).*[64] US President Franklin D. Roosevelt accepted dispatching them to China in early 1941.*[64] However, they only became operational shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Japan stepped in as a mediator for the French-Thai war in May 1941, allowing its ally to occupy bordering provinces in Cambodia and Laos. In July 1941, as operation Barbarossa had neutralised the Soviet threat, the faction of the Japanese military junta supporting the “Southern Strategy”, pushed through the occupation of the rest of French Indochina.

The United States reacted by seeking to bring the Japanese war effort to a complete halt by imposing a full embargo on all trade between the United States to Japan on 1 August 1941, demanding that Japan withdraw all troops from both China and Indochina. Japan was dependent on the United States for 80 percent of its oil, resulting in an economic and military crisis for Japan that could not continue its war effort with China without access to petroleum and oil products.*[65]



Attack on Pearl Harbor, December 1941

On 7 December 1941, without any prior declaration of war,*[66] the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked Pearl Harbor with the aim of destroying the main American battle fleet at anchor. At the same time, other Japanese forces attacked the U.S.-held Philippines and the British Empire in Malaya, Singapore, and Hong Kong. These attacks led both the USA and the United Kingdom to declare war upon Japan the next day.

Four days later the U.S was brought into the European war when on December 11, 1941, Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy declared war on the United States. Hitler chose to declare that the Tripartite Pact required that Germany follow Japan's declaration of war; although American destroyers escorting convoys and German U-boats were already de facto at war in the Battle of the Atlantic. This declaration effectively ended isolationist sentiment in the U.S. and the United States immediately reciprocated, formally entering the war in Europe.*[67]

2.1.4 See also

- Areas annexed by Nazi Germany and the pre-war German territorial claims on them
- Diplomatic history of World War II
- Military globalization
- Neville Chamberlain's European Policy
- World War

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2.1.7 External links

- Why Did World War II Break Out? An online lecture by Prof. Yehuda Bauer on the Yad Vashem website
- France, Germany and the Struggle for the War-making Natural Resources of the Rhineland Explains the long term conflict between Germany and France over the centuries, which was a contributing factor to the World Wars.
- The Way to Pearl Harbor: US vs Japan
- Czechoslovakia primary sources

Chapter 3

Course of the war

3.1 Timeline of events preceding World War II

This **Timeline of events preceding World War II** covers the events of the interwar period (1918-1939) after World War I that affected or led to World War II.

Leaders of Major Participating Countries

- Mussolini
Italy
1922-1945
- Stalin
USSR
1924-1953
- Hirohito
Japan
1926-1975
- Chiang Kai-shek
China
1928-1949
- Hitler
Nazi Germany
1933-1945
- Roosevelt
USA
1933-1945
- Chamberlain
Britain
(1937-1940)
- Édouard Daladier
France
(1938-1940)

3.1.1 1918

October 29

Start of the German Revolution.

November 11

The Armistice with Germany marks the end of World War I. German troops evacuate occupied territories and Allied troops subsequently move in and occupy the German Rhineland.

December 27

Start of the Greater Poland Uprising against German rule.

3.1.2 1919

January 4-15

The Spartacist uprising takes place and is crushed by the German government, marking the end of the German Revolution.

January 18

Opening of the Paris Peace Conference to negotiate peace treaties between the belligerents of World War I.



Detail from William Orpen's painting The Signing of Peace in the Hall of Mirrors, Versailles, 28th June 1919, showing the signing of the peace treaty by the German Minister of Transport Dr Johannes Bell, opposite to the representatives of the winning powers.

February

The Polish–Soviet War begins with border clashes between the two states.

March 2

Foundation of the Third International, or Comintern in Moscow. Comintern's stated aim is to create a global Soviet republic.

The Paris Peace Conference comes to an end with the inaugural General Assembly of the League of Nations. Although one of the victors of World War I, the United States never joins the League.

March 12

The Austrian Constituent National Assembly demands Austria's integration to Germany.* [1]

March

May 15

The Turkish War of Independence begins as Greek troops land in Smyrna.



Aufn. Böhler, Berlin

June 28

Germany and the Allied powers sign the Treaty of Versailles after six months of negotiations. The German armed forces are limited in size to 100,000 personnel and Germany is ordered to pay large reparations for war damages. The United States signed the treaty but did not ratify it, later making a separate peace treaty with Germany.

Wolfgang Kapp

September 10

German Austria signs the Treaty of Saint-Germain. The peace treaty with the Allies regulates the borders of Austria, forbids union with Germany and German Austria has to change its name to Austria. The United States did not ratify the treaty and later makes a separate peace treaty with Austria.

Wolfgang Kapp, the leader of the Putsch

The failed Kapp Putsch takes place against the German government. The German military remains passive and the putsch is defeated by a general strike.

November 27

Bulgaria signs the Treaty of Neuilly-sur-Seine. The peace treaty with the Allies regulates the borders of Bulgaria, the Bulgarian army is reduced to 20,000 men and Bulgaria is ordered to pay war reparations.

The German Ruhr Uprising, spurred by the general strike against the Kapp Putsch, is crushed by the German military

June 4

Hungary signs the Treaty of Trianon with the Allied powers. The treaty regulated the status of an independent Hungarian state and defined its borders. The United States did not ratify the treaty and later makes a separate peace treaty with Hungary.

3.1.3 1920

January 10

Creation of the Free City of Danzig which was neither approved by Germany nor Poland.

August 10

Turkey signs the Treaty of Sèvres with the Allied powers (except the US never declared war on Turkey). The treaty partitions the Ottoman

January 21

Empire and the Turkish armed forces are reduced in size. Greece did not accept the borders as drawn up in the treaty and did not sign it. The Treaty of Sèvres was annulled in the course of the Turkish War of Independence and the parties signed and ratified the superseding Treaty of Lausanne in 1923.

October

Żeligowski's Mutiny, a Polish force led by General Lucjan Żeligowski capture Vilnius, officially without support from the Polish state

3.1.4 1921

March

The Polish–Soviet War ends with the Peace of Riga.

August 25

The U.S.–German Peace Treaty and the U.S.–Austrian Peace Treaty are signed, marking the formal end of the state of war between the two states and the United States instead of the Treaty of Versailles and the Treaty of Saint-Germain that were not ratified by the United States.

August 29

The U.S.–Hungarian Peace Treaty is signed, marking the formal end of the state of war between the two states instead of the Treaty of Trianon that was not ratified by the United States.

3.1.5 1922

February 6

The Washington Naval Conference ends with the signing of the Washington Naval Treaty by the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, France, and Italy. The signing parties agree to limit the size of their naval forces.

April 16

Germany and the Soviet Union sign the Treaty of Rapallo, re-establishing diplomatic relations, renouncing financial claims on each other and pledge future cooperation.

October

The Russian Civil War (ongoing since 7 November 1917) ends in Bolshevik victory with the defeat of the last White forces in Siberia.

October 29

Fascist leader Benito Mussolini is appointed prime minister of Italy by king Victor Emmanuel III after the March on Rome.

November 1

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey abolishes the Ottoman Sultanate.

3.1.6 1923

January 11

France and Belgium occupy the Ruhr in an effort to compel Germany to step up its payments of war reparations.

July 24

The Treaty of Lausanne, settling the boundaries of modern Turkey, is signed in Switzerland by Turkey and the Entente powers. It marks the end of the Turkish War of Independence and replaces the earlier Treaty of Sèvres.

August 31

The Corfu incident: Italy bombards and occupies the Greek island of Corfu seeking to pressure Greece to pay reparations for the murder of an Italian general in Greece.

September 27

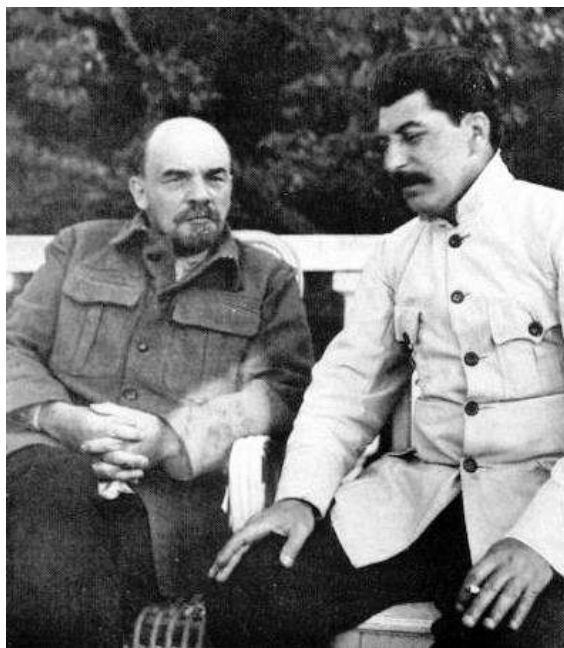
The Corfu incident ends; Italian troops withdraw after the Conference of Ambassadors rules in favor of Italian demands of reparations from Greece.

October 29

Turkey officially becomes a Republic following the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire.

November 8

The Beer Hall Putsch takes place, in which Adolf Hitler unsuccessfully leads the Nazis in an attempt to overthrow the German government. It is crushed by police the next day.

3.1.7 1924*Lenin and Stalin*

January 21

Leader of the Soviet Union Vladimir Lenin dies, and Joseph Stalin begins purging rivals to clear the way for his leadership.

February 1

The United Kingdom extends diplomatic recognition to the Soviet Union.

April 1

Adolf Hitler is sentenced to 5 years in jail for his participation in the Beer Hall Putsch (he serves only 8 months).

April 6

Fascists win elections in Italy with a 2/3 majority.

June 10

Italian Fascists kidnap and kill socialist leader Giacomo Matteotti in Rome.

August 16

The Dawes Plan is accepted. It ends the Allied occupation of the Ruhr and sets a staggered payment plan for Germany's payment of war reparations.

August 18

France begins withdrawing its troops from the Ruhr in Germany.

3.1.8 1925

July 18

Adolf Hitler's autobiographical manifesto *Mein Kampf* is published.

December 1

The Locarno Treaties are signed in London (they are ratified 14 September 1926). The treaties settle the borders of western Europe and normalize relations between Germany and the Allied powers of western Europe.

3.1.9 1926

January 3

Theodoros Pangalos declares himself dictator of Greece.

January 31

British and Belgian troops leave Cologne, Germany.

April 4

Greek dictator Theodoros Pangalos is elected president.

April 24

The Treaty of Berlin is signed by Germany and the Soviet Union, which declares neutrality if either country is attacked within the next five years.

May 25

Ukrainian nationalist leader Symon Petliura is assassinated by Russian Jew Sholom Schwartzbard in Paris.

September 8

Germany joins the League of Nations.

December 25

Emperor Taishō dies and his son Hirohito becomes the Emperor of Japan.

3.1.10 1927

April 12

The Chinese Civil War begins between nationalists and communists.

May 20

Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom sign the Treaty of Jeddah.

June 7

Peter Voikov, Soviet ambassador to Warsaw, is assassinated by a White movement activist.

November 12

Leon Trotsky is expelled from the Soviet Communist Party, leaving Joseph Stalin with undisputed control of the Soviet Union.

December 14

Iraq gains independence from the United Kingdom.

3.1.11 1928

May 3

The Jinan Incident begins, a limited armed conflict between the Republic of China and Japan.

June 4

Huanggutun Incident: Japanese agents assassinate the Chinese warlord Zhang Zuolin.

August 2

Italy and Ethiopia sign the Italo-Ethiopian Treaty, pledging cooperation and friendship.

August 27

The Kellogg-Briand Pact is signed in Paris by the major powers of the world. The treaty outlaws aggressive warfare.

October 1

The Soviet Union launches the First Five-Year Plan, an economic effort to increase industrialization.

3.1.12 1929

February 9

Litvinov's Pact is signed in Moscow by the Soviet Union, Poland, Estonia, Romania and Latvia. The Pact outlaws aggressive warfare along the lines of the Kellogg-Briand Pact.

February 11

Italy and the Holy See sign the Lateran Treaty, normalizing relations between the Vatican and Italy.

March 28

Japan withdraws troops from China, ending the Jinan Incident.

April 3

Persia signs Litvinov's Pact.

June 7

The Lateran Treaty is ratified, making the Vatican City a sovereign state.

July 24

The Kellogg-Briand Pact goes into effect.

August 31

The Young Plan, which sets the total World War I reparations owed by Germany at US\$26,350,000,000 to be paid over a period of 58½ years, is finalized. It replaces the earlier Dawes Plan.

October 29

The Great Depression begins with the Wall Street Crash.

3.1.13 1930

April 22

Fighting between China and Japan in Manchuria ends with Japan in control of Manchuria.

The United Kingdom, United States, France, Italy and Japan sign the London Naval Treaty regulating submarine warfare and limiting naval shipbuilding.

March 1

Japan creates the puppet state Manchukuo out of occupied Manchuria.

June 30

France withdraws its remaining troops from the Rhineland ending the occupation of the Rhineland.

April 10

Paul von Hindenburg is reelected President of Germany, defeating Adolf Hitler in a run-off.

3.1.14 1931

September 18

Mukden Incident: the Japanese stage a false flag bombing against a Japanese-owned railroad in the Chinese region of Manchuria, blaming Chinese dissidents for the attack.

May 30

Chancellor of Germany Heinrich Brüning resigns. President von Hindenburg asks Franz von Papen to form a new government.

September 19

Using the Mukden Incident as a pretext, the Japanese invade Manchuria.

August 30

Hermann Göring is elected chairman of the German Senate.

November 21

Paul von Hindenburg begins talking to Adolf Hitler about forming a new government.

3.1.15 1932

The Soviet famine of 1932–33 begins, caused in part by the collectivization of agriculture of the First Five-Year Plan.

December 3

von Hindenburg names Kurt von Schleicher Chancellor of Germany.

January 7

The Stimson Doctrine is proclaimed by United States Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson in response to Japan invading Manchuria. The Doctrine holds that the United States government will not recognize border changes that are made by force.

3.1.16 1933

January 1

Defense of the Great Wall: Japan attacks the fortified eastern end of the Great Wall of China in Rehe Province in Inner Mongolia.

January 28

January 28 Incident: using a flare-up of anti-Japanese violence as a pretext, the Japanese attack Shanghai, China. Fighting ends on March 6, and on May 5 a ceasefire agreement is signed wherein Shanghai is made a demilitarized zone.

January 30

Nazi leader Adolf Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany by President Paul von Hindenburg.

February 27

Germany's parliament building the Reichstag is set on fire.

February 27

February 28

The Reichstag Fire Decree is passed, nullifying many German civil liberties.

March 4

Franklin Delano Roosevelt is inaugurated as President of the United States.

March 20

Germany's first concentration camp, Dachau, is completed.

March 23

The Reichstag passes the Enabling Act, making Adolf Hitler dictator of Germany.

March 27

Japan leaves the League of Nations over the League of Nations' Lytton Report that found that Manchuria belongs to China and that Manchukuo was not a truly independent state.

April 1

Germans are told to boycott Jewish shops and businesses in response to the Jewish boycott of German goods organized the previous month.

April 26

The Gestapo secret police is established in Germany.

May 2

Hitler outlaws trade unions.

May 31

The Tangu Truce is signed between China and Japan, setting the ceasefire conditions between the two states after the Japanese occupation of Manchuria. China accedes to all Japanese demands, creating a large demilitarized zone inside Chinese territory.

June 21

All non-Nazi parties are banned in Germany.

July 14

The Nazi party becomes the official party of Germany.

August 25

Haavara Agreement: The agreement was designed to help facilitate the emigration of German Jews to Palestine.

September 12

Leó Szilárd conceives the idea of the nuclear chain reaction.

October 17

Scientist Albert Einstein arrives in the United States and settles as a refugee from Germany.

October 19

Germany leaves the League of Nations.

November 24

Homeless, alcoholic, and unemployed sent to Nazi concentration camps.

3.1.17 1934

January 26

Germany and Poland sign the 10 year German-Polish Non-Aggression Pact.

February 12-16

The Austrian Civil War is fought, ending with Austrofascist victory.

March 20

All German police forces come under the command of Heinrich Himmler.

June 30

Night of the Long Knives in Germany. Potential rivals to Hitler within the Nazi Party, including SA leader Ernst Röhm, and prominent anti-Nazi conservatives are killed by the SS and the Gestapo.

July 20

The SS becomes an organization independent of the Nazi Party, reporting directly to Adolf Hitler.* [2]

July 25

Austrian Nazis assassinate Engelbert Dollfuss during the failed July Putsch against the Austrian government.

August 2

Upon the death of President Paul von Hindenburg, Adolf Hitler makes himself Führer of Germany, becoming Head of State as well as Chancellor.

August 8

Members of the Wehrmacht begin swearing a personal oath of loyalty to Hitler instead of to the German constitution.

September

The Soviet Union joins the League of Nations.

December 5

The Abyssinia Crisis begins with the Walwal incident, an armed clash between Italian and Ethiopian troops on the border of Ethiopia.

December 29

Japan renounces the Washington Naval Treaty and the London Naval Treaty.

3.1.18 1935

January 7

The League of Nations approves the results of the Saar plebiscite, which allows Saar to be incorporated into German borders.* [3]

June 18

The Anglo-German Naval Agreement is signed by Germany and the United Kingdom. The agreement allows Germany to build a fleet that's 35% the tonnage of the British fleet. In this way, the British hope to limit German naval re-armament.

August 31

The Neutrality Act of 1935 is passed in the United States imposing a general embargo on trading in arms and war materials with all parties in a war and it also declared that American citizens travelling on ships of warring nations travelled at their own risk.

September 15

The Reichstag passes the Nuremberg Laws, introducing antisemitism in German legislation

October 2

Italy invades Ethiopia, beginning the Second Italo–Abyssinian War.

3.1.19 1936

In 1936, Adolf Hitler demanded to have a private meeting with Arnold J. Toynbee who was visiting Berlin the same year to address the Nazi Law Society, and Toynbee accepted.* [4] In the meeting, Hitler emphasized his limited expansionist aim of building a greater German nation, and his desire for British understanding and cooperation. Toynbee was convinced of Hitler's sincerity, and endorsed Hitler's message in a confidential memorandum for the British prime minister and foreign secretary.* [5]

February 6

Germany hosts the 1936 Winter Olympics in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

March 7

In violation of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany remilitarizes the Rhineland.

March 25

The Second London Naval Treaty is signed by the United Kingdom, United States, and France. Italy and Japan each declined to sign this treaty.

May 5

Italian troops march into the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, marking the end of the Second Italo–Abyssinian War.

July 17

- The failed Spanish coup of July 1936 by Nationalist forces marks the beginning of the Spanish Civil War.
- October 18
- Hermann Göring is made head of the German Four Year Plan, an effort to make Germany self-sufficient and increase armaments.
- October
- The Great Purge commences in the Soviet Union with widespread repression of suspected opponents of the regime. The purge leads to the imprisonment and death of many military officers, weakening the Soviet Armed Forces ahead of World War II.
- August 1
- Germany hosts the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin.
- November 14
- Suiyuan Campaign begins as Japanese-backed Mongolian troops attack the Chinese garrison at Hongort.
- November 15
- The aerial German Condor Legion goes into action for the first time in the Spanish Civil War in support of the Nationalist side.
- November 25
- The Anti-Comintern Pact is signed by Japan and Germany. The signing parties agree to go to war with the Soviet Union if one of the signatories is attacked by the Soviet Union.
- December 1
- Hitler makes it mandatory for all males between the ages 10-18 to join the Hitler Youth.
- December 12
- The two sides in the Chinese Civil War temporarily suspend hostilities to fight the Japanese.
- December 23
- The first 3,000 men of the Italian expeditionary force (later named *Corpo Truppe Volontarie*) lands in Cadiz in support of the Nationalist side in the Spanish Civil War.
- 3.1.20 1937**
- July 7
- The Marco Polo Bridge Incident occurs, beginning the Second Sino-Japanese War.
- October 5
- U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt gives the Quarantine Speech outlining a move away from neutrality and towards “quarantining” all aggressors.
- November 6
- Italy joins the Anti-Comintern Pact.
- December 8
- Japan established the puppet state of Mengjiang in the Inner Mongolia region of the Republic of China.*[6]
- December 11
- Italy leaves the League of Nations.
- December 12
- The USS *Panay* incident occurs, where Japan attacked the American gunboat *Panay* while she was anchored in the Yangtze River.
- 3.1.21 1938**
- January 26
- The Allison incident occurs further straining relations between Japan and the United States.
- March 6
- Japanese troops reach the Yellow River in China.*[7]
- March 13
- Austria is incorporated by Germany.
- July 6-16
- Évian Conference: The United States and the United Kingdom refuse to accept any more Jewish refugees.

<p>July 29</p> <p>The Soviet–Japanese border conflicts begin with the Battle of Lake Khasan.</p>	<p>The pro-German Slovak Republic is created with Jozef Tiso as its first prime minister, provoking the dissolution of Czechoslovakia.</p>
<p>August</p> <p>Soviet Union wins the Battle of Khasan against Japan.</p>	<p>March 15</p> <p>Germany occupies the Czech part in violation of the Munich Agreement. The Czechs do not attempt to put up any organized resistance having lost their main defensive line with the annexation of the Sudetenland.</p>
<p>September 27</p> <p>U.S. President Roosevelt sends letter to German Führer Adolf Hitler seeking peace.*[8]</p>	<p>Germany establishes the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. The protectorate includes those portions of Czechoslovakia not incorporated into Germany, Poland, Hungary, or the new Slovak Republic.</p>
<p>September 30</p> <p>The Munich Agreement is signed by Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and Italy. The agreement allows Germany to annex the Czechoslovak Sudetenland area in exchange for peace in an attempt to appease Hitler.</p>	<p>March 20</p> <p>German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop delivers an oral ultimatum to Lithuania, demanding that it cede the Klaipėda Region (German name Memel) to Germany.</p>
<p>November 7</p> <p>Exiled German Jew Herschel Grynszpan assassinates German consular aide Ernst vom Rath in Paris.*[9]</p>	<p>March 21</p> <p>Adolf Hitler demands the return of the Free City of Danzig to Germany.</p>
<p>November 9</p> <p>The Kristallnacht pogrom begins in Germany; many Jewish shops and synagogues are smashed, looted, burned, and destroyed throughout the country.*[10]</p>	<p>March 23</p> <p>German–Romanian Treaty for the Development of Economic Relations between the Two Countries is signed.</p>
<p>3.1.22 1939</p>	
<p>January 25</p> <p>A uranium atom is split for the first time at Columbia University in the United States.*[11]</p>	<p>The United Kingdom and France offer a guarantee of Polish independence.</p>
<p>January 27</p> <p>Adolf Hitler orders Plan Z, a 5-year naval expansion programme intended to provide for a huge German fleet capable of defeating the Royal Navy by 1944. The <i>Kriegsmarine</i> is given the first priority on the allotment of German economic resources. This is the first and only time the <i>Kriegsmarine</i> is given the first priority in the history of the Third Reich.</p>	<p>April 1</p> <p>The Spanish Civil War ends in Nationalist victory. Spain becomes a dictatorship with Francisco Franco as the head of the new government.</p>
<p>March 14</p>	<p>April 3</p> <p>Adolf Hitler orders the German military to start planning for Fall Weiss, the codename for the attack on Poland, planned to be launched on August 25, 1939.</p>
<p>March 14</p>	<p>April 7-12</p>

- Italy invades Albania with little in the way of military resistance. Albania is later made part of Italy through a personal union of the Italian and Albanian crown.
- April 14
- U.S. President Roosevelt sends letter to German Chancellor Hitler seeking peace.* [12]
- April 18
- The Soviet Union proposes a tripartite alliance with the United Kingdom and France. It is rejected.* [13]
- April 28
- In a speech before the *Reichstag*, Adolf Hitler renounces the Anglo-German Naval Agreement and the German–Polish Non-Aggression Pact
- May 11
- Soviet–Japanese border conflicts: The Battle of Khalkhin Gol begins with Japan and Manchukuo against the Soviet Union and Mongolia. The battle ends in Soviet victory on September 16, influencing the Japanese to not seek further conflict with the Soviets, but to turn towards the Pacific holdings of the Euro-American powers instead.
- May 17
- Sweden, Norway, and Finland reject Germany's offer of non-aggression pacts.
- May 22
- The Pact of Steel, known formally as the “Pact of Friendship and Alliance between Germany and Italy”, is signed by Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. The Pact declares further cooperation between the two powers, but in a secret supplement the Pact is detailed as a military alliance.
- June 14
- The Tientsin Incident occurs, in which the Japanese blockade the British concession in the North China Treaty Port of Tientsin.
- July 10
- Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain reaffirms support for Poland and makes it clear that Britain did not view Free City of Danzig as being an internal German-Polish affair and would intervene on behalf of Poland if hostilities broke out between the two countries.
- August 2
- The Einstein-Szilárd letter is sent to Franklin D. Roosevelt. Written by Leó Szilárd and signed by Albert Einstein, it warned of the danger that Germany might develop atomic bombs. This letter prompted action by Roosevelt and eventually resulted in the Manhattan Project.
- August 23
- The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact is signed between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union, with secret provisions for the division of Eastern Europe - joint occupation of Poland and Soviet occupation of the Baltic States, Finland and Bessarabia. This protocol removes the threat of Soviet intervention during the German invasion of Poland.
- August 25
- In response to a message from Mussolini that Italy will not honor the Pact of Steel if Germany attacks Poland, Hitler delays the launch of the invasion by five days to provide more time to secure British and French neutrality.
- August 30
- German ultimatum to Poland concerning the Polish Corridor and the Free City of Danzig
- September 1
- Without response to its ultimatum, Germany invades Poland, start of World War II.

3.1.23 See also

- Causes of World War II
- Timeline of World War I
- Timeline of World War II
- Events preceding World War II in Europe
- Events preceding World War II in Asia

3.1.24 Notes and references

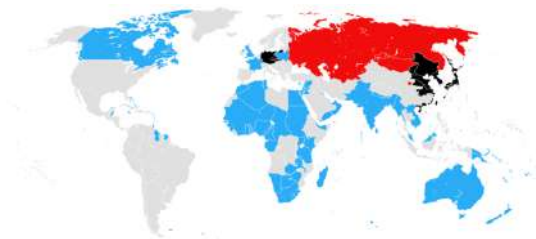
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- [13] Carley, Michael Jabara (1993). “End of the ‘Low, Dishonest Decade’: Failure of the Anglo–Franco–Soviet Alliance in 1939” . *Europe–Asia Studies* **45** (2): 303–341. doi:10.1080/09668139308412091.

3.1.25 External links

- French Yellow Book
- Nazi-Soviet relations 1939-1941
- Nazi-Soviet relations 1939-1941 (complete)
- British War Bluebook

3.2 1939 timeline

This is a **timeline of events that stretched over the period of World War II**. For events preceding September 1, 1939, see the timeline of events preceding World War II.



The allies and axis powers at the dawn of the German/Soviet invasion of Poland.

3.2.1 September 1939

1: The Republic of China and the Empire of Japan are involved in the early stages of the third year of armed conflict between them during the Second Sino-Japanese War. The war is in what will be known as the “Second Period”, which starts in October 1938 and ends in December 1941. This conflict will eventually be swept up into WWII when Japan joins the Axis and China the Allies.

1: The Invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany begins at 4:45 a.m. with the *Luftwaffe* attacking several targets in Poland. The *Luftwaffe* launches air attacks against Kraków, Łódź, and Warsaw. Within five minutes of the *Luftwaffe* attacks, Nazi Germany's *Kriegsmarine* orders the old Battleship *Schleswig-Holstein* to open fire on the Polish military transit depot at Westerplatte in the Free City of Danzig on the Baltic Sea, but the attack is repulsed. By 8:00 a.m., troops of the German Army (*Wehrmacht Heer*), still without a formal declaration of war issued, launch an attack near the Polish town of Mokra.

1: Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Switzerland declare their neutrality.

1: The British government declares general mobilization of the British Armed Forces and begins evacuation plans in preparation of German air attacks.

2: The United Kingdom and France issue a joint ultimatum to Germany, requiring German troops to evacuate Polish territory; Italian dictator Benito Mussolini declares the neutrality of his nation; President Douglas Hyde of the Republic of Ireland declares the neutrality of his nation; the Swiss government orders a general mobilization of its forces.

2: The National Service (Armed Forces) Act 1939 is enacted immediately and enforces full conscription on all males between 18 and 41 resident in the UK.

- 2: The Free City of Danzig is annexed by Germany. Resisters entrenched in the city's Polish Post Office are overwhelmed
- 3: At 11:15 a.m. British Standard Time (BST), British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain announces on BBC Radio that the deadline of the final British ultimatum for the withdrawal of German troops from Poland expired at 11:00am and that "consequently this nation is at war with Germany". Australia, India, and New Zealand also declare war on Germany within hours of Britain's declaration.
- 3: At 12:30pm BST the French Government delivers a similar final ultimatum; which expires at 3:00pm BST.*[1]
- 3: Within hours of the British declaration of War, SS *Athenia*, a British cruise ship en route from Glasgow, Scotland to Montreal, Canada is torpedoed by the German submarine *U-30* 250 miles Northwest of Ireland. 112 passengers and crew members are killed. The "Battle of the Atlantic" begins.
- 3: Bromberg massacre: many ethnic German civilians are killed in the Polish city of Bromberg.
- 4: At 8:00 a.m. Newfoundland Standard Time (NST), Dominion of Newfoundland declares war on Germany.
- 4: In the first British offensive action of the War, the Royal Air Force launch a raid on the German fleet in the Heligoland Bight. They target the German pocket-battleship *Admiral Scheer* anchored off Wilhelmshaven at the western end of the Kiel Canal. Several aircraft are lost in the attack and, although the German vessel is hit three times, all of the bombs fail to explode.
- 4: Japan announces its neutrality in the European situation. The British Admiralty announces the beginning of a naval blockade on Germany, one of a range of measures by which the British will wage economic warfare on the Axis Powers
- 4: The United States launches the Neutrality Patrol.
- 5: South African Prime Minister Barry Hertzog fails to gain support for a declaration of South African neutrality and is deposed by a party caucus for Deputy Prime Minister Jan Smuts.
- 5: The United States publicly declares neutrality.*[2]
- 6: South Africa, now under Prime Minister Jan Smuts, declares war on Germany.
- 6: Battle of Barking Creek, a friendly fire incident, results in the first RAF fighter pilot fatalities of the War).*[3]
- 6: One of Germany's land forces (*Wehrmacht Heer*) captures Kraków in the south of Poland; Polish army is in general retreat.
- 7: France begins a token offensive, moving into German territory near Saarbrücken.
- 7: The National Registration Act 1939 is passed in Britain introducing identity cards and allowing the government to control labour.
- 8: The British Government announces the re-introduction of the convoy system for merchant ships and a full-scale blockade on German shipping.
- 9: The French Saar Offensive stalls at the heavily mined Warndt Forest having advanced approximately 8 miles into lightly defended German territory.
- 10: After passing both Houses of the Canadian parliament by unanimous consent and receiving Royal Assent by the Governor General of Canada, Lord Tweedsmuir, Canada declares war on Germany on September 10th.*[4]
- 11: Viceroy of India Lord Linlithgow announces to the two houses of the Indian Legislature (the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly) that due to India's participation in the war, the plans for the Federation of India under the Government of India Act 1935 will be indefinitely postponed.
- 12: General Gamelin orders a halt to the French advance into Germany.
- 15: The Polish Army is ordered to hold out at the Romanian border until the Allies arrive.*[5]
- 16: The German Army complete the encirclement of Warsaw.
- 16: The French complete their retreat from Germany, ending the Saar Offensive.
- 17: The Soviet Union invades Poland from the east, occupying the territory east of the Curzon line as well as Białystok and Eastern Galicia.
- 17: Aircraft carrier HMS *Courageous* is torpedoed and sunk by U-29 on patrol off the coast of Ireland
- 17: The Imperial Japanese Army launches attacks on the Chinese city of Changsha, when their forces in northern Jiangxi attacked westward toward Henan.
- 18: Polish President Ignacy Mościcki and Commander-in-Chief Edward Rydz-Śmigły leave Poland for Romania, where they are

both interned; Russian forces reach **Vilnius** and **Brest-Litovsk**. Polish submarine escapes from **Tallinn** - Estonia's neutrality is questioned by the Soviet Union and Germany.

19: The German and Soviet armies link up near **Brest Litovsk**.

19: Soviet Union blockades the harbour of **Tallinn**, the capital of Estonia.

19: Soviet Union and its ally **Mongolia** win the **Battle of Khalkhin Gol** against Japan, ending the **Soviet-Japanese Border Wars**.

19: The **Japanese Imperial Army** attacks the **Chinese National Revolutionary Army** along the **Xinqiang River** using poison gas during the **Battle of Changsha**.

20: German submarine *U-27* is sunk with depth charges from the British destroyers *HMS Fortune* and *HMS Forester*.

21: Romanian Prime Minister **Armand Călinescu** is assassinated by the **Iron Guard**, an ultra-nationalistic group in Romania.

23: The **Imperial Japanese Army** drive the **Chinese National Revolutionary Army** out of the **Sinchiang river area**, and the 6th and 13th Divisions cross the river under artillery cover and advances further south along the **Miluo River** during the **Battle of Changsha**.

24: Soviet air force violates **Estonian airspace**. The Estonians negotiate with **Molotov** in **Moscow**. **Molotov** warns the Estonians that if the Soviet Union doesn't get military bases in Estonia, it will be forced to use "more radical actions".

25: German home front measures begin with food rationing.

25: Soviet air activity in Estonia. Soviet troops along the Estonian border include 600 tanks and 600 aircraft and 160 000 men.

26: Following a massive artillery bombardment, the Germans launch a major infantry assault on the centre of **Warsaw**.

26: Russian bombers seen in the **Tallinn sky**.

27: In the first offensive operations by the German Army in Western Europe, guns on the **Siegfried Line** open up on villages behind **French Maginot line**.

28: **German-Soviet Boundary and Friendship Treaty** is signed by **Molotov** and **Ribbentrop**. The secret protocol specifies the details of partition of Poland originally defined in **Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact** (August 23, 1939) and adds **Lithuania** to the Soviet Union sphere of interest.

28: The remaining Polish army and militia in the centre of **Warsaw** capitulate to the Germans.

28: Soviet troops mass by the **Latvian border**. **Latvian air space** violated.

28: Estonia signs a 10-year **Mutual Assistance Pact** with the Soviet Union, which allows the Soviets to have 30 000-men military bases in Estonia. As a gift in return **Stalin** promises to respect **Estonian independence**.

29: The **Japanese Imperial Army** reaches the outskirts of **Changsha**. However, it is unable to conquer the city because its supply lines are cut off by the **Chinese National Revolutionary Army**.

30: The German pocket-battleship *Admiral Graf Spee* sinks its first merchant ship, the British freighter *Clement* while off the coast of **Pernambuco, Brazil**.

30: French forces on the **French-German border** fall back to the **Maginot Line** in anticipation of a German invasion. * [6]

3.2.2 October 1939

2: **Latvian representatives** negotiate with **Stalin** and **Molotov**. Soviets threaten an occupation by force if they do not get military bases in **Latvia**.

2: **Declaration of Panama** is approved by **American Republics**. Belligerent activities should not take place within waters adjacent to the **American continent**. A neutrality zone of some 300 miles in breadth is to be patrolled by the **U.S. Navy**.

3: **British forces** move to the **Belgian border**, anticipating a German invasion of the West.

3: **Lithuanians** meet **Stalin** and **Molotov** in **Moscow**. **Stalin** offers **Lithuania** the city of **Vilnius** (in Poland) in return for allowing **Soviet military bases** in **Lithuania**. The **Lithuanians** are reluctant.

5: **Latvia** signs a 10-year **Mutual Assistance Pact** with the Soviet Union, which allows the Soviets to have 25,000 men in military bases in **Latvia**. **Stalin** promises to respect **Latvian independence**.

6: **Chinese army** reportedly defeats the **Japanese** at the **Battle of Changsha**.

6: **Polish resistance** in the **Polish September Campaign** comes to an end. **Hitler** speaks before the **Reichstag**, declaring a desire for a conference with **Britain** and **France** to restore peace.

- 7: Lithuanians again meet the Soviets in Moscow. The Soviets demand military bases.
- 9: Germany issues orders (**Case Yellow**) to prepare for the invasion of **Belgium**, **France**, **Luxembourg**, and the **Netherlands**.
- 10: The last of Poland's military surrenders to the Germans.
- 10: The leaders of the German navy suggest to Hitler they need to occupy Norway.
- 10: British Prime Minister Chamberlain declines Hitler's offer of peace.
- 10: Lithuania signs a 15-year **Mutual Assistance Pact** with the Soviet Union, which allows the Soviets to have 20,000 men in military bases in Lithuania. In a secret protocol, Vilnius is made Lithuanian territory.
- 11: An estimated 158,000 British troops are now in France.
- 12: Adolf Eichmann begins deporting Jews from Austria and Czechoslovakia into Poland.
- 12: French Premier **Édouard Daladier** declines Hitler's offer of peace.
- 12: Finland's representatives meet Stalin and Molotov in Moscow. Soviet Union demands Finland give up a military base near **Helsinki** and exchange some Soviet and Finnish territories to protect **Leningrad** against Great Britain or the eventual future threat of Germany.
- 14: The British battleship *HMS Royal Oak* is sunk in **Scapa Flow** harbour by *U-47*, under the command of **Günther Prien**.
- 14: Finns meet Stalin again. Stalin tells that "an accident" might happen between Finnish and Soviet troops, if the negotiations last too long.
- 16: First air attack on Great Britain, aimed at ships in the **Firth of Forth**, Scotland.* [7]
- 18: First Soviet forces enter Estonia. During the *Umsiedlung*, 12,600 **Baltic Germans** leave Estonia.
- 19: Portions of Poland are formally inducted into Germany; the first Jewish **ghetto** is established at **Lublin**
- 20: The "Phoney War": French troops settle in the **Maginot line's** dormitories and tunnels; the British build new fortifications along the "gap" between the **Maginot line** and the **Channel**.
- 20: **Pope Pius XII's** first **encyclical** condemns racism and dictatorships.
- 27: **Belgium** announces that it is neutral in the present conflict.

30: The British government releases a report on concentration camps being built in Europe for Jews and anti-Nazis.* [8]

31: As Germany plans for an attack on France, German Lieutenant-General **Erich von Manstein** proposes that Germany attack through the **Ardennes** rather than through **Belgium** - the expected attack route.

3.2.3 November 1939

1: Parts of Poland, including the **Danzig Corridor**, are annexed by Germany. Soviet Union annexes the eastern parts of occupied Poland to **Ukraine** and **Belorussia**.

3: **Finland** and Soviet Union again negotiate new borders. Finns mistrust Stalin's aims and refuse to give up territory breaking their defensive line.

4: The U.S. **Neutrality Act** is passed: the French and British may buy arms, but on a strictly cash basis. American isolationists find the act an "outrage."

4: A German physicist working at **Siemens AG** sends an anonymous letter to the **British Embassy** in **Oslo** offering England a report on present and future German weapons technologies.

8: Hitler escapes a bomb blast in a **Munich beerhall**, where he was speaking on the anniversary of the **Beer Hall Putsch** of 1923. British bombers coincidentally bomb Munich.

13: Negotiations between **Finland** and Soviet Union break down. Finns suspect that Germans and Russians have agreed to include **Finland** in the Soviet sphere of influence.

14: The **Polish government-in-exile** moves to **London**.

16: The first British civilian casualty occurs when a German bomber kills **James Isbister** in an air raid on **Orkney** in Scotland.* [9]

17: The **IRA** is blamed for bombs set off in **London**.

20: The **Luftwaffe** and German U-boats begin mining the **Thames estuary**.

23: **Polish Jews** are ordered to wear **Star of David** armbands.

24: **Japan** announces the capture of **Nanning** in southern **China**.

26: The Soviets stage the shelling of **Mainila**, Soviet artillery shells a field near the **Finnish border**, accusing Finns of killing Soviet troops.

29: The USSR breaks off diplomatic relations with Finland.

30: The Soviet Union attacks Finland in what would become known as the Winter War.

3.2.4 December 1939

1: Russia continues its war against Finland; Helsinki is bombed. In the first two weeks of the month, the Finns retreat to the **Mannerheim line**, an outmoded defensive line just inside the southern border with Russia.

2: British conscription is increased to cover men from 19 to 41.

5: The Russian invaders start heavy attacks on the Mannerheim line.

7: Italy again declares its neutrality. Norway, Sweden, and Denmark also proclaim their neutrality in the Russo-Finnish quarrel.

11: The Russians meet with several tactical defeats by the Finnish army.

12: The destroyer *HMS Duchess* sinks after a collision with the battleship *HMS Barham* off the coast of Scotland with the loss of 124 men.

13: The **Battle of the River Plate** off Montevideo, Uruguay. A British naval squadron attacks the *Admiral Graf Spee*

14: The *Graf Spee* retreats, badly damaged, into Montevideo harbor.

14: The USSR is expelled from the **League of Nations** in response to the Soviet invasion of Finland on November 30.*[10]

15: Soviet Army assaults **Taipale**, Finland during the **Battle of Taipale**.*[11]

17: The *Graf Spee* is forced by International Law to leave Montevideo harbor; it is scuttled just outside the harbor. Its captain, **Hans Langsdorff**, is interned.

18: The first Canadian troops arrive in Europe.

18: Germany defeats Britain in the **Battle of the Heligoland Bight**

20: Captain Hans Langsdorff commits suicide.

27: The first Indian troops arrive in France.

28: Meat rationing begins in Britain.

29: As the year ends, the Finns continue to have successes in fighting the invaders, along the way capturing many men and vehicles.

3.2.5 Notes and references

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3.3 1940 timeline

This is a **timeline of events that stretched over the period of World War II**.

3.3.1 January 1940

1: 10,000 Japanese troops launched a counter-attack in eastern Shanxi Province in China in an attempt to relieve the nearly-surrounded Japanese 36th Division.*[1]

2: The Soviet offensive in Finland is halted by several Finnish victories; numerous Soviet tanks are destroyed.

7: Rationing of basic foodstuffs is established in the UK.*[2]

A major Finnish victory at Suomussalmi is reported; one whole Soviet division is eliminated, and again numbers of military vehicles are captured.

7: General Semyon Timoshenko takes command of Soviet Army forces in Finland.*[1]

10: **Mechelen Incident**: a German plane, carrying plans for **Fall Gelb**, crashes in neutral Belgium.

16: Captured documents reveal Hitler's plans for the invasion of Scandinavia and a postponement of the invasion of France and the Low Countries until the Spring, when the weather is more compatible for an invasion.

17: The Soviets are driven back in Finland and retaliate with heavy air attacks.

20: German submarine U-44 torpedoes and sinks Greek steamer *Ekatontarchos Dracoulis* off Portugal at 0415 hours, killing 6. U-44 had been hunting for *Ekatontarchos Dracoulis* for the past 6 hours.* [1]

21: A U-boat sinks British destroyer *HMS Exmouth* and its crew of 135 are all lost.

24: **Reinhard Heydrich** is appointed by Göring for the solution to the “Jewish Question.”

27: Germany makes final plans for the invasion of Denmark and Norway

3.3.2 February 1940



Finnish ski troops in Northern Finland January 12, 1940.

1: The Japanese Diet announces a record high budget with over half its expenditures being military.

5: Britain and France decide to intervene in Norway to cut off the iron ore trade in anticipation of an expected German occupation and ostensibly to open a route to assist Finland. The operation is scheduled to start about March 20.

9: **Erich von Manstein** is placed in command of German XXXVIII (38) Armour Corps, removing him from planning the French invasion.

10: USSR agrees to supply grain and raw materials to Germany in a new trade treaty.

14: British government calls for volunteers to fight in Finland.

15: The Soviet army captures Summa, an important defence point in Finland, thereby breaking through the **Mannerheim Line**. Hitler orders unrestricted submarine warfare.

16: British destroyer *HMS Cossack* forcibly removes 303 British POWs from the German transport *Altmark* in neutral Norwegian territorial waters, sparking the **Altmark Incident**.

17: The Finns continue retreat from the **Mannerheim line**.

Manstein presents to Hitler his plans for invading France via the **Ardennes** forest.

21: General **Nikolaus von Falkenhorst** is placed in command of the upcoming German invasion of Norway.

3.3.3 March 1940

1: **Adolf Hitler** directs his generals in planning the invasion of Denmark and Norway.

3: Soviets begin attacks on **Viipuri**, Finland's second largest city.

5: Finland tells the Soviets they will agree to their terms for ending the war. The next day they send emissaries to Moscow to negotiate a peace treaty.

11: Meat rationing begins in Britain.* [2]

12: In Moscow, Finland signs a peace treaty with the Soviet Union after 105 days of conflict. The Finns are forced to give up significant territory in exchange for peace.

16: German air raid on **Scapa Flow** causes first British civilian casualties.

18: Hitler and Mussolini meet at the **Brenner** pass on the Austrian border;* [2] **Benito Mussolini** agrees with Hitler that Italy will enter the war “at an opportune moment” .

21: **Paul Reynaud** becomes Prime Minister of France following **Daladier's** resignation the previous day.

28: Britain and France make a formal agreement that neither country will seek a separate peace with Germany.

29: The Soviets want new territories. **Molotov** speaks to the Supreme Soviet, about “an unsettled dispute” , the question of **Romanian Bessarabia**.

30: Japan establishes a puppet regime at **Nanking, China**, under **Wang Jingwei**.

30: Britain undertakes secret reconnaissance flights to photograph the targeted areas inside the Soviet Union in preparation for **Operation Pike**, utilising high-altitude, high-speed stereoscopic photography pioneered by **Sidney Cotton**.

3.3.4 April 1940

April: 22,000 Polish officers, policemen, and others are massacred by the Soviet NKVD in the **Katyn massacre**.

3: The Ministerial Defence Committee, with the First Lord of the Admiralty (Winston Churchill) as its chair, replaces Lord Chatfield's ministerial position of Minister for Co-ordination of Defence.

9: Germans land in several Norwegian ports and take Oslo; the Norwegian Campaign lasts two months. The British begin their Norwegian Campaign. Denmark surrenders.

10: Germans set up a Norwegian government under Vidkun Quisling, former minister of defence.

11: First Battle of Narvik. British destroyers and aircraft successfully make a surprise attack against a larger German naval force. A second attack on April 13 will also be a British success.

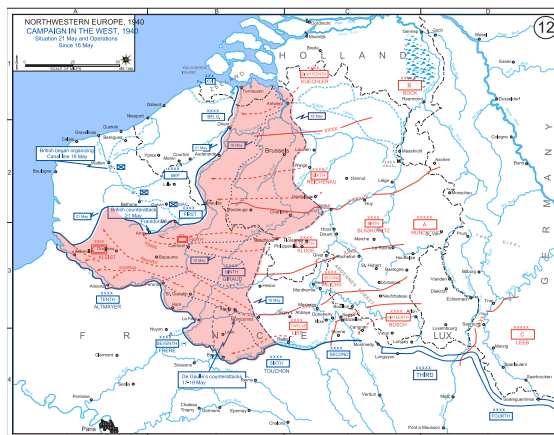
12: British troops occupy the Danish Faroe Islands.

14: British and French troops begin landing at Namsos, north of Trondheim in Norway.

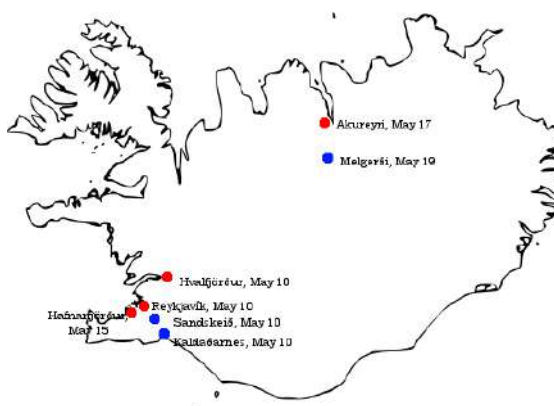
15: British troops land at Harstad, near Narvik, Norway.

16: More British landings in Norway, notably north and south of Trondheim; the struggle for Trondheim continues until the 22nd.

27: British troops begin pull-out from central Norway, north and south of Trondheim.

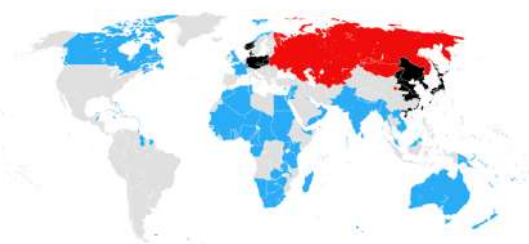


The German *Blitzkrieg* offensive of mid-May, 1940.



Map of the British invasion of Iceland in mid-May 1940.

3.3.5 May 1940



The state of the allies and axis powers in May 1940.

1: Allies begin evacuating Norwegian ports; the efforts will continue until June.

5: Norwegian government in exile established in London.*[2]

8: Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain barely survives Norway Debate vote in the House of Commons.

9: Conscription in Britain extended to age 36.

10: Germany invades Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands; Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister of the United Kingdom upon the resignation of

Neville Chamberlain. The United Kingdom invades Iceland.

Belgium declares a state of emergency. Churchill is called on to form a wartime coalition government.*[2]

The massive German offensive against the Western front: The invasion of Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands, and France begins. In a bold stroke, German paratroops capture the Belgian fort Eben Emael.

10: The Battle for The Hague becomes the first failed paratrooper attack in history as the Dutch quickly defeat the invaders.

11: Luxembourg is occupied. Churchill offers the former Kaiser Wilhelm II, who is now living in the Netherlands, asylum in the United Kingdom; he declines.

12: The Belgians blow up all the bridges over the Meuse River to halt the German advance.

12: Battle of Hannut begins in Belgium.

13: Dutch government-in-exile established in London.

General Heinz Guderian's Panzer corps breaks through at Sedan, France.

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands flees to asylum in the United Kingdom.

Churchill's "blood, toil, tears, and sweat" speech in Commons.

13: The Dutch lose the **Battle of the Grebbeberg** to the Germans.

14: The creation of the **Local Defence Volunteers** (the *Home Guard*) is announced by the new **Secretary of State for War Anthony Eden**. It is mostly composed of the elderly and retired.

Rotterdam is carpet-bombed by the Luftwaffe, causing many civilian deaths and tremendous damage. The Netherlands decide to surrender with the exception of Zeeland.

Churchill asks President Roosevelt and Canada for aid in these dark days. Outlines of the new British coalition, which includes Labour, Liberal, and Conservative members, is made public.

14: The Dutch defeat the Germans at the **Battle of the Afsluitdijk**.

14: The **Rotterdam Blitz** successfully brings an end to the **Battle of Rotterdam**.

15: The capitulation of the Dutch army is signed.*[2]

German forces cross over the **Meuse River**.*[2]

16: Churchill visits Paris and hears that the French war is as good as over

16: The Belgian government leaves Belgium for **Bordeaux** in France, as the Belgian army retreats. It later moves to London.*[3]

17: Germans enter Brussels and also take Antwerp.

Paul Reynaud forms new French government, including 84-year-old Marshal Pétain, the French hero of World War I.

18: **Maxime Weygand** replaces **Maurice Gamelin** as commander of the French armed forces

Antwerp captured.*[2]

18: Germans win the **Battle of Zeeland**.

19: **Amiens** in France is besieged by German troops; **Rommel's** forces surround Arras; other German forces reach Noyelles on the Channel.

19: The British complete their invasion of Iceland.

20: General Guderian's Panzer groups take **Abbeville**, threatening Allied forces in the area.

23: **Oswald Mosley**, leader of the pre-war British fascists, is jailed; he and his wife will spend the duration in prison.

24: The British make a final decision to cease operations in Norway.

25: The Allied forces, British and French alike, retreat to **Dunkirk**.*[2] Hitler orders a halt to the advance of Germans toward the Allied beachhead and allows Hermann Göring to use the Luftwaffe to attack. British R.A.F. defends the beachhead.

Sporadic Luftwaffe bombings in England.

Boulogne-sur-Mer surrenders to the Germans.

25: Soviet Union is preparing a total takeover in the Baltic States organizing and staging conflicts between the Baltic States and the USSR. Soviet government accuses Lithuania of kidnapping Soviet soldiers.

25-28: 86 Belgian civilians are murdered by German forces in the village of **Vinkt**

26: The **Patrol vessel A4** arrives in Plymouth, evacuating the final 40 tonnes of national gold reserves out of Belgium.

26: **Calais** surrenders to the Germans.

Operation Dynamo, the Allied evacuation of 340,000 troops from **Dunkirk**, begins. The move will last until June 3 under ferocious bombardment by the Luftwaffe.

28: Belgium surrenders to the Germans; King **Leopold III of Belgium** surrenders and is interned.

30: Crucial British Cabinet meeting: Churchill wins a vote on continuing the war, in spite of vigorous arguments by Lord Halifax and Chamberlain.

31: The Japanese heavily bomb Nationalist capital **Chungking**, on the upper **Yangtse**.

3.3.6 June 1940

3: Last day of Operation Dynamo. 224,686 British and 121,445 French and Belgian troops have been evacuated.

Germans bomb Paris.

7: German battleships *Gneisenau* and *Scharnhorst* sink the aircraft carrier *HMS Glorious* and two destroyers off Norway; the British ships have had no air cover.

9: Red Army provokes conflicts on the Latvian border.

10: Italy declares war on France and the United Kingdom. Norway surrenders. King **Haakon** and his government had evacuated to Britain three days previously.

11: French government decamps to **Tours**.

12: More than 10,000 British soldiers of the **51st (Highland) Division** are captured at **Saint-Valéry-en-Caux**.

13: Paris occupied by German troops; French government moves again, this time to Bordeaux.*[2]

14: Elements of the French Navy (*Marine Nationale*) based in Toulon carried out offensive operations against Italian targets along the Ligurian coast.

A total military blockade on the Baltic States by the Soviet Baltic Fleet. Soviet troops along the Baltic borders are ready to organise communist coups in the Baltic States. Soviet bombers shoot down a Finnish passenger airplane *Kaleva* flying from Tallinn to Helsinki and carrying three diplomatic pouches from the U.S. legations in Tallinn, Riga and Helsinki.

15: Eight-hour ultimatum to surrender is given to Lithuania by the Soviets. President Smetona escapes from the country so the takeover is not possible to do in a formally legal way. Soviet troops enter Lithuania and attack Latvian border guards.

Start of the evacuation of British troops from ports western in France in Operation Ariel.

16: Philippe Pétain becomes premier of France upon the resignation of Reynaud's government.

The French sloop *La Curieuse* forced the Italian submarine *Provano* to surface and then sank it by ramming.

Soviet Union gives eight-hour ultimatum to Latvia and Estonia to surrender.

17: Sinking of liner *RMS Lancastria* off St Nazaire while being used as a British troopship—at least 3,000 are killed in Britain's worst maritime disaster.

Soviet troops enter Latvia and Estonia.

18: General De Gaulle forms the *Comité français de la Libération nationale*, a French government in exile; Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are occupied by the Soviet Union.

20: The French seek an armistice with the Italians*[4]

21: Franco-German armistice negotiations begin at Compiègne.

Elements of two Italian armies cross into France during Italian invasion of France.

21: The French battleship *Lorraine* opened fire on the Italian port of Bardia in Italian North Africa. During some of the last actions of the French against the Italians, French naval aircraft attacked Taranto and Livorno in mainland Italy.

21: Soviet-led coups in the Baltic States. In the only military resistance in Tallinn, 2 die on Estonian side and about 10 on the Soviet side.

22: Franco-German armistice signed.

24: Franco-Italian armistice signed.

25: France officially surrenders to Germany at 01:35.

Last major evacuation of Operation Ariel; 191,870 allied soldiers, airmen and some civilians had escaped from France.

26: The Soviet Union send an ultimatum demanding Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina from Romania.

27: Romanians propose negotiations. Molotov replies that the demands are land concessions or war. New ultimatum from the Soviets to the Romanians.

28: General De Gaulle recognised by British as leader of Free French.

Marshal Italo Balbo, Commander-in-Chief of Italian North Africa, is accidentally killed in a "friendly fire incident" by Italian anti-aircraft fire at Tobruk, Libya.

28: The Red Army occupies Romanian Bessarabia and the northern part of Bukovina.

28: The Luftwaffe bombs the demilitarised British Channel Islands, they had not been informed of the demilitarization. In Guernsey, 33 are killed and 67 injured, in Jersey, 9 are killed and many are injured.

28: Axis and Allied convoys clash south-west of Crete.

30: Germany invades the Channel Islands.

3.3.7 July 1940

1: Channel Islands occupation is completed by German forces.

: French government moves to Vichy.

: Marshal Rodolfo Graziani is named as Balbo's replacement in North Africa.

: The Italian Royal Air Force starts bombing the British Mandate of Palestine.

2: Hitler orders preparation of plans for invasion of Britain, code-named Operation Sea Lion.

2: Alderney surrenders to the Germans.

2: Brighton beach is closed to the public and mines, barbed wire and other defences are put into place.

3: Cardiff is bombed by the Luftwaffe for the first time.

3: The British attack and destroy the French navy, fearing that it would fall into German hands.

4: The destruction of the French Fleet at Mers-el-Kébir, Algeria by the Royal Navy; Vichy French government breaks off diplomatic relations with Britain in protest. At Alexandria the French agree to demilitarise the battleship Lorraine and several smaller ships.

The Duke of Windsor (tainted by suspicion of pro-Nazism) is named governor of the Bahamas, putting him some distance from controversy.

4: Sark surrenders to the Germans. The Germans now control all of the British Channel Islands.

4: The German News Bureau released excerpts of the documents captured during the fall of France relating to Operation Pike, an Anglo-French plan to bomb Soviet oil fields. The compromised operation was subsequently aborted.

5: Two Belgian politicians, Camille Huysmans and Marcel-Henri Jaspar, form an unofficial government in exile in London, afraid that the official Belgian government, still in France, will surrender to the Germans.

9: A fairly indecisive naval skirmish happens off the coast of Italy. No lives are lost.

10: The Battle of Britain begins with Luftwaffe raids on channel shipping. President Roosevelt asks Congress for huge increases in military preparations.

11: RAF raids on enemy emplacements in the Netherlands and on German munitions factories.

12: Luftwaffe attacks on Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

14: Soviets organize rigged elections in the Baltic States. The parliaments will be in the control of the Soviets.

16: Adolf Hitler submits to his military the directive for the invasion of the United Kingdom, Operation Sea Lion.

18: In response to Mers-el-Kébir, the Vichy French Air Force bombs British-held Gibraltar.

19: General Johan Laidoner of Estonia is deported to Siberia.

19: Allied ships clash with two Italian light cruisers, sinking one in the Battle of Cape Spada.

21: Czechoslovak government in exile arrives in London.

In the Baltic States Soviet controlled parliaments request membership of USSR.

22: The Havana Conference meets; the nations of the Western hemisphere meet to discuss neutrality and economic cooperation.

Fumimaro Konoye is named the Prime Minister of Japan.

23: The British "Home Guard" is officially established, drawing on elderly men and those considered unable to serve in the regular armed forces.

25: All women and children are ordered to evacuate Gibraltar.

26: The United States of America activates the General Headquarters (GHQ), United States Army, which is designed to facilitate mobilization by supervising the organization and training of the army field forces within the continental United States, which is code named the Zone of the Interior.

30: The President of Estonia, Konstantin Päts, is arrested and deported to Russia by the Soviets.

3.3.8 August 1940

August: The so-called *Spéngelskriech* ("War of Pin-badges") begins in occupied Luxembourg as civilians wear patriotic lapel badges prominently, in defiance of Nazi attempts to "Germanize" the territory.

1: Hitler sets 15 September as the date for Operation Sea Lion, the invasion of Britain.

: Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov reaffirms Molotov-Ribbentrop pact in the Soviet Supreme while verbally attacking both Britain and the USA. He also asserts that the boundaries of Soviet Union are moved to the shores of the Baltic Sea.

: The Italian Royal Navy establishes its BETASOM submarine base in Bordeaux and joins the "Battle of the Atlantic."

1-4: Operation Hurry, the first of the Malta Convoys, is accomplished.

2: General Charles de Gaulle sentenced to death in absentia by a French military court.

: The USSR annexes Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina.

3: The USSR formally annexes Lithuania.

4: Italian forces under General Guglielmo Nasi invade and occupy British Somaliland during the East African Campaign.

5: Failure to achieve air superiority and bad weather in the Channel results in a postponement of the invasion of Great Britain.

: The USSR formally annexes Latvia.

6: The USSR formally annexes Estonia.

11-15: Battle of Tug Argan fought in British Somaliland during the Italian invasion. To avoid encirclement, the British withdraw.

13: This is "Adler Tag" or "Eagle Day". Hermann Göring starts a two-week assault on British airfields in preparation for invasion. (For some German historians, this is the beginning of the "Battle of Britain.")

14: British scientist Sir Henry Tizard leaves for the United States on the Tizard Mission, giving over to the Americans a number of top secret British technologies including the magnetron, the secret device at the heart of radar. Radar is already proving itself in the defence of Britain.

15: RAF victories over the Luftwaffe continue, in a wide-ranging fight along the East coast. British fighter aircraft production begins to accelerate.

: Sinking of the Greek cruiser Elli by an Italian submarine on 15 August 1940 at the harbour of Tinos.

16: The Battle of Britain continues; Germans are hampered by poor aircraft range and British extensive use of RADAR.

: A first draft of the Destroyers for Bases Agreement by the US and Britain is made public.

17: Hitler declares a blockade of the British Isles.

18: Heavy fighting in the Battle of Britain; Germans suffering severe losses on bomber formations. Göring declares cowardice among his fighter pilots and orders them to closely guard the bombers, further restricting their capabilities.

19: Italian forces take Berbera, the capital of British Somaliland and the British defenders flee to Aden. The fall of Berbera completes the invasion of the British colony. By the end of the month, the Italians control British Somaliland and several towns and forts along the border with the Sudan and Kenya including Kassala, Gallabat, and Moyale.

20: Italy announces a blockade of British ports in the Mediterranean area.

: Churchill's speech "Never was so much owed by so many to so few" speech delivered to the House of Commons

20: Chinese Communists launch the Hundred Regiments Offensive against the Japanese in North China.

22: Germans are now shelling Dover and the nearby coastal area with long-range artillery.

24: German aircraft mistakenly bomb a church in Cripplegate, accidentally dictating the future shape of the Battle of Britain.

25: Churchill orders the bombing of Berlin in retaliation for the previous night's bombing of Cripplegate.

26: Both London and Berlin are bombed, Berlin for the first time.

30: The bombing of England continues; London is now bombed in retaliation for the bombing of Berlin; thus, the beginning of "the London Blitz."

: Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini dictated the so-called Second Vienna Award which forced Romania to hand over the Northern Transylvania (including the entire Maramureş and part of Crişana) to Hungary.

31: Luftwaffe attacks on British airfields continue, as well as on London. Attacks on Radar installations prove ineffective.

31: Two Royal Navy destroyers are sunk off the Dutch coast in the so-called "Texel Disaster"

3.3.9 September 1940

1: Germany's Jews are ordered to wear yellow stars for identification.

2: The Destroyers for Bases Agreement is completed. Britain obtains 50 destroyers in exchange for giving the United States land grants in various British possessions for the establishment of US naval and air bases, on ninety-nine-year rent-free leases on bases in the Bahamas, Antigua, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Jamaica, and British Guiana.

3: Hitler postpones the invasion of Britain, as the Luftwaffe fails to break the British defenses. However, fears of the forthcoming invasion continue to haunt Britain.

6: King Carol abdicates the Romanian throne in favour of his son Michael while control of the government is taken by Marshal Antonescu.

7: In one of the major misjudgements of the war, the Luftwaffe shifts its focus to London, away from the RAF airfields. Success may be measured only in the estimated 2,000 civilian dead. Other British cities are hit.

9: During the Western Desert Campaign, Italian colonial forces in Libya under General Mario Berti launch the invasion of Egypt. The first objective is to advance from defensive positions within Libya to the border with Egypt.

: Tel Aviv in the British Mandate of Palestine is bombed by Italian aircraft causing 137 deaths.

10: Operation Sea Lion is now set for 24 September.

: The Italian Air Corps is formed to fight in the Battle of Britain.

13: After re-taking Fort Capuzzo just inside Libya, Italian colonial forces cross the border and advance into Egypt. The Italians take the small port of Sollum, but the only resistance to the invasion is a light British screening force which withdraws as the Italians advance.

14: Operation Sea Lion is postponed until 27 September, the last day of the month with suitable tides for the invasion.

15: Massive German bombing flights on English cities; most are driven off. The RAF begins to claim victory in the Battle of Britain.

16: Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 introduces the first peacetime conscription (this time for men between 21 and 35) in United States history.

The Italian invasion of Egypt comes to a halt when approximately five Italian divisions set up defensively in a series of armed camps after advancing about 95 km to Sidi Barrani. The Italians never approach the main British positions at Mersa Matruh.

17: Decoded messages now reveal that Hitler has postponed Operation Sea Lion until further notice.

18: *Radio Belgique*, a French and Dutch language radio service of the BBC, begins broadcasting to occupied Belgium from its base in London.*[5]

22: Heavy convoy losses to U-boats in the Atlantic.

The Japanese occupy French Indochina; local French administrators become only figurehead authorities.

23: Free French and British forces attempt a landing at Dakar, French West Africa; Vichy French naval forces open fire sporadically for two days, and the expedition is called back.

24: Berlin suffers a large bombing raid by the RAF.

: In response to Dakar, the Vichy French Air Force bombs Gibraltar for the first time since 18 July.

25: Vichy French aircraft return to Gibraltar for a second day of bombings.

: Japanese 5th Division march into Hanoi, North Vietnam.

27: The Tripartite Pact is signed in Berlin by Germany, Italy, and Japan, promising mutual aid. An informal name, "Axis", emerges.

28: Vidkun Quisling becomes head of state in Norway.

3.3.10 October 1940

1-31: The United States Of America separates the **Corps Areas** established in 1921 to perform the administrative tasks of the various regions of the US from the four **Field Armies** that had been established in 1932.

1: Chinese Nationalist and Chinese Communists fight each other in southern China. Meanwhile Japanese forces have a setback at Changsha.

2: The bombing of London continues throughout the month.

3: Warsaw's Jews are directed to move into the Warsaw ghetto.

4: Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini meet at the Brenner Pass to discuss the prospects in the war.

7: Germany invades Romania to block the Soviet Army and get access to valuable oil fields.

9: Neville Chamberlain resigns from the House of Commons for health reasons; Winston Churchill is elected head of the Conservative Party.

12: Any German invasion of Britain is postponed until Spring 1941 at the earliest.

12: The Royal Navy clash with and defeat several Italian ships which attacked them after a convoy mission to Malta.

13: British civilians are still being killed by German bombs though the attacks have dropped off significantly.

14: Balham station disaster. German bomb pierces 32 feet underground killing 66 people.*[6]

15: Clarence Addison Dykstra becomes Director of Selective Service in the United States.

15: Mussolini and his closest advisers decide to invade Greece.

16: Draft registration begins in the United States.

19: The Italians bomb Bahrain.

20: Italian aircraft bomb Cairo, Egypt and American-operated oil refineries in the British Protectorate of Bahrain.

21: Liverpool is bombed for the 200th time.

23: Adolf Hitler meets with Franco at Hendaye, near the Spanish-French border; little is accomplished, and least of all Hitler's

hope to convince Franco to enter the war on the Axis side.

24: After meeting with Franco, Hitler was going to Montoire where he met with Philippe Pétain took place signifying the start of organised French collaboration with the Nazi regime.

24: The Italian Air Corps sees its first action during the Battle of Britain.

25: Berlin and Hamburg are bombed heavily.

28: At about 03:00 am the Italian ambassador to Greece issues ultimatum to Greece and Greek Prime Minister Metaxas replies: "So it is war". The Italian Royal Army launches attacks into Greece from Italian-held Albania and begins the Greco-Italian War. Hitler is angered at the initiative of his ally.

29: Very heavy convoy losses during this period as numbers of U-boats increase.

29: The first number drawings for US Selective Service Act draftees.

30: President Roosevelt, in the middle of an election campaign, promises not to send "our boys" to war.

31: The Warsaw District government moves all Jews living in Warsaw to the ghettos.

3.3.11 November 1940

1: Turkey declared neutrality in the Italo-Greek war.* [1]

2: The Italian advance into Greece continues. Vovousa is captured and Italian aircraft bomb Salonika.

5: President Roosevelt wins a third term. The British see the event as promising of more help from the US.

5: The HMS *Jervis Bay*, a merchant cruiser, is sunk on convoy duty, but much of the convoy escapes. The loss becomes a media event.

7: It becomes clear that Ireland will refuse to allow the United Kingdom to use its ports as naval bases.

8: The Battle of Elaia-Kalamas ends and the Italians end their futile offensive in Greece.

9: Neville Chamberlain dies.

11: British naval forces launch attack against Italian navy at Taranto. Swordfish bombers from HMS *Illustrious* damage three battle-ships, two cruisers and multiple auxiliary craft. The event secures British supply lines in the Mediterranean. The British success will be

studied by Japanese military already preparing for an attack on Pearl Harbor.

12: Molotov meets Hitler and Ribbentrop in Berlin. New World order is under discussion. Molotov expresses Soviet interest in Finland, Bulgaria, Romania, Dardanelles and Bosphorus, but Hitler talks along broad lines about worldwide spheres of influence between Russia, Germany, Italy and Japan.

12: In the Battle of Gabon, British forces finish wresting central Africa from the Vichy French.

13: Molotov meets Hitler again asking acceptance to liquidate Finland. Hitler now resists every attempt to expand Soviet influence in Europe. He sees Britain as defeated and offers India to the Soviet Union.

: The Battle of Pindus ends in a Greek victory.

14: A heavy night raid on Coventry. Coventry Cathedral is destroyed and the medieval centre of the city is levelled.

: The Greek counter-offensive against the Italians begins.

15: The Soviet Union is invited to join Tripartite Pact and to share in the spoils of British Empire. Warsaw's Jewish ghetto is cordoned off from the rest of the city.

16: Churchill orders some British troops in North Africa to be sent to Greece, despite concerns by his military leaders that they are needed in the current campaign against the Italians in North Africa.

19: The Greeks continue to advance, and evict Italian troops from Greek soil. 20: Hungary



The Greek counter-offensive

signs the Tripartite Pact.

21: The Belgian government, in exile in Britain, declares war on Italy.

22: Fall of Korytsa to the Greeks.

23: Romania signs the Tripartite Pact.

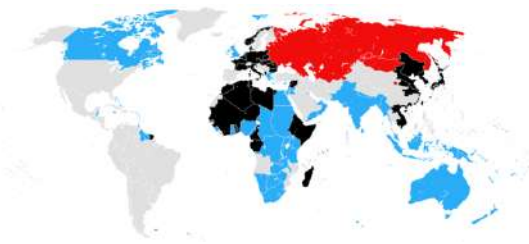
24: The Slovak Republic signs the Tripartite Pact.

25: The Soviet Union gives her terms to join the Tripartite Pact including substantial new territorial gains for Russia.

29: A massive overnight bombing raid on Liverpool.

30: A large bombing raid on Southampton in southern England; the city is hit again the next night, followed by Bristol on 2 December, and Birmingham on the 3rd.

3.3.12 December 1940



The state of the allies and axis powers in December 1940, showing great axis expansion in Europe and Northern Africa.

1-8: Greek forces continue to drive the Italian armies back, capturing the cities of Pogradec, Sarandë, and Gjirokastër.

1: Bombing raids are exchanged throughout the month between Germany and Britain. First German bombs, then Britain's.

Joseph P. Kennedy, the US Ambassador to the United Kingdom is asked to resign by President Roosevelt after he gives a newspaper interview expressing the view that “Democracy is finished in England” .

5: The RAF bombs Düsseldorf and Turin.

6-9: British and Indian troops of the Western Desert Force launch Operation Compass, an offensive against Italian forces in Egypt. The Italians have seven infantry divisions and the Maletti Group in fortified defensive positions. Initial attacks are launched against the five Italian camps around and south of Sidi Barrani. The camps are overrun, Italian General Pietro Maletti is killed, and the Maletti Group, the 1st Libyan Division, the 2nd Libyan Division, and the 4th Blackshirt Division are all but destroyed. The remaining Italian units in Egypt are forced to withdraw towards Libya.

8: Francisco Franco rules out Spanish entry into the war; the immediate result is that Hitler is forced to cancel an attack on Gibraltar.

12: In North Africa, over 39,000 Italians lost or captured in Egypt.

16: The first RAF night raid--on Mannheim, Germany.

: In North Africa, the British are in command at Sollum in Egypt and take Fort Capuzzo in Libya.

18: Hitler issues directive to begin planning for Operation Barbarossa, the German invasion of the Soviet Union.

22-24: Bombing raids on Manchester.

28: The Greco-Italian War continues to go badly for the Italians and the Greeks hold roughly one-quarter of Albania.

: Italy requests military assistance from Germany against the Greeks.

29: Large German air-raids on London; St Paul's Cathedral is damaged.

3.3.13 Notes and references

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- [3] Gotovitch, José; Aron, Paul, eds. (2008). *Dictionnaire de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale en Belgique*. Brussels: André Versaille éd. p. 408. ISBN 978-2-87495-001-8.
- [4] Piekalkiewicz, Janusz. *Sea War: 1939-1945*. Blandford Press, London - New York, 1987, pg. 83, ISBN 0-7137-1665-7
- [5] Gotovitch, José; Aron, Paul, eds. (2008). *Dictionnaire de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale en Belgique*. Brussels: André Versaille éd. p. 372. ISBN 978-2-87495-001-8.
- [6] <http://ww2today.com/14th-october-1940-disaster-at-balham-tube-station>

3.3.14 External links

- Documents of World War II
- World War II Timeline

3.4 1941 timeline

This is a timeline of events that stretched over the period of World War II from 1941, marked also by the beginning of Operation Barbarossa on the Eastern Front.

3.4.1 January 1941

- 1: Accounting of the previous night's bombing of London reveals that the Old Bailey, the Guildhall, and eight churches by Christopher Wren were destroyed or badly damaged.
: RAF bombs aircraft factories in Bremen, Germany.
- 2: German bombers, perhaps off course, bomb Irish Free State for the second night in a row.
- 2–4: Bardia is bombed by British bombers and bombarded by naval vessels off shore.
- 3: RAF bombers attacked Bremen and the Kiel Canal in Germany. The Kiel Canal Bridge suffered a direct hit and collapsed on Finnish ships Yrsa. *[1]
- 5: Operation Compass: Australian troops of XIII Corps (the re-designated Western Desert Force) capture Italian-held Bardia and 45,000 Italian prisoners are taken.
: Tobruk, the next target, is 70 miles away.

The leader of Wallonia's fascist party, Léon Degrelle, gives a speech in the German-occupied city of Liège announcing the support of the Rexist Party for German Nazism

- 6: The Greeks advance towards Klisura Pass.
- 7: British and Commonwealth offensive in North Africa nears Tobruk; the airport is taken.
- 10: Lend-Lease introduced into the U.S. Congress
: German–Soviet Border and Commercial Agreement is signed.
: German aircraft damage aircraft carrier HMS *Illustrious*, which is heading for Malta. German Luftwaffe, it is now clear, has command of air over the Mediterranean. The attack is also the opening of Malta's agony over the next months.
: Greek forces in Albania take the strategically important Klissoura pass.
- 11: In London, 57 people are killed and 69 injured when a German bomb lands outside the Bank of England, demolishing the Underground station below and leaving a 120-foot crater.
- 12: Operation Compass: British and Australian troops of XIII Corps prepare for the assault on Italian-held Tobruk.

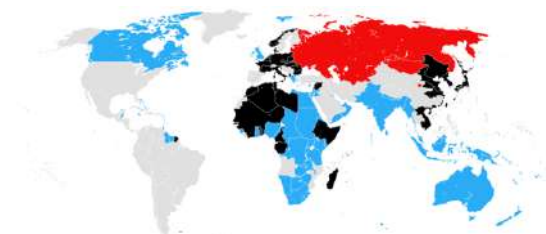
- 13: Heavy Luftwaffe night raid on Plymouth.
- 14: First use of "V for Victory" by Victor de Laveleye on the BBC's Belgian service, *Radio Belgique** [2]
- 15: The rivalry between Chinese Nationalists and Chinese Communists becomes more evident; large numbers of the latter are forced to give up their arms, reluctantly of course.
- 16: British forces start the first attacks of their East African counter-offensive, on Italian-held Ethiopia, from Kenya
: German bombers pound Valletta, Malta, and the HMS *Illustrious* is hit again.
- 17: The Battle of Ko Chang ended in a decisive victory for the Vichy French naval forces during the Franco-Thai War.
: Molotov meets German Ambassador Schulenburg in Moscow. The Soviets are surprised that they have not received any answer from Germany to their offer to join the Axis (November 26, 1940). Schulenburg replies that it has to be first discussed with Italy and Japan.
- 18: Air raids on Malta are increasing in focus and intensity.
- 19: The 4th and 5th Indian Divisions continue the British counter-offensive in East Africa, attacking Italian-held Eritrea from the Sudan.
: Hitler and Mussolini meet at Berchtesgaden; Hitler agrees to provide aid in North Africa.
- 21: Operation Compass: British and Australian troops of XIII Corps complete capture of Italian-held Tobruk.
: There are reports that Romanian Fascist ("Iron Guards") are executing Jews in Bucharest.
- 23: HMS *Illustrious*, heavily damaged, leaves Malta for repairs in Alexandria.
: Charles Lindbergh testifies before the U.S. Congress and recommends that the United States negotiate a neutrality pact with Adolf Hitler
- 24: British forces in Kenya continue the East African counter-offensive, attacking Italian Somaliland
- 29: Death of the Greek dictator, Ioannis Metaxas.
- 30: British forces in North Africa take Derna; 100 miles west of Tobruk.
- 31: Indian 4th Division flanked and then captured Agordat, Eritrea, Italian East Africa. 1,000 Italian troops and 43 field guns were captured. *[1]

3.4.2 February 1941

- 1: Admiral Husband Kimmel is appointed the Commander of the US Navy in the Pacific.
- 3: Lieutenant-General Erwin Rommel is appointed head of “German Army troops in Africa.” This unit is later to be officially designated as the “Afrika Korps.”
: Germany forcibly restores Pierre Laval to office in Vichy.
- 7: Operation Compass: After several days of desperate fighting, a flying column of XIII Corps called Combe Force cuts off the retreating Italian 10th Army during the Battle of Beda Fomm. The Italians are unable to break through the small blocking force and the British accept the surrender of roughly 130,000 Italians in and to the south of Benghazi.
- 8: US House of Representatives passes the Lend-Lease bill.
- 9: Mussolini is informed that German reinforcements are on the way to North Africa.
: British forces reach El Agheila, Cyrenaica.
: British battleships shell Genoa and British aircraft attack Livorno.
: Churchill again pleads with the US: “give us the tools.”
- 10: Malta's critical period: now through March, it is under heavy daily attack.
- 11: Elements of the Afrika Korps start to arrive in Tripoli, Tripolitania.
: British forces enter Italian Somaliland.
- 14: Rommel arrives in Tripoli.
: Afrika Korps starts to move eastward towards the advance British positions at El Agheila. The British in North Africa have been weakened by the transfer of some troops to Greece.
- 15: Deportation of Austrian Jews to ghettos in Poland begins.
- 19: The start of the “three nights Blitz” of Swansea, South Wales. Over these three nights of intensive bombing, Swansea town centre is almost completely obliterated.
- 20: German and British troops confront each other for the first time in North Africa—at El Agheila in western Libya.
- 21: German forces move through Bulgaria toward the Greek front.
- 24: German U-boat offensive in the Atlantic is now increasingly successful.
: Admiral Darlan is appointed the head of the Vichy government in France.

- 25: The British submarine “Upright” sinks the Italian cruiser “Armando Diaz” in one of the numerous sea battles in the North African campaign.
: Mogadishu, the capital of Italian Somaliland, is captured by British forces during the East African Campaign.
- 28: RAF planes bomb Asmara, Eritrea.

3.4.3 March 1941



The state of the Allies and Axis powers in March 1941.

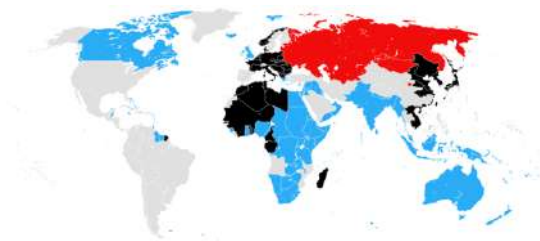


U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Lend-Lease bill to give aid to Britain and China (1941)

- 1: Hitler gives orders for the expansion of Auschwitz prison camp, to be run by Commandant Rudolf Höss.
- 4: British commandos carry out attack on oil facilities at Narvik in Norway.
: British military force in Libya is thinned down as some men are sent to assist the Greeks in their emerging battle with approaching German troops.
: Prince Regent Paul of Yugoslavia agrees to join the Axis pact.
- 7: First British troops land in Greece, at Piraeus.
- 8: Another bombing of London, notable because Buckingham Palace is hit.
- 9: The Italian Spring Offensive in the Albanian front begins.

- 10: British and Italian troops meet in a brief conflict in Eritrea.
: Portsmouth suffers heavy casualties after another night of heavy bombing by the Luftwaffe.
- 11: United States President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signs the **Lend Lease Act** (now passed by the full Congress) allowing Britain, China, and other allied nations to purchase military equipment and to defer payment until after the war.
- 12: German Panzer tanks arrive in North Africa providing heavy armour for the first major German offensive.
- 13: The Luftwaffe strikes with a large force at Glasgow and the shipping industry along the **River Clyde**.
- 17: Huge convoy losses in mid-Atlantic this week.
: The United States of America converts its Corps Areas to Defense Commands, with the term Corps reassigned as an intermediate field command of a Field Army.
- 19: Worst bombing of London so far this year, with heavy damage from incendiary bombs; Plymouth and Bristol are bombed again.
- 20: The Italian Spring Offensive is called off, after heavy losses and virtually no progress.
- 21: The Yugoslav cabinet resigns in protest against Prince Paul's pact with the Nazis. Street demonstration occur, expressive of a deep dislike for Germany.
- 24: Rommel attacks and reoccupies **El Agheila**, Libya in his first offensive. The British retreat and within three weeks are driven back to Egypt.
- 25: Italian MTMs of the **Decima MAS** sink the heavy cruiser **HMS York (90)**, a large tanker (the Norwegian **Pericles**), another tanker and a cargo ship in **Suda Bay, Crete**.
- 27: Crown Prince Peter becomes **Peter II** of Yugoslavia and takes control of Yugoslavia after an army coup overthrows the pro-German government of the Prince Regent.
: Japanese spy **Takeo Yoshikawa** arrives in **Honolulu, Hawaii** and begins to study the United States fleet at **Pearl Harbor**.
: Hitler orders his military leaders to plan for the invasion of Yugoslavia. One result of this decision will be a critical time delay in the invasion of Soviet Union.
: British forces advancing from the **Sudan** win the decisive **Battle of Keren** in Eritrea.
: **Battle of Cape Matapan**: the British navy meets an Italian fleet off southern Greece. The battle continues until the 29th.
- 31: The **Afrika Korps** continues the German offensive in North Africa; **Mersa Brega**, north of **El Agheila**, is taken.

3.4.4 April 1941



The state of the Allies and Axis powers in April 1941.

- 1: British retreat after the losses at **El Agheila**, Libya. Rommel is surprised, then decides to continue his offensive.
: During this month the heavy bombing of British cities continues, and convoy losses continue heavy.
: In **Iraq**, pro-German **Rashid Ali** and other members of the "**Golden Square**" stage a military *coup d'état* and overthrow the regime of the pro-British **Regent 'Abd al-Ilah**. **Rashid Ali** names himself Chief of a "National Defence Government."
- 2: After taking **Agedabia**, Rommel decides to take all of Libya and moves his troops toward **Benghazi**. All of **Cyrenaic (Libya)** seems ready for the taking.
- 3: A pro-Axis government is installed in **Iraq**.
: **Bristol, England**, suffers another heavy air attack.
: British troops take **Asmara**, the capital of **Eritrea**, from the Italian armies.
: Rommel takes **Benghazi, Libya**; **Tobruk** will remain a threat for the next seven months.
- 4: Rommel is now about 200 miles east of **El Agheila**, heading for **Tobruk** and **Egypt**.
: An Atlantic convoy suffers almost 50% losses to U-boat campaign.
- 6: Forces of Germany, Hungary, and Italy, moving through **Romania** and **Hungary**, initiate the invasions of **Yugoslavia** and **Greece**.
: The Italian Army is driven out from **Addis Ababa**, **Ethiopia**.
: The northern wing of Rommel's forces take **Derna**, on the **Libyan coast**. The southern wing moves toward **Mechili**, and takes it on the 8th.
- 7: The Luftwaffe begins a two-day assault on **Belgrade, Yugoslavia**; Hitler is infuriated by the Yugoslav resistance.
- 8: The Germans take **Salonika, Greece**.
- 10: **Greenland** is occupied by the United States. With the approval of a "free Denmark", the US will build naval and air bases as counters to the U-boat war.

- : While still being invaded, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia is split up by Germany and Italy. The Independent State of Croatia (Nezavisna Država Hrvatska, NDH) is established under Ante Pavelić and his Ustaša.
 - : Germans encircle the port of Tobruk, Libya, opening the siege; some of Rommel's forces move east to take Fort Capuzzo and Sollum, on the border with Egypt.
 - : The destroyer USS *Niblack* attacks a German U-boat that had just sunk a Dutch freighter. The *Niblack* was picking up survivors of the freighter when it detected the U-boat preparing to attack. The *Niblack* attacked with depth charges and drove off the U-boat.
- 11: Though still a “neutral” nation, the United States begins sea patrols in the North Atlantic.
 - : Heavy Luftwaffe raids on Coventry and Birmingham, England.
- 12: Belgrade, Yugoslavia, surrenders.
 - : The Germans defeat commonwealth forces at the Battle of Vevi.
- 13: Malta is bombed again; it continues to be a thorn in the side of German supply movements in the Mediterranean.
 - : Japan and the Soviet Union sign a neutrality pact.
 - : In Iraq, a small contingent of British reinforcements are air-lifted to RAF Shaibah.
- 14: Rommel attacks Tobruk, but is forced to turn back. Other attacks, also failures, occur on the 16th and 30th.
 - : LSSAH captures the strategic Kleisoura Pass and begins cutting the line of retreat for the Greek army in Albania
- 15: British destroyers intercept an Afrika Korps convoy and sink all five transports and the three covering Italian destroyers.
- 16: A heavy Luftwaffe raid on Belfast, Northern Ireland.
 - : Germans continue the invasion southward into Yugoslavia; they cut off the Greek army in Albania, which had had notable success against the Italians in January.
- 17: Yugoslavia surrenders. A government in exile is formed in London. King Peter escapes to Greece.
- 18: Greek Prime Minister Alexandros Koryzís commits suicide; the British plan the major evacuation of Greece.
 - : In Iraq, in accordance with the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty, British forces from India start to land at Basra.
- 19: London suffers one of the heaviest air raids in the war; St. Paul's is mildly damaged but remains closed; other Wren churches are heavily damaged or destroyed.
- 21: With their retreat cut off by the German advance, 223,000 Greek soldiers of the Greek army in Albania surrender.
- 22: The British, both military and civilian, begin to evacuate Greece.
- 23: Greek government is evacuated to Crete, which Churchill is determined to defend.
- 24: British and Australian forces evacuate from Greece to Crete and Egypt.
 - : Plymouth suffers the third night of heavy bombing by the Luftwaffe.
- 25: Rommel wins an important victory at Halfaya Pass, close to the Egyptian border.
 - : Axis forces defeat commonwealth forces at Thermopylae after Australian general George Vasey staunchly claims that they will not be beaten.
- 26: Rommel attacks the Gazala defence line and crosses into Egypt; Tobruk continues to hold however.
- 27: Athens is occupied by German troops. Greece surrenders.
 - : Hurricane fighter planes are delivered as important reinforcements for besieged Malta.
- 30: Rommel is ordered to cease attacks on Tobruk after another failure.
 - : In Iraq, Iraqi armed forces occupy the plateau to the south of the RAF Habbaniya air base and inform the base commander that all flying should cease immediately.

3.4.5 May 1941



German paratroopers land in Crete

- 1: Seven nights of bombing of Liverpool by the Luftwaffe begins, resulting in widespread destruction.

- 2: British forces at RAF Habbaniya launch preemptive air strikes against Iraqi forces besieging them and the *Anglo-Iraqi War* begins.
- 3: Belfast, Northern Ireland, experiences another heavy bombing by the Luftwaffe.
: British forces in Ethiopia begin the investment of *Amba Alagi* where Italian forces under the Duke of Aosta have taken up defensive positions.
- 5: Five years from the day he was forced to flee, Emperor Haile Selassie enters Addis Ababa, his capital, in triumph.
- 6: With much of the Iraqi air force destroyed and facing regular bombardment themselves, the Iraqi ground forces besieging RAF Habbaniya withdraw.
: The Luftwaffe arranges to send a small force to Iraq.
- 7: Between Habbaniya and *Fallujah*, two Iraqi columns are caught in the open and attacked by roughly forty British aircraft; the Iraqis suffer heavy casualties.
- 8: Heavy convoy losses in the Atlantic continue; however, one U-boat (*U-110*) is captured by the British navy and another copy of the “Enigma” machine is discovered and saved. It will help to turn the fortunes in the Atlantic battle.
: Bombing of *Nottingham* by the Luftwaffe.
- 9: A Japanese brokered peace treaty signed in Tokyo ends the *French-Thai War*.
- 10: Rudolf Hess is captured in Scotland after bailing out of his plane; his self-appointed mission was to make peace with the United Kingdom.
: The United Kingdom's House of Commons is damaged by the Luftwaffe in an air raid. Other targets are Hull, Liverpool, Belfast, and the shipbuilding area of the *River Clyde* in Scotland. This is close to the end of the *Blitz*, as Germany shifts its focus toward Soviet Union and the East.

The “*Strike of the 100,000*” begins in *Liège* in Belgium on the anniversary of the German invasion of 1940. It soon spreads across the whole province until nearly 70,000 workers are on strike.*[2]

- 12: The RAF bombs several German cities, including Hamburg, Emden, and Berlin.
: The Soviet Union recognizes *Rashid Ali's* “National Defence Government” in Iraq.
- 13: Yugoslav Army Colonel *Draža Mihailović* summons up the “Yugoslav Army in the Fatherland” which mostly consists of Serbs, but also includes Slovenes, Bosnians, and Croats. *Mihailović* trecks from Bosnia into central Serbia, *Ravna Gora*, and

issues an uprising call promising a struggle against the occupiers and the restoration of the *Yugoslavian Monarchy*. At this point, *Josip Broz Tito* and the *Yugoslav Partisans* are aligned with the Soviet Union which is still friendly with Germany.

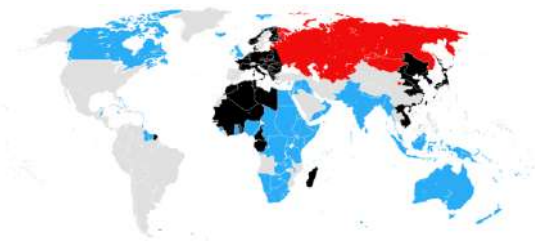
: The bulk of the German “*Flyer Command Iraq*” (*Fliegerführer Irak*) arrives in *Mosul* to support the Iraqi government of *Rashid Ali*.

- 14: The RAF is authorized to act against German aircraft in Syria and on Vichy French airfields.
- 15: First *Civilian Public Service* camp opens for conscientious objectors in the United States.
- 16: *Rommel* defeats a counter-attack, “*Brevity*”, at *Halfaya Pass*. The two sides trade alternating control of *Fort Capuzzo* and *Halfaya Pass*.
- 17: British forces in the Habbaniya area advance on Iraqi-held *Fallujah* and, in five days fighting, push the Iraqis out.
- 18: The Duke of Aosta, Viceroy of Italian East Africa, surrenders his forces at *Amba Alagi*.
- 20: German paratroopers land on *Crete*; the battle for *Crete* will continue for seven days.
: The German military mission to Iraq, *Special Staff F* (*Sonderstab F*), is created to support of “*The Arab Freedom Movement* in the Middle East. *Sonderstab F* is to include *Fliegerführer Irak* and other elements already in Iraq.
- 21: The US merchantman *SS Robin Moor* is sunk by German submarine *U-69*. The incident startles the nation, and President Roosevelt shortly announces an “unlimited national emergency.”
: The Italian Viceroy in Ethiopia surrenders. Remnants of Italian troops keep on fighting.
- 22: Iraqi forces unsuccessfully counter-attack the British forces in *Fallujah* and are rebuffed.
- 23: German dictator *Adolf Hitler* issues “*Fuhrer Directive No. 30*” in support of “*The Arab Freedom Movement in the Middle East*”, his “natural ally against England.”
- 24: British battlecruiser *HMS Hood* is sunk by a powerful salvo from German battleship *Bismarck* in the North Atlantic.
: The Greek government leaves *Crete* for *Cairo*.
- 26: In the North Atlantic, Royal Navy *Fairey Swordfish* aircraft from the carrier *HMS Ark Royal* fatally cripple the *Bismarck* in torpedo attack.
- 27: The German battleship *Bismarck* is sunk in the North Atlantic by the Royal Navy, after evasive tactics, and a damaged steering system which forced it into an endless series of circular movements.

- : The British forces from the Habbaniya area begin an advance on Baghdad and, within four days, approach the city from the west and from the north.
- : Twelve Italian aircraft arrive at Mosul to join *Fliegerführer Irak*.
- 28: British and Commonwealth forces begin to evacuate Crete.
 - : By this date, it is clear that operation “Brevity” has failed.
- 29: Members of the German military mission flee Iraq.
- 30: Rashid Ali and his supporters flee Iraq.
- 31: Heavy Luftwaffe bombing on neutral Ireland's capital; numerous civilian casualties.
 - : The Mayor of Baghdad surrenders the city to British forces and ends the Anglo-Iraqi War.

3.4.6 June 1941

- 1: Commonwealth forces complete the withdrawal from Crete.
 - : Rationing of clothes begins in the United Kingdom.
- 2: Tuskegee Airmen begin with the formation of the 99th Fighter Squadron.
- 4: Kaiser William II, former German Emperor, dies in the Netherlands.
- 5: The Ecuadorian–Peruvian War conflict begins in South America.
- 6: More British fighter planes are delivered to Malta; Luftwaffe attacks go on.
- 8: Vichy French-controlled Syria and Lebanon are invaded by Australian, British, Free French, and Indian forces.
- 9: Finland initiates mobilisation, preparations against possible attack of Soviet aggressor.
 - : The British and Australians cross the Litani River, beating back Vichy French forces. During this battle, Moshe Dayan, leading an Australian unit, loses his eye. He becomes famous when his story is published a day later.*[3]
- 10: Assab, the last Italian-held port in East Africa, falls.
- 13: The Australians continue to fight through the Vichy French defenses and advance towards Beirut, winning the Battle of Jezzine.
 - : Soviets begin deporting Lithuanians to Siberia. Deportations continue for five days and total 35,000 Lithuanians, among them 7000 Jews.*[4]
- 14: All German and Italian assets in the United States are frozen.
 - : 10,100 people from Estonia, 15,000 from Latvia and 34,000 (or 35,000, starting a day earlier)*[4] from Lithuania are deported to Siberia by the Soviet Union.
- 15: British Operation Battleaxe attempts and fails to relieve the Siege of Tobruk. The British are heavily defeated at Halfaya Pass nicknamed “Hell-fire pass”
- 16: All German and Italian consulates in the United States are ordered closed and their staffs to leave the country by July 10.
- 22: Germany invades the Soviet Union with Operation Barbarossa, a three-pronged operation aimed at Leningrad, Moscow, and the southern oil fields of the Caucasus, ending the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact. Romania invades south-western border areas of the Soviet Union in Europe on the side of Germany.
 - : British general in Libya/Egypt Wavell is replaced by General Auchinleck.
 - : June Uprising against the Soviet Union in Lithuania.
- 23: In the late evening, Hitler first arrives at his headquarters at Rastenburg, East Prussia, code-named “Wolf's Lair” (Wolfsschanze). Between this date and November 20, 1944, Hitler will have spent 800 days at Wolf's Lair.
 - : German troops massacre 42 at Ablinga
- 24: German forces enter Vilnius. Lithuanian militia men go on shooting spree, killing dozens of Jews on the streets, with civilian spectators cheering them on. The Germans kidnap 60 Jewish “Hostages” and 30 Poles. Only 6 return.*[4]
- 26: Hungary and Slovakia declare war on the Soviet Union.
 - : The Soviet Union bombs Helsinki. Finland pronounces a state of war between Finland and Soviet Union. Continuation war is started.
- 28: Italian-occupied Albania declares war on the Soviet Union.
 - : Huge German encirclement of 300,000 Red Army troops near Minsk and Białystok.
- 29: Finnish and German troops begin Operation Arctic Fox against the Soviet Union
 - : Nuremberg Laws imposed on Jews of Lithuania and Vilnius in particular.*[4]
- 31: Ecuadorian–Peruvian War ends.



The state of the Allies and Axis powers in July 1941.

3.4.7 July 1941

- 1: General Auchinleck takes over from General Wavell in North Africa.
 - : The British win the Battle of Palmyra against the French in the middle east.
 - : All American men over 21 are required to register for the draft.
 - : German troops occupy Latvia's capital, Riga, on the way to Leningrad.
- 2: Ponary massacre killings begin, with the shooting of Soviet POWs captured during Operation Barbarossa, which began two weeks earlier, and with the deportation of hundreds of Jews from Vilnius to Soviet dug fuel tank pits near the Ponariai suburb of Vilnius, where they are shot or buried alive. Reports by survivors are accepted as hallucinations. The mass deportations and shooting of Jews continued until 1943.
 - : Hungarian troops take over Stanisławów and other towns in what is now the Ukraine.*[5]
- 3: Stalin announces a "scorched earth policy" .
 - : The United States of America elevates its General Headquarters, United States Army in order to command and plan for military operations within the Zone of the Interior.
 - : Italian General Pietro Gazzera surrenders the remnants of his forces in the Jimma area.
 - : British troops employ brave and risky flanking tactics to win the Battle of Deir ez-Zor.
- 4: Mass murder of Polish scientists and writers, committed by German troops in captured Polish city of Lwów.
 - : Vilna Ghetto first Judenrat established.*[4]
- 5: British Government rules out possibility of negotiated peace with Nazi Germany.
 - : British torpedo planes sink an Italian destroyer at Tobruk; on the 20th, two more are sunk.
 - : German troops reach the Dnieper River.
- 7: British and Canadian troops in Iceland are replaced by Americans.
- 8: Yugoslavia, a country formed by the Versailles treaty, is dissolved by the Axis into its component parts; especially important will be Croatia, with a pro-Axis government.
 - : The German armies isolate Leningrad from the rest of Soviet Union.
 - : Britain and the USSR sign a mutual defence agreement, promising not to sign any form of separate peace agreement with Germany.
- 9: Vitebsk (Belarus) is captured; this opens the battle of Smolensk, an important communications centre, considered by the German high command to be "the gateway to Moscow."
- 10: Guderian's Panzers take Minsk; the Germans advance farther into the Ukraine.
 - : Units of the Italian Expeditionary Corps in Russia begin to arrive. A legion from the Independent State of Croatia is part of the Italian corps.
- 12: The Vichy French surrender in Syria.
 - : Assistance Pact signed between the United Kingdom and the USSR.
- 13: Montenegro starts an uprising against the Axis Powers shortly after the Royalists in Serbia begin theirs. Questionable Communist plans instigate parallel uprising and civil war.
- 15: The Red Army starts a counter-attack against the Wehrmacht near Leningrad.
 - : Argentia naval air base is set up in Newfoundland; it will prove an important transfer station for the Allies for some years.
- 16: German Panzers under Guderian reach Smolensk, increasing the risk to Moscow.
- 17: Luftwaffe air attacks on Malta continue.
- 19: The "V-sign", displayed most notably by Churchill, is unofficially adopted as the Allied signal, along with the motif of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.
- 20: Heinrich Himmler visits Soviet POWs near Minsk and Lublin and decides to build the concentration camp near Lublin known as Majdanek concentration camp.*[6]
- 21: The Luftwaffe strikes heavily at Moscow.
- 26: In response to the Japanese occupation of French Indochina, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt orders the seizure of all Japanese assets in the United States.
 - : Germans order a Judenrat established in Stanisławów, Galicia. It is headed by Israel Seibald.*[5]
- 28: Japanese troops occupy southern French Indochina. The Vichy French colonial government is allowed by the Japanese to continue to administer

Vietnam. French repression continues. The Vichy French also agree to the occupation by the Japanese of bases in Indochina.

: The Germans push against Smolensk, and in the meantime solidify their presence in the Baltic states; native Jewish populations of the Baltic states are being exterminated.

- 31: Under instructions from Adolf Hitler, Nazi official Hermann Göring, orders SS general Reinhard Heydrich to “submit to me as soon as possible a general plan of the administrative material and financial measures necessary for carrying out the desired final solution of the Jewish question.”
: The Japanese naval ministry accuses the United States of intruding into their territorial waters at Sukumo Bay, and then fleeing. No evidence is offered to prove this allegation.
: Lewis B. Hershey succeeds Clarence Dykstra as Director of the Selective Service System in the United States.

3.4.8 August 1941

- 1: The US announces an oil embargo against “aggressors.”
: Japanese occupy Saigon, Vietnam.
: The Germans declare Galicia as the fifth district of the *Generalgouvernement*.*[5]
- 2: All civilian radios in Norway confiscated by the German occupation.*[1]
: SS Commander Hans Krueger (alternative spelling, Hans Krüger) orders the *registration* of hundreds of Jewish and Polish intelligentsia in Stanisławów, who are subsequently tortured and murdered. This is the first implementation of the “one bullet one Jew” method in Galicia.*[5]
- 5: German armies trap Red Army forces in Smolensk pocket and take 300,000 soldiers; Orel is taken.
- 6: Germans take Smolensk.
: American and British governments warn Japan not to invade Thailand.
- 9: Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill meet at NS Argentia, Newfoundland. The Atlantic Charter is created, signed, and released to the world press.
- 11: Malta is relieved by a convoy.
: Chungking, the nominal capital of Nationalist China located far up the Yangtze River, suffers several days of heavy bombing.
- 12: Hitler, against the advice of his generals, shifts some forces from the Moscow front to Leningrad and the Crimean offensives.

- 18: Adolf Hitler orders a temporary halt to Nazi Germany's systematic euthanasia of mentally ill and handicapped due to protests. However, graduates of the Action T4 operation were then transferred to concentration camps, where they continued in their trade.
- 20: German 250th Infantry Division, nicknamed “Blue Division” and consisted of Spanish volunteers, was formed and began to move to Poland.*[1]
- 22: German forces close in on Leningrad; the citizens continue improvising fortifications.
- 25: British and Soviet troops invade Iran to save the Abadan oilfields and the important railways and routes to Soviet Union for the supply of war material.
- 27: German U-boat U-570, being forced to surface off Iceland is captured by the British Royal Navy and is later put into combat service as HMS Graph.
- 28: German forces with the help of Estonian volunteers take Tallinn from Soviets.
- 30: The Shetland bus, a clandestine special operations group that made a permanent link between Shetland, Scotland and German-occupied Norway, begins operations.
- 31: The first signs appear that a Leningrad “siege” is beginning.
: “The Great Provokation” in Vilnius – German forces stage an attack on their soldiers by Jews, leading to a ‘retaliation’ mass arrest of the residents of old Jewish quarter, to be murdered at Ponary, three days later.*[4]

3.4.9 September 1941

- 1: With the assistance of Finnish armies in the North, Leningrad is now completely cut off.
: A pro-German Government of National Salvation formed in the Territory of the Military Commander in Serbia under Milan Nedić.
: All Jews under German rule must wear the yellow star of David badge with Jew clearly written in it, are forbidden to live with or marry non-Jews, and are forbidden to leave their towns without written consent, in accordance with the Nuremberg Laws of 1935. The decree, signed by Heydrich, is to take effect on September 19.*[7]
- 3: Murder of all 3,700 residents of the old Jewish quarter in Vilnius begins at the Ponary death site along with 10 members of the Judenrat. First written testimony of occurrences at Ponary by survivor*[4]
: Vilna Ghetto Jews required to hand over any gold or silver.*[4]

- 4: The USS *Greer* becomes the first United States warship fired upon by a German U-boat in the war, even though the United States is a neutral power. Tension heightens between the two nations as a result. The U.S. is now committed to convoy duties between the Western Hemisphere and Europe.
- 5: Germany occupies Estonia.
- 6: 6,000 Jews shot at Ponary, a day after the order to form the Vilna Ghetto was issued.
- 7: Berlin is heavily hit by RAF bombers.
- 8: Siege of Leningrad begins – a reasonable date to start measuring “the 900 days.” German forces begin a siege against the Soviet Union's second-largest city, Leningrad; Stalin orders the Volga Deutsche deported to Siberia.
- 10: German armies now have Kiev completely surrounded.
- 11: Franklin D. Roosevelt orders the United States Navy to shoot on sight if any ship or convoy is threatened.
- 15: “Self-government” of Estonia, headed by Hjalmar Mäe, is appointed by German military administration.
: “Moving Aktion” in Vilna Ghetto. Of 3,500 Jews “moved” between ghetto sections, on 550 arrive. The remaining 2,950 Jews are shot at the Ponary massacre death site.
- 16: Reza Pahlavi, Shah of Iran is forced to resign in favour of his son Mohammad Reza Pahlavi of Iran under pressure from the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union.
- 19: German capture of Kiev is now formal. The Red Army forces have suffered many casualties in defending this chief city in the Soviet Ukraine.
- 26: The U.S. Naval Command orders an all-out war on Axis shipping in American waters.
- 27: The first “Liberty Ship”, the SS *Patrick Henry* is launched. Liberty Ships will prove to be major parts of the Allied supply system.
- 27: The National Liberation Front (EAM) is founded in Greece.
- 28: German SS troops kill over 30,000 Jews at Babi Yar on the outskirts of Kiev, Soviet Ukraine, in response to sabotage efforts which the Germans attributed to local Jews.
: The Drama Uprising against the Bulgarian occupation in northern Greece begins. It is swiftly put down, with about 3,000 people executed as reprisals.

3.4.10 October 1941

- 1: Majdanek concentration camp (German: Konzentrationslager Lublin) and later to become extermination camp is opened.* [6]
: Vilna Ghetto Yom Kippur Aktions (German annihilation operations) begin. In four separate incidents 3,900 Jews are kidnapped, shot and killed at the Ponary massacre death site, continued with an additional 2,000 Jews kidnapped and killed there, in the next two days.* [4]
- 2: Operation Typhoon – German “Central” forces begin an all-out offensive against Moscow. Leading the defense of the capital is General Georgi Zhukov, already a Hero of Soviet Union for his command in the conflict against the Japanese in the Russian Far East and at Leningrad.
- 3: Mahatma Gandhi urges his followers to begin a passive resistance against British rule in India.
- 7: Heavy RAF night bombings of Berlin, the Ruhr, and Cologne, but with heavy losses.
- 8: In their invasion of the southern Soviet Union, Germany reaches the Sea of Azov with the capture of Mariupol. However, there are signs that the invasion is beginning to bog down as rainy weather creates muddy roads for both tanks and men.
- 10: German armies encircle about 660,000 Red Army troops near Vyasma (east of Smolensk); some make a glowing prediction of the end of the war.
- 12: HMS *Ark Royal* delivers a squadron of Hurricane fighter planes to Malta.
: *Bloody Sunday massacre* at Stanisławów, 8,000–12,000 Jews were rounded up and shot into pits by SIPO (Ukrainian police) together with German uniformed SS men. Dr. Tenenbaum of the Judenrat heroically refuses the offer of exemption and is shot along with the others.* [5]
- 13: Germans attempt another drive toward Moscow as the once muddy ground hardens.
- 14: Temperatures fall further on the Moscow front; heavy snows follow and immobilize German tanks.
- 15: The Germans drive on Moscow.
- 16: Soviet Union government begins move eastward to Samara, a city on the Volga, but Joseph Stalin remains in Moscow. The citizens of Moscow frantically build tank traps and other fortifications for the coming siege.
: Vilna Ghetto Aktion. 3,000 Jews killed.* [4]
- 17: The destroyer USS *Kearney* is torpedoed and damaged by *U-568* near Iceland, killing eleven

- sailors. They are the first American military casualties of the war.
: The government of Japanese prime minister Prince Fumimaro Konoye collapses, leaving little hope for peace in the Pacific.
- 18: Red Army troop reinforcements arrive in Moscow from Siberia; Stalin is assured that the Japanese will not attack the USSR from the East.
: General Hideki Tōjō becomes the 40th Prime Minister of Japan.
 - 19: An official “state of siege” is announced in Moscow; the city is placed under martial law.
 - 19: German occupied Luxembourg declared “Judenrein” (“Cleansed of Jews”)
 - 20: Lt. Col. Fritz Hotz, the German commander in Nantes, is killed by Resistance; 50 hostages are shot in reprisal. The incident will become a model for future occupation policies.
 - 21: New Zealand troops land in Egypt and take over Fort Capuzzo.
: Negotiations in Washington between the US and Japan seem headed toward failure.
 - 22: Odessa massacre begins and continues for two days. 25,000 to 34,000 Jews are lead in a long procession and are shot and killed in an antitank ditch, or burnt alive after crowded into four buildings.
: The massacre began after, that day, a delayed bomb planted by the Soviets kills 67 people at the Romanian headquarters, including the Romanian commander General Glogojeanu.
: 35,000 Jews are expelled to the Slobodka Ghetto and are left in freezing conditions for 10 days. Many perish in the cold.
 - 24: In Ukraine, the important mining and industrial centre of Kharkov falls to the German Army Group South forces.
: Vilna Ghetto Gelbschein I Aktion. 5,500 Jews including 140 old or paralyzed people killed.*[4]
 - 27: German Army Group South forces reach Sevastopol in the Crimea, but the tanks of the “Northern” forces are slowed or stopped entirely by mud.
 - 28: Bolekhiv first *aktion* massacre – 1,000 of the leading Jews rounded up by list, tortured, and on the following day 800 of the surviving Jews, were shot or buried alive at a nearby forest. The re-discovered atrocities and testimony in 1996 lead to Patrick Desbois research on the German method of “One Bullet, One Jew” extermination in 1941 and 1942.
 - 29: Vilna Ghetto II liquidated. 2,500 Jews killed.*[4]
 - 30: Franklin Delano Roosevelt approves US\$1 billion in Lend-Lease aid to the Soviet Union.
 - 31: The destroyer USS *Reuben James* is torpedoed by Erich Topp's *U-552* near Iceland, killing more than 100 United States Navy sailors. It is the first loss of an American “neutral warship.”
- ### 3.4.11 November 1941
- 1: President Franklin D. Roosevelt announces that the U.S. Coast Guard will now be under the direction of the U.S. Navy, a transition of authority usually reserved only for wartime.
 - 2: Political conflict in Yugoslavia as leftists under Tito (Josip Broz) are in competition with the more conservative Serbs under Draža Mihailović.
 - 3: Germans take Kursk.
: Vilna Ghetto Gelbschein III Aktion. 1,200 Jews killed.*[4]
 - 6: Soviet leader Joseph Stalin addresses the Soviet Union for only the second time during his three-decade rule (the first time was earlier that year on July 2). He states that even though 350,000 troops were killed in German attacks so far, that the Germans have lost 4.5 million soldiers (a gross exaggeration) and that Soviet victory was near.
 - 7: Heavy RAF night bombings of Berlin, the Ruhr, and Cologne, but with heavy losses.
 - 9: Force K the light cruisers HMS *Penelope* and HMS *Aurora* and destroyers HMS *Lively* and HMS *Lance* sank 7 merchant ships, a tanker, and 1 destroyer during the Battle of the Duisburg Convoy.
 - 12: Battle of Moscow – Temperatures around Moscow drop to minus 12 °C and the Soviet Union launches ski troops for the first time against the freezing German forces near the city.
: The HMS *Ark Royal* delivers a squadron of Hurricane fighter planes to Malta.
 - 13: Germans start a new offensive against Moscow as the muddy ground freezes again.
: The aircraft carrier HMS *Ark Royal* is torpedoed by the German submarine *U-81* and sinks the following day.
 - 15: The Germans drive on Moscow.
 - 17: Joseph Grew, the United States ambassador to Japan, cables the State Department that Japan had plans to launch an attack against Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (his cable was ignored).
: Ernst Udet, head of the Luftwaffe's Production and Development, commits suicide over his perceived inability to properly perform his mission.

- 18: **Operation Crusader**: British Commonwealth and other Allied troops cross into **Libya** and at least temporarily relieve the **Siege of Tobruk**.
- 19: Australian light cruiser **HMAS Sydney** and the German auxiliary cruiser **Kormoran** sink each other off the coast of Western Australia. All 648 crewmen are lost on HMAS Sydney.
- 22: **Rostov-on-Don**, an important hub on the southern front, is taken by the Germans.
 - : Britain issues an ultimatum to Finland to end war with the Soviet Union or face war with the Allies.
 - : Rommel starts a counteroffensive, retaking **Sidi Rezegh** (south of Tobruk) which the Allies had taken a few days earlier. British tank losses are heavy.
- 23: Rommel's attack continues around **Sidi Rezegh**; Allied losses continue to rise.
 - : the United States reaches an agreement with the Dutch government in exile whereby the Americans occupy **Suriname** to protect the **bauxite** mines there.
- 24: The United States grants **Lend-Lease** to the **Free French**.
 - : Rommel begins a surprising 15-mile foray into **Egypt**; he meets no opposition.
- 25: **U-331** sinks the British battleship **HMS Barham** while covering Mediterranean convoys.
- 26: A Japanese attack fleet of 33 warships and auxiliary craft, including six aircraft carriers, sails from northern Japan for the Hawaiian Islands.
 - : The **Hull** note ultimatum is delivered to Japan by the United States.
 - : After his brief dash into **Egypt**, Rommel retreats to **Bardia** for refuelling; it is during this brief withdrawal that **Tobruk** is temporarily relieved when the 8th Army meets with the besieged.
- 28: **Battle of Moscow** – German Panzers are on the outskirts of **Moscow**, near the **Moscow-Volga Canal**.
 - : The last Italian armed forces in **East Africa** surrender at **Gondar**.

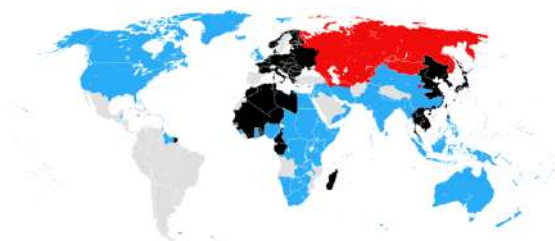


USS Arizona burned for two days after being hit by a Japanese bomb. Parts of the ship were salvaged, but the wreck remains at the bottom of Pearl Harbor to this day and is a major memorial.



FDR delivers his Infamy Speech to Congress.

3.4.12 December 1941



The state of the Allies and Axis powers in December 1941.

- 1: Malta marks its 1,000th bombing raid.
 - : **Fiorello H. La Guardia** publishes **Administrative Order 9** creating the **Civil Air Patrol** for U.S Coastal Patrol and naming its national commander Major General **John F. Curry**.
 - : Approximately 20,000 **Stanislawow Jews** ordered into the **Ghetto** area, and non-Jews ordered out.* [5]
 - : SS officer **Karl Jaeger** reports “**Lithuania clean of Jews**” with some exceptions.* [4]
- 2: Prime Minister **Tojo** rejects “**peace feelers**” from the US.
 - : A German combat engineer patrol reaches the town of **Khimki** while scouting for a hole in the Russian defense perimeter around **Moscow**. It is the closest advance the Germans make to the Russian capital.
- 3: Conscription in the United Kingdom now includes all men between 18 and 50. Women will not be neglected since they will serve in fire brigades and in women's auxiliary groups.
- 3: General strike begins among native mine-workers

- in the Belgian Congo
- 3: Vilna Ghetto 'Criminal Aktion' begins, continued the next day. 157 Jews are killed at Ponary* [4]
 - 4: The temperature on the Moscow front falls to -31°F (-37°C). * [8] German attacks are failing.
 - 4: Japanese naval and army forces continue to move toward Pearl Harbor and South-east Asia.
 - 5: Germans call off the attack on Moscow, now 11 miles away; the USSR counter-attacks during a heavy blizzard.
 - 6: The United Kingdom declares war on Finland.
: Vilna Ghetto Gestapo Workers Aktion – 800 Jews and 10 Poles shot at the Ponary massacre death site. Temperatures are minus 23 degrees Celsius. * [4]
 - 7: (December 8, Asian time zones) Japan launches an attack on Pearl Harbor, declares war on the United States and the United Kingdom and invades Thailand and British Malaya and launches aerial attacks against Guam, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Shanghai, Singapore and Wake Island. Canada declares war on Japan. Australia declares war on Japan.
: German “Night and Fog decree” dictating the elimination of anti-Nazis in Western Europe.
 - 8: The United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and New Zealand declare war on Japan.
: Japanese forces take the Gilbert Islands (which include Tarawa). Clark Field in the Philippines is bombed, and many American aircraft are destroyed on the ground.
: Japanese troops attack Thailand in the Battle of Prachuab Khirikhan
 - 9: China officially declares war on Japan, although a *de facto* state of war has existed between the two countries since the Marco Polo Bridge Incident of July 7, 1937. China also declares war on Germany and Italy. Australia officially declares war on Japan.
 - 9: Striking miners of the *Union Minière* at Elizabethville in the Belgian Congo are fired on by Belgian colonial forces during negotiations, killing an estimated 70 people.
 - 10: British battlecruiser *HMS Repulse* and battleship *HMS Prince of Wales* are sunk in a Japanese air attack in the South China Sea.
 - 11: Germany and Italy declare war on the United States. The United States reciprocates and declares war on Germany and Italy.
: US forces repel a Japanese landing attempt at Wake Island.
: Japanese invade Burma.
 - 12: Japanese landings on the southern Philippine Islands—Samar, Jolo, Mindanao.
: The United States and the United Kingdom declare war on Romania and Bulgaria after they had declared war on both the United States and the United Kingdom; India declares war on Japan.
: US seizes French ship *Normandie*.
 - 13: Hungary declares war on the United States and the United Kingdom, the United States and the United Kingdom reciprocate and declare war on Hungary.
: Japanese under General Yamashita continue their push into Malaya. Under General Homma the Japanese forces are firmly established in the northern Philippines. Hong Kong is threatened.
 - 14: The British cruiser *HMS Galatea* is sunk by *U-557* off Alexandria, beginning a series of naval defeats for the Allies.
 - 15: Italian "human torpedoes" sink two British battleships, the *HMS Queen Elizabeth* and *HMS Valiant* in Alexandria harbour.
: Commonwealth troops push Rommel back at the Gazala line.
: Vilna Ghetto 'Gestapo block' Aktion. 300 Jews shot at the Ponary massacre site.
 - 16: Rommel orders a withdrawal all the way to El Agheila, where he had begun in March. He awaits reinforcements of men and tanks.
: Japan invades Borneo.
: The German offensive around Moscow is now at a complete halt.
 - 17: Battle of Sevastopol begins.
 - 18: Japanese troops land on Hong Kong Island.
 - 19: Hitler becomes Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the German Army
: *HMS Neptune*, leading Force K, strikes a minefield and sinks with one survivor and a loss of 766 crew.
 - 20: The battle for Wake Island continues with several Japanese ships sunk or damaged.
: *Stanisławów Ghetto* officially closed from the outside and sealed with walls. * [5]
: Vilna Ghetto 400 Jews killed by Lithuanian militias inside the ghetto.
 - 21: The suffering of besieged Leningrad continues; it is estimated that about 3,000 are dying each day of starvation and various diseases.
: The inmates at *Bogdanovka* concentration camp are massacred to quell an outbreak of Typhus. Roughly 40,000 die.
 - 22: The Japanese land at Lingayan Gulf, on the northern part of Luzon in the Philippines.
: Start of the Arcadia Conference in Washington,

the first official meeting of British and American political and military leaders.

- 23: A second Japanese landing attempt on Wake Island is successful, and the American garrison surrenders after hours of fighting.
: General MacArthur declares Manila an “Open City.”
: Japanese forces land on Sarawak (Borneo).
- 24: In the Philippines, American forces retreat into Bataan Peninsula.
: Japanese bomb Rangoon.
: All Jewish Ghettos in Nazi-occupied Europe are required to gather all fur coats or other furs from the Jews.*[9]
- 25: Hong Kong surrenders to Japan.
: Allied forces retake Benghazi.
: Red Army and Navy amphibious forces land at Kerch, in the Crimea; their occupation will last through April.
- 27: British and Norwegian Commandos raid the Norwegian port of Vågsøy, causing Hitler to reinforce the garrison and defences.
- 28: Japanese paratroopers land on Sumatra.

3.4.13 See also

- Strategic operations of the Red Army in World War II

3.4.14 Notes and references

- [1] “1941 Timeline” . WW2DB. Retrieved 2011-02-09.
- [2] Gotovitch, José; Aron, Paul, eds. (2008). *Dictionnaire de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale en Belgique*. Brussels: André Versaille éd. p. 372. ISBN 978-2-87495-001-8.
- [3] How Dayan lost his eye (Hebrew, Artificial Eye website)
- [4] Vilna Ghetto Chronology
- [5] “Stanislwów” (Washington Holocaust Memorial Museum website)
- [6] Majdanek camp
- [7] Reinhard Heydrich decree (German)
- [8] “World War 2 Timelines 1939-1945 - Eastern Europe 1941 - Worldwar-2.net” . Worldwar-2.net. Retrieved 2011-12-06.
- [9] Adam Cherniakov's diary

3.4.15 External links

- Timeline of World War II
- Documents of World War II
- World War II Timeline

3.5 1942 timeline

This is a timeline of events that stretched over the period of World War II from 1942.

3.5.1 January 1942

- 1: Twenty-six Allied countries signed the Declaration by United Nations during the Arcadia Conference.*[1]
- 2: Manila is captured by Japanese forces. They also take Cavite naval base, and the American and Filipino troops continue the retreat into Bataan.*[1]
- 5: The beginning of a major Red Army offensive under General Zhukov.
- 6: The British advance continues to El Agheila, on the western edge of Libya.

In his State of the Union speech, President Roosevelt promises more aid to Britain, including planes and troops.

- 7: The Soviet Winter counter-offensive comes to a halt, after having pushed the exhausted and freezing German Army back 62–155 mi from Moscow. 'Operation Barbarossa' had failed.

Siege of the Bataan Peninsula begins.

Heavy air attacks on Malta; it is estimated that the bomb tonnage dropped on the island is twice that dropped on London.

- 8: Japanese troops penetrated the outer lines of defense at Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.*[1]
- 9: Japanese advances in Borneo meet with little opposition.
- 10: Japan declares war on the Netherlands.*[1]
- 11: Japanese troops capture Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.

Japan invades the Dutch East Indies.

- 13: The Red Army takes Kirov and Medya, as its counter-offensive continues.

The German U-boat offensive comes closer to the US shores starting the **Second Happy Time**.

15: German authorities begin to deport Jews from the Lodz ghettos to the Chelmno Concentration Camp.* [1]

19: Japanese forces take large numbers of British troops prisoner, north of Singapore.

20: Nazis at the Wannsee conference in Berlin decide that the "final solution to the Jewish problem" is relocation, and later extermination.

Japanese bomb Singapore as their troops approach the city.

21: Rommel's Afrika Korps begins a surprise counter-offensive at El Agheila; his troops, with new reinforcements and tanks, capture Agedabia, then push north to Beda Fomm.

: At the Vilna Ghetto the Fareynikte Partizaner Organizatsye a Jewish partisan organisation is established, including **Aba Kovner**

23: The **Battle of Rabaul**, on New Britain begins.

24: American troops land in Samoa, as part of a strategy to stop the Japanese advance in the Pacific.

25: **Thailand** declares war on the United States and United Kingdom

Japanese troops invade the Solomon Islands.

26: The first American forces arrive in Europe landing in **Northern Ireland**.

27: The British withdraw all troops back into Singapore.

28: Brazil breaks off relations with the Axis powers.

29: Rommel's Afrika Korps recaptures Benghazi, Libya in his drive east. For the next few months, the two sides will rest and rearm.

30: Hitler speaks at the **Berlin Sportpalast** and threatens the Jews of the world with annihilation; he also blames the failure of the offensive in Soviet Union on the weather.

31: The Japanese take the port of Moulamein, Burma; they now threaten Rangoon as well as Singapore.

On the Eastern front, the Germans are in retreat at several points.

The last organised Allied forces leave Malaya, ending the 54-day battle.

3.5.2 February 1942

1: Vidkun Quisling becomes the Nazi-aligned Minister-President of Norway

Rommel's forces reach **El Gazala**, Libya, near the border with Egypt; during a "Winter lull" he will remain there.

2: General Joseph ("Vinegar Joe") Stilwell is named Chief of Staff to Chiang Kai-Shek and Commander-in-Chief of the Allied forces in China.

3: Japanese air power conducts airstrikes against Java, especially the naval base at Surabaya.

Port Moresby, New Guinea is bombed by the Japanese, increasing the threat to Australia posed by Japan.

7: Americans continue their defence of Bataan against General Homma's troops.

9: British troops are now in full retreat into Singapore for a final defence.

Top United States military leaders hold their first formal meeting to discuss American military strategy in the war.

10: The cruise liner *SS Normandie* catches fire and capsizes in New York harbour. Although the cause is probably a welder's torch, various conspiracies are imagined in the media.

11: The "Channel Dash" - The German battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, with the heavy cruiser *Prinz Eugen*, rush out of Brest through the English Channel to northern ports, including Wilhelmshaven, Germany; the British naval units fail to sink any of them.

13: The battle for Bataan continues.

15: Singapore surrenders to Japanese forces; this is arguably the most devastating loss in British military history.

16: Being discussed in high American government circles are plans for the internment of Japanese-Americans living generally in the western US.

The Japanese commit the **Banka Island Massacre** in which they open fire on Australian military nurses, killing 21.

17: Orders are given for Rangoon to be evacuated as Japanese forces approach.

19: Japanese aircraft attack Darwin, in Australia's Northern Territory.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066 allowing the United States military to define areas as exclusionary zones. These zones affect the Japanese on the West Coast, and Germans and Italians primarily on the East Coast. A military conscription law is passed in Canada.

20: Japanese troops cross the important Salween River in Burma.

Japanese invade Bali and Timor by a combined use of paratroops and amphibious troops.

21: The American Air Corps is now firmly established at bases in the UK.

22: President Franklin Delano Roosevelt orders General Douglas MacArthur to evacuate the Philippines as American defence of the nation collapses.

25: The internment of Japanese-American citizens in the Western United States begins as fears of invasion increase.

Princess Elizabeth registers for war service

26: Vivian Bullwinkel, the only survivor of the Banka Island Massacre, is captured and imprisoned by the Japanese.

27: Battle of the Java Sea - Under a Dutch Rear Admiral Karl Doorman, the combined forces lose 2 Light Cruisers and 3 Destroyers.

The USS *Langley* is attacked by 9 Japanese Betty bombers in the Java Sea, damaged and later scuttled to prevent capture.

28: Japanese land forces invade Java.

3.5.3 March 1942

1: A Red Army offensive in the Crimea begins; in the north, the siege of Leningrad continues.

3: Japanese aircraft make a surprising raid on the airfield and harbour at Broome, Western Australia.

5: The Japanese capture Batavia, the capital of the Dutch East Indies.*[1]

New conscription laws in the United Kingdom include women and men up to the age of 45.

6: Malta receives more fighters for its on-going defence.

8: The Japanese land at Lae and Salamaua, on Huon Bay, New Guinea, beginning their move toward Port Moresby, New Guinea, and then Australia.

9: Japanese troops entered Rangoon, Burma, which was abandoned by the British two days earlier.*[1] It appears that the Japanese are in control of Java, Burma, and New Guinea.

The Secretary of War reorganizes the General Headquarters (GHQ), United States Army into three major commands - Army Ground Forces, Army Air Forces, and Services of Supply, the later of which is later redesignated Army Service Forces. At the same time, the four Defense commands and all Theaters Of Operations (TOPNS) are subordinated to the War Department General Staff.

11: The Japanese land on Mindanao, the southernmost island in the Philippines.

12: American troops begin to land in Nouméa, New Caledonia; it will become an important staging base for the eventual invasion of Guadalcanal.

13: RAF launches an air raid against Essen, Germany.

14: Japanese land troops in the Solomon Islands, underscoring Australia's dangerous situation, especially if, as it is soon made clear, an airfield is built on Guadalcanal.

The Japanese are now threatening American forces around Manila Bay; the retreat to Corregidor begins.

17: U.S. General Douglas MacArthur arrives in Australia, after leaving his headquarters in the Philippines.

The United Kingdom institutes rationing of electricity, coal, and gas; the clothing ration is decreased as well.

20: Operation Outward begins, a program to attack Germany by means of free-flying balloons.

22: A fractured convoy reaches Malta, after heavy losses to the Luftwaffe and an Italian sea force. Continued heavy bombing attacks on the island with slight opposition from overtaxed RAF air forces.

25: RAF sends bomber raids against targets in France and Germany.

26: Jews in Berlin must now clearly identify their houses.

28: The RAF sends a raid against Lübeck, destroying over 30% of the city, and 80% of the medieval centre. Hitler is outraged.

British commandos launch Operation Chariot, a raid on the port at Saint Nazaire, France. HMS *Campbeltown*, filled with explosives on a time-delay fuse, rams the dock gates and commandos destroy other parts of the naval service area. The port is completely destroyed and does not resume service till 1947; however, around two-thirds of the raiding forces are lost.

3.5.4 April 1942

1: The Eastern Sea Frontier, desperately short on suitable escort vessels after the Destroyers for Bases Agreement, institutes an interim arrangement known as the "Bucket Brigaid," wherein vessels outside of protected harbors are placed in anchorages protected by netting after dark, and move only under whatever escort is available during the day. As word of this and similar measures reaches Dönitz, he does not wait to test their effectiveness, but instead shifts his U-boats to the area controlled by the Gulf Sea Frontier, where American anti-submarine measures are not as effective. As a result, in May more ships will be sunk in the Gulf, many of them off the Passes of the Mississippi, than off of the entire Eastern Seaboard.

The Pacific War Council meets for the first time in Washington. Intended to allow the smaller powers involved in fighting the Japanese to have some input into US decisions, its purpose is soon outstripped by events, notably the collapse of the ABDA Command.

2: Over 24,000 sick and starving troops (American and Filipino) are now trapped on the Bataan Peninsula.

Japanese make landings on New Guinea, most importantly at Hollandia.

3: Japanese forces begin an all-out assault on United States and Filipino troops in Bataan.

Sustained Japanese air attacks on Mandalay in Burma.

4: Germans plan "Baedeker raids" on touristy or historic British sites, in revenge for the Lübeck bombing.

5: On Bataan, the Japanese overwhelm Mt. Samat, a strong point on Allied defensive line.

The Japanese Navy attacks Colombo in Ceylon. Royal Navy heavy cruisers HMS *Cornwall* and HMS *Dorsetshire* are sunk southwest of the island.

Adolf Hitler issues Directive No. 41, outlining his plans for the coming summer offensive in Russia. The main offensive is directed to seize the Russian oil fields in the Caucasus; a secondary thrust is to capture Stalingrad and protect the flank of the main advance.

6: Japanese naval forces put troops ashore on Manus Island in the Bismarck Archipelago (some sources give a date of 8 April for these landings).

8: Heavy RAF bombing of Hamburg.

American forces are strained for one last offensive on Bataan.

With the withdrawal of the HMS *Penelope* from Malta, Force K in Malta comes to a close.

9: The Japanese Navy launches an air raid on Trincomalee in Ceylon; Royal Navy aircraft carrier HMS *Hermes* and Royal Australian Navy destroyer HMAS *Vampire* are sunk off the country's east coast.

Bataan falls to the Japanese. The "Bataan Death March" begins, as the captives are taken off to detention camps in the north. Corregidor, in the middle of Manila Bay, remains a final point of resistance.

10: Japanese land on Cebu Island, a large middle island of the Philippines.

12: Japanese forces capture Migyaungye in Burma.

13: Anton Schmid an Austrian soldier of the Wehrmacht is put to death, after witnessing the Ponary Massacre and saving Jews.

14: Winston Churchill, concerned that the situation in Malta will cause the Axis forces in

North Africa to be better supplied than British forces, sends a telegram to Sir Stafford Cripps in Cairo, asking him to pressure General Auchinleck to take offensive action before this can occur.

USS *Roper* becomes the first American ship to sink a U-boat.

15: Malta is awarded the George Cross by King George VI for "heroism and devotion".

Soldiers of the I Burma Corps begin to destroy the infrastructure of the Yenangaung oil fields to prevent the advancing Japanese from capturing them intact.

17: French General Henri Giraud, who was captured in 1940, escapes from a castle prison at Konigstein by lowering himself down the castle wall and jumping on board a moving train, which takes him to the French border.

18: Doolittle Raid on Nagoya, Tokyo and Yokohama. Jimmy Doolittle's B-25's take off from the USS *Hornet*. The raids are a great boost of morale for Americans whose diet has been mostly bad news.

The Eastern Sea Frontier, the United States Navy operational command in charge of the East Coast of the United States, somewhat belatedly forces a blackout along the East Coast. This deprives U-boat commanders of background illumination, but provides only a very little relief from U-boat attack; as the nights grow shorter more U-boat attacks are occurring in daylight hours.

20: General Dobbie, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of Malta, sends a message to Winston Churchill saying "it is obvious that the very worst may happen if we cannot replenish our vital needs, especially flour and ammunition, and that very soon...." Churchill concludes from this and other "disturbing news" that Dobbie is not capable enough for such an important job, and decides to replace him with Lord Gort.

USS *Wasp* delivers 47 Spitfire Mk. V fighters of No. 603 Squadron RAF to Malta; the planes are destroyed, mostly on the ground, by intense Axis air raids before they can affect the course of battle.

23: Beginning of so-called Baedeker Raids by the Luftwaffe on English provincial towns like Exeter, Bath, Norwich, and York; attacks continue sporadically until June 6.

24: Heavy bombing of Rostock, Germany by RAF.

26: Hitler assumes a kind of supreme authority over Germany.

27: Rostock is bombed for fourth night in a row.

A national plebiscite is held in Canada on the issue of conscription. French Canadians are main, though not the only, objectors to the draft.

28: The bulk of the British assault troops depart Durban in South Africa for Madagascar; the slower ships, carrying transport and heavy weapons, have departed in great secrecy some days earlier.

29: The "Baedeker raids" continue, focused on Norwich and York.

Japanese cut Burma Road with the capture of Lashio in Burma.

Adolf Hitler summons Benito Mussolini and Galeazzo Ciano to a summit conference at Salzburg. Like most Hitlerian conferences, this one is actually a thinly-disguised attempt to harangue the invitees into compliance with the Fuehrer's will; in this case, the Italians are to commit more troops to the Eastern Front. Hitler is successful, and Mussolini agrees to send an additional seven divisions, as well as the two already promised. These unfortunate troops will be formed into the Eighth Italian Army and attached to von Bock's (later von Weichs') Army Group B.

3.5.5 May 1942

1: Rommel readies for a new offensive during the early part of this month.

Troops of the Japanese Fifteenth Army under General Shojiro Iida take Mandalay and Monywa, securing the western terminus of the Burma Road.

2: In response to American intelligence intercepts, which warn of the impending Japanese

landings, the Australian garrison is evacuated from Tulagi.

3: In the initial move of the Japanese strategic plan to capture Port Moresby, Japanese forces under Admiral Kiyohide Shima make unopposed landings on Tulagi, opening the Battle of the Coral Sea.

American General Joseph Stilwell decides that nothing more can be accomplished in Burma, and that the time has come to evacuate.

4: US Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher's Task Force 17 makes the first carrier strike of the Battle of the Coral Sea, attacking Japanese naval targets near Tulagi.

Howell and his party of 114, mostly Americans, begin their trek to the Indian border and safety. To reach India, Stilwell will not only have to stay ahead of the Japanese, but beat the coming monsoon.

5: Heavy Japanese artillery attack on Corregidor.

British forces begin "Operation Ironclad": the invasion of Madagascar to keep the Vichy French territory from falling to a possible Japanese invasion.

The city of Exeter is bombed by the Luftwaffe, another "Baedeker Raid".

In the Coral Sea, both Japanese and American carrier aircraft spend this day and the following one searching for each others ships, with no success, even though at one point the opposing carrier groups are separated by less than a hundred miles of ocean.

General Stilwell abandons his trucks, which constantly become stuck and so are actually impeding progress rather than aiding it. He retains his Jeeps, which do better. Late in the day his party arrives at Indaw.

6: On Corregidor, Lt. General Jonathan M. Wainwright surrenders the last U.S. forces in the Philippines to Lt. General Masaharu Homma. About 12,000 are made prisoners. Homma will soon face criticism from his superiors over the amount of time it has taken him to reduce the Philippines, and be forced into retirement (1943).

After a pep talk, General Stilwell and his party of 114 set out from Indaw on foot, with only 11 Jeeps to carry their supplies and any incapacitated, to reach the Indian border. He sends a last radio message which ends, "Catastrophe quite possible." The radio is then destroyed.

7: Vichy forces surrender Diego Suarez, the most important port in Madagascar, to British forces involved in Operation Ironclad. However, the Vichy forces are able to withdraw in good order.

In the Coral Sea, Japanese search planes spot refueling ship USS *Neosho* and destroyer USS *Sims*, which have retired from Fletcher's Task Force 17 into what should have been safer waters to refuel *Sims*. They are mistaken for an aircraft carrier and a cruiser. Japanese Admiral Takagi, believing he has at last found the location of Fletcher's main force, orders a full out attack by carriers *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku* and sinks both ships. This distraction helps prevent the Japanese from finding the real location of Fletcher's carriers. Meanwhile, Fletcher has a similar false alarm, the spotting of two cruisers and two destroyers being mistakenly encrypted as "two carriers and four cruisers." By chance, though, planes from USS *Lexington* and USS *Yorktown* stumble across light carrier *Shoho* while pursuing the false lead and sink her, leading to the first use in the American Navy of the signal, "Scratch one flat-top." Admiral Inoue is so alarmed by the loss of *Shoho* he halts the Port Moresby invasion group north of the *Louisiades* until the American carriers can be found and destroyed.

In Burma, General Stilwell must abandon his Jeeps. From here on all in the party will have to march. The fifty-nine-year-old General decides a cadence of one hundred five beats per minute will best match the disparate abilities of his party, and they march fifty minutes and rest ten each hour.

8: In the Coral Sea, each side finally locates the others main carrier groups, consisting of Japanese carriers *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku*, and American carriers *Lexington* and *Yorktown*. Several attacks follow. Only *Zuikaku* escapes unscathed; *Shokaku* has her flight deck bent, requiring two months' repairs; *Lexington* is sunk and *Yorktown* damaged. Fletcher retires; this action closes the Battle. While arguably a stalemate or even tactical victory for the Japanese, who have sunk the most tonnage and the only large carrier, the Battle of the Coral Sea is usually seen as a strategic victory for the United States, as Admiral Inoue cancels the Port Moresby operation, the first significant failure of a Japanese strategic operation in the Pacific Theatre. In addition, *Yorktown* will be repaired in time to make important contributions at Midway (although she will not survive), whereas neither the damaged *Shokaku* nor *Zuikaku* (which, although not directly attacked, has suffered unsustainable losses in aircraft), will be able to refit in time for Midway, giving the Japanese only four operable carriers available for that battle.

The Germans take the Kerch peninsula in the eastern Crimea.

9: On the night of 8/9 May 1942, gunners of the Ceylon Garrison Artillery on Horsburgh Island in the Cocos Islands rebelled. Their mutiny was crushed and three of them were executed, the only British Commonwealth soldiers to be executed for mutiny during the Second World War.

USS *Wasp* and HMS *Eagle* deliver a second contingent of Spitfires to Malta in Operation Bowery. A few days later, a grateful Churchill will signal *Wasp* "Who says a *Wasp* can't sting twice?" These aircraft, employed more aggressively than those previously delivered, turn the tide in the skies over Malta during the next few days, and the Axis is forced to abandon daylight bombing. This is a major turning point in the Siege, and thus in the North African Campaign, although the approaches to the island remain subject to deadly and accurate Axis air attack, preventing efficient re-supply of the island.

In Burma, General Stilwell and his party begin crossing the Uyu River. Only four small rafts are available, and the crossing takes the better part of two days.

10: Unaware that the tide is turning even as he speaks, Kesselring informs Hitler that Malta has been neutralized.

Churchill, growing ever more frustrated with General Auchinleck's inactivity, finally sends him a telegram with a clear order; attack in time to cover for the Harpoon/Vigorous convoys to Malta during the dark of the moon in early June. This places Auchinleck in the position of complying or resigning. Auchinleck does not immediately reply, leaving Churchill, CIGS, and the War Cabinet in a state of suspense.

12: German submarine *U-553*, commanded by Kapitänleutnant Karl Thurmann, sinks British freighter *Nicoya* near the mouth of the St. Lawrence River, signalling the opening of the Battle of St. Lawrence.

Second Battle of Kharkov - In the eastern Ukraine, Soviet forces of Marshal Timoshenko's Southwest Theatre of Operations, including Gorodnyanski's 6th Army and Kharitonov's 9th Army, initiate a major offensive to capture Kharkov from the Germans. 9th Army is to attack first, with a primary objective of Krasnograd, and a secondary one of Poltava; 6th Army is to follow immediately. After 9th Army has captured Krasnograd, 6th Army is to swing north and link up with 28th Army and 57th Army, the latter two formations having meanwhile cut the railway between Belgorad and Kharkov.

13: General Stilwell and his party cross the Chindwin River. They are now almost certainly safe from the Japanese, but still dependent on their own supplies in a very remote area and racing to beat the monsoon.

14: In response to the Soviet offensive in the Kharkov area, Hitler orders elements of Richthofen's *Fliegerkorps VIII* north to do ground support missions. As a result, by the end of the day 14 May, the Germans have established a tentative but increasing air superiority over the Kharkov sector. In addition, on this day Hitler orders General Kleist, whose command is in positions opposite and to the south of the Soviets' left flank, to quickly prepare and launch a strong armoured counter-offensive.

In Burma, General Stilwell and his party begin ascending the Naga Hills. They are met at Kawlum by a

relief expedition headed by British colonial administrator Tim Sharpe. "Food, doctor, ponies, and everything," notes a grateful Stilwell in his diary.

15: In the United States, a bill creating the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) is signed into law.

General Stilwell crosses the border into India.

16: United States 1st Armored Division arrives in Northern Ireland.

17: In the salient north of Kharkov, Russian 28th and 57th Armies are having trouble making progress against General Paulus's (German) 6th Army.

For once, Adolf Hitler has not hobbled his local commander with a strict "no retreat" order, and Paulus is free to conduct an efficient delaying action. In addition, Paulus' troops are largely up to strength and fully equipped as a result of preparations for the upcoming drive to Stalingrad. In the south salient, Kharitonov's 9th Army has routed the Romanian (3rd and/or 4th Army; accounts differ) troops in his path and captured Krasnograd, and is proceeding to Poltava; Gorodnyanski's 6th Army has made its planned turn to the north to link up with 28th and 57th Armies. 9th Army's impetus has stretched Kharitonov's armoured units out along a seventy-mile track, diluting their strength; and attempts to cover his left flank by driving the Germans back from it have been unsuccessful. The Russians take only a few prisoners along this flank, but Timoshenko is dismayed by the variety of units, especially armoured units, this handful of men represent (this is because Kleist is concentrating troops in this area in preparation for his counter-offensive). Timoshenko loses confidence and has his Political Officer Nikita Khrushchev ring up the Stavka and ask for permission to halt while he secures his left flank; Stavka refuses.

It has been a week since Churchill sent his ultimatum to General

Auchinleck, and he has not yet received a reply. He sends a terse follow-up: "It is necessary for me to have some account of your general intentions in light of our recent telegrams." Again there is no immediate reply.

18: The Red Army is in a major retreat at Kerch, after large numbers surrender.

In the salient north of Kharkov, the Soviet offensive has bogged down. In the southern salient, Kleist has launched his counter-offensive. It is immediately successful and by the end of the first day the leading elements have reached the confluence of the Oksol and Donetz rivers, greatly narrowing the base of the salient. In the process the Germans traverse and disrupt so many lines of communication that Kharitonov's 9th Army begins to lose cohesion as a fighting force, and becomes useless as a screen to protect Gorodnyanski's 6th Army which, because of its northward progress, is badly disposed to repel the German attacks coming from the south.

The Assam Rifles give General Stilwell's party a formal salute in honor of their arrival at Ukhrul, but can offer no motorized transport; the nearest road passable by trucks is still a day's march away, and there are no Jeeps yet in this part of India.

19: At Kharkov, Kleist's counter-offensive continues to prosper; and now Paulus launches a second counter-attack from the north, designed to link up with Kleist's and encircle as many Soviet troops as possible. The Stavka, gradually becoming aware of the extent of the danger, orders Gorodnyanski's 6th Army to halt their advance. But by now Timoshenko is planning to extricate what forces he can before the two German spearheads link up.

General Stilwell and his party at last reach the truck roadhead at Litan; by this time the monsoon rains have started.

General Auchinleck at last replies to Churchill's somewhat urgent telegram of the 10th, saying he will have an attack ready by the sailing of the Harpoon/Vigorous convoys for Malta.

20: The Japanese conquest of Burma is complete; it is called a “military catastrophe”. Coincidentally, on this same day General Stilwell arrives in Imphal and dismisses his evacuation party. All 114 have arrived, although some have to be hospitalized due to exhaustion; one of whom, Major Frank Merrill, later commander of Merrill's Marauders, is diagnosed to have had a mild heart attack en route.

At Kharkov, as Kleist's and Paulus' forward elements draw ever closer together, Timoshenko sends his subordinate General Kostenko into the salient to organize a fighting retreat, or, failing that, maximize what can be saved.

Molotov arrives in London, and high-level discussions begin the next day.

21: Invasion of Malta postponed indefinitely.

In discussions with Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden, Molotov continues to press Soviet demands for territorial acquisitions made during the run-up to war, including the Baltic states, Eastern Poland, and Bessarabia. Churchill cannot or will not agree to these demands, and the talks become deadlocked.

22: Mexico declares war on the Axis.

23: Kleist's and Paulus' tanks meet up at Balakleya, southeast of Kharkov, encircling most of the Soviets' 6th and 9th Armies.

At the high-level Soviet/United Kingdom talks in London, Anthony Eden suggests abandoning attempts to reach territorial understandings, and instead conclude a twenty-years' alliance. Molotov, whose diplomatic position is weakening rapidly as the Soviet military situation deteriorates at Kerch and Kharkov, expresses interest.

25: In preparation for the next battle, the Japanese naval strategists send diversionary forces to the Aleutians.

26: The Anglo-Soviet Treaty: their foreign secretaries agree that no peace will be signed by one without the approval of the other. (An important treaty since Himmler and others will attempt to separate the two nations at the end of the war.)

Rommel begins a Spring offensive at the Gazala line (west of Tobruk). It opens with “Rommel's Moonlight Ride,” a dramatic mechanized dash around 1st Free French Brigade Group positions at Bir Hakeim on the British left (desertward) flank, conducted by moonlight during the night of 26/27 May. In the process Rommel disperses 3rd Indian Motorized Brigade, some six hundred of whom are taken prisoner and then released in the desert, and who will make their way to Bir Hakeim. The offensive lasts well into June and ends with a total victory for Rommel.

27: Reinhard Heydrich, head of Reich Security, is fatally hurt in Prague during Operation Anthropoid by Czechoslovak soldiers; he will die on June 4 from his wounds.

British use American Sherman tanks in attempts to stop Rommel's attacks on the Gazala line.

The USS *Yorktown*, damaged at the Coral Sea, limps into Pearl Harbor; it is ordered to get repaired and ready as fast as possible for the impending battle.

In Occupied Belgium, wearing of the “Yellow badge” becomes compulsory for Jews.

29: The Jews in France are ordered to wear the yellow Star of David.

Japanese forces have large successes south of Shanghai.

Rommel turns his troops to Bir Hachim on the south edge of the Gazala line; once it is taken, he can move north and destroy the Allied emplacements in the line.

30: “The Thousand Bomber Raid” on Cologne, revealing new area bombing techniques.

The USS *Yorktown* leaves Pearl after hasty repairs and moves to join the USS *Enterprise* for the next expected battle.

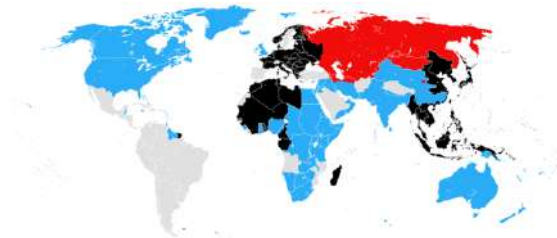
31: Huge German successes around Kharkov, with envelopment of several Red Army armies.

Japanese midget subs enter Sydney harbour and sink one support ship; fears of invasion grow.

So effective has been the use of the Spitfires delivered to Malta in Operation Bowery earlier in the month, that Kesselring has only eighty-three serviceable aircraft left, as opposed to more than four hundred at the peak of Axis air strength earlier in the spring.

Rommel's offensive has stalled out well short of Tobruk, due to resistance by British 1st Armoured Division and 7th Armoured Division, partially equipped with the new American Sherman tanks. He is also confronted by a long supply line, which must reach around and is under constant threat from the 1st Free French Brigade Group position at Bir Hakeim. He orders two lanes cut through the British minefields which run from Gazala to Bir Hakeim, on either side of fortified positions held by the 150th Brigade of British 50th Infantry Division. He then gathers the bulk of his forces near the outlets of these two lanes, completing the process on the 31st. These tactics serve the triple purpose of shortening his supply line, encircling 150th Brigade, and allowing him to use the British minefields as part of his defences. The area of concentration, promptly nicknamed "the Cauldron" by British Command, will be the focus of the battle for the next few days.

3.5.6 June 1942



The state of the allies and axis powers in June 1942.

1: First reports in the West that gas is being used to kill the Jews sent to "the East" .

To further secure his supply lines, Rommel launches an attack on 150th Brigade of British 50th Infantry Division, whose position he has surrounded. Since he is attacking from the east against a position designed to defend against attacks from the west, and since there is scant hope of relief, there is little 150th Brigade can do and they are soon overwhelmed.

- 2: Further heavy bombing of industrial sites in Germany, centred mainly on Essen.
- 3: The British coal industry is nationalised.

Japan launches air raids against Alaska in the Battle of Dutch Harbor, beginning the Aleutian Islands Campaign

The Battle of Midway opens with ineffective attacks by land-based American B-17s on the approaching Japanese fleet. Admiral Nagumo, in charge of the Japanese carrier force (*Hiryu*, *Soryu*, *Akagi*, and *Kaga*) is unable to locate any American aircraft carriers and decides to attack Midway's land-based air defences the first thing the next morning, which in any event is one of his planned tasks.

- 4: In the Battle of Midway, the day opens with Admiral Nagumo's attack on the air defences of the island.

A good deal of damage is done and many aircraft destroyed on both sides, but in the end the island's airbase is still functional. Nagumo plans a second attack on the island, and begins refueling and rearming his planes. Meanwhile, attacks are launched from all three American aircraft carriers in the area. Planes from *Hornet*, *Yorktown*, and *Enterprise* all find the targets, although most of the planes from *Hornet* follow an incorrect heading and miss this attack. Torpedo Squadron 8 from *Hornet* breaks and follows the correct heading. The Devastators of "Torp 8" are all shot down without doing any damage; there is only one survivor, George H. Gay, Jr. of Waco, Texas, who watches the battle unfold from the water. The torpedo

attack fails, but draws the Japanese Combat Air Patrol down to low altitude, and they are unable to effectively repel the dive bombers from *Yorktown* and *Enterprise* when they arrive. The bombs find the Japanese flight decks crowded with fueling lines and explosive ordnance, and *Akagi*, *Kaga*, and *Soryu* are all soon reduced to blazing hulks, *Akagi* by only one bomb dropped by Lt. Commander **Richard Halsey Best**; only *Hiryu* escapes with no hits. Admiral Nagumo shifts his flag from *Akagi* to another ship, cruiser *Nagara*, and orders attacks on the American carriers, one by group of **Aichi D3A** dive bombers and a second by **Nakajima B5N** torpedo bombers. The Japanese planes find *Yorktown* (thinking *Yorktown* already sunk, the second attack group assume it must be *Enterprise*) and damage it so badly that *Yorktown* must be abandoned. Admiral **Fetcher** shifts his flag to cruiser *Astoria* and cedes operational command to Admiral **Spruance**. The attacks on *Yorktown* give away *Hiryu's* continued operations, though, and it is promptly attacked and will sink the next day, Admiral **Yamaguchi** choosing to go down with it. Ironically, *Hiryu* and the other three destroyed Japanese carriers had participated in the attack on **Pearl Harbor**.

Reinhard Heydrich dies in Prague from medical complications that had arisen from injuries suffered from an attempted assassination by Czechoslovak patriots one week earlier (**Operation Anthropoid**)

5: At **Gazala**, British forces of the **Eighth Army** commanded by General **Ritchie** launch a major counter-attack against **Rommel's** forces in the **Cauldron**. The attack fails, partly because **Rommel** has already recovered his critical logistics situation and has established an excellent defensive position, but also in large part due to German anti-tank tactics; **32nd Army Tank Brigade**, for example, loses 50 of 70 tanks. By early afternoon **Rommel** is clearly in control of the situation and attacks the British position known as “**Knightsbridge**” with the **Ariete** and **21st Panzer** divisions. Several British tactical headquarters positions are over-

run and command and control of the British forces becomes problematic; as a result, several brigades are stranded in the **Cauldron** when the British retirement begins. In addition, the British suffer further heavy tank losses.

United States declares war on **Bulgaria**, **Hungary**, and **Romania**.

7: **Japanese forces invade Attu and Kiska**. This is the first invasion of American soil in 128 years. **Japanese occupation of Attu and Kiska** begins.

The **Battle of Midway** comes to a close; the **USS Yorktown** sinks; four Japanese carriers and one cruiser are sunk. The battle is viewed as a turning point in the Pacific war.

The **Greek People's Liberation Army** makes its first appearance at **Domnista**, where **Aris Velouchiotis** proclaims the start of armed resistance against the Axis.

8: **Malta** receives a squadron of **Spitfires**.

A Japanese submarine fires several shells into a residential area in **Sydney** but with little effect.

9: **Nazis** burn the **Czech** village of **Lidice** as reprisal for the killing of **Reinhard Heydrich**. All male adults and children are killed, and all females are taken off to concentration camps.

At **Bir Hakeim**, **Rommel** renews his attacks on the **1st Free French Brigade's** “**box**.” Although the **Free French** continue to hold out, their perimeter, never the largest, is dangerously reduced in size, and their position becomes untenable. General **Ritchie** orders **1st Free French Brigade** to withdraw the following day.

10: **Rommel** pushes the **Free French** forces out of **Bir Hakeim**, a fortress south-west of **Tobruk**. Although the **1st Free French** brigade is largely surrounded, their commander, General **Koenig**, is able to find and fight his way through gaps in **Rommel's** widely dispersed forces.

11: Two convoys set out for **Malta**, one from **Gibraltar** (code named '**Harpoon**') and the other from **Alexandria** (code named '**Vigorous**'), with desperately needed supplies of food, fuel, and ammunition. The hope is that the Axis will concentrate their attacks on

whichever convoy they find first, allowing the other one to get through.

12: Heavy fighting in Sevastopol with serious losses of life on both sides.

At *Gazala*, the British are forced out of the defensive position known as 'Knightsbridge;' it is only approximately fifteen miles from the Tobruk perimeter (some sources give a date of 13 June for this; the withdrawal may have been in operation on both calendar days).

13: The United States opens its *Office of War Information*, a centre for production of propaganda.

'Black Saturday' for the 8th Army at the *Battle of Gazala*; during the course of the day Rommel does great damage to the British armour. At the end of the day not only have unsustainably large amounts of British armour been destroyed, but both *50th Division* and *1st South African Division*, who have largely retained their forward positions along the *Gazala Line*, are threatened with envelopment. The position of *50th Division* is especially grave since Rommel's armour now ranges freely between them and safety.

14: At the *Gazala Line*, the British position has become untenable, and General Auchinleck authorizes General Ritchie to make a concerted withdrawal from forward positions along the line.

1st South African Division is able to withdraw along the coastal road, but the road cannot accommodate all the troops at once, and this route is in any event is under threat of being cut by Rommel's forces; so troops including *50th Division* must first breakout to the southwest, through the area occupied by Italian X Corps, and then turn east to rejoin 8th Army. This somewhat daring operation is concluded successfully. The RAF forces available, although outnumbered, make a valiant effort to cover the retreat. Churchill sends Auchinleck a telegram beginning, "To what position does Ritchie want to withdraw the *Gazala* troops? Presume there is no

question in any case of giving up Tobruk.'

The convoy '*Vigorous*', en route to *Malta*, sights a large Italian naval squadron headed toward it. '*Harpoon*' comes under attack for the first time; '*Vigorous*' has been under air attack almost since leaving port.

15: General Auchinleck sends Churchill a reply to the latter's telegram of the 14th, saying in part, "...I have no intention whatever of giving up Tobruk."

16: Two convoys moving toward *Malta* suffer heavy losses; German air forces continue to bomb the island itself. *Operation Harpoon* arrives in *Malta*, but only two of the six supply ships survive; one of them has lost part of its cargo due to mine damage. The sinking of the tanker *Kentucky* means that there will be precious little aviation fuel added to the dwindling RAF stocks on *Malta*. Late in the day, *Operation Vigorous* is cancelled; the convoy diverts back to *Alexandria*.

Churchill, about to leave for America, takes the unusual step of sending a letter to HRM George VI, advising him to make Anthony Eden Prime Minister should Churchill not survive the journey.

17: Tobruk is now surrounded.

18: *Manhattan Project* is started, the beginning of a scientific approach to nuclear weapons.

Winston Churchill arrives in Washington for meetings with Roosevelt. The siege of Tobruk intensifies; some defending forces are pulled back to *Egypt*.

21: *Afrika Korps* recaptures Tobruk, with 35,000 men captured; the road to *Egypt* is now open as the British retreat deep into *Egypt*. Tobruk's loss is a grievous blow to British morale. German land forces have been assisted by Luftwaffe attacks.

25: General Dwight D. Eisenhower arrives in London ready to assume the post of Commander of American forces in Europe.

Another massive "Thousand Bomber" raid, this time on *Bremen*; the raiders suffer grievous losses.

26: The Germans drive toward *Rostov-on-Don*.

27: Convoy PQ17 sets sail from Iceland; only 11 of 37 ships will survive.

28: Case Blue, the German plan to capture Stalingrad and the Soviet Union oil fields in the Caucasus, begins. Generally, forces are shifted to the South.

Mersa Matruh, Egypt, about 140 miles from Alexandria, falls to Rommel.

30: United States deploys II Corps to the European Theater.

3.5.7 July 1942

1: First Battle of El Alamein begins as Rommel begins first assault on British defences.

Sevastopol falls to the Germans; the end of Red Army resistance in the Crimea.

2: Churchill survives a censure motion in the House of Commons.

3: Guadalcanal is now firmly in the hands of the Japanese.

4: First air missions by American Air Force in Europe.

11: Rommel's forces are now stalemated before El Alamein, largely because of a lack of ammunition.

12: It now becomes clear that Stalingrad is the largest challenge to the invaders.

A balloon from Operation Outward knocks out a power station near Leipzig.

15: The only action around El Alamein is light skirmishing.

16: Vel' d'Hiv Roundup: On order from the Vichy France government headed by Pierre Laval, French police officers mass arrest 13,152 Jews and hold them at the Winter Velodrome before deportation to Auschwitz.

18: The Germans test fly the Messerschmitt Me-262 V3 third prototype using only its jet engines for the first time.

19: Battle of the Atlantic: German Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz orders the last U-boats to withdraw from their United States Atlantic coast positions in response to an increasingly effective American convoy system.

20: After landing in the Buna-Gona area, the Japanese in New Guinea move across the Owen Stanley mountain range aiming at Port

Moresby in the south-eastern part of the island, close to Australia; a small Australian force begins rearguard action on the Kokoda Track.

22: The systematic deportation of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto begins.

: Treblinka II, "a model" extermination camp, is opened in Poland.

24: Germans take Rostov-on-the-Don; the Red Army is in a general retreat along the Don River.

26: A second attack by the British under Auchinleck fails against Rommel. First Battle of El Alamein may be said to be over.

27: Heavy RAF incendiary attack on Hamburg.

29: The Japanese take Kokoda, halfway along the Owen Stanley pass to Port Moresby.

30: Continuing stalemate at El Alamein between Rommel and Auchinleck.

3.5.8 August 1942

1: The Germans continue their successful advance toward Stalingrad.

3: A convoy to Malta is decimated by the Luftwaffe and U-boats.

5: The U.S. planning team for Operation Torch, which includes George S. Patton; Jimmy Doolittle; Kent Lambert; and Hoyt S. Vandenberg, meets in Washington, D.C. to join the combined planning team from London, England.

: Henrik Hersch Goldschmidt aka Janusz Korczak and almost 200 children of his orphanage, along with his staff, are led to the Treblinka II death camp, and killed there that day, probably with gas.*[2]

7: Operation Watchtower begins the Guadalcanal Campaign as American forces invade Gavutu, Guadalcanal, Tulagi and Tanambogo in the Solomon Islands.

8: Six of the eight German would-be saboteurs involved in Operation Pastorius are executed in Washington, D.C.

The naval Battle of Savo Island, near Guadalcanal; the Americans lose three cruisers, the Australians one.

9: Numerous riots in favour of independence in India; Mahatma Gandhi is arrested.

10: Rommel begins an attack around El Alamein, but by September he is back to his original lines.

11: The *HMS Eagle*, a carrier on convoy duty to Malta, is torpedoed and sinks with heavy loss of life.

12: At a conference in Moscow, Churchill informs Stalin that there will not be a “second front” in 1942.

American forces establish bases in the *New Hebrides* islands.

Fighting increases as the Germans approach Stalingrad.

13: General *Bernard Montgomery* appointed commander of British Eighth Army in North Africa; Churchill is anxious to see more offensive action on the part of the British.

Disastrous end to the Malta convoy, but one tanker and four merchant ships get through.

15: Malta is supplied via *Operation Pedestal*.

17: First *US Army Air Forces* B-17 heavy bomber raid in Europe, targeting the Sotteville railroad yards at Rouen, France.

18: Japanese reinforce New Guinea; Australians land troops at Port Moresby. Meanwhile, American planes have destroyed Japanese air power at Wewak, New Guinea.

19: *Operation Jubilee*, a raid by British and Canadian forces on Dieppe, France, ends in disaster; they come under heavy gunfire and eventually most are killed or captured by the German defenders.

20: *Henderson Field* on Guadalcanal receives its first American fighter planes.

21: Japanese counter-attack at *Henderson Field*; in another foray at the *Tenaru* (or *Ilu*) River, many Japanese are killed in a *banzai* charge.

22: *Brazil* declares war on the Axis countries, partly in response to numerous riots by a populace angry at the sinking of Brazilian ships.

: *Stanislau “reprisal” aktion*. - After many repeated organized killings, the current head of the *Judenrat*, *Goldstein* is publicly hanged along with 20 of the Jewish police. Jewish girls are raped before being shot at the Gestapo headquarters, and 1,000 Jews are shot and killed.*[3]

23: Massive German air raid on Stalingrad.

24: The naval battle of the Eastern Solomons; the *USS Enterprise* is badly damaged and the Japanese lose one light carrier, the *Ryujō*.

26: *Battle of Milne Bay* begins: Japanese forces land and launch a full-scale assault on

Australian base near the eastern tip of *New Guinea*.

27: Marshal *Georgii Zhukov* is appointed to the command of the Stalingrad defence; the *Luftwaffe* is now delivering heavy strikes on the city.

28: Incendiary bombs dropped by a Japanese seaplane cause a forest fire in *Oregon*.

30: The *Battle of Alam Halfa*, Egypt, a few miles south of *El Alamein* begins. This will be *Rommel's* last attempt to break through the British lines; *RAF* air superiority plays a large role.

Luxembourg is formally annexed to the German Reich.

31: Start of the 1942 *Luxembourgish* general strike against conscription

3.5.9 September 1942

1: *US Navy Construction Battalion* personnel, *Seabees*, began to arrive at Guadalcanal.* [1]

3: The *Battle of Stalingrad* proper may be said to have begun on this date, with German troops in the suburbs; even civilian men and boys are conscripted by the Red Army to assist in the defence.

4: *Irish Republican Army* riots occur in Belfast during the night.

Manhattan Engineering District is formally created, full-effort production of the atomic bomb is begun.

Chief of State of Vichy France *Philippe Pétain* and Prime Minister *Pierre Laval* create what will become the *Service du travail obligatoire* (STO)

5: Australian and U.S. forces defeat Japanese forces at *Milne Bay*, Papua, the first outright defeat for Japanese land forces in the *Pacific War*. Their evacuation and the failure to establish an airbase eases the threat to Australia.

6: The Black Sea port of *Novorossiysk* is taken by the Germans.

9: A Japanese plane drops more incendiaries on *Oregon*, but with little effect.

10: *RAF* blasts *Düsseldorf* with large incendiary bombing.

12: *RMS Laconia*, carrying civilians, Allied soldiers and Italian POWs, is torpedoed off the coast of West Africa and sinks.

: *SS* commander *Brandt* orders 3,000-4,000

Stanislaw Jews deported to the Belzec death camp on Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year holiday, and they were killed there that day.* [3]

12-14: American troops push back the Japanese in the Battle of Edson's Ridge

13: The Battle for Stalingrad continues; it is now totally surrounded by the Germans. On the Soviet Union side General Vasily Chuikov is put in charge of the defence.

14: The Japanese retreat again from Henderson Field, Guadalcanal.

The Japanese are now within 30 miles of Port Moresby, New Guinea, on the Kokoda trail.

Continued convoy losses in the Atlantic.

15: Americans send troops to Port Moresby as reinforcements for the Australian defenders.

Light carrier USS *Wasp* is sunk by a Japanese submarine off Guadalcanal.

18: Battle of the "grain silo" in Stalingrad; the Germans are beaten back. The Red Army begins ferrying troops across the Volga at night.

19: Allied attack on Jalo, Libya is repulsed by Germans.* [1]

20: RAF bombs Munich and Saarbrücken.

The Greek Panhellenic Union of Fighting Youths blows up the offices of the pro-Nazi National-Socialist Patriotic Organisation in central Athens, thwarting attempts to raise a Greek volunteer legion for the Eastern Front.

23: General Rommel leaves North Africa for medical treatment in Germany.

23-27: In the Third Battle of Matanikau River, Guadalcanal, Japanese naval bombardment and landing forces nearly destroy Henderson field in an attempt to take it, but the land forces are soon driven back.

24: United States of America deploys the I Corps to the Pacific Theater.

28: The Japanese continue their retreat back down the Kokoda Track in New Guinea.

30: The Eagle Squadron (American volunteers in the RAF) are officially transferred to the US Army Air Force.

Hitler speaks to the nation and boasts that Stalingrad will be taken.

3.5.10 October 1942



Dead Japanese soldiers at the Matanikau River, Guadalcanal

3: First successful launch of A4-rocket at Peenemünde, Germany. The rocket flies 147 kilometres wide and reaches a height of 84.5 kilometres and is therefore the first man-made object reaching space.

4: British Commandos raid Sark, a Channel Island, capturing one German soldier.

6: By mutual arrangement, the Allies agree on a strategy whereby Americans will bomb in the daytime and the RAF at night.

7: Third Battle of the Matanikau

11: Battle of Cape Esperance.

On the Northwest coast of Guadalcanal, United States Navy ships intercept and defeat a Japanese fleet on their way to reinforce troops on the island. With the help of radar they sink one cruiser and several Japanese destroyers.

12: The Red Army methods of ferrying troops across the Volga and into Stalingrad directly seems to be a success, as the German advance comes to a halt.

The US 100th Infantry Battalion, a force of over 1,400 predominantly Nisei became active.

13: Heavy bombardment of Henderson Field, Guadalcanal by the Japanese navy.

14: A German U-boat sinks the ferry SS *Caribou*, killing 137.

18: Hitler issues Commando Order, ordering all captured commandos to be executed immediately.

Admiral William “Bull” Halsey is given command of the South Pacific naval forces.

21: Heavy RAF activity over El Alamein.

22: Conscription age in Britain reduced to 18.

American General Mark Clark secretly lands in Algeria to confer with Vichy officials and Resistance groups in preparation for impending Allied invasion.

23: **Second Battle of El Alamein** begins with massive Allied bombardment of German positions. Then Australian forces, mainly, begin advance while offshore British naval forces support the right flank (n.b. the ongoing concurrent victories being prepared at Guadalcanal and Stalingrad).

23: **Battle for Henderson Field**

24: US Navy Task Force 34, consisting of aircraft carriers, a variety of support ships, including Troop Ships and other vessels, set sail from Hampton Roads, Virginia with Patton's forces for Operation Torch, the landing in North Africa. The other two task forces of Operation Torch, the first American-led force to fight in the European and African theatres of war, depart Britain for Morocco.

Crisis at El Alamein: British tanks survive German 88mm fire; Montgomery orders the advance to continue despite losses.

25: Rommel hurriedly returns from his sickbed in Germany to take charge of the African battle. (His replacement, General Stumme, had died of a heart attack).

The Japanese continue their attacks on the Marines west of Henderson field.

26: The naval **Battle of Santa Cruz**. The Japanese lose many aircraft and have two aircraft carriers severely damaged. The USS *Hornet* is sunk and the USS *Enterprise* is damaged.

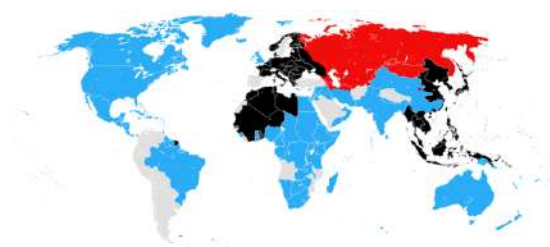
29: The Japanese continue to send troops as reinforcements into Guadalcanal.

In the United Kingdom, leading clergymen and political figures hold a public meeting to register outrage over Nazi Germany's persecution of Jews.

United States 1st Armored Division moves from Northern Ireland to England.

31: The British make a critical breakthrough with tanks west of El Alamein; Rommel's mine fields fail to stop the Allied armour.

3.5.11 November 1942



The state of the allies and axis powers in November 1942.

1: **Operation Supercharge**, the Allied breakout at El Alamein, begins.

The Americans begin the **Matanikau Offensive** against the Japanese

3: **Second Battle of El Alamein** ends - German forces under Erwin Rommel are forced to retreat during the night.

American victory over the Japanese in the **Koli Point** action

6: **Carlson's Patrol** begins

8: **Operation Torch**, the Allied invasion of Vichy-controlled Morocco and Algeria, begins;

French resistance coup in Algiers, consisting of about 400 fighters neutralise the Vichyist XIXth Army Corps and the Vichyist generals (Juin, Darlan, etc.), contributing significantly to the immediate success of the operation.

The United States Combat Command “B” of the 1st Armored Division lands east and west of Oran as part of Operation Torch.

10: In violation of a 1940 armistice, Germany invades **Vichy France**; they are responding to the fact that French Admiral François Darlan has signed an armistice with the Allies in North Africa.

Oran, Algeria falls to US troops; 17 French ships are sunk at Oran, causing a rift between the French

and the Allies. There are more Allied landings near the Tunisian border.

Montgomery begins a major British offensive beginning at Sollum on the Libya/Egypt border. The British reach Bardia on the 11th, Tobruk on the 12th, and Benghazi on the 18th.

Lieutenant General Montgomery is knighted and made a full General.

Churchill speaks: "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

11: Convoys reach Malta from Alexandria; an official announcement proclaims that the island is "relieved of its siege".

12: **Battle of Guadalcanal** - A climactic naval battle near Guadalcanal starts between Japanese and American naval forces. Notably, the USS *Juneau* is sunk with much of its crew, including the five Sullivan brothers.

The Red Army makes an attempt to relieve Stalingrad at Kotelnikov.

13: British Eighth Army recaptures Tobruk.

Battle of Guadalcanal: aviators from the USS *Enterprise* sink the Japanese battleship *Hiei*.

14: The USS *Washington* sinks the Japanese battleship *Kirishima*.

15: The naval battle of Guadalcanal ends. Although the United States Navy suffers heavy losses, it still retains control of the sea around Guadalcanal.

The British move westward in Tunisia.

British Eighth Army recaptures Derna.

17: Japanese send reinforcements into New Guinea; Americans are stymied at Buna.

18: Heavy British RAF raid on Berlin with few losses.

19: At Stalingrad the Soviet Union forces under General Georgy Zhukov launch **Operation Uranus** aimed at encircling the Germans in the city and thus turning the tide of battle in the USSR's favor.

20: The Allies take **Benghazi**, Libya; the Afrika Corps continues the retreat westward.

21: The Red Army attempt at encirclement of Stalingrad continues with obvious success.

American army moves to shove Japanese off the extreme western end of Guadalcanal.

22: **Battle of Stalingrad:** The situation for the German attackers of Stalingrad seems desperate during the Soviet counter-attack; General **Friedrich Paulus** sends **Adolf Hitler** a telegram saying that the German 6th Army is surrounded.

Red Army troops complete the encirclement of the Germans at Kalach, west of Stalingrad.

23: "Der Kessel"-- the Cauldron, a description of the heavy fighting at Stalingrad; Hitler orders General Paulus not to retreat, at any cost.

25: The encirclement of Stalingrad continues to stabilise. Hitler reiterates his demand of Paulus not to surrender.

Operation Harling: a team of British SOE agents, together with over 200 Greek guerrillas from both **ELAS** and **EDES** groups, blow up the Gorgopotamos railway bridge, in one of the war's biggest sabotage acts.

26: Hostilities erupt between the American and Australian soldiers in Brisbane. Fighting breaks out which results in multiple fatalities, it is dubbed the **Battle of Brisbane**

27: At Toulon, the French navy scuttles its ships (most notably the Dunkerque and Strasbourg) and submarines to keep them out of German hands; the French have declined another option – to join the Allied fleets in North African waters.

29: The Allied offensive in Tunisia meets with only minimum success.

30: The naval **Battle of Tassafaronga** (off Guadalcanal); this is a night action in which Japanese naval forces sink one American cruiser and damage three others.

3.5.12 December 1942

1: Gasoline rationing begins in the United States.

The US cruiser *Northampton* is sunk as Japanese destroyers attempt to come down "the Slot" to Guadalcanal.

2: Heavy fighting in Tunisia, as German forces are pushed into the final North African corner.



The state of the allies and axis powers in December 1942, showing allied progress in Northern Africa.

Below the bleachers of Stagg Field at the University of Chicago, a team led by Enrico Fermi initiate the first nuclear chain reaction. A coded message, “The Italian navigator has landed in the new world” is sent to President Roosevelt.

4: The first US bombing of mainland Italy -- Naples.

Carlson's patrol ends.

6: RAF bombs Eindhoven, the Netherlands.

7: On the anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, the USS *New Jersey*, America's largest battleship is launched (commissioned five months later).

British commandos conduct Operation Frankton a raid on shipping in Bordeaux harbour.

9: The Marines turn over Guadalcanal to the American army.

12: Rommel abandons El Agheila and retreats to Tripoli; the final stand will be at the Mareth line in southern Tunisia.

In a large operation named "Operation Winter Storm", the Germans attempt to break through to forces trapped in Stalingrad.

13: The Luftwaffe flies in meagre supplies to the beleaguered Stalingrad troops.

15: American and Australian troops finally push Japanese out of Buna, New Guinea.

Allies clash with Japanese troops in the Battle of the Gifu

22: The Germans begin a retreat from the Caucasus.

The battle for “Longstop Hill” begins; a key position outside Tunis, the Germans eventually take it and hold it until April.

The remainder of the United States 1st Armored Division arrived at North Africa for Operation Husky.

24: French Admiral Darlan, the former Vichy leader who had switched over to the Allies following the Torch landings, is assassinated in Algiers.

The United States reorganizes its Combat Arms Regiments with their Organic Battalions into Separate Groups and Battalions

25: American bombers hit Rabaul.

26: Heavy fighting continues on Guadalcanal, now focused on Mount Austen in the west.

28: The governor of pro-Vichy French Somaliland surrenders invading British and Free French forces.

31: In the Battle of the Barents Sea, the British win a strategic victory, leading Hitler to largely abandon the use of surface raiders in favor of U boats.

As the year draws to a close, things look much brighter for the Allies than they did a few months ago: Rommel is trapped in Tunisia, the Germans are encircled at Stalingrad, and the Japanese appear ready to abandon Guadalcanal.

3.5.13 See also

- Strategic operations of the Red Army in World War II

3.5.14 Notes and references

- [1] “1942 Timeline” . WW2DB. Retrieved 2011-02-09.
- [2] Epilogue Korczak communication website
- [3] Stanislawow (Washington Holocaust Memorial Museum website)

3.5.15 External links

- Timeline of WWII
- Documents of World War II
- World War II Timeline

3.6 1943 timeline

This is a **timeline of events that occurred during World War II in 1943.**

3.6.1 January 1943

- 1: German 1st Panzer Division withdraws from the Terek River area in southern Russia to prevent encirclement. * [1]
- 2: Americans and Australians recapture Buna, New Guinea. * [1]
- 7: Japanese land more troops at Lae, New Guinea.
- 9: United States Western Task Force redesignated I Armored Corps.
- 10: Soviet troops launch an all-out offensive attack on Stalingrad; they also renew attacks in the north (Leningrad) and in the Caucasus.
- 14: The Casablanca Conference of Allied leaders begins. Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt discuss the eventual invasion of mainland Europe, the impending invasion of Sicily and Italy, and the wisdom of the principle of “unconditional surrender” .
- 15: The British start an offensive aimed at taking far-off Tripoli, Libya.
- 16: Iraq declares war on the Axis powers. * [1]
: The Royal Air Force begins a two-night bombing of Berlin.
- 18: The Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto rise up for the first time, starting the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.
: Besieged defenders of Leningrad link up with relieving forces.
- 19: General Georgy Zhukov is promoted to Marshal as the Stalingrad struggle grinds to a close.
- 20: USS *Silversides* attacks a Japanese convoy 286 miles from Truk, Caroline Islands en route to the Solomon Islands, sinking transport Meiu Maru and damaging Surabaya Maru. * [1]
- 21: Last airfield at Stalingrad is taken by Red forces, ensuring that the Luftwaffe will be unable to supply German troops any further; Hitler still demands that Friedrich Paulus continue the fight.
: Red Army armies have more victories in the Caucasus.
- 22: Allies liberate Sanananda, New Guinea. * [1]

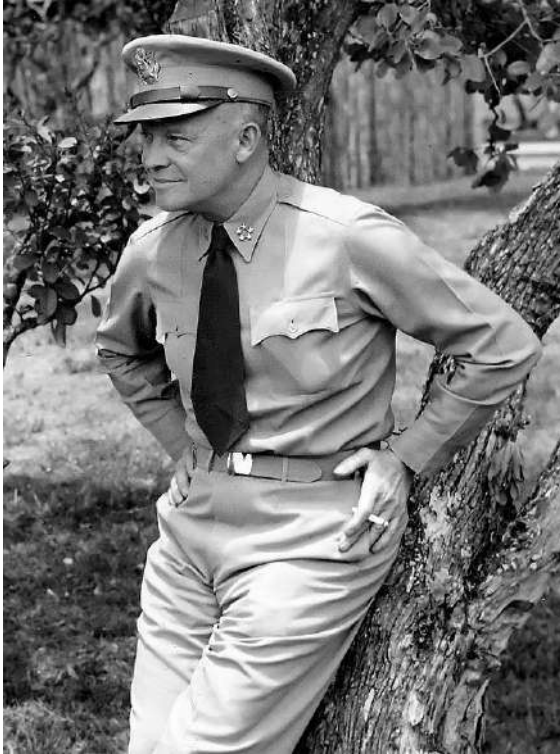


Field Marshal Paulus and his staff surrender in Stalingrad

- 23: British capture Tripoli, Libya. * [1]
: Japanese continue their fight in western Guadalcanal; they now seem to have given up completely on the New Guinea campaign.
- 24: The Casablanca Conference ends; Allies insist on unconditional surrender from Germany. * [1]
: German forces in Stalingrad are in the last phases of collapse.
- 25: United States XIV Corps arrives in Pacific Theater.
- 26: Soviet troops retake Voronezh. * [1]
- 27: 50 bombers mount the first all American air raid against Germany. Wilhelmshaven, the large naval base, is the primary target.
- 28: A new conscription law in Germany: men between 16 and 65 and women between 17 and 50 are open to mobilization. * [1]
: George Zhukov awarded the first Order of Su-
vovov 1st Class.
- 29: The naval battle of Rennell Island, near Guadalcanal, begins. The Japanese beat the Americans and the USS *Chicago* is lost.
: Another two-day bombing of Berlin by the RAF.
- 30: The last Japanese have cleared out of Guadalcanal by a brilliant evacuation plan undetected by the Americans.
- 31: Friedrich Paulus (*Generalfeldmarschall* in command of the German 6th Army) and his staff surrender to Soviet troops in Stalingrad. * [2] * [3]

3.6.2 February 1943

- 2: In the Soviet Union, the Battle of Stalingrad comes to an end with the official surrender of the German 6th Army. The German public is informed of this disaster, marking the first time



General Dwight D. Eisenhower

the Nazi government has acknowledged a failure in the war effort.

: Rommel retreats farther into Tunisia, establishing his troops at the Mareth Line. Within two days, Allied troops move into Tunisia for the first time.

5: The Allies now have all of Libya under control.

: Essen is bombed, marking the beginning of a four-month attack on the Ruhr industrial area.

7: In the United States, it is announced that shoe rationing will go into effect in two days.

8: The Chindits (a “long range penetration group”) under British General Orde Wingate begin an incursion into Burma.

: Nuremberg is heavily bombed.

: United States' VI Corps arrives in North Africa.

9: Guadalcanal is finally secured; it is the first major achievement of the American offensive in the Pacific war.

: Munich and Vienna are heavily bombed, along with Berlin.

11: U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower is selected to command the Allied armies in Europe.

13: Rommel launches a counter-attack against the Americans in western Tunisia; he takes Sidi Bouzid and Gafsa. The Battle of the Kasserine

Pass begins: inexperienced American troops are soon forced to retreat.

14: Rostov-on-Don is liberated by the Red Army;

16: Soviet Union reconquers Kharkov, but is later driven out in the Third Battle of Kharkov.

: Prime Minister of Vichy France Pierre Laval and Minister of Justice Joseph Barthélemy formally create the Service du travail obligatoire (STO)

18: In a speech at the Berlin Sportpalast German propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels declares a "Total War" against the Allies; the Nazis arrest the members of the White Rose movement, an anti-Nazi youth group.

: Chindits under Wingate cut the railway line between Mandalay and Myitkyina.

21: Americans take the Russell Islands, part of the Solomons chain.

22: Hans and Sophie Scholl of the White Rose movement are executed.

25: Japanese POWs refuse to work at Featherston prisoner of war camp, this escalates into a deadly clash between the inmates and the guards

26: Rommel retreats northward from the Mareth Line in Tunisia.

28: Operation Gunnerside: six Norwegians led by Joachim Rønneberg successfully attack the heavy water plant Vemork.

3.6.3 March 1943



Battle of Bismarck Sea

1: Battle of the Bismarck Sea. U.S. and Australian naval forces, over the course of three days, sink eight Japanese troop transports near New Guinea.

: **Heinz Guderian** becomes the Inspector-General of the Armoured Troops for the German Army.

2: Wingate's Chindits continue their localised strikes in Burma.

5: German advances around Kharkov threaten earlier Red Army gains.

: Continued RAF bombing of the Ruhr valley, particularly Essen.

6: **Battle of Medenine**, Tunisia. It is Rommel's last battle in Africa as he is forced to retreat.

8: Continuing German counter-attacks around Kharkov.

9: Members of the **Calcutta Light Horse** carry out a covert attack against a German merchantship, which had been transmitting Allied positions to U-boats from the **Mormugao Harbour** in Portugal's neutral territory of **Goa**.

10: The **USAAF 14th Air Force** is formed in China, under **General Claire Lee Chennault**, former head of the "**Flying Tigers**."

: The US House of Representatives votes to extend the **Lend-Lease** plan.

11: The Germans enter Kharkov and the fierce struggle with the Red Army continues.



Greek People's Liberation Army or ELAS

12 Greece **Karditsa** it's the first city in Europe to be liberated from **Nazi** occupation, the campaign fought by the **Greek People's Liberation Army ELAS**.

13: German forces liquidate the Jewish ghetto in **Kraków**.

14: Germans recapture Kharkov.

16: The first reports of the **Katyn** massacre in Poland seep to the West; reports say that more than 22,000 prisoners of war were killed by the **NKVD**, who eventually blame the massacre on

the Germans.

: Stalin for the ninth time demands a "Second Front," accusing his allies of treachery.

17: Devastating convoy losses in the Atlantic due to increased U-boat activity; the middle of the Atlantic is apparently not sufficiently covered by planes or ships.

18: **General George S. Patton** leads his tanks of **II Corps** into **Gafsa**, Tunisia.

20: **Montgomery's** forces begin a breakthrough in Tunisia, striking at the **Mareth** line.

23: American tanks defeat the Germans at **El Guettar**, Tunisia.

24-25: **Seventy-six** Allied **PoWs** escape from **Stalag Luft III** in **Sagan**. This becomes known as the "**Great Escape**". **Seventy-three** were later recaptured; of these 50 were executed, 23 were sent back to prison camps and three escaped to freedom.

26: The British break through the **Mareth** line in southern Tunisia, threatening the whole German army. The Germans move north.

: **Battle of the Komandorski Islands**. In the **Aleutian Islands** **United States Navy** forces intercept Japanese attempting to reinforce a garrison at **Kiska**. Poor leadership on both sides leads to a stalemate of sorts, and the Japanese withdraw without achieving their goal.

3.6.4 April 1943

1: Allies continue to squeeze the Germans into the corner of Tunisia.

3: Racial tensions between American marines and **New Zealand** troops of **Māori** origin result in the **Battle of Manners Street**, a small-scale riot in which no lives were lost

4: The only large-scale escape of Allied prisoners-of-war from the Japanese in the Pacific takes place when ten American **POWs** and two **Filipino** convicts break out of the **Davao Penal Colony** on the island of **Mindanao** in the southern Philippines. The escaped **POWs** were the first to break the news of the infamous **Bataan Death March** and other atrocities committed by the Japanese to the world.*[4]

7: **Hitler** and **Mussolini** come together at **Salzburg**, mostly for the purpose of propping up **Mussolini's** fading morale.*[1]*[3]*[5]

: Allied forces—the Americans from the West, the British from the East—link up near **Gafsa** in Tunisia.

: **Bolivia** declares war on Germany, Japan, and Italy.*[1]

10: The British 8th Army enters Sfax, Tunisia. * [1] * [3]

13: Radio Berlin announces the discovery by Wehrmacht of mass graves of Poles purportedly killed by Soviets in the Katyn massacre.

15: Finland officially rejects Soviet terms for peace. * [3]

: Heavy RAF raid on Stuttgart.

18: Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, chief architect of Japanese naval strategy, is killed when his plane is shot down by American P38's over Bougainville. He was on an inspection tour. * [1]

: The “Palm Sunday massacre” : large numbers of German troop-transport aircraft are shot down before reaching Tunisia, where they were to pick up the isolated German troops.

19-30: The Bermuda Conference takes place in Hamilton, Bermuda. U.K. and U.S. leaders discuss the plight of the European Jews. * [1]

19: The Warsaw Ghetto uprising: On the Eve of Passover, Jews resist German attempts to deport the Jewish community. * [1] * [3]

19: In occupied Belgium, partisans attack the a railway convoy transporting Belgian Jews to Auschwitz. It is the largest attack on a Holocaust train of the war and 236 Jews escape.

26: The British finally take “Longstop Hill” in Tunisia, a key position on the breakout road to Tunis.

28: Allies attempt to close the mid-Atlantic gap in the war against the U-boats with long-range bombers.

30: Operation Mincemeat: Lt. Jewell's crew releases Martin's body near the Spanish coast. Later, the body washes up on the Spanish coast and is discovered by a local fisherman.

3.6.5 May 1943

1: Allies close in on the cornered Germans in the Tunis area.

2: Japanese aircraft again bomb Darwin, Australia.

7: Tunis captured by British First Army. Meanwhile the Americans take Bizerte.

9: The Japanese begin a three-day massacre of civilians; about 30,000 Chinese are killed in the Changjiao massacre. * [1]

11: American troops invade Attu Island in the Aleutian Islands in an attempt to expel occupying Japanese forces. * [1] * [3]



*Photo from Jürgen Stroop's report to Heinrich Himmler from May 1943 and one of the best-known pictures of World War II. The original German caption reads: “Forcibly pulled out of dug-outs” . The boy in the picture might be Tsvi Nussbaum, who survived the Holocaust. * [6]*

12: The Trident Conference begins in Washington, D.C. with Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill taking part. The discussions are mostly on future strategy. * [1] * [3]

13: Remaining German Afrika Korps and Italian troops in North Africa surrender to Allied forces. The Allies take over 250,000 prisoners. * [1] * [3]

15: The French form a “Resistance Movement.”

16: The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising ends. The ghetto has been destroyed, with about 14,000 Jews killed and about another 40,000 sent to the death camp at Treblinka. * [1] * [3] * [7]

: The Dambuster Raids are carried out by RAF 617 Squadron on two German dams, Mohne and Eder. The Ruhr war industries lose electrical power. * [1] * [3]

17: The Germans launch their fifth major offensive against Tito's partisans in Yugoslavia. * [1] * [3]

19: Winston Churchill addresses a joint session of the U.S. Congress. He praises the partnership of the two Allies. * [3]

22: Allies bomb Sicily and Sardinia, both possible landing sites.

24: Admiral Karl Dönitz orders the majority of U-boats to withdraw from the Atlantic because of heavy losses to new Allied anti-sub tactics. By the end of the month, 43 U-boats are lost, compared to 34 Allied ships sunk. This is referred to as “Black May”. * [1] * [3]

: Josef Mengele becomes Chief Medical Officer in Auschwitz. * [1]

29: RAF bombs Wuppertal, causing heavy civilian losses.

30: Attu Island is again under American control.*[3]

31: American B-17's bomb Naples.

3.6.6 June 1943

4: General Henri Giraud becomes Commander-in-Chief of the Free French forces.*[3]

8: Japanese forces begin to evacuate Kiska Island in the Aleutians, their last foothold in the Western hemisphere. The event is almost to the year of their landing.*[3]

11: British 1st Division takes the Italian island of Pantelleria, between Tunisia and Sicily, capturing 11,000 Italian troops.*[3]

12: The Italian island of Lampedusa, between Tunisia and Sicily, surrenders to the Allies.*[3]

13: Heavy US aircraft losses over Kiel.*[3]

17: Allies bomb Sicily and the Italian mainland, as signs increase of a forthcoming invasion.

21: Operation Cartwheel opens with landings by the United States 4th Marine Raider Battalion at Segi Point on New Georgia in the Solomon Islands, beginning the New Georgia Campaign. It will not be secured until August.*[1][3]

23: American troops land in the Trobriand Islands, close to New Guinea. The American strategy of driving up the Southwest Pacific by "Island Hopping" continues.

24: Continuing attacks against the Ruhr industrial valley. One result is the evacuation of large numbers of German civilians from the area.

30: American troops land on Rendova Island, New Georgia, another part of Operation Cartwheel.*[1][3]

4: Exiled Polish leader General Władysław Sikorski dies in an air crash in Gibraltar.*[1][3]

5: Operation Citadel (the Battle of Kursk) begins.*[3][8]

: Conclusion of the National Bands Agreement in occupied Greece, which is to coordinate the actions of the Resistance movement in Greece.

6: U.S. and Japanese ships fight the Battle of Kula Gulf in the Solomons.*[1][3]

7: Walter Dornberger briefs the V-2 rocket to Hitler, who approves the project for top priority.*[1]

10: Operation Husky (the Allied invasion of Sicily) begins.*[1][3]

11: Ukrainian Insurgent Army massacres Poles at Dominopol.

12:/:13: The Japanese win a tactical victory at the Battle of Kolombangara.*[1][3]

12: The Battle of Prokhorovka begins;*[1][3] the largest tank battle in human history and part of the Battle of Kursk, it is the pivotal battle of Operation Citadel.

13: Hitler calls off the Kursk offensive, but the Soviets continue the battle.*[1][3]

19: The Allies bomb Rome for the first time.*[1]

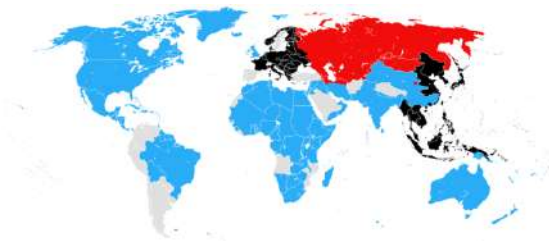
21: The Operation Bellicose targeting of Friedrichshafen Würzburg radars is the first bombing of a V-2 rocket facility.

22: U.S. forces under Patton capture Palermo, Sicily.*[1][3]

24: Hamburg, Germany, is heavily bombed in Operation Gomorrah,*[1][3] which at the time is the heaviest assault in the history of aviation.

25: Mussolini is arrested and relieved of his offices after a meeting with Italian King Victor Emmanuel III, who chooses Marshal Pietro Badoglio to form a new government.*[1][3]

3.6.7 July 1943



The state of the allies and axis powers in July 1943.

3.6.8 August 1943

1: Operation Tidal Wave: Oil refineries at Ploiești, Romania, are bombed by U.S. IX Bomber Command.*[1][3]

: Japan declares independence for the State of Burma under Ba Maw.*[3]

2: 2,897 Romani are gassed when their camp at Auschwitz is liquidated.*[1]

: John F. Kennedy's PT-109 is rammed in two and sunk off the Solomon Islands.*[1][3]

3: The first of two "George S. Patton slapping incidents" occurs in Sicily. * [1] * [3]

5: Swedish government announces it will no longer allow German troops and war material to transit Swedish railways. * [3]

: Russians recapture Orel * [3] and Belgorod. * [1] * [3]

6/7: The U.S. wins the Battle of Vella Gulf off Kolombangara in the Solomons. * [1] * [3]

6: German troops start pouring in to take over Italy's defences. * [3]

11: German and Italian forces begin to evacuate Sicily. * [3]

15: The Land Battle of Vella Lavella island in the Solomons begins. * [1] * [3]

: US and Canadian troops invade Kiska Island in the Aleutians, not knowing the Japanese have already evacuated. * [1] * [3] * [9]

16: Polish Jews begin a resistance with scant weaponry in Białystok. * [1] The leaders commit suicide when they run out of ammo.

: U.S. troops enter Messina, Sicily. * [1] * [3]

17: All of Sicily now controlled by the Allies. * [3]

: Heavy loss of Allied bombers in the Schweinfurt–Regensburg mission. * [1] * [3]

: Operation Crossbow begins with Operation Hydra when the RAF bombs the Peenemünde V-2 rocket facility. * [1] * [3]

17/18: Portugal, referencing the Anglo-Portuguese Treaty of 1373, allows the Allies to use the Azores Islands for air and naval bases. * [1] * [3]

19: Roosevelt and Churchill signed the Quebec Agreement during the Quebec Conference. * [10]

23: Operation Polkovodets Rumyantsev liberates Kharkov, Ukraine. * [1] * [3] The Battle of Kursk has become the first successful major Soviet summer offensive of the war.

29: During the Occupation of Denmark by Nazi Germany, martial law replaced the Danish government. * [1] * [3]

31: The Northwest African Air Forces conducts an air raid against the Italian city of Pisa.

3.6.9 September 1943

1: 22,750,000 British men and women are either in the services or Civil Defence or doing essential war work, according to the U.K. Ministry of labour. * [3]

3: A secret Italian Armistice is signed and Italy drops out of the war. Mainland Italy is invaded

when the British XXIII Corps lands at Reggio Calabria. * [1] * [3]

: Nazi Germany begins the evacuation of civilians from Berlin.

4: Soviet Union declares war on Bulgaria.

: The 503rd Parachute Regiment under American General Douglas MacArthur lands and occupies Nadzab, just west of the port city of Lae in northeastern New Guinea. Lae falls into Australian hands and Australian troops take Salamaua. * [1] * [3]

8: Eisenhower publicly announces the surrender of Italy to the Allies. The Germans enact Operation Achse, the disarmament of Italian armed forces. * [1] * [3]

: The USAAF bombs the German General Headquarters for the Mediterranean zone at Frascati.

9: The Allies land at Salerno, Italy; meanwhile the British troops take Taranto in the heel of the Italian "boot". * [1] * [3] Allied strategy aims at a "drive" up the "boot".

: Iran declares war on Germany. * [3]

10: German troops occupy Rome. * [1] * [3] The Italian fleet meanwhile surrenders at Malta and other Mediterranean ports.

11: British troops enter Bari in southeastern Italy. * [1] * [3]

12: Mussolini is rescued from a mountaintop captivity by German SS troops led by Otto Skorzeny. * [3] Mussolini is then set up by Hitler, who remains loyal to his old friend, as the head of the puppet "Italian Social Republic."

13: The Salerno beachhead is in jeopardy, as German counterattacks increase.

14: German troops commence the Holocaust of Viannos in Crete that will continue for two more days.

15: Chiang Kai-shek asks that General Stilwell, American military advisor/commander, be recalled for suggesting an alliance with the Communists. * [3]

16: British forces land on various Italian-held Greek islands in the Aegean Sea, beginning the Dodecanese Campaign.

: British and American troops link up near the Salerno beachhead. * [3]

19: German troops evacuate Sardinia. * [1] * [3]

21: The battle of the Solomons can now be considered at an unofficial end.

: The Massacre of the Acqui Division begins: After resisting for a week, the Italian Acqui division on the Greek island of Cephallonia surrenders to the Germans. During the next days,

over 4,500 Italians are executed, and further 3,000 lost during transport at sea.

22: Australian forces land at Finschhafen, a small port in New Guinea.*[3] The Japanese continue the battle well into October.

: British midget submarines attack the German battleship *Tirpitz*, at anchor in a Norwegian fjord, crippling her for six months.*[1]*[3]

25: The Red Army retakes Smolensk.*[1]*[3]

26: Germans assault the island of Leros, beginning the **Battle of Leros**.

27: The Germans take over the island of **Corfu** from the Italians, the previous occupiers.*[3]

: Sheng Shicai has Mao Zedong's brother Mao Zemin and Chen Tanqiu, a founder of the Communist Party of China, executed.*[11]

28: The people of Naples, sensing the approach of the Allies, rise up against the German occupiers.*[3]

30: With the Gestapo starting to round up Danish Jews, certain Danes are secretly sending their Jewish countrymen to Sweden by means of dangerous boat crossings.*[1]*[3]

3.6.10 October 1943

Unknown: Ruzagayura famine starts (until December 1944) in the Belgian African colony of Ruanda-Urundi

1: Neapolitans complete their uprising and free Naples from German military occupation.

3: Churchill appoints Lord Louis Mountbatten the commander of South East Asia Command.

3: The Germans conquer the island of Kos.

4: Corsica is liberated by Free French forces.

5: The Allies cross Italy's **Volturno Line**.

6: The **Naval Battle of Vella Lavella** completes the second phase of **Operation Cartwheel**.

7: 98 American civilian prisoners were executed on **Wake Island**.

9: **United States VII Corps** arrives in European Theater.

10: **Chiang Kai-shek** takes the oath of office as chairman of **Nationalist Government (China)**.*[12]

12: **Operation Cartwheel** begins a bombing campaign against **Rabaul**.

13: Italy declares war on Germany.

14: 229 of 292 B-17s reached the target in the **Second Raid on Schweinfurt**. Losses are so heavy that the long range daylight bombing

campaign is suspended until the bombers can be escorted by P-51 fighters.

Members of the **Sobibor** extermination camp underground, led by Polish-Jewish prisoner **Leon Feldhendler** and Soviet-Jewish POW **Alexander Pechersky**, succeeded in covertly killing eleven German SS officers and a number of camp guards. Although their plan was to kill all the SS and walk out of the main gate of the camp, the killings were discovered and the inmates ran for their lives under fire. About 300 out of the 600 prisoners in the camp escaped into the forests.

18: The **Third Moscow Conference** convened.

19: The German War Office contracts the **Mittelwerk** to produce 12,000 V-2 rockets.

22/23: An air raid on **Kassel** causes a seven day firestorm.

25: The Red Army takes **Dnipropetrovsk**.

28: Cruiser **HMS *Charybdis*** sunk, and destroyer **HMS *Limboune*** damaged, by German torpedo boats off the North coast of **Brittany** with large loss of life. Bodies of 21 sailors and marines washed up on the **Island of Guernsey**. Buried with full military honours by the German Occupation authorities, allowing around 5,000 Islanders to attend and lay some 900 wreaths.

29: Troops replace striking London dockworkers.

31: Heavy rains in Italy slow the Allied advance south of Rome.

3.6.11 November 1943

1: In **Operation Goodtime**, **United States Marines** land on **Bougainville** in the **Solomon Islands**. The fighting on this island will continue to the end of the war.

2: In the early morning hours, **American** and **Japanese** ships fight the inconclusive **Battle of Empress Augusta Bay** off **Bougainville**, but the **Japanese** are unable to land reinforcements.

2: **British** troops, in Italy, reach the **Garigliano River**.

5: The **Italians** bomb the **Vatican** in a failed attempt to knock out the **Vatican radio**.

6: The **Red Army** liberates the city of **Kiev**. This is an anniversary of the **Russian Revolution** in 1917.

9: Allies take **Castiglione, Italy**.

9: **General De Gaulle** becomes **President** of the **French Committee of National Liberation**.

9: Members of the Belgian Resistance publish a fake issue of the collaborationist newspaper *Le Soir*, mocking the German strategic situation.

11: American air power continues to hit Rabaul.

12: Germans overrun British forces on the Dodecanese islands, off Turkey.

14: Heavy bombers hit Tarawa, in the Gilbert Islands in the Pacific.

15: Allied Expeditionary Force for the invasion of Europe is officially formed.

15: German SS leader Heinrich Himmler orders that Gypsies and “part-Gypsies” are to be put “on the same level as Jews and placed in concentration camps.”

16: Anti-German resistance in Italy increases; there are explosions in Milan.

16: The Battle of Leros ends with the surrender of the British and Italian forces to the Germans.

16: 160 American bombers strike a hydro-electric power facility and heavy water factory in German-controlled Vemork, Norway



The Tehran conference (28 November 1943): Left to right: General Secretary of the Communist Party Joseph Stalin, President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States, and Prime Minister Winston Churchill of the United Kingdom.

16: Japanese submarine sinks surfaced submarine USS *Corvina* near Truk

18: 440 Royal Air Force planes bomb Berlin causing only light damage and killing 131. The RAF lose nine aircraft and 53 aviators.

19: Prisoners of the Janowska concentration camp stage a mass escape/uprising when they are ordered to cover up evidence of a mass-murder. Most are rounded up and killed

20: Battle of Tarawa begins - United States Marines land on Tarawa and Makin atolls in

the Gilbert Islands and take heavy fire from Japanese shore guns. The American public is shocked by the heavy losses of life.

20: British troops under Montgomery continue their slow advances on the eastern side of Italy.

22: The Cairo Conference: US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and ROC leader Chiang Kai-Shek meet in Cairo, Egypt, to discuss ways to defeat Japan.

23: Heavy damage from Allied bombing of Berlin. Notably, the Deutsche Opernhaus on Bismarckstraße in the Berlin district of Charlottenburg is destroyed.

24: Heavy bombing of Berlin continues.

25: Americans and Japanese fight the naval Battle of Cape St. George between Buka and New Ireland. Admiral Arleigh Burke's destroyers distinguish themselves.

25: Rangoon is bombed by American heavy bombers.

26: The Red Army offensive in the Ukraine continues.

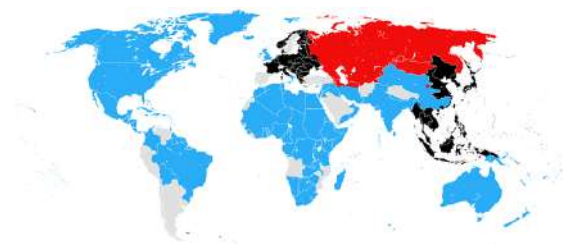
27: The Cairo Conference (“Sextant”) ends; Roosevelt, Churchill, and Chiang Kai-shek complete the Cairo Declaration, which deals with the overall strategic plan against Japan.

27: Huge civilian losses in Berlin as heavy bombing raids continue.

28: The Tehran Conference . US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Leader Joseph Stalin meet in Tehran to discuss war strategy; (on November 30 they establish an agreement concerning a planned June 1944 invasion of Europe codenamed Operation Overlord). Stalin at last has the promise he has been waiting for.

29: Second session of AVNOJ, the Anti-fascist council of national liberation of Yugoslavia, is held in Jajce, Bosnia and Herzegovina, determining the post-war order of the country.

30: In Malaya, Japanese introduce the GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION No. 41 to encourage families to grow their own food crops and vegetables. Families who are successful will be awarded prizes while family who fail to comply this notification or leave their vacant lands unplanted will be punished. This notification was written by Itami Masakichi (Penang Shu Chokan) on 25 November 1943



The state of the allies and axis powers in December 1943.

3.6.12 December 1943

2: The Germans conduct a highly successful Air Raid on Bari, Italy. One of the German bombs hits an allied cargo ship carrying mustard gas, releasing the chemical which killed 83 allied soldiers. Over 1000 other soldiers died in the raid.

3: Edward R. Murrow delivers his classic “Orchestrated Hell” broadcast over CBS Radio describing a Royal Air Force nighttime bombing raid on Berlin.

4: Bolivia declares war on all Axis powers.
: In Yugoslavia, resistance leader Marshal Josip Broz Tito proclaims a provisional democratic Yugoslav government in-exile.

12: Rommel is appointed head of “Fortress Europa”, chief planner against the expected Allied offensive.

13: German soldiers carry out the Massacre of Kalavryta in southern Greece.
: United States VIII Corps arrives in European Theater.

14: United States XV Corps arrives in European Theater.

16: Kalinin is retaken in a large Red Army offensive.

24: US General Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

26: German battleship *Scharnhorst* is sunk off North Cape (in the Arctic) by an array of British cruisers and destroyer torpedoes.

26: American Marines land on Cape Gloucester, New Britain.

27: General Eisenhower is officially named head of Overlord, the invasion of Normandy.

28: In Burma, Chinese troops have some success against the Japanese.

29: Control of the Andaman Islands is handed over to Azad Hind by the Japanese

3.6.13 See also

- Strategic operations of the Red Army in World War II

3.6.14 Notes and references

- [1] “1943 Timeline” . WW2DB. Retrieved 2013-01-07.
- [2] “Sunday, January 31, 1943” . onwar.com. Retrieved 2013-01-07.
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- [4] Lukacs, John D. *Escape from Davao*. Penguin Books, 2010.
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- [6] Richard Raskin. *A Child at Gunpoint. A Case Study in the Life of a Photo*. Aarhus University Press, 2004.
- [7] “Sunday, May 16, 1943” . onwar.com. Retrieved 2013-02-17.
- [8] “Monday, July 5, 1943” . onwar.com. Retrieved 2013-06-05.
- [9] “Sunday, August 15, 1943” . onwar.com. Retrieved 2013-08-17.
- [10] “Avalon Project - The Quebec Conference - Agreement Relating to Atomic Energy” . yale.edu. Retrieved 2013-07-18.
- [11] Li, Dr. Zhi-Sui (1994). *The Private Life of Chairman Mao*. Random House. p. 659.
- [12] “Kuomintang News Network” . Kuomintang.

3.6.15 External links

- Timeline For World War 2
- Timeline of WWII
- Documents of World War II
- World War II Timeline

3.7 1944 timeline

This is a **timeline of events that occurred during 1944 in World War II**.

3.7.1 January 1944

- 4: The 1st Ukrainian Front of the Red Army enters Poland.
- 9: British forces take Maungdaw, Burma, a critical port for Allied supplies.
- 12: The SS *United Victory*, the first Victory ship, is launched; this class of transport will prove to be crucial in hauling men and supplies across the oceans.* [1]
: Count *Ciano*, the Italian Foreign Minister and Mussolini's son-in-law, is executed by Mussolini's revived Fascist government sympathisers.
- 17: The first Battle of Monte Cassino begins when the British X Corps attacks along the Garigliano river at the western end of the German *Gustav Line*.* [2]* [3]* [4]
- 19: Red Army troops push westward toward the Baltic countries.
: British *Operation Outward* accidentally claims lives in Sweden by causing a train crash by knocking out lighting
- 20: The Royal Air Force drops 2,300 tons of bombs on Berlin.
: The U.S. Army 36th Infantry Division, in Italy, attempts to cross the Gari River but suffers heavy losses.
- 22: Allies begin *Operation Shingle*, the landing at Anzio, Italy, commanded by American Major General *John P. Lucas*.* [2]* [3]* [5] The Allies hope to break the stalemate in south Italy, but they are unable to break out of the beachhead and the line holds until late May.
- 23: The British destroyer *HMS Janus* is sunk off Anzio.* [2]
- 24: The Allied forces have a major setback on the Gari River.
- 28: The Russian Army completes encirclement of two German Army corps at the *Korsun pocket*, south of Kiev. Two-thirds of the Germans escape in the breakout next month with the loss of most heavy equipment.
- 30: United States troops invade *Majuro*, Marshall Islands.
: Japanese kill 44 suspected spies in the *Homfreyganj* massacre
: The *Brazzaville Conference* begins in French Equatorial Africa. During the conference (which lasts until 8 February), the French Committee of National Liberation (CFLN) agrees to major reforms to the French colonial empire.
- 31: American forces land on *Kwajalein Atoll* and other islands in the Japanese-held Marshall

Islands.

3.7.2 February 1944

- 1: U.S. Marines mop up on *Roi* and *Namur* in the northern part of the *Kwajalein atoll* in the Marshall Islands.
- 2: The *Narva front* near the east border of Estonia is formed between the Soviet and German forces.
: Germans defeat American troops in the *Battle of Cisterna* near *Anzio*.* [2]
- 3: American planes bomb *Eniwetok* in the Marshalls, later to be a major B-29 base.
- 4: *Kwajalein*, the world's largest atoll and a major Japanese naval base, is secured.
- 5: The American Navy bombards the *Kuril Islands*, northernmost in the Japanese homelands.
- 7: In a radio interview, the last Estonian Prime Minister *Jüri Uluots*, as acting Head of State, supports mobilisation.
- 8: The plan for the invasion of France, *Operation Overlord*, is confirmed.
- 10: *Winston Churchill* urges *Harold Alexander* to order the *Anzio* generals to show more aggression.* [2]
- 11: German forces sent to relieve the *Korsun pocket* in Ukraine are now only 10 miles away.* [2]
- 14: The Russian 374th Rifle Regiment forms a bridgehead on the western shore of *Lake Peipus*. The *Mereküla Landing Operation* of the special unit of the Soviet Baltic Sea Fleet in the rear of the Germans at the *Narva front* at *Mereküla* is resisted.
: The underground organisation, the *National Committee of the Republic of Estonia*, is formed in Tallinn.
: *Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF)* headquarters are established in Britain by U.S. General *Dwight D. Eisenhower*
: An anti-Japanese revolt on *Java* occurs.
- 15: The second Battle of Monte Cassino begins with the destruction of the historic *Benedictine monastery* on Monte Cassino by Allied bombing. The Allies believed the grounds were used as an observation post by the Germans.* [2]* [3]* [6]
: The Soviet bridgehead on the west coast of *Lake Peipus* is annihilated.
: Soviet *Leningrad Front* initiates the *Narva Offensive*, February 15–28.* [7]

16: Germans launch a major counter-attack at Anzio, threatening the American beachhead.*[2]

: Germans, with Panzer forces leading, fail to break out of the Korsun pocket.

: Diplomats from the USSR and Finland meet to sign an armistice.

17: American Marines land on Eniwetok.

18: The light cruiser *HMS Penelope* is torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Anzio with a loss of 415 crew.*[3]

: American naval air raid takes place on the Truk islands, a major Japanese naval base, but they will be one of the bypassed fortresses of the Japanese outer defence ring.

19: Leipzig, Germany is bombed for two straight nights. This marks the beginning of a "Big Week" bombing campaign against German industrial cities by Allied bombers.

20: A colonial military garrison in Luluabourg in the Belgian Congo mutinies, killing three.

22: John Lucas is replaced with major general Lucian Truscott at Anzio.*[2]

23: US Navy planes attack the Mariana Islands of Saipan, Guam and Tinian.

26: The "Big Week" bombing campaign comes to a successful conclusion; the American P-51 Mustang fighter with its long range proves invaluable in protecting American bombers over Germany.

: Red Air Force continues to bomb Helsinki, as Finland continues peace talks.

27: USS *Cod* sinks a Japanese merchant ship by torpedo.*[2]

28: The Admiralty Islands are invaded by U.S. forces, marked by the Battle of Los Negros and Operation Brewer. The struggle for this important fleet anchorage will continue until May. Rabaul is now completely isolated.

: Belgian industrialist Alexandre Galopin is assassinated in occupied Belgium by Flemish paramilitaries.

3.7.3 March 1944

1: The keels of USS *Tarawa* and USS *Kearsarge* are laid down.

: Anti-fascist strikes occur in northern Italy.

: Leningrad Front initiate the Narva Offensive, March 1–4

3: German forces around Anzio, having failed to drive the Allies from the beachhead, go over to a defensive posture.*[2]*[8]

6: Wingate's Chindits make several successful forays in Burma.

: The Soviet Air Force bombs Narva, the city is destroyed. The Leningrad Front initiates the Narva Offensive, March 6–24.*[7]

: The Allies receive intelligence that the Japanese may be about to attack on Western Australia, causing them to greatly bolster defenses there. When no attack comes, they return to their regular stations on the 20th

7: Japanese begin an invasion attempt on India, starting a four-month battle around Imphal.

8: American forces are attacked by Japanese troops on Hill 700 in the Bougainville; the battle that will last five days.

: A Red Army offensive on a wide front west of the Dnieper in the Ukraine forces the Germans into a major retreat.

9: The Soviet Long Range Aviation carries out an air raid on Tallinn, Estonia. The military objects are almost untouched. Approx. 800 civilians die and 20,000 people are left without a shelter.*[9]

12: The creation of the Political Committee of National Liberation in Greece.

13: On Bougainville, Japanese troops end their failed assault on American forces at Hill 700.

15: The third Battle of Monte Cassino begins. The small town of Cassino is destroyed by Allied bombers.*[2]*[3]*[10]

: Americans take Manus Island in the Admiralty chain.

: The National Council of the French Resistance approves the Resistance programme.

16: United States XI Corps arrives in Pacific Theater.

17: Heavy bombing of Vienna, Austria.

18: The Red Army approach Romanian border.

19: German forces occupy Hungary in Operation Margarethe.*[2]*[3]

: Yugoslav partisans attack Trieste, on the border of Italy and Slovenia.

20: Red Army advances in the Ukraine continue with great success.

21: Finland rejects Soviet peace terms.

22: Japanese forces cross the Indian border all along the Imphal front.

: Frankfurt is bombed with heavy civilian losses.

24: The Fosse Ardeatine massacre in Rome, Italy. 335 Italians are killed, including 75 Jews and over 200 members various groups in the Italian Resistance; this is a German response

- to a bomb blast that killed German troops.
 : Orde Wingate is killed in a plane crash.
 : Heavy bombings of German cities at various strategic locations last for 24 hours.
- 25: Soviet air force bombs the city of Tartu, Estonia.*[11]
- 26: On Narva front, Strachwitz Offensive destroys part of the Soviet bridgehead.*[12]
- 28: Japanese troops are in retreat in Burma.
- 30: RAF suffers grievous losses in a huge air raid on Nuremberg.

3.7.4 April 1944

- 3: Allied bombers hit Budapest in Hungary, now occupied by the Germans, and Bucharest in Romania, ahead of the advancing Red Army.
- 4: General Charles de Gaulle takes command of all Free French forces.
- 5: US Air Force bombs Ploesti oil fields in Romania, with heavy losses.
- 6: The Japanese drive on the Plain of Imphal, supposedly halted, proves strong enough to surround British forces at Imphal and Kohima, in India.
- 8: The Red Army attacks in an attempt to retake all of the Crimea, the Germans retreat westward to Sevastopol.
- 10: Soviet forces enter Odessa, Ukraine.*[2]*[3]
- 11: Soviet forces take Kerch, beginning the reconquest of Crimea.*[2]*[3]
- 15: Heavy air raids on Ploesti oil fields (Romania) by both the RAF and the US Air Force.
- 16: Soviet forces take Yalta; most of Crimea is now liberated.*[2]*[3]
- 17: Japanese launch Operation Ichi-Go with over 600,000 men in central China. The objective is to conquer areas where American bombers are located.*[3] The first phase is the Battle of Central Henan.
- 21: The Badoglio government in Italy falls and he is quickly asked to form another.
 : An Allied air raid on Paris kills a large number of civilians.
- 22: Operations Reckless and Persecution: US troops land at Hollandia and Aitape in northern New Guinea to cut off Japanese forces in Wewak.*[2]*[3]
- 24: British troops force open the road from Imphal to Kohima in India.

- 27: The Slapton Sands tragedy: American soldiers are killed in a training exercise in preparation for D-Day at Slapton in Devon.
- 30: Vast preparations for D-Day are going on all over southern England.
 : American navy air raids continue in the Carolina Islands, including Truk.

3.7.5 May 1944

- 6: Heavy Allied bombings of the Continent in preparation for D-Day.
- 8: D-Day for Operation Overlord set for June 5.
- 9: Sevastopol in the Crimea is retaken by Soviet forces.*[2]
- 11: The fourth battle of Monte Cassino begins led by general Anders of the 2nd Polish Corps.*[2]*[3]*[13]
- 12: Large numbers of Chinese troops invade northern Burma.
- 13: The entirety of Crimea is under Soviet control. Many thousands of German and Romanian soldiers have been captured, but many thousands have been evacuated.*[2]*[3]*[14]
 : The bridgehead over the Gari River is reinforced.
- 18: The Battle of Monte Cassino ends in Allied victory. Polish troops of the 2nd Polish Corps led by general Władysław Anders capture Monte Cassino. German troops in west Italy have withdrawn to the Hitler Line.*[2]*[3]
 : Allied troops take airfields at Myitkyina, Burma, an important air base; the struggle over the city itself will continue for nearly three months.
 : The last Japanese resistance in the Admiralty Islands, off New Guinea comes to an end.
- 21: Increased Allied bombing of targets in France in preparation for D-Day.
- 23: Allies start a new breakout from Anzio.*[2]*[3]
- 25: Allies at Anzio link up with Allies from south Italy. Though Harold Alexander wishes to trap the German Tenth Army, American Fifth Army commander Mark W. Clark orders Truscott to turn north toward Rome. The Germans in Italy form a new defensive position on the Caesar C line.
- *[2]*[3]*[15]
- 27: Operation Hurricane starts. Americans land on Biak, Dutch New Guinea, a key

Japanese air base; stubborn Japanese resistance until August.

31: The Japanese retreat from Imphal (India) with heavy losses; their invasion of India is over.

3.7.6 June 1944

2: The provisional French government is established.

: The U.S. begins Operation Frantic with a bombing of Debrecen, Hungary. *[2]*[3]

3: There are daily bombings of the Cherbourg peninsula and the Normandy area.

4: Allies enter Rome, one day after the Germans declared it an open city. German troops fall back to the Trasimene Line. *[2]*[3]

: Operation Overlord is postponed 24 hours due to high seas.

5: Operation Overlord commences when more than 1,000 British bombers drop 5,000 tons of bombs on German gun batteries on the Normandy coast in preparation for D-Day. And the first Allied troops land in Normandy; paratroopers are scattered from Caen southward.

: In the Pacific, the U.S. fleet transporting the expeditionary forces for the invasion of Saipan in the Mariana Islands leaves Pearl Harbor.

6: D-Day begins with the landing of 155,000 Allied troops on the beaches of Normandy in France. The Allied soldiers quickly break through the Atlantic Wall and push inland in the largest amphibious military operation in history.

7: Bayeux is liberated by British troops.

9: No agreement having been reached on their mutual borders, Joseph Stalin launches an offensive against Finland with the intent of defeating Finland before pushing for Berlin.

10: At Oradour-sur-Glane (a town near Limoges), France, 642 men, women, and children are killed in a German response to local Resistance activities.

: In the Distomo massacre in Greece, 218 civilians are killed.

12: American aircraft carriers commence air strikes on the Marianas, including Saipan, preparing for invasion.

13: Germany launches a V1 Flying Bomb attack on England, in Hitler's view a kind of revenge for the invasion. He believes in Germany's victory with this "secret weapon." The



6 June 1944: A Navy LCVP disembarks troops at Omaha Beach.

V-1 attacks will continue through June.

: The U.S. Naval bombardment of Saipan begins. In response, Admiral Toyoda Soemu, commander-in-chief of the Imperial Japanese Navy, orders his fleet to attack U.S. Navy forces around Saipan.

15: U.S. Marine and Army forces invade the island of Saipan. U.S. submarines sight the Japanese fleet en-route.

17: Free French troops land on Elba.

18: Elba is declared liberated.

: Allies capture Assisi, Italy.

19-20: The Battle of the Philippine Sea, nicknamed the Great Marianas Turkey Shoot by Americans, takes place. The United States Fifth Fleet wins a decisive naval battle over the Imperial Japanese Navy near the Mariana Islands. Over 200 Japanese planes are shot down while the Americans only lose 29 to enemy action. *[2]*[3]*[16]*[17]

19: A severe Channel storm destroys one of the Allies' Mulberry harbours in Normandy.

: The Red Army prepares for "Operation Bagration," a huge offensive in Byelorussia (White Russia).

20: The British take Perugia, Italy.

: The Siege of Imphal is lifted after three months.

21: Allied offensive in Burma.

22: V-1's continue to hit England, especially London, sometimes with horrifying losses.

: Operation Bagration: General attack by Soviet forces to clear the German forces from Belarus This results in the destruction of the German Army Group Centre, possibly the greatest defeat of the Wehrmacht during World War II.

: In the Burma Campaign, the Battle of Kohima ends with a British victory.

23: The National Committee of the Republic of Estonia makes a declaration “to the Estonian People.” The declaration was made public to the world press in Stockholm in July 1944 and in Tallinn on 1 August 1944.

25: The Battle of Tali-Ihantala between Finnish and Soviet troops begins. Largest battle ever to be fought in the Nordic countries.

26: Cherbourg is liberated by American troops.

3.7.7 July 1944

1: The Leningrad diarist Tanya Savicheva dies of starvation at the age of 14. Her diary of her family's death during the siege becomes famous.

2: V-1's continue to have devastating effects in South-East England in terms of material destruction and losses of life.

3: Minsk in Belarus is liberated by Soviet forces.

: The Allies find themselves in the “battle of the hedgerows”, as they are stymied by the agricultural hedges in Western France which intelligence had not properly evaluated.

: Siena, Italy falls to Algerian troops of the French forces.

6: Largest Banzai charge of the war: 4,300 Japanese troops are slaughtered on Saipan.

7: Soviet troops enter Vilnius, Lithuania.

9: After heavy resistance Caen, France is liberated by the British troops on the left flank of the Allied advance.

: Saipan is declared secure, the Japanese having lost over 30,000 troops; in the last stages numerous civilians commit suicide with the encouragement of Japanese military.

10: Japanese are still resisting on New Guinea.
: Tokyo is bombed for the first time since the Doolittle raid of April, 1942.

11: President Roosevelt announces that he will run for an unprecedented fourth term as U.S. President.

12: Hitler rejects General Field Marshal Walther Model's proposal to withdraw the German forces from Estonia and Northern Latvia and retreat to the Daugava River.

13: The Soviets take Vilnius, Lithuania.
: The Lvov-Sandomierz Offensive begins.

16: First troops of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force (FEB) arrive in Italy

17: Field Marshal Rommel is badly wounded when his car is strafed from the air in France.

18: General Hideki Tojo resigns as chief minister of the Japanese government as the defeats of the Japanese military forces continue to mount. Emperor Hirohito asks General Kuniaki Koiso to form a new government.

: St. Lo, France is taken, and the Allied breakout from hedgerow country in Normandy begins.

19: American forces take Leghorn (Livorno), Italy far up the Italian boot.

20: The July 20 Plot is carried out by Col. Claus von Stauffenberg in a failed attempt to assassinate Hitler. Hitler was visiting headquarters at Rastenburg, East Prussia. Reprisals follow against the plotters and their families, and even include Rommel.

21: US Marines land on Guam.

22: Hitler gives permission to retreat from the Narva River to the Tannenberg defence line in the Sinimäed hills 20 km West from Narva.

23: The Poles rise up against the Germans in the Lwow Uprising

24: Marines land on Tinian Island, last of the Marianas (after Saipan and Guam); Tinian will eventually be a B-29 base, and the base from which the atomic bombers departed.

: Operation Cobra is now in full swing: the breakout at St. Lo in Normandy with American troops taking Coutances.

: At the start of the Soviet Narva Offensive, July 24–30, the Soviet 8th Army is beaten by the Estonian 45th Regiment and East Prussian 44th Regiment. The army detachment “Narwa” begins to retreat to the Tannenberg line.*[11]

: Majdanek Concentration Camp is liberated by Soviet forces, the first among many. The Soviet Union is now in control of several large cities in Poland, including Lublin.

: US bombers mistakenly bomb American troops near St. Lo, France.

26: The first aerial victory for a jet fighter occurs, with an Me 262 of the Luftwaffe's Ekdo 262 damaging a de Havilland Mosquito reconnaissance aircraft of the Royal Air Force's No. 540 Squadron RAF.

: The Leningrad Front's Narva Offensive captures the town.*[11]

27 July to 10 August: Battles on the Tannenberg Line. At the start of the battles there are 25 Estonian and 24 Dutch, Danish and Flemish infantry battalions on the German side at the Narva Front. The artillery forces, and the tank,

engineer and other special units are composed mainly of Germans. The attack by the Soviet Armed Forces is stopped, tens of thousands of men are killed in both sides.

28: The Red Army take **Brest-Litovsk**, the site of the Russo-German peace treaty in World War I.

: The first operational use of the **Me 163B Komet** rocket fighter occurs by units of JG 400 in defense of the **Leuna** synthetic fuel facilities, the Third Reich's largest synthetic fuels complex.

29: A decisive day in the **Battle of Narva**, allowing the German army detachment "Narwa", including **Estonian conscript formations** to delay the Soviet **Baltic Offensive** for another one and a half months. *[11]

3.7.8 August 1944

1: The **Second Warsaw Uprising**, this time by the **Polish Home Army**, begins: the Polish people rise up, expecting aid from the approaching Soviet Union armies, but it never comes.

: The Red Army isolates the Baltic States from East Prussia by taking **Kaunas**.

: The Americans complete the capture of the island of **Tinian**.

3: **Myitkyina**, in northern Burma, falls to the Allies (the Americans and Chinese under **Stilwell**), after a vigorous defence by the Japanese.

4: **Florence** is liberated by the Allies, particularly British and South African troops. Before exiting, the Germans under General **Albert Kesselring** destroy some historic bridges and historically valuable buildings.

: **Rennes, France**, is liberated by American forces.

5: The **Cowra breakout**: Japanese POWs escape from an Australian prison near **Cowra, New South Wales**. Two guards are killed and posthumously awarded the **George Cross** (See:)

6: Germans round up young men in **Krakow** to stop the potential **Kraków Uprising**.

: Ukrainian insurgents kill 42 Polish civilians in the **Baligród massacre**.

7: First trials of the bomb conspirators against Hitler begin in a court presided over by notorious Judge **Roland Freisler**.

8: Plotters in the bomb plot against Hitler are hanged and their bodies hung on meat hooks. Reprisals against their families continue.

9: President Roosevelt chooses general **Douglas MacArthur's** plan to invade the

Philippines and turns down Admiral **Chester W. Nimitz's** plan to invade **Taiwan**.*[2]

10: **Guam** is liberated by American troops; all of the **Marianas** are now in American hands. They will be turned into a major air and naval centre against the Japanese homeland.

14: The failure of the Allies to close the **Falaise pocket** in France proves advantageous to the Germans fleeing to the east who escape the pincer movement of the Allies.

: A clash between Italian POWs and American servicemen ends in the **Fort Lawton Riot**

15: **Operation Dragoon** begins, marked by amphibious Allied landings in southern France.

: The Allies reach the "**Gothic Line**", the last German strategic position in North Italy.

18: Following the assassination of a collaborationist politician in Belgium by the resistance, 20 civilians are massacred in **Courcelles** by paramilitaries in retaliation.

: The Red Army reaches the **East Prussian border**.

19: The **French Resistance** begins an uprising in Paris, partly inspired by the Allied approach to the **Seine River**.

: In a radio broadcast, **Jüri Uluots**, the acting Head of State of Estonia, calls the Estonian conscripts to hold the Soviet Armed Forces back until a peace treaty with Germany is signed.



Polish Boy Scouts played an important role in the Warsaw Uprising

20: The Red Army relaunches its offensive into **Romania**.

21: The **Dumbarton Oaks Conference** begins, setting up the basic structure of the **United Nations**.

22: The Japanese are now in total retreat from **India**.

- 23: Romania breaks with the Axis, surrenders to the Soviet Union, and joins the Allies.
- 24: 168 Allied airmen arrive at Buchenwald concentration camp.
- 25: Paris is liberated; De Gaulle and Free French parade triumphantly down the Champs-Élysées. The German military disobeys Hitler's orders to burn the city. Meanwhile the southern Allied forces move up from the Riviera, take Grenoble and Avignon.
- 28: The Germans surrender at Toulon and Marseilles, in southern France.
: Patton's tanks cross the Marne.
- 29: The anti-German Slovak National Uprising starts in Slovakia.
- 30: The Allies enter Rouen, in northwestern France.
- 31: American forces turn over the government of France to Free French troops.
: The Soviet army enters Bucharest.

3.7.9 September 1944

- 1: Canadian troops capture Dieppe, France.
- 2: Allied troops enter Belgium.
- 3: Brussels is liberated by the British Second Army.
: Lyon is liberated by French and American troops.
- 4: A cease fire takes effect between Finland and the USSR. * [2] * [3] * [18]
: Operation Outward ends.
- 5: Antwerp is liberated by British 11th Armoured Division and local resistance.
: The uprising in Warsaw continues; Red Army forces are available for relief and reinforcement, but are apparently unable to move without Stalin's order.
: United States III Corps arrives in European Theater.
: The Belgian, Dutch and Luxembourgish governments in exile sign the London Customs Convention, laying the foundations for the Benelux economic union.
- 6: The “blackout” is diminished to a “dim-out” as threat of invasion and further bombing seems an unlikely possibility.
: Ghent and Liège are liberated by British troops.
- 8: Ostend is liberated by Canadian troops.
: Soviet troops enter Bulgaria. * [3]
: The Belgian government in exile returns to Belgium from London where it has spent the war.
- 9: The first V-2 rocket lands on London.
: Charles de Gaulle forms the Provisional Government of the French Republic in France
: The Fatherland Front of Bulgaria overthrows the national government and declares war on Germany. * [2]
- 10: Luxembourg is liberated by U.S. First Army.
: Two Allied forces meet at Dijon, cutting France in half.
: First Allied troops enter Germany, entering Aachen, a city on the border.
: Dutch railway workers go on strike. The German response results in the Dutch famine of 1944.
- 11: United States XXI Corps arrives in European Theater.
- 12: The Second Quebec Conference (code-named “Octagon”) begins: Roosevelt and Churchill discuss military cooperation in the Pacific and the future of Germany. * [19]
- 13: American troops reach the Siegfried Line, the west wall of Germany's defence system.



Waves of paratroops land in the Netherlands during Operation Market Garden in September 1944.

- 14: Soviet Baltic Offensive commences.
- 15: American Marines land on Peleliu in the Palau Islands; a bloody battle of attrition continues for two and a half months.
- 16: The Red Army enters Sofia, Bulgaria.
- 17: Operation Market Garden, the attempted liberation of Arnhem and turning of the German flank begins.
: British and commonwealth forces enter neutral San Marino and engage German forces in a small-scale conflict which ends Sept. 20.
- 18: Brest, France, an important Channel port, falls to the Allies.

: Jüri Uluots proclaims the **Government of Estonia** headed by Deputy Prime Minister **Otto Tief**. * [20]

19: The **Moscow Armistice** is signed between the Soviet Union and Finland, bringing the **Continuation War** to a close. * [3]

: **Nancy** liberated by U.S. First Army

20: The Government of Estonia seizes the government buildings of **Toompea** from the German forces and appeals to the Soviet Union for the independence of Estonia. * [20]

: **United States XVI Corps** arrives in European Theater.

21: British forces take **Rimini**, Italy.

: The **Second Dumbarton Oaks Conference** begins: it will set guidelines for the United Nations.

: In Belgium, **Charles of Flanders** is sworn in as Prince-Regent while a decision is delayed about whether **King Leopold III** can ever return to his functions after being accused of collaboration. * [21]

: **San Marino** declares war on the Axis

: The Government of Estonia prints a few hundred copies of the **Riigi Teataja** (State Gazette) and is forced to flee under Soviet pressure. * [22]

22: The Red Army takes **Tallinn**, the first Baltic harbour outside the minefields of the **Gulf of Finland**.

: The Germans surrender at **Boulogne**.

23: Americans take **Ulithi** atoll in the **Caroline Islands**; it is a massive atoll that will later become an important naval base.

24: The Red Army is well into Poland at this time.

25: British troops pull out of **Arnhem** with the failure of **Operation Market Garden**. Over 6,000 paratroopers are captured. Hopes of an early end to the war are abandoned.

: **United States IX Corps** arrives in Pacific Theater.

26: There are signs of civil war in Greece as the Communist-controlled **National Liberation Front** and the British-backed government seem irreconcilable.

30: The German garrison in **Calais** surrenders to Canadian troops. At one time, Hitler thought it would be the focus of the cross-Channel invasion.

3.7.10 October 1944

1: A Hungarian delegation arrives in **Moscow** to negotiate an armistice with

the USSR. * [2] * [3]

: Soviet troops enter **Yugoslavia**.

2: Germans finally succeed in putting down the **Warsaw Uprising** by the **Polish Home Army**. The Soviet armies never moved to assist the Polish.

: American troops are now in a full-scale attack on the German “**West Wall**” .

: Allied forces land on **Crete**.

5: Canadian troops cross the border into the **Netherlands**.

: The Red Army enters **Hungary** and also launch an offensive to capture **Riga**, Latvia.

6: Soviet and Czechoslovak troops enter north-eastern **Slovakia**.

: The **Battle of Debrecen** begins as German and Soviet forces advance against each other in eastern **Hungary**.

9: The **Moscow Conference (1944)** begins: Churchill and Stalin discuss spheres of influence in the postwar **Balkans**.

10: The Red Army reach the **Niemen River** in **Prussia** and continue the battle around **Riga**.

: The Allied combined forces take **Corinth**, Greece.

12: **Athens** is liberated by the **EAM**.

: US Navy carriers attack **Formosa (Taiwan)**.

: **United States XXIII Corps** Arrives in the European Theater.

14: British troops enter **Athens**.

: Field Marshal **Rommel**, under suspicion as one of the “bomb plotters” voluntarily commits suicide to save his family. He is later buried with full military honors.

15: Hungarian regent **Miklós Horthy** is overthrown by the Germans, who replace him with **Ferenc Szálasi**. * [2] * [3]

: Allied bombardment of **Aachen** continues, the first major battle on German soil.

16: The Red Army and Yugoslav partisans under the command of **Josip Broz Tito** liberate **Belgrade**. The Red Army forces are also in **East Prussia**.

18: Hitler orders a call-up of all men from 16 to 60 for Home Guard duties.

20: The **Battle of Leyte**: U.S. forces land on **Leyte**, Philippines. **MacArthur** lands and states: “I have returned” . * [2] * [3] * [23]

21: **Aachen** is occupied by U.S. First Army; it is the first major German city to be captured.

23-26: The **Battle of Leyte Gulf**: The **United States Third Fleet** and the **United States Seventh Fleet** win a decisive naval battle over the

Imperial Japanese Navy in the Philippine Islands.* [3]

23: The Allies recognise General de Gaulle as the head of a provisional government of France.

: B-29's are now using Tinian Island, in the Marianas, as a base for the systematic bombing of Japan. Soviet forces in cooperation with Tito's Partizan forces, liberated Novi Sad in Yugoslavia.

25: Romania is fully liberated by Red Army and Romanian troops.

27: The Battle of Hürtgen Forest is developing. It will continue through October and November and have its last spasms in December.

3.7.11 November 1944

1: British forces occupy Salonika, Greece, and distribute food in Athens, which is experiencing famine.

: "Operation Infatuate", an Allied attempt to free the approaches to Antwerp begins; amphibious landings take place on Walcheren Island.

2: Canadian troops take Zeebrugge in Belgium; Belgium is now entirely liberated.

4: Remaining Axis forces withdraw from the Greek mainland. German occupation forces will remain in several Greek islands until capitulation.

British Gen. John Dill dies in Washington, D.C., and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, the only foreigner to be so honored at the time.

5: US planes bomb Singapore.
: Zionist terrorists assassinate the British government representative in the Middle East.

6: Franklin Delano Roosevelt wins a fourth term as U.S. president.
: The aircraft carrier USS *Lexington* is heavily damaged by kamikaze attacks.

9: General Patton's troops and tanks cross the Moselle River and threaten Metz.

10: V-2 rockets continue to hit Britain, at the rate of about eight a day.

12: After numerous bombings while anchored in a fjord at Tromsø, Norway, the German battleship *Tirpitz* is sunk.

17: The Germans give up Tirana, Albania which is liberated by local partisans.

20: Hitler leaves his wartime headquarters at Rastenberg, East Prussia, never to return; he

goes to Berlin, where he will soon establish himself at the bunker.

23: Metz, France is taken, and Strasbourg, in eastern France, is liberated by French troops.

24: The first B-29 originating from Tinian, in the Marianas, raid Tokyo.

: The USS *Intrepid* is hit by kamikazes for the third time; other American ships are heavily damaged.

25: Japanese take Nanning in south China, as the war in that theatre continues.

26: The war in Italy is at a stalemate, partly because of heavy rains.

Heinrich Himmler orders the crematoriums and gas chambers of Auschwitz II-Birkenau dismantled and blown up.

28: Antwerp is now a major supply port for the onward moving Allies.

30: Kunming, China, an important air base, is threatened by Japanese attacks.

: United States XXII Corps Arrives in European Theater.

: The Thiaroye Massacre begins in French West Africa

3.7.12 December 1944

3: The British army and the police shot unarmed protestors in Athens, the crowd carried Greek, American, British and Soviet flags, and chanted: "Viva Churchill, Viva Roosevelt, Viva Stalin"

3: The Dekemvriana ("December events") begin in the Greek capital, Athens, between members of the leftist National Liberation Front and government forces, backed by the British. The clashes are limited to Athens however, and the rest of the country remains relatively tranquil.

: The British Home Guard is stood down.

5: The Allies are now in control of Ravenna, Italy.

8: The softening up bombardment of Iwo Jima begins.

14: Japanese defenders in Palawan in the Philippines kill over 100 American POW's in the Palawan Massacre.* [2]* [3]

: Units of Air Group 80 from USS *Ticonderoga* flew seven strikes against Japanese positions in northern Luzon in the Philippines.* [2]

15: Americans and Filipinos land troops at Mindoro island in the Philippines.* [2]* [3]

16: The Battle of the Bulge begins as German forces attempt a breakthrough in the Ardennes

region. The main object of Hitler's plan is the retaking of Antwerp.

17: The Malmedy massacre: SS troops execute 86 American prisoners in the Ardennes offensive. The SS troops are led by SS commander Joachim Peiper.

: Typhoon Cobra hits the Third Fleet of Admiral Halsey; three destroyers capsized and almost 800 lives are lost.

18: Bastogne, an important crossroads, is surrounded.

20: General Anthony McAuliffe's famous message of "Nuts" is sent to German officers at Bastogne demanding surrender.

22: The battle for Bastogne is at its height, with Americans running low on ammunition.

23: The skies clear over the Ardennes, permitting Allied aircraft to begin their attacks on the German offensive, the one factor that Hitler feared in his planning.

24: The American counter-attack at the "Bulge" begins.

: The Belgian transport ship *SS Leopoldville* is sunk off the coast of France. More than 800 lives, predominantly those of American servicemen, are lost.

: Manchester is attacked by V1 flying bombs

26: The siege of Bastogne is broken, and with it the Ardennes offensive proves a failure.

: Racial tensions within the US military boil over into the Agana race riot on Guam

28: Churchill and his Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden are in Athens in an attempt to reconcile the warring factions.

29: Soviet troops begin the Siege of Budapest.*[2]*[3]

31: The Soviet-backed Hungarian Provisional Government declares war on Germany.*[2]*[3]

3.7.13 See also

- Strategic operations of the Red Army in World War II

3.7.14 Notes and references

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3.7.15 External links

- [Timeline of WWII](#)
- [Documents of World War II](#)
- [World War II Timeline](#)

3.8 1945 timeline

This is a **timeline of the events that stretched over the period of World War II from January 1945 to its conclusion.**

3.8.1 January 1945

1: The Germans begin a surprise offensive (Operation Nordwind) in northern Alsace.

: [Unternehmen Bodenplatte](#) is launched by the Luftwaffe against western Allied air bases in Belgium and Holland by elements of ten different [Jagdgeschwadern](#) (fighter wings), as its last major air offensive of the war in the West.
: American troops [kill dozens of German POWs at Chenogne](#)

2: 46 American B-29 bombers based near Calcutta, India attacked a railroad bridge near [Bangkok, Thailand](#) and other targets in the area.*[1]

: The Japanese increasingly use [kamikaze](#) tactics against the US naval forces nearby.

3: The Allies take the offensive east of the Bulge but they fail to close the pincers (which might have surrounded large numbers of Germans) with Patton's tanks.

4: US navy air attacks on Formosa (Taiwan)

5: The German offensive Nordwind crosses the border into Alsace.

: Japanese retreat across the [Irrawaddy River](#) in Burma with General Slim's troops in pursuit.

6: American B-29's bomb Tokyo again.

7: Germans, as part of the plan to retake [Strasbourg](#), break out of the "[Colmar Pocket](#)", a bridgehead on the Rhine, and head east.

8: The battle of [Strasbourg](#) is underway, with Americans in defence of their recent acquisition.

9: Americans land on [Luzon](#).*[1]*[2] There are more kamikaze attacks on the American navy.

11: The first convoy moves on the [Ledo](#) (or "[Stilwell](#)") road in northern Burma, linking India and China.

12: The [East Prussian Offensive](#), a major Red Army offensive in East Prussia, begins on January 13th.

13: 1st Byelorussian Front launched its winter offensive towards [Pillkallen](#), East Prussia, meeting heavy resistance from the German 3rd Panzer Army.*[1]

14: British forces clear the [Roer Triangle](#) during [Operation Blackcock](#); it is an area noted for its industrial dams.

15: Hitler is now firmly ensconced in the bunker in [Berlin](#) with his companion [Eva Braun](#).

: The British commander in Athens, General [Ronald Scobie](#), accepts a request for a ceasefire from the [Greek People's Liberation Army](#). This marks the end of the [Dekemvriana](#), resulting in clear defeat for the Greek Left.

16: The U.S. First and Third Armies link up following the [Battle of the Bulge](#).

17: [Warsaw](#) is entered by Red Army troops.*[1]*[2] A government favourable to the Communists is installed.

: It is announced officially that the [Battle of the Bulge](#) is at an end.

19: Hitler orders that any retreats of divisions or larger units must be approved by him.

20: The Red Army advances into East Prussia. Germans renew the retreat.

: [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) is sworn in for a fourth term as U.S. President; [Harry Truman](#) is sworn in as Vice President.

25: The American navy bombards [Iwo Jima](#) in preparation for an invasion.

: The Allies officially win the [Battle of the Bulge](#).

27: [Auschwitz](#) concentration camp is entered by Soviet troops.*[1]*[2]

28: The Red Army completes the occupation of [Lithuania](#).

31: The Red Army crosses the [Oder River](#) into Germany and are now less than 50 miles from Berlin.

: A second invasion on [Luzon](#) by Americans lands on the west coast.

: The whole [Burma Road](#) is now opened as the [Ledo Road](#) linkage with India is complete.

3.8.2 February 1945

1: [Ecuador](#) declares war on Germany and Japan.

2: Naval docks at [Singapore](#) are destroyed by B-29 attacks.

3: The **Battle of Manila (1945)** begins: Forces of the U.S. and Philippines enter Manila. The **Manila massacre** takes place during the fighting.

: Heavy bombing of Berlin.

4: The **Yalta Conference** of Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin begins;*[1]*[2] the main subject of their discussions is postwar spheres of influence.

: Belgium is now cleared of all German forces.

8: **Paraguay** declares war on Germany and Japan.

9: The **Colmar Pocket**, the last German foothold west of the Rhine, is eliminated by the French 1st Army.

12: Peru declares war on Germany and Japan.

13: The **Battle of Budapest** ends with Soviet victory, after a long defence by the Germans.

13/14: The **bombing of Dresden** takes place; it is firebombed by Allied air forces and large parts of the historic city are destroyed.

14: The **1945 Bombing of Prague**: American planes bomb the wrong city.

15: **Venezuela** declares war on Germany and Japan.

16: American paratroopers and Philippine Commonwealth troops land on **Corregidor Island**, in Manila Bay. Once the scene of the last American resistance in early 1942, it is now the scene of Japanese resistance.

: American naval vessels bombard Tokyo and Yokohama.

19: U.S. Marines invade **Iwo Jima**.

23: U.S. Marines raise the **American flag** on **Mount Suribachi** on Iwo Jima.

24: Massive bombing of Germany by approximately 9,000 bombers.

: Egypt declares war on the Axis.

25: US incendiary raids on Japan.

: **Turkey** declares war on Germany and Japan.

: After ten days of fighting, American and Filipino troops recapture **Corregidor**.

26: **Syria** declares war on Germany and Japan.

28: A Philippine government is established.

: U.S. and Filipino forces invade **Palawan**, an island of the Philippines.

3.8.3 March 1945

3: **Manila** is fully liberated.*[1]*[2]

: **Battle of Meiktila**, Burma comes to an end with General Slim's troops overwhelming the Japanese; the road to Rangoon is now cleared.

: The allies attempted to destroy V-2s and launching equipment near The Hague by a **large-scale bombardment**, but due to navigational errors the **Bezuidenhout** quarter was destroyed, killing 511 Dutch civilians.

4: Finland declares war on Germany, backdated to September 15, 1944.

6: Germans launch an offensive against Soviet forces in Hungary.

7: The **Battle of Remagen**: When German troops fail to dynamite the **Ludendorff Bridge** over the Rhine, the U.S. First Army captures the bridge and begins crossing the river. The Army also takes **Cologne, Germany**.*[1]*[3]
: Germans begin to evacuate **Danzig**.

9: The US firebombs a number of cities in Japan, including **Tokyo**, with heavy civilian casualties.

: Amid rumours of a possible American invasion, Japanese overthrow the **Vichy French Jean Decoux Government** which had been operating independently as the colonial government of Vietnam: they proclaim an "independent" **Empire of Vietnam**, with Emperor **Bảo Đại** as nominal ruler. Premier **Trần Trọng Kim** forms the first Vietnamese government.

10: **Japanese Fugo Attacks** damage the **Manhattan Project** slightly but cause no lasting effects

11: **Nagoya, Japan** is firebombed by hundreds of B-29's.

15: V-2 rockets continue to hit **England** and **Belgium**.

16: The German offensive in Hungary ends with another Soviet victory.

: **Iwo Jima** is finally secured after a month's fighting;the battle is the only time that the number of American casualties is larger than the Japanese's. Sporadic fighting will continue as isolated Japanese fighters emerge from caves and tunnels.

18: **Red Army** approaches **Danzig** (postwar **Gdańsk**).

19: Heavy bombing of important naval bases in Japan, **Kobe** and **Kure**.

: **Deutsch Schutzen** massacre occurs, in which 60 Jews are killed.

20: German General **Gotthard Heinrici** replaces **Heinrich Himmler** as commander of **Army Group Vistula**, the army group directly opposing the Soviet advance towards Berlin.

: **Mandalay** liberated by **Indian 19th Infantry Division**.

: **Tokyo** is firebombed again.

: **Patton's** troops capture **Mainz, Germany**.

21: British air raid on a Gestapo headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark, in support of the Danish resistance movement takes place.

22-23: US and British forces cross the Rhine at Oppenheim.

23: By this time it is clear that Germany is under attack from all sides.

24: Montgomery's troops cross the Rhine at Wesel.

27: The Western Allies slow their advance and allow the Red Army to take Berlin.

28: Argentina declares war on Germany, the last Western hemisphere country to do so; its policies for sheltering escaping Nazis are also coming under scrutiny. Argentina had not declared war before due to British wishes that Argentine shipping be neutral (and therefore Argentine foodstuffs would reach Britain unharmed), this, however, went against the plan of the USA, who applied much political pressure on Argentina.

29: The Red Army enters Austria. Other Allies take Frankfurt; the Germans are in a general retreat all over the centre of the country.

30: Red Army forces capture Danzig.

31: General Eisenhower broadcasts a demand for the Germans to surrender.

3.8.4 April 1945

1: U.S. troops start Operation *Iceberg*, which is the Battle of Okinawa. It would have been a leaping off base for a mainland invasion.

: Americans retake Legaspi, Albay in the Philippines.

2: Soviets launch the Vienna Offensive against German forces in and around the Austrian capital city.

: German armies are surrounded in the Ruhr region.

4: Bratislava, the capital of the Slovak Republic, is overrun by advancing Soviet forces. The remaining members of Prime Minister Jozef Tiso's pro-German government flee to Austria.
: The Ohrdruf death camp is liberated by the Allies.

6: The Spring 1945 offensive in Italy begins in northern Italy.

7: The Japanese battleship *Yamato* is sunk in the North of Okinawa as the Japanese make their last major naval operation.

9: The Battle of Königsberg ends in a Soviet victory.

: A heavy bombing at Kiel by the RAF destroys the last two major German warships.

: Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer is executed at Flossenburg prison.

10: Buchenwald concentration camp is liberated by American forces.

11: Japanese kamikaze attacks on American naval ships continue at Okinawa; the carrier *Enterprise* and the battleship *Missouri* are hit.

: Spain breaks off diplomatic relations with Japan.

12: U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies suddenly. Harry S. Truman becomes president of the United States.

13: The Vienna Offensive ends with a Soviet victory.

14: Large-scale firebombing of Tokyo.

15: Bergen-Belsen concentration camp is liberated by the British Army.

16: The Battle of the Seelow Heights and the Battle of the Oder-Neisse begin as the Soviets continue to advance towards the city of Berlin.

18: Ernie Pyle, famed war correspondent for the GIs, is killed by a sniper on Ie Shima, a small island near Okinawa.

19: Switzerland closes its borders with Germany (and the former Austria).

: Allies continue their sweep toward the Po Valley.

: The Soviet advance towards the city of Berlin continues and soon reaches the suburbs.



Happy 2nd Lt. William Robertson and Lt. Alexander Sylvashko, Red Army, shown in front of sign "East Meets West" symbolizing the historic meeting of the Red Army and American armies, near Torgau, Germany on Elbe Day.

20: Hitler celebrates his 56th birthday in the bunker in Berlin; reports are that he is in an unhealthy state, nervous, and depressed.

21: Soviet forces under Georgiy Zhukov's (1st Belorussian Front), Konstantin Rokossovskiy's (2nd Belorussian Front) and Ivan Konev's (1st Ukrainian Front) launch assaults on the German forces in and around the city of Berlin in the opening stages of the Battle of Berlin.

: Hitler orders SS-General Felix Steiner to attack the 1st Belorussian Front and destroy it. The ragtag units of "Army Detachment Steiner" are not fully manned.

22: Hitler is informed late in the day that, with the approval of Gotthard Heinrici, Steiner's attack was never launched. Instead, Steiner's forces were authorised to retreat. In response, Hitler launches a furious tirade against the perceived treachery and incompetence of his military commanders in front of Wilhelm Keitel, Hans Krebs, Alfred Jodl, Wilhelm Burgdorf and Martin Bormann. Hitler's tirade culminates in an oath to stay in Berlin to head up the defence of the city. Hitler orders General Walther Wenck to attack towards Berlin with the Twelfth Army, link up with the Ninth Army of General Theodor Busse, and relieve the city. Wenck launched an attack, but it will come to nothing.

23: Hermann Göring sends a radiogram to Hitler's bunker, asking to be declared Hitler's successor. He proclaims that if he gets no response by 10 PM, he will assume Hitler is incapacitated and assume leadership of the Reich. Furious, Hitler strips him of all his offices and expels him from the Nazi Party.

: Albert Speer makes one last visit to Hitler, informing him that he (Speer) ignored the Nero Decree for scorched earth.

24: Himmler, ignoring the orders of Hitler, makes a secret surrender offer to the Allies, (led by Count Folke Bernadotte, head of the Red Cross), provided that the Red Army is not involved. The offer is rejected; when Hitler hears of the betrayal on the 28th, he orders Himmler shot.

: Forces of the 1st Belorussian Front and the 1st Ukrainian Front link up in the initial encirclement of Berlin.

: Allies encircle the last German armies near Bologna, and the Italian war in effect comes to an end.

25: Elbe Day: First contact between Soviet and American troops at the river Elbe, near Torgau in Germany.

26: Hitler summons Field Marshal Robert Ritter von Greim from Munich to Berlin to take over command of the Luftwaffe from Göring. While flying into Berlin, von Greim is seriously wounded by Soviet anti-aircraft fire.

27: The encirclement of German forces in Berlin is completed by the 1st Belorussian Front and the 1st Ukrainian Front.

28: Head of State for the Italian Social Republic, Benito Mussolini, heavily disguised, is captured in northern Italy while trying to escape. Mussolini and his mistress Clara Petacci, are shot and hanged in Milan the next day. Other members of his puppet government are also executed by Italian partisans and their bodies put on display in Milan.

29: Dachau concentration camp is liberated by the U.S. 7th Army.

: All forces in Italy officially surrender and a ceasefire is declared.

: Allied air forces commence Operations Manna and Chowhound, providing food aid to the Netherlands under a truce made with occupying German forces.

: Hitler marries his companion Eva Braun.

30: Hitler and his wife commit suicide, he by a combination of poison and a gunshot. Before he dies, he dictates his last will and testament. In it Joseph Goebbels is appointed Reich Chancellor and Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz is appointed Reich President.

3.8.5 May 1945

1: German General Hans Krebs negotiates the surrender of the city of Berlin with Soviet General Vasily Chuikov. Chuikov, as commander of the Soviet 8th Guards Army, commands the Soviet forces in central Berlin. Krebs is not authorized by Reich Chancellor Goebbels to agree to an unconditional surrender, so his negotiations with Chuikov end with no agreement.

: Goebbels and his wife kill their children and commit suicide.

: Yugoslavian Partisan leader Josip Broz Tito and his troops capture Trieste, Italy. New Zealand troops play a supporting role.

: The war in Italy is over but some German troops are still not accounted for.

: Australian troops land on Tarakan island off the coast of Borneo

2: Soviet forces capture the Reichstag building and install the Soviet flag.

: The Battle of Berlin ends when German General Helmuth Weidling, commander of the Berlin Defence Area, (and no longer bound by Goebbels commands), unconditionally surrenders the city of Berlin to Soviet General Vasily Chuikov.

3: Rangoon is liberated.

: The German cruiser Admiral Hipper is scuttled, having been hit heavily by the RAF in April.

: Éamon de Valera, Taoiseach (prime minister) of Ireland, offers regrets for Hitler's death to German officialdom.

4: Karl Dönitz orders all U-boats to cease operations.

: German troops in Denmark, Northern Germany and The Netherlands surrender to Montgomery.

: Neuengamme concentration camp is liberated.

5: Formal negotiations for Germany's surrender begin at Reims, France.

: Czech resistance fighters begin the Prague uprising and the Soviets begin the Prague Offensive.

: German troops in the Netherlands officially surrender; Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands accepts the surrender.

: Mauthausen concentration camp is liberated.

: Kamikazes have major successes off Okinawa.

: Japanese Fire balloons claim their first and only lives—a Sunday school group in Bly, Oregon.

6: German soldiers open fire on a crowd celebrating the liberation in Amsterdam.

: This date marks the last fighting for American troops in Europe.



The front page of The Montreal Daily Star announcing the German surrender. May 7, 1945

7: Germany surrenders unconditionally to the Allies at the Western Allied Headquarters in Rheims, France at 2:41 a.m. In accordance with orders from Reich President Karl Dönitz, General Alfred Jodl signs for Germany.

: Hermann Göring, for a while in the hands of the SS, surrenders to the Americans.

8: Victory in Europe Day: The ceasefire takes effect at one minute past midnight.

: In accordance with orders Dönitz, Colonel-General Carl Hilpert unconditionally surrenders his troops in the Courland Pocket.

: Germany surrenders again unconditionally to the Soviet Union army but this time in a ceremony hosted by the Soviet Union. In accordance with orders from Dönitz, General Wilhelm Keitel signs for Germany.

: The remaining members of the Prime Minister Jozef Tiso's pro-German Slovak Republic capitulates to the American General Walton Walker's XX Corps in Kremsmünster, Austria.

: The Prague uprising ends with negotiated surrender with Czech resistance which allowed the Germans in Prague to leave the city.

: In order to disarm the Japanese in Vietnam, the Allies divide the country in half at the 16th parallel. Chinese Nationalists will move in and disarm the Japanese north of the parallel while the British will move in and do the same in the south. During the conference, representatives from France request the return of all French pre-war colonies in Indochina. Their request is granted.

9: The Soviet Union officially pronounces May 9 as Victory Day.

: The Red Army enters Prague.

: The German garrison in the Channel Islands agree to unconditional surrender.

: German troops on Bornholm surrender to Soviet troops.

11: The Soviets capture Prague, the last major city to be liberated, though the war is over. Eisenhower stops Patton from participating in the liberation.

: German Army Group Centre in Czechoslovakia surrenders.

: War in New Guinea continues, with Australians attacking Wewak.

14: Nagoya, Japan, is heavily bombed.

: Fighting in the southern Philippines continues.

14–15: The Battle of Poljana, the last major battle of World War II in Europe, is fought.

20: Georgian Uprising of Texel ends, concluding hostilities in Europe.

23: British forces capture and arrest the members of what was left of the Flensburg government. This was the German government formed by Reich President Karl Dönitz after the suicides of both Adolf Hitler and Joseph Goebbels.

: Heavy bombing of Yokohama, an important port and naval base.

: Heinrich Himmler, head of the notorious SS, dies of suicide via cyanide pill.

29: Fighting breaks out in Syria and Lebanon, as nationalists demand freedom from French control.

3.8.6 June 1945

2: Air Group 87 aircraft from USS *Ticonderoga* strike airfields on Kyushu, Japan, in an attempt to stop special attack aircraft from taking off.*[1]

5: The Allies agree to divide Germany into four areas of control (American, British, French and Soviet).

: The U.S. fleet under William Halsey, Jr., suffers widespread damage from a huge Pacific typhoon.

10: Australian troops land in Brunei.

13: The Australians capture Brunei

15: Osaka, Japan, is heavily bombed.

16: The Japanese are in a general retreat in central China.

17: Japanese Admiral Ota Minoru committed ritual suicide for failing to defend Okinawa, Japan.*[1]

19: The United Kingdom begins demobilization.

20: Schiermonnikoog, a Dutch island, is the last part of Europe freed by Allied troops.

21: The defeat of the Japanese on Okinawa is now complete.

26: The United Nations Charter is signed in San Francisco.

27: The first oil pump is restored at Tarakan Island.*[4]

3.8.7 July 1945

1: Australian troops land at Balikpapan, Borneo in the Western Allies' last major land operation of the war.

5: General Douglas MacArthur announces that the Philippines have been liberated.

6: Norway declares war on Japan.

10: US Navy aircraft participate in attacks on Tokyo for the first time.

14: Italy declares war on Japan.

16: The U.S. conducts the Trinity test at Alamogordo, New Mexico, the first test of a nuclear weapon.

17: The Potsdam Conference begins under British Prime Minister Winston Churchill

(later replaced by Clement Attlee), Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Joseph Stalin and U.S. President Harry S. Truman. The Allied leaders agree to insist upon the unconditional surrender of Japan.

22: America and Japan engage in a small bloodless skirmish in the Battle of Tokyo Bay. The Japanese take slight losses

24: Truman hints at the Potsdam Conference that the United States has nuclear weapons.

: British and Americans commence the Bombing of Kure

26: The Labour Party win the United Kingdom general election by a landslide. The new United Kingdom Prime Minister Clement Attlee replaces Churchill at the negotiating table at Potsdam. The Potsdam Declaration is issued.

28: The Japanese battleships Haruna and Ise are sunk by aircraft from US Task Force 38 while in shallow anchorage at Kure Naval Base.

30: The USS *Indianapolis* is sunk shortly after midnight by a Japanese submarine after having delivered atomic bomb material to Tinian. Because of poor communications, the ship's whereabouts are unknown for some time and many of its men drown or are attacked by sharks in the next four days.

31: U.S. conducts air attacks on the cities of Kobe and Nagoya in Japan.

3.8.8 August 1945

1: Ukrainian insurgents attack the police station in Baligrod, Poland. Polish soldiers defend the station, driving off the attackers, who torch several houses as they retreat

2: End of the Potsdam Conference: Issues such as the expulsion of Germans from the eastern quarter of Germany and elsewhere in eastern Europe are mandated in the Potsdam Agreement.

6: The B-29 bomber *Enola Gay* drops the first atomic bomb "Little Boy" on Hiroshima.

8: The Soviet Union declares war on Japan; the Soviet invasion of Manchuria begins about an hour later which includes landings on the Kuril Islands. The Japanese have been evacuating in anticipation of this.

9: The B-29 bomber *Bockscar* drops the second atomic bomb "Fat Man" on Nagasaki.

14: Japanese military personnel and right-wingers attempt to overthrow their government and prevent the inevitable surrender.

: The last day of United States Force combat actions. All units are frozen in place.



Eritrean newspaper of August 15th 1945 titles: "War is over"

15: Emperor Hirohito issues a radio broadcast announcing the Surrender of Japan; though the surrender seems to be "unconditional", the Emperor's status is still open for discussion.

: Victory over Japan Day celebrations take place World-wide.

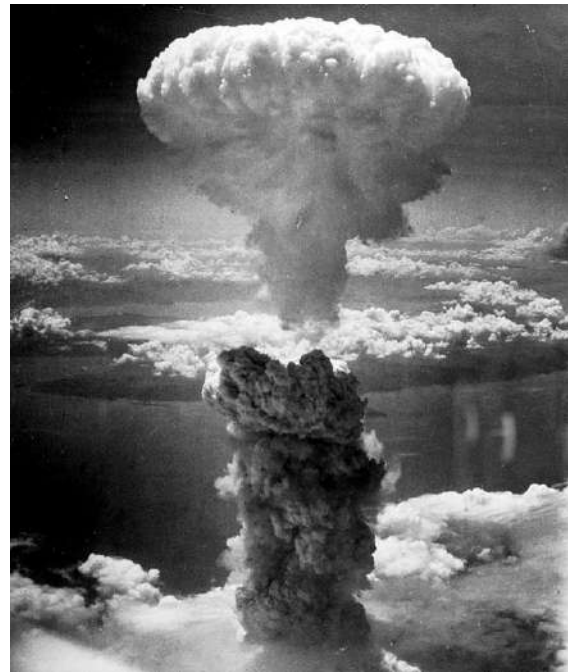
16: Emperor Hirohito issues an Imperial Rescript ordering Japanese forces to cease fire.

17: Indonesia declares independence from Japan.

: General Order No. 1 for the surrender of Japan is approved by President Truman.

19: At a spontaneous non-communist meeting in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Minh assume a leading role in the movement to wrest power from the French. With the Japanese still in control of Indochina in the interim, Bao Ðại goes along because he thought that the Viet Minh were still working with the American OSS and could guarantee independence for Vietnam. Later, Ho Chi Minh's guerrillas occupy Hanoi and proclaim a provisional government.

: Hostilities between Chinese Nationalists and Chinese Communists break into the open.



The Fat Man mushroom cloud resulting from the nuclear explosion over Nagasaki rises 18 km (60,000 ft) into the air from the hypocentre.

22: Japanese armies surrender to the Red Army in Manchuria.

27: Japanese armies in Burma surrender at Rangoon ceremonies.

30: Royal Navy force under Rear-Admiral Cecil Harcourt liberates Hong Kong.

31: General MacArthur takes over command of the Japanese government in Tokyo.

3.8.9 September 1945

2: The Japanese Instrument of Surrender is signed on the deck of the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

: The commander of the Imperial Japanese Army General Tomoyuki Yamashita surrenders to Filipino and American troops at Kiangan, Ifugao in Northern Philippines.

: Ho Chi Minh issues his Proclamation of Independence, drawing heavily upon the American Declaration of Independence from a copy provided by the Office of Strategic Services. Ho declares himself president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and pursues American recognition but is repeatedly ignored by President Truman.

5: Singapore is officially liberated by British and Indian troops.

6: The US Initial Post-Surrender Policy for

Japan, which governs US policy in the occupation of Japan, is approved by Truman.

9: The Japanese troops in China formally surrender, end of the Second Sino-Japanese War.*[5]

13: British forces under Major-General Douglas Gracey's 20th Indian Division, some 26,000 men in all, arrive in Saigon to disarm and accept the surrender of the Japanese Occupation Forces in Vietnam south of the 16th parallel. 180,000 Chinese Nationalist soldiers, mainly poor peasants, arrive in Hanoi to disarm and accept surrender north of the line. After looting Vietnamese villages during their entire march down from China, they then proceed to loot Hanoi.

16: The Japanese garrison in Hong Kong officially signs the instrument of surrender.

22: The British rearm 1,400 French soldiers from Japanese internment camps around Saigon. In Saigon, on the night of 24 September, a mob composed of Viet-Minh militants and sympathizers attacks french colonial administration and kills around 150 european civilians. An estimated 20,000 French civilians live in Saigon.

29: US General Robert Milchrist Cannon accepts the surrender of arms from Japanese Navy and Army soldiers on the islands of Miyako and Ishigaki at Sakishima Gunto.

3.8.10 October 1945

1: In southern Vietnam, a purely bilateral British/French agreement recognizes French administration of the southern zone. In northern Vietnam, Chinese troops go on a "rampage". Hồ's Việt Minh are hopelessly ill-equipped to deal with it.

The non fraternization directive for U.S. troops against German civilians was rescinded. Previously even speaking to a German could lead to court martial, except for "small children", these had been exempt in June 1945.

25: General Rikichi Andō, governor-general of Taiwan and commander-in-chief of all Japanese forces on the island, turns over Taiwan to General Chen Yi of the Kuomintang (KMT) military. Chen Yi proclaims that day to be "Taiwan Retrocession Day" and organizes the island into Taiwan Province under the Republic of China.

3.8.11 November 1945

29: The prohibition against marriage between GIs and Austrian women was rescinded on November 29. Later it would be rescinded for German women too. Black soldiers serving in the army were not allowed to marry white women, (in the case that they remained in the army) so they were restricted until 1948 when the prohibition against interracial marriages was removed.

3.8.12 December 1945

28: The US Coast Guard was transferred under the US Treasury Department.*[1]

31: The British Home Guard is disbanded.

The US prohibition against food shipments to Germany is rescinded.*[6] "CARE Package shipments to individuals remained prohibited until 5 June 1946" .*[7]

3.8.13 March 1946

?: Hồ Chí Minh accepts an Allied compromise for temporary return of 15,000 French troops to rid the North of anti-Communists. British/Indian troops depart Vietnam and Nationalist Chinese troops flee to Taiwan, looting as they depart, leaving the war in Vietnam to continue with the conflict between the French and the Viet Minh. As World War II ends, starvation kills over 2 million Vietnamese.

3.8.14 October 1946

15: Two hours before his scheduled execution, Hermann Göring committed suicide.*[8]

3.8.15 December 1946

31: U.S. President Harry S. Truman declares, "Although a state of war still exists, it is at this time possible to declare, and I find it to be in the public interest to declare, that hostilities have terminated. Now, therefore, I, Harry S. Truman, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the cessation of hostilities of World War II, effective twelve o'clock noon, December 31, 1946."

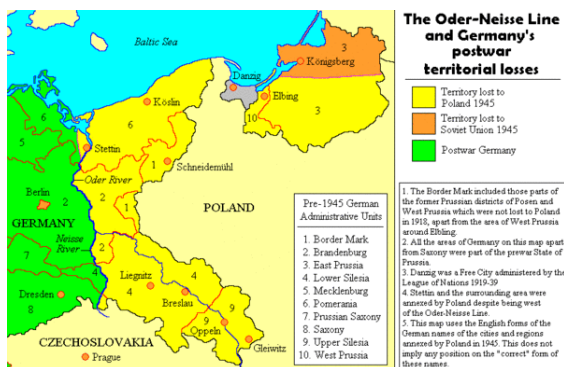
3.8.16 February 1947

10: U.S. Signs Peace treaties with Italy, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, and Romania.

3.8.17 October 1951

19: End of state of war with Germany was granted by the U.S. Congress, after a request by president Truman on 9 July. In the **Petersberg Agreement** of November 22, 1949 it was noted that the West German government wanted an end to the state of war, but the request could not be granted. The U.S. state of war with Germany was being maintained for legal reasons, and though it was softened somewhat it was not suspended since “the U.S. wants to retain a legal basis for keeping a U.S. force in Western Germany” .

3.8.18 May 1955



The Oder-Neisse Line (click to enlarge).

5: End of occupation of West Germany. West Berlin remained as a special territory. The Eastern quarter of Germany remained annexed by the Allies, but Germany would not legally accept this as a fact until in 1970 when West Germany signed treaties with the Soviet Union (Treaty of Moscow) and Poland (Treaty of Warsaw) recognizing the Oder-Neisse line between Germany and Poland.

3.8.19 1956

Last major repatriation of German Prisoners of War and German civilians who were used as forced labor by the Allies after the war, in accordance with the agreement made at the Yalta conference. Most Prisoners of War held by the U.S., France, and the U.K. had been released by 1949.

3.8.20 December 1974

18: The last known Japanese holdout, Private Teruo Nakamura, a Taiwan-born soldier (Amis: Attun Palalin) is discovered by the



The mother of a prisoner thanks Konrad Adenauer upon his return from Moscow, September 14, 1955. Adenauer has succeeded in concluding negotiations about the release to Germany, by the end of the year, of 15,000 German civilians and prisoners of war.

Indonesian Air Force on Morotai, and surrenders to a search patrol. * [9]

3.8.21 September 1990

12: The United States, USSR, United Kingdom, and France, together with the governments of East and West Germany, sign the Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany, the final treaty ending the war, paving the way for German reunification. The Four Powers renounce all rights they formerly held in Germany, including those regarding the city of Berlin.

3.8.22 March 1991

15: The Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany goes into effect. The nominal military occupation of Germany by the Four Powers--the last vestige of the World War II Allies--ends, and German sovereignty is restored.

3.8.23 See also

- Strategic operations of the Red Army in World War II

3.8.24 Notes and references

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- [5] Act of Surrender, 9 September 1945 (page visited on 3 September 2015).
- [6] The U.S. Army In The Occupation of Germany 1944–1946 by Earl F. Ziemke Footnotes to chapter 23, Further referenced to: (1) Memo, European Section Theater Group, OPD, for L & LD, sub: Establishment of Civilian Director of Relief, 8 Dec 45, in OPD, ABC 336 (sec. IV) (cases 155–).
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3.8.26 External links

- Timeline of WWII World History Database
- Timeline of WWII
- Documents of World War II
- World War II Timeline

Chapter 4

Aftermath

4.1 Aftermath of World War II

The **aftermath of World War II** was the beginning of a new era. It was defined by the decline of the old great powers and the rise of two superpowers: the **Soviet Union (USSR)** and the **United States of America (USA)**, creating a bipolar world. Allied during **World War II**, the US and the USSR became competitors on the world stage and engaged in what became known as the **Cold War**, so called because it never boiled over into open war between the two powers but was focused on **espionage**, **political subversion** and **proxy wars**. **Western Europe** and **Japan** were rebuilt through the American **Marshall Plan** whereas **Eastern Europe** fell in the Soviet sphere of influence and rejected the plan. Europe was divided into a US-led **Western Bloc** and a Soviet-led **Eastern Bloc**. Internationally, alliances with the two blocs gradually shifted, with some nations trying to stay out of the Cold War through the **Non-Aligned Movement**. The Cold War also saw a **nuclear arms race** between the two superpowers; part of the reason that the Cold War never became a “hot” war was that the Soviet Union and the United States had nuclear deterrents against each other, leading to a mutually assured destruction standoff.

As a consequence of the war, the Allies created the **United Nations**, a new global organization for international cooperation and diplomacy. Members of the United Nations agreed to outlaw **wars of aggression** in an attempt to avoid a **third world war**. The devastated great powers of Western Europe formed the **European Coal and Steel Community**, which later evolved into the **European Common Market** and ultimately into the current **European Union**. This effort primarily began as an attempt to avoid another war between **Germany** and **France** by economic cooperation and integration, and a common market for important natural resources.

The end of the war also increased the rate of **decolonization** from the great powers with independence being granted **India** (from the United Kingdom), **Indonesia** (from the Netherlands), the **Philippines** (from the US) and a number of Arab nations, primarily from specific rights which had been granted to great powers from **League of Nations Mandates** in the post **World War I**-era but often having existed *de facto* well before this

time. Also related to this was **Israel** gaining independence from its previous status as part of **Mandatory Palestine** in the years immediately following the war. Independence for the nations of **Sub-Saharan Africa** came more slowly.

The aftermath of World War II also saw the rise of the **People's Republic of China**, as the Chinese Communists emerged victorious from the **Chinese Civil War** in 1949.

4.1.1 Immediate effects



Warsaw: Aftermath of war.

At the end of the war, millions of people were homeless, the European economy had collapsed, and much of the European industrial infrastructure had been destroyed. The Soviet Union, too, had been heavily affected. In response, in 1947, U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall devised the “European Recovery Program”, which became known as the **Marshall Plan**. Under the plan, during 1948-1952 the United States government allocated US\$13 billion (US\$138 billion in 2015 dollars) for the reconstruction of **Western Europe**.

United Kingdom

By the end of the war, the economy of the **United Kingdom** was exhausted. More than a quarter of its national wealth had been spent. Until the introduction in 1941 of

Lend-Lease aid from the US, the UK had been spending its assets to purchase American equipment including aircraft and ships - over £437 million on aircraft alone. Lend-lease came just before its reserves were exhausted. Britain put 55% of its total labor force into war production.

In spring 1945, the Labour Party withdrew from the wartime coalition government, forcing a general election. Following a landslide victory, Labour held more than 60% of the seats in the House of Commons and formed a new government on 26 July 1945 under Clement Attlee.

Britain's war debt was described by some in the American administration as a "millstone round the neck of the British economy". Although there were suggestions for an international conference to tackle the issue, in August 1945 the U.S. announced unexpectedly that the Lend-Lease programme was to end immediately.

The abrupt withdrawal of American Lend Lease support to Britain on 2 September 1945 dealt a severe blow to the plans of the new government. It was only with the completion of the Anglo-American loan by the United States to Great Britain on 15 July 1946 that some measure of economic stability was restored. However, the loan was made primarily to support British overseas expenditure in the immediate post-war years and not to implement the Labour government's policies for domestic welfare reforms and the nationalisation of key industries. Although the loan was agreed on reasonable terms, its conditions included what proved to be damaging fiscal conditions for Sterling. From 1946-1948, the UK introduced bread rationing which it never did during the war. * [1] * [2] * [3] * [4]

Soviet Union



Ruins in Stalingrad, typical of the destruction in many Soviet cities.

The Soviet Union suffered enormous losses in the war against Germany. The Soviet population decreased by about 40 million during the war; of these, 8.7 million were combat deaths. The 19 million non-combat deaths had a variety of causes: starvation in the siege of Leningrad; conditions in German prisons and concentration camps; mass shootings of civilians; harsh labour in

German industry; famine and disease; conditions in Soviet camps; and service in German or German-controlled military units fighting the Soviet Union. * [5] The population would not return to its pre-war level for 30 years. * [6]

Soviet ex-POWs and civilians repatriated from abroad were suspected of having been Nazi collaborators, and 226,127 of them were sent to forced labour camps after scrutiny by Soviet intelligence, NKVD. Many ex-POWs and young civilians were also conscripted to serve in the Red Army. Others worked in labour battalions to rebuild infrastructure destroyed during the war. * [7] * [8]

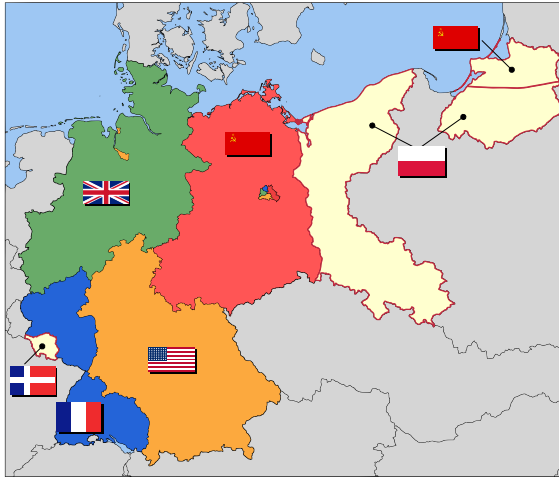
The economy had been devastated. Roughly a quarter of the Soviet Union's capital resources were destroyed, and industrial and agricultural output in 1945 fell far short of pre-war levels. To help rebuild the country, the Soviet government obtained limited credits from Britain and Sweden; it refused assistance offered by the United States under the Marshall Plan. Instead, the Soviet Union compelled Soviet-occupied Eastern Europe to supply machinery and raw materials. Germany and former Nazi satellites made reparations to the Soviet Union. The reconstruction programme emphasised heavy industry to the detriment of agriculture and consumer goods. By 1953, steel production was twice its 1940 level, but the production of many consumer goods and foodstuffs was lower than it had been in the late 1920s. * [9]

The immediate post-war period in Europe was dominated by the Soviet Union annexing, or converting into Soviet Socialist Republics, * [10] * [11] * [12] all the countries captured by the Red Army driving the German invaders out of central and eastern Europe. New Soviet satellite states rose in Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, * [13] Czechoslovakia, * [14] Romania, * [15] * [16] Albania, * [17] and East Germany; the last of these was created from the Soviet zone of occupation in Germany. * [18] Yugoslavia emerged as an independent Communist state allied but not aligned with the Soviet Union, owing to the independent nature of the military victory of the Partisans of Josip Broz Tito during World War II in Yugoslavia. The Allies established the Far Eastern Commission and Allied Council for Japan to administer their occupation of that country while the establishment Allied Control Council, administered occupied Germany. In accordance with the Potsdam Conference agreements, the Soviet Union occupied and subsequently annexed the strategic island of Sakhalin.

Germany

Main articles: History of Germany (1945–1990), Forced labor of Germans after World War II, Morgenthau Plan, Industrial plans for Germany, Denazification, Territorial changes of Germany after World War II, Legal status of Germany and German reparations for World War II

In the west, Alsace-Lorraine was returned to France. The Sudetenland reverted to Czechoslovakia following



Post-WWII occupation zones of Germany, in its 1937 borders, with territories east of the Oder-Neisse line shown as annexed by Poland and the Soviet Union, plus the Saar protectorate and divided Berlin. East Germany was formed by the Soviet Zone, while West Germany was formed by the American, British, and French zones in 1949 and the Saar in 1957.

the European Advisory Commission's decision to delimit German territory to be the territory it held on 31 December 1937. Close to one quarter of pre-war (1937) Germany was *de facto* annexed by the Allies; roughly 10 million Germans were either expelled from this territory or not permitted to return to it if they had fled during the war. The remainder of Germany was partitioned into four zones of occupation, coordinated by the Allied Control Council. The Saar was detached and put in economic union with France in 1947. In 1949, the Federal Republic of Germany was created out of the Western zones. The Soviet zone became the German Democratic Republic.

Germany paid reparations to the United Kingdom, France, and the Soviet Union, mainly in the form of dismantled factories, forced labour, and coal. German standard of living was to be reduced to its 1932 level.*[19] Beginning immediately after the German surrender and continuing for the next two years, the US and Britain pursued an “intellectual reparations” programme to harvest all technological and scientific know-how as well as all patents in Germany. The value of these amounted to around US\$10 billion*[20] (US\$121 billion in 2015 dollars). In accordance with the Paris Peace Treaties, 1947, reparations were also assessed from the countries of Italy, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Finland.

US policy in post-war Germany from April 1945 until July 1947 had been that no help should be given to the Germans in rebuilding their nation, save for the minimum required to mitigate starvation. The Allies' immediate post-war “industrial disarmament” plan for Germany had been to destroy Germany's capability to wage war by complete or partial de-industrialization. The first industrial plan for Germany, signed in 1946, required the destruction of 1,500 manufacturing plants to lower Ger-



The hunger-winter of 1947, thousands protest against the disastrous food situation (31 March 1947).

man heavy industry output to roughly 50% of its 1938 level. Dismantling of West German industry ended in 1951. By 1950, equipment had been removed from 706 manufacturing plants, and steel production capacity had been reduced by 6.7 million tons.*[21] After lobbying by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Generals Lucius D. Clay and George Marshall, the Truman administration accepted that economic recovery in Europe could not go forward without the reconstruction of the German industrial base on which it had previously been dependent.*[22] In July 1947, President Truman rescinded on “national security grounds”*[23] the directive that had ordered the US occupation forces to “take no steps looking toward the economic rehabilitation of Germany.” A new directive recognised that “[a]n orderly, prosperous Europe requires the economic contributions of a stable and productive Germany.”*[24] From mid-1946 onwards Germany received US government aid through the GARIOA programme. From 1948 onwards West Germany also became a minor beneficiary of the Marshall Plan. Volunteer organisations had initially been forbidden to send food, but in early 1946 the Council of Relief Agencies Licensed to Operate in Germany was founded. The prohibition against sending CARE Packages to individuals in Germany was rescinded on 5 June 1946.

After the German surrender, the International Red Cross was prohibited from providing aid such as food or visiting POW camps for Germans inside Germany. However, after making approaches to the Allies in the autumn of 1945 it was allowed to investigate the camps in the UK and French occupation zones of Germany, as well as to provide relief to the prisoners held there. On 4 February 1946, the Red Cross was permitted to visit and assist prisoners also in the U.S. occupation zone of Germany, although only with very small quantities of food. The Red Cross petitioned successfully for improvements to be made in the living conditions of German POWs.*[25]

Italy

The 1947 Treaty of Peace with Italy spelled the end of the Italian colonial empire, along with other border revisions. The 1947 Paris Peace Treaties compelled Italy to pay \$360,000,000 (US dollars at 1938 prices) in war reparations: \$125,000,000 to Yugoslavia, \$105,000,000 to Greece, \$100,000,000 to the Soviet Union, \$25,000,000 to Ethiopia and \$5,000,000 to Albania. In the 1946 Italian constitutional referendum the Italian monarchy was abolished, having been associated with the deprivations of the war and the Fascist rule.

Unlike in Germany and Japan, no war crimes tribunals were held against Italian military and political leaders, though the Italian resistance summarily executed some of them (such as Mussolini) at the end of the war.

Austria

The Federal State of Austria had been annexed by Germany in 1938 (Anschluss, this union was banned by the Treaty of Versailles). Austria (called Ostmark by the Germans) was separated from Germany and divided into four zones of occupation. With the Austrian State Treaty, these zones reunited in 1955 to become the Republic of Austria.

Japan

Main article: Occupation of Japan

After the war, the Allies rescinded Japanese pre-war annexations such as Manchuria, and Korea became independent. The Philippines was returned to the United States. Burma, Malaya and Singapore were returned to Britain and French Indo-China back to France. The Dutch East Indies was to be handed back to the Dutch, but was resisted leading to the Indonesian war for independence. At the Yalta Conference, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt had secretly traded the Japanese Kurils and south Sakhalin to the Soviet Union in return for Soviet entry in the war with Japan. * [26] The Soviet Union annexed the Kuril Islands, provoking the Kuril Islands dispute, which is ongoing, as Russia continues to occupy the islands.

Hundreds of thousands of Japanese were forced to relocate to the Japanese main islands. Okinawa became a main US staging point. The US covered large areas of it with military bases and continued to occupy it until 1972, years after the end of the occupation of the main islands. The bases still remain. To skirt the Geneva Convention, the Allies classified many Japanese soldiers as Japanese Surrendered Personnel instead of POWs and used them as forced labour until 1947. The UK, France, and the Netherlands conscripted some Japanese troops to fight colonial resistances elsewhere in Asia. General

Douglas MacArthur established the International Military Tribunal for the Far East. The Allies collected reparations from Japan.

To further remove Japan as a potential future military threat, the Far Eastern Commission decided to de-industrialise Japan, with the goal of reducing Japanese standard of living to what prevailed between 1930 and 1934. * [27] * [28] In the end, the de-industrialisation programme in Japan was implemented to a lesser degree than the one in Germany. * [27] Japan received emergency aid from GARIOA, as did Germany. In early 1946, the Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia were formed and permitted to supply Japanese with food and clothes. In April 1948 the Johnston Committee Report recommended that the economy of Japan should be reconstructed due to the high cost to US taxpayers of continuous emergency aid.

Survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, known as hibakusha (被爆者), were ostracized by Japanese society. Japan provided no special assistance to these people until 1952. * [29] By the 65th anniversary of the bombings, total casualties from the initial attack and later deaths reached about 270,000 in Hiroshima * [30] and 150,000 in Nagasaki. * [31] About 230,000 hibakusha were still alive as of 2010, * [30] and about 2,200 were suffering from radiation-caused illnesses as of 2007. * [32]

Finland

In the Winter War of 1939, the Soviet Union invaded neutral Finland and annexed some of its territory. The Finnish attempt to recover this territory during the period of the war known as the Continuation War (1941–44) failed. Finland retained its independence following the war but remained subject to Soviet-imposed constraints in its domestic affairs.

The Baltic states

Main article: Occupation and annexation of the Baltic states by the Soviet Union (1940)

In 1940 the Soviet Union invaded and annexed the neutral Baltic states, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. In June 1941, the Soviet governments of the Baltic states carried out mass deportations of “enemies of the people”; as a result, many treated the invading Nazis as liberators when they invaded only a week later.

The Atlantic Charter promised self-determination to peoples deprived of it during the war. The British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, argued for a weaker interpretation of the Charter to permit the Soviet Union to continue to control the Baltic states. * [33] In March 1944 the U.S. accepted Churchill's view that the Atlantic Charter did not apply to the Baltic states. * [34]

With the return of Soviet troops at the end of the war, the **Forest Brothers** mounted a guerrilla war. This continued until the mid-1950s.

Population displacement

Main articles: World War II evacuation and expulsion, Expulsion of Germans after World War II, Population transfer in the Soviet Union, Japanese American internment and Japanese Canadian internment

As a result of the new borders drawn by the victori-



Expulsion of Germans from the Sudetenland

ous nations, large populations suddenly found themselves in hostile territory. The Soviet Union took over areas formerly controlled by Germany, Finland, Poland, and Japan. Poland lost the **Kresy** region (about half of its pre-War territory) and received most of Germany east of the **Oder-Neisse** line, including the industrial regions of Silesia. The German state of the Saar was temporarily a protectorate of France, but later returned to German administration. As set forth at Potsdam, approximately 12 million people were expelled from Germany, including seven million from Germany proper, and three million from the **Sudetenland**.

During the war, the United States government interned approximately 110,000 **Japanese Americans** and **Japanese** who lived along the Pacific coast of the United States in the wake of **Imperial Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor**.^[35]^[36] **Canada** interned approximately 22,000 **Japanese Canadians**, 14,000 of whom were born in Canada. After the war, some internees chose to return to Japan, while most remained in North America.

Poland The Soviet Union expelled at least 2 million Poles from east of the new border approximating the **Curzon Line**. This estimate is uncertain as both the Polish Communist government and the Soviet government did not keep track of the number of expelled. The number of Polish citizens inhabiting Polish borderlands (**Kresy** region) was about 13 million before **World War II** broke out according to official Polish statistics. Polish citizens

killed in the war that originated from the Polish borderlands territory (killed by both German Nazi regime and the Soviet regime or expelled to distant parts of **Siberia**) were accounted as Russian, Ukrainian or Belorussian casualties of war in official Soviet historiography. This fact imposes additional difficulties in making the correct estimation of the number of Polish citizens forcibly transferred after the war.^[37] The border change also reversed the results of the 1919-1920 **Polish-Soviet War**. Former Polish cities such as **Lwów** came under control of the **Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic**. Additionally, the Soviet Union transferred more than two million people within their own borders; these included Germans, Finns, **Crimean Tatars**, and **Chechens**.

Rape during occupation

In Europe Main article: Rape during the occupation of Germany

As Soviet troops marched across the Balkans, they committed rapes and robberies in **Romania**, **Hungary**, **Czechoslovakia** and **Yugoslavia**.^[38] The population of Bulgaria was largely spared this treatment, due possibly to a sense of ethnic kinship or to the leadership of **Marshal Fyodor Tolbukhin**.^[38] The population of Germany was treated significantly worse.^[39] Rape and murder of German civilians was as bad as, and sometimes worse than, Nazi propaganda had anticipated.^[40]^[41] Political officers encouraged Soviet troops to seek revenge and terrorise the German population.^[42] On “the basis of *Hochrechnungen* (projections or estimations)”, “1.9 million German women altogether were raped at the end of the war by Red Army soldiers.”^[43]^[44]^[45] About one-third of all German women in Berlin were raped by Soviet forces.^[43] A substantial minority was raped multiple times.^[45]^[46] In Berlin, contemporary hospital records indicate between 95,000 and 130,000 women were raped by Soviet troops.^[45] About 10,000 of these women died, mostly by suicide.^[43]^[45] Over 4.5 million Germans fled towards the West.^[47] The Soviets initially had no rules against their troops “fraternising” with German women, but by 1947 they started to isolate their troops from the German population in an attempt to stop rape and robbery by the troops.^[48] Not all Soviet soldiers participated in these activities.^[49]

Foreign reports of Soviet brutality were denounced as false.^[50] Rape, robbery, and murder were blamed on German bandits impersonating Soviet soldiers.^[51] Some justified Soviet brutality towards German civilians based on previous brutality of German troops toward Russian civilians.^[52] Until the reunification of Germany, East German histories virtually ignored the actions of Soviet troops, and Russian histories still tend to do so.^[53] Reports of mass rapes by Soviet troops were often dismissed as anti-Communist propaganda or the normal byproduct of war.^[43]

Rapes also occurred under other occupation forces, though the majority were committed by Soviet troops.*[46] French Moroccan troops matched the behaviour of Soviet troops when it came to rape, especially in the early occupations of Baden and Württemberg.*[54] In a letter to the editor of *TIME* published in September 1945, an American army sergeant wrote, “Our own Army and the British Army along with ours have done their share of looting and raping ... This offensive attitude among our troops is not at all general, but the percentage is large enough to have given our Army a pretty black name, and we too are considered an army of rapists.”*[55] Robert Lilly’s analysis of military records led him to conclude about 14,000 rapes occurred in Britain, France, and Germany at the hands of US soldiers between 1942 and 1945.*[56] Lilly assumed that only 5% of rapes by American soldiers were reported, making 17,000 GI rapes a possibility, while analysts estimate that 50% of (ordinary peace-time) rapes are reported.*[57] Supporting Lilly’s lower figure is the “crucial difference” that for World War II military rapes “it was the commanding officer, not the victim, who brought charges”.*[57]

German soldiers left many war children behind in nations such as France and Denmark, which were occupied for an extended period. After the war, the children and their mothers often suffered recriminations. In Norway, the “Tyskerunger“(German-kids) suffered greatly.*[58]*[59]

In Japan Main article: Rape during the occupation of Japan

In the first few weeks of the American military occupation of Japan, rape and other violent crime was widespread in naval ports like Yokohama and Yokosuka, but declined shortly afterward. There were 1,336 reported rapes during the first 10 days of the occupation of Kanagawa prefecture.*[60] Historian Toshiyuki Tanaka relates that in Yokohama, the capital of the prefecture, there were 119 known rapes in September 1945.*[61]

Historians Eiji Takemae and Robert Ricketts state that “When US paratroopers landed in Sapporo, an orgy of looting, sexual violence and drunken brawling ensued. Gang rapes and other sex atrocities were not infrequent” and some of the rape victims committed suicide.*[62]

General Robert L. Eichelberger, the commander of the U.S. Eighth Army, recorded that in the one instance when the Japanese formed a self-help vigilante guard to protect women from off-duty GIs, the Eighth Army ordered armored vehicles in battle array into the streets and arrested the leaders, and the leaders received long prison terms.*[62]*[63]

According to Takemae and Ricketts, members of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) were also involved in rapes:

A former prostitute recalled that as soon as Australian troops arrived in Kure in early 1946, they “dragged young women into their jeeps, took them to the mountain, and then raped them. I heard them screaming for help nearly every night’. Such behavior was commonplace, but news of criminal activity by Occupation forces was quickly suppressed.*[62]

Rape committed by U.S. soldiers occupying Okinawa was also a notable phenomenon. Okinawan historian Oshiro Masayasu (former director of the Okinawa Prefectural Historical Archives) writes:

Soon after the U.S. marines landed, all the women of a village on Motobu Peninsula fell into the hands of American soldiers. At the time, there were only women, children and old people in the village, as all the young men had been mobilized for the war. Soon after landing, the marines “mopped up” the entire village, but found no signs of Japanese forces. Taking advantage of the situation, they started “hunting for women” in broad daylight and those who were hiding in the village or nearby air raid shelters were dragged out one after another.*[64]

According to Toshiyuki Tanaka, 76 cases of rape or rape-murder were reported during the first five years of the American occupation of Okinawa. However, he claims this is probably not the true figure, as most cases were unreported.*[65]

4.1.2 Post-war tensions

Main articles: Iron Curtain, Origins of the Cold War and Cold War (1947–1953)

Europe

The alliance between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union began to deteriorate even before the war was over,*[66] when Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill exchanged a heated correspondence over whether the Polish government-in-exile, backed by Roosevelt and Churchill, or the Provisional Government, backed by Stalin, should be recognised. Stalin won.*[67]

A number of allied leaders felt that war between the United States and the Soviet Union was likely. On 19 May 1945, American Under-Secretary of State Joseph Grew went so far as to say that it was inevitable.*[68]*[69]

On 5 March 1946, in his “Sinews of Peace”(Iron Curtain) speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, Winston Churchill said “a shadow” had fallen over Europe.



Soviet expansion, change of Central-Eastern European borders and creation of the Communist Eastern bloc after World War II

He described Stalin as having dropped an "Iron Curtain" between East and West. Stalin responded by charging that co-existence between Communist and capitalist systems was impossible. [70] In mid-1948 the Soviet Union imposed a blockade on the Western zone of occupation in Berlin.

Due to the rising tension in Europe and concerns over further Soviet expansion, American planners came up with a contingency plan code-named *Operation Drop-shot* in 1949. It considered possible nuclear and conventional war with the Soviet Union and its allies in order to counter a Soviet takeover of Western Europe, the Near East and parts of Eastern Asia that they anticipated would begin around 1957. In response, the US would saturate the Soviet Union with atomic and high-explosive bombs, and then invade and occupy the country. [71] In later years, to reduce military expenditures while countering Soviet conventional strength, President Dwight Eisenhower would adopt a strategy of massive retaliation, relying on the threat of a US nuclear strike to prevent non-nuclear incursions by the Soviet Union in Europe and elsewhere. The approach entailed a major buildup of US nuclear forces and a corresponding reduction in America's non-nuclear ground and naval strength. [72] [73] The Soviet Union viewed these developments as "atomic

blackmail" . [74]

In Greece, civil war broke out in 1946 between Anglo-American-supported royalist forces and communist-led forces, with the royalist forces emerging as the victors. [75] The US launched a massive programme of military and economic aid to Greece and to neighbouring Turkey, arising from a fear that the Soviet Union stood on the verge of breaking through the NATO defence line to the oil-rich Middle East. On 12 March 1947, to gain Congressional support for the aid, President Truman described the aid as promoting democracy in defence of the "free world", a principle that became known as the Truman Doctrine. [76]

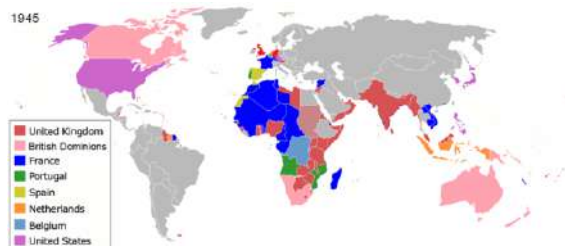
The US sought to promote an economically strong and politically united Western Europe to counter the threat posed by the Soviet Union. This was done openly using tools such as the European Recovery Program, which encouraged European economic integration. The International Authority for the Ruhr, designed to keep German industry down and controlled, evolved into the European Coal and Steel Community, a founding pillar of the European Union. The United States also worked covertly to promote European integration, for example using the American Committee on United Europe to funnel funds to European federalist movements. In order to ensure that Western Europe could withstand the Soviet military threat, the Western European Union was founded in 1948 and NATO in 1949. The first NATO Secretary General, Lord Ismay, famously stated the organisation's goal was "to keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down" . However, without the manpower and industrial output of West Germany no conventional defence of Western Europe had any hope of succeeding. To remedy this, in 1950 the US sought to promote the European Defence Community, which would have included a rearmed West Germany. The attempt was dashed when the French Parliament rejected it. On 9 May 1955, West Germany was instead admitted to NATO; the immediate result was the creation of the Warsaw Pact five days later.

The Cold War also saw the creation of propaganda and espionage organisations such as Radio Free Europe, the Information Research Department, the Gehlen Organization, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Special Activities Division, and the Ministry for State Security.

Asia

Main articles: Decolonization of Asia and Wars of national liberation

In Asia, the surrender of Japanese forces was complicated by the split between East and West as well as by the movement toward national self-determination in European colonial territories.



World map of colonization at the end of the Second World War in 1945.

China Main articles: Chinese Civil War and Cross-Strait relations

As agreed at the Yalta Conference, the Soviet Union went



Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, leader of the Chinese nationalist Kuomintang

to war against Japan three months after the defeat of Germany. The Soviet forces invaded Manchuria. This was the end of the Manchukuo puppet state and all Japanese settlers were forced to leave China. The Soviet Union dismantled the industrial base in Manchuria built up by the Japanese in the preceding years. Manchuria also became a base for the Communist Chinese forces because of the Soviet presence.

After the war, the Kuomintang (KMT) party (led by generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek) and the Communist Chinese forces resumed their civil war, which had been temporarily suspended when they fought together against Japan. The fight against the Japanese occupiers had strength-

ened popular support among the Chinese for the Communist guerrilla forces while it weakened the KMT, who depleted their strength fighting a conventional war. Full-scale war between the opposing forces broke out in June 1946. Despite U.S. support to the Kuomintang, Communist forces were ultimately victorious and established the People's Republic of China (PRC) on the mainland. The KMT forces retreated to the island of Taiwan in 1949. Hostilities had largely ceased in 1950.

With the Communist victory in the civil war, the Soviet Union gave up its claim to military bases in China that it had been promised by the Western Allies during World War II. The defeat of the US-backed KMT led to a debate in the United States about who in the US government was responsible for this, the debate is commonly labeled "Who lost China?"

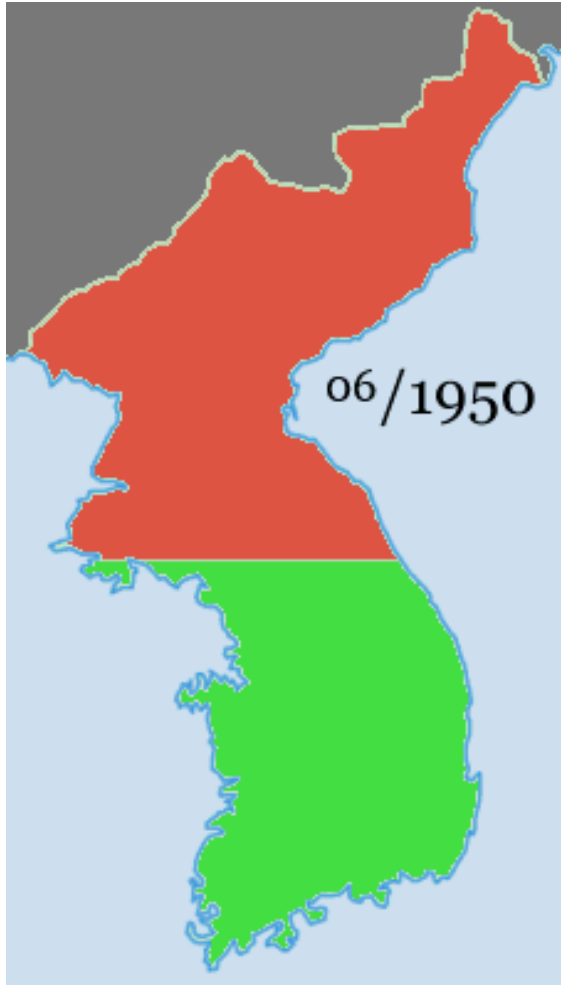
The outbreak of the Korean War diverted the attention of the PRC at the same time as it bolstered US support for Chiang Kai-shek, the two main factors that prevented the PRC from invading Taiwan. Intermittent military clashes occurred between the PRC and Taiwan from 1950-1979. Taiwan unilaterally declared the civil war over in 1991, but no formal peace treaty or truce exists and the PRC officially sees Taiwan as a breakaway province that rightfully belongs to it and has expressed its opposition to Taiwanese independence. Even so, tensions between the two states has decreased over time for example with the Chen-Chiang summits (2008-2011).

Sino-American relations (between the PRC and the US) continued to be mostly hostile up until US president Nixon visited China in 1972. From this point the relations between them have improved over time although some tension and rivalry remain even with the end of the Cold War and the PRC's distancing from the Communist ideology.

Korea Main article: Division of Korea

At the Yalta Conference, the Allies agreed that an undivided post-war Korea would be placed under four-power multinational trusteeship. After Japan's surrender, this agreement was modified to a joint Soviet-American occupation of Korea.*[77] The agreement was that Korea would be divided and occupied by the Soviets from the north and the Americans from the south.*[78]

Korea, formerly under Japanese rule, and which had been partially occupied by the Red Army following the Soviet Union's entry into the war against Japan, was divided at the 38th parallel on the orders of the US War Department.*[77]*[79] A US military government in southern Korea was established in the capital city of Seoul.*[80]*[81] The American military commander, Lt. Gen. John R. Hodge, enlisted many former Japanese administrative officials to serve in this government.*[82] North of the military line, the Soviets administered the



Evolution of the border between the two Koreas, from the Yalta Soviet-American 38th parallel division to the stalemate of 1953 that persists as of today

disarming and demobilisation of repatriated Korean nationalist guerrillas who had fought on the side of Chinese nationalists against the Japanese in Manchuria during World War II. Simultaneously, the Soviets enabled a build-up of heavy armaments to pro-communist forces in the north.* [83] The military line became a political line in 1948, when separate republics emerged on both sides of the 38th parallel, each republic claiming to be the legitimate government of Korea. It culminated in the north invading the south, and the **Korean War** two years later.

Malaya Main article: **Malayan Emergency**

Labour and civil unrest broke out in the British colony of Malaya in 1946. A state of emergency was declared by the colonial authorities in 1948 with the outbreak of acts of terrorism. The situation deteriorated into a full-scale anti-colonial insurgency, or Anti-British National Liberation War as the insurgents referred to it, led by the Malayan National Liberation Army (MNLA), the military wing of the Malayan Communist Party.* [84] The

Emergency would endure for the next 12 years, ending in 1960. In 1967, communist leader Chin Peng revived hostilities, known as the **Communist Insurgency War**, ending in the defeat of the communists by British Commonwealth forces in 1969.

French Indochina Main article: **First Indochina War**

Events during World War II in the colony of French Indochina (consisting of the modern-day states of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia) set the stage for the **First Indochina War** which in turn led to the **Vietnam War**.

During World War II, the Vichy French aligned colonial authorities cooperated with the Japanese invaders. The communist-controlled common front **Viet Minh** (supported by the Allies) was formed among the Vietnamese in the colony in 1941 to fight for the independence of Vietnam, against both the Japanese and prewar French powers. After the **Vietnamese Famine of 1945** support for the Viet Minh was bolstered as the front launched a rebellion, sacking rice warehouses and urging the Vietnamese to refuse to pay taxes. Because the French colonial authorities started to hold secret talks with the Free French, the Japanese interned them 9 March 1945. When Japan surrendered in August, this created a power vacuum, and the Viet Minh took power in the **August Revolution**, declaring the independent **Democratic Republic of Vietnam**. However, the Allies (including the Soviet Union) all agreed that the area belonged to the French. Nationalist Chinese forces moved in from the north and British from the south (as the French were unable to do so immediately themselves) and then handed power to the French, a process completed by March 1946. Attempts to integrate the Democratic Republic of Vietnam with French rule failed and the Viet Minh launched their rebellion against the French rule starting the **First Indochina War** that same year (the Viet Minh organized common fronts to fight the French in Laos and Cambodia).

The war ended in 1954 with French withdrawal and a partition of Vietnam that was intended to be temporary until elections could be held. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam held the north while South Vietnam formed into a separate republic in control of Ngo Dinh Diem who was backed in his refusal to hold elections by the US. The communist party of the south eventually organized the common front **NLF** to fight to unite south and north under the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and thus began the **Vietnam War**, which ended with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam conquering the South in 1975.

Dutch East Indies Main article: **Indonesian National Revolution**

Japan invaded and occupied Indonesia during the war and replaced much of the Dutch colonial state. Although the top positions were held by Japanese, the internment of all Dutch citizens meant that Indonesians filled many leader-



A soldier of an Indian armoured regiment examines a light tank used by Indonesian nationalists and captured by British forces during the fighting in Surabaya.

ship and administrative positions. Following the Japanese surrender in August 1945, nationalist leaders **Sukarno** and **Mohammad Hatta** declared Indonesian independence. A four and a half-year struggle followed as the Dutch tried to re-establish their colony, using a significant portion of their Marshall Plan aid to this end.*[85] The Dutch were directly helped by UK forces who sought to re-establish the colonial dominions in Asia. The UK also kept 35,000 Japanese Surrendered Personnel under arms to fight the Indonesians.

Although Dutch forces re-occupied most of Indonesia's territory a guerrilla struggle ensued, and the majority of Indonesians, and ultimately international opinion, favoured Indonesian independence. In December 1949, the Netherlands formally recognised Indonesian sovereignty.

Covert operations and espionage

British covert operations in the Baltic States, which began in 1944 against the Nazis, escalated after the war. In **Operation Jungle**, the **Secret Intelligence Service** (known as MI6) recruited and trained Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians for the clandestine work in the Baltic states between 1948 and 1955. Leaders of the operation included **Alfons Rebane**, **Stasys Žymantas**, and **Rūdolfs Silarājs**. The agents were transported under the cover of the “British Baltic Fishery Protection Service”. They launched from British-occupied Germany, using a converted World War II E-boat captained and crewed by former members of the wartime German navy.*[86] British intelligence also trained and infiltrated anti-communist agents into Russia from across the Finnish border, with orders to assassinate Soviet officials.*[87] In the end,



The “Big Three” at the Yalta Conference: **Winston Churchill**, **Franklin D. Roosevelt** and **Joseph Stalin**. Diplomatic relations between their three countries changed radically in the aftermath of World War II.

counter-intelligence supplied to the KGB by **Kim Philby** allowed the KGB to penetrate and ultimately gain control of MI6's entire intelligence network in the Baltic states.*[88]

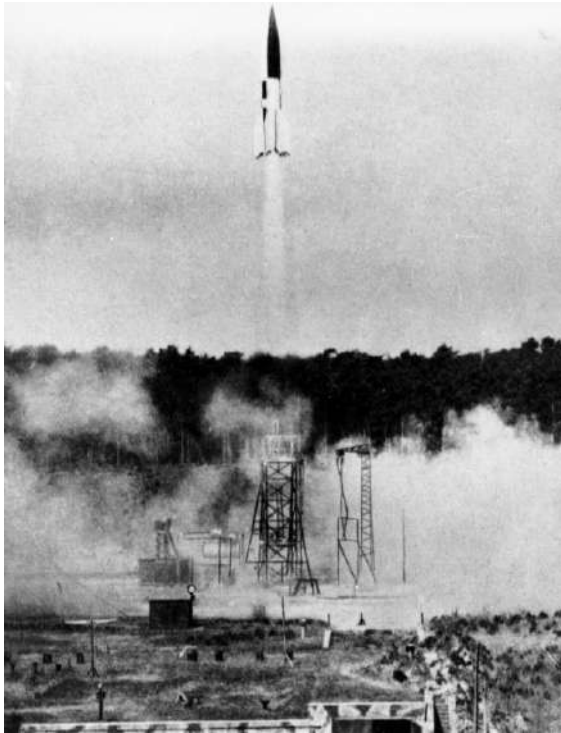
Vietnam and the Middle East would later damage the reputation gained by the US during its successes in Europe.*[89]

The KGB believed that the Third World rather than Europe was the arena in which it could win the Cold War.*[90] Moscow would in later years fuel an arms buildup in Africa. In later years, African countries used as proxies in the Cold War would often become “failed states” of their own.*[89]

Recruitment of former enemy scientists

When the divisions of postwar Europe began to emerge, the war crimes programmes and denazification policies of Britain and the United States were relaxed in favour of recruiting German scientists, especially nuclear and long-range rocket scientists.*[91] Many of these, prior to their capture, had worked on developing the German V-2 long-range rocket at the Baltic coast German Army Research Center **Peenemünde**. Western Allied occupation force officers in Germany were ordered to refuse to cooperate with the Soviets in sharing captured wartime secret weapons.*[92]

In **Operation Paperclip**, beginning in 1945, the United States imported 1,600 German scientists and technicians, as part of the intellectual reparations owed to the US and the UK, including about \$10 billion (US\$121 billion in 2015 dollars) in patents and industrial processes.*[93] In late 1945, three German rocket-scientist groups arrived in the U.S. for duty at **Fort Bliss**, Texas, and at **White Sands Proving Grounds**, New Mexico, as “War Department Special Employees”.*[94]



V-2 rocket launching at Peenemünde, on the Baltic German coast (1943).

The wartime activities of some Operation Paperclip scientists would later be investigated.*[95] Arthur Rudolph left the United States in 1984, in order to not be prosecuted.*[96] Similarly, Georg Rickhey, who came to the United States under Operation Paperclip in 1946, was returned to Germany to stand trial at the Mittelbau-Dora war crimes trial in 1947. Following his acquittal, he returned to the United States in 1948 and eventually became a US citizen.*[97]

The Soviets began Operation Osoaviakhim in 1946. NKVD and Soviet army units effectively deported thousands of military-related technical specialists from the Soviet occupation zone of post-war Germany to the Soviet Union.*[98] The Soviets used 92 trains to transport the specialists and their families, an estimated 10,000-15,000 people.*[99] Much related equipment was also moved, the aim being to virtually transplant research and production centres, such as the relocated V-2 rocket centre at Mittelwerk Nordhausen, from Germany to the Soviet Union. Among the people moved were Helmut Gröttrup and about two hundred scientists and technicians from Mittelwerk.*[100] Personnel were also taken from AEG, BMW's Stassfurt jet propulsion group, IG Farben's Leuna chemical works, Junkers, Schott AG, Siebel, Telefunken, and Carl Zeiss AG.*[101]

The operation was commanded by NKVD deputy Colonel General Serov,*[98] outside the control of the local Soviet Military Administration.*[102] The major reason for the operation was the Soviet fear of being condemned for noncompliance with Allied Control Council

agreements on the liquidation of German military installations.*[103] Some Western observers thought Operation Osoaviakhim was a retaliation for the failure of the Socialist Unity Party in elections, though Osoaviakhim was clearly planned before that.*[104]

4.1.3 Demise of the League of Nations and the founding of the United Nations

As a general consequence of the war and in an effort to maintain international peace,*[105] the Allies formed the United Nations (UN), which officially came into existence on 24 October 1945.*[106] The UN replaced the defunct League of Nations (LN) as the global intergovernmental organization. The LN was formally dissolved on 20 April 1946, but had in practice ceased to function in 1939, being unable to stop the outbreak of World War II. The UN inherited some of the bodies of the LN, such as the International Labour Organization.

League of Nations mandates, mostly territories that had changed hands in World War I, became United Nations Trust Territories. South-West Africa, an exception, was still governed under terms of the original mandate. As the successor body to the League, the UN still assumed a supervisory role over the territory. The Free City of Danzig, a semi-autonomous city state that was partly overseen by the League, became part of Poland.

The UN adopted The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, “as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.” The Soviet Union abstained from voting on adoption of the declaration. The US did not ratify the social and economic rights sections.*[107]

The five major Allied powers were given permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council. The permanent members can veto any United Nations Security Council resolution, the only UN decisions that are binding according to international law. The five powers at the time of founding were: the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, the Soviet Union and the Republic of China. The Republic of China lost the Chinese Civil War and retreated to the island of Taiwan by 1950 but continued to be a permanent member of the Council even though the *de facto* state in control of mainland China was the People's Republic of China (PRC). This was changed in 1971 when the PRC was given the permanent membership previously held by the Republic of China. Russia inherited the permanent membership of the Soviet Union in 1991 after the dissolution of that state.

4.1.4 Unresolved conflicts

Japanese holdouts persisted on various islands in the Pacific Theatre until at least 1974. Although all hostilities

are now resolved, a peace treaty has never been signed between Japan and Russia due to the Kuril Islands dispute.

4.1.5 Economic aftermath

Further information: Post–World War II economic expansion

By the end of the war, the European economy had collapsed with 70% of the industrial infrastructure destroyed.*[108] The property damage in the Soviet Union consisted of complete or partial destruction of 1,710 cities and towns, 70,000 villages/hamlets, and 31,850 industrial establishments.*[109] The strength of the economic recovery following the war varied throughout the world, though in general it was quite robust. In Europe, West Germany, after having continued to decline economically during the first years of the Allied occupation, later experienced a remarkable recovery, and had by the end of the 1950s doubled production from its pre-war levels.*[110] Italy came out of the war in poor economic condition,*[111] but by the 1950s, the Italian economy was marked by stability and high growth.*[112] France rebounded quickly and enjoyed rapid economic growth and modernisation under the Monnet Plan.*[113] The UK, by contrast, was in a state of economic ruin after the war*[114] and continued to experience relative economic decline for decades to follow.*[115]

The Soviet Union also experienced a rapid increase in production in the immediate post-war era.*[116] Japan experienced rapid economic growth, becoming one of the most powerful economies in the world by the 1980s.*[117] China, following the conclusion of its civil war, was essentially bankrupt. By 1953, economic restoration seemed fairly successful as production had resumed pre-war levels.*[118] This growth rate mostly persisted, though it was interrupted by economic experiments during the disastrous Great Leap Forward.

At the end of the war, the United States produced roughly half of the world's industrial output. This dominance had lessened significantly by the early 1970s.*[119]

4.1.6 See also

- Bretton Woods system
- Demobilization of United States armed forces after World War II
- Danube River Conference of 1948
- *Hunger's Rogues*
- Japanese holdout
- Operation Black Tulip —the eviction of Germans from the Netherlands after the war

- Operation Unthinkable

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4.1.9 External links

- Media related to Aftermath of World War II at Wikimedia Commons

Chapter 5

Impact of the war

5.1 World War II casualties



Dead Soviet soldiers, January 1942. Officially, roughly 8.7 million Soviet soldiers died in the course of the war.



The killing of Jews at Ivanhorod, Ukraine in 1942. A woman tries to shield a child with her body as Einsatzgruppen soldiers aim their rifles.

World War II was the deadliest military conflict in history in absolute terms of total dead.*[1] Over 60 million people were killed, which was about 3% of the 1940 world population (est. 2.3 billion).*[2] The tables below give a detailed country-by-country count of human losses. World War II fatality statistics vary, with estimates of total dead ranging from 50 million to more than 80 million.*[3] The higher figure of over 80 million includes deaths from war-related disease and famine. Civilians killed totalled 50 to 55 million, including 19 to 28 mil-



American corpses sprawled on the beach of Tarawa. The Marines secured the island after 76 hours of intense fighting. There were over 6,000 US, Japanese and Korean dead in total.

lion from war-related disease and famine. Total military dead: from 21 to 25 million, including deaths in captivity of about 5 million prisoners of war.

Recent historical scholarship has shed new light on the topic of Second World War casualties. Research in Russia since the collapse of the Soviet Union has caused a revision of estimates of Soviet war dead.*[4] According to Russian government figures USSR losses within post-war borders now stand at 26.6 million.*[5]*[6] In August 2009 the Polish Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) researchers estimated Poland's dead at between 5.6 and 5.8 million.*[7] Historian Rüdiger Overmans of the German Armed Forces Military History Research Office published a study in 2000 that estimated German military dead and missing at 5.3 million.*[8]

5.1.1 Classification of casualties

Compiling or estimating the numbers of deaths caused during wars and other violent conflicts is a controversial subject. Historians often put forward many different estimates of the numbers killed during World War II.*[9] The authors of the *Oxford Companion to World War II* maintain that “casualty statistics are notoriously unreli-



Polish military officers executed by the Soviet NKVD in the Katyn massacre, exhumation photo taken by the Polish Red Cross delegation in 1943.

able.” * [10] The table below gives data on the number of dead for each country, along with population information to show the relative impact of losses. When scholarly sources differ on the number of deaths in a country, a range of war losses is given, in order to inform readers that the death toll is disputed. Since casualty statistics are sometimes disputed the footnotes to this article present the different estimates by official governmental sources as well as historians. Military figures include **battle deaths (KIA)** and **personnel missing in action (MIA)**, as well as fatalities due to accidents, disease and deaths of prisoners of war in captivity. **Civilian casualties** include deaths caused by **strategic bombing**, **Holocaust victims**, **German war crimes**, **Japanese war crimes**, **population transfers in the Soviet Union**, **other war crimes**, and deaths due to war related famine and disease. The losses listed here are actual deaths, hypothetical losses due to a decline in births are not included with the total dead. The distinction between **military** and **civilian casualties** caused directly by warfare and **collateral damage** is not always clear cut. For nations that suffered huge losses such as the Soviet Union, China, Poland, Germany, and Yugoslavia, sources can give only the **total estimated population loss** caused by the war and a **rough estimate** of the breakdown of deaths caused by military activity, **crimes against humanity** and war-related famine. The casualties listed here include 19 to 25 million war-related famine deaths in the USSR, China, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, India that are often omitted from other compilations of World War II casualties. * [11] * [12] The **footnotes** give a detailed breakdown of the casualties and their sources, including data on the number of wounded where reliable sources are available.

5.1.2 Human losses by country

Total deaths

- Figures are rounded to the nearest hundredth place.

- Military casualties include deaths of regular military forces from combat as well as non-combat causes. **Partisan** and **resistance fighter** deaths are included with military losses. The deaths of prisoners of war in captivity and **personnel missing in action** are also included with military deaths. Whenever possible the details are given in the footnotes.
- The armed forces of the various nations are treated as single entities, for example the deaths of Austrians, French and foreign nationals of German ancestry in eastern Europe in the **Wehrmacht** are included with German military losses.
- The official casualty statistics published by the governments of the United States, France, and the UK do not give the details of the national origin, race and religion of the losses.
- **Civilian casualties** include deaths caused by strategic bombing, **Holocaust victims**, **German war crimes**, **Japanese war crimes**, **population transfers in the Soviet Union**, **Allied war crimes**, and deaths due to war related famine and disease. The exact breakdown is not always provided in the sources cited.

Nazi Germany

Main article: [German casualties in World War II](#)

- German sources do not provide figures for Soviet citizens conscripted by Germany. Russian historian G.Krivosheev puts the losses of the “Vlasovites, Balts and Muslims etc.” in German service at 215,000* [172]* [173]

USSR

The estimated breakdown for each Soviet Republic of total war dead * ^AY4

The source of the figures is Vadim Erlikman. *Poteri narodonaseleniia v XX veke: spravochnik*. Moscow, 2004. ISBN 5-93165-107-1. pp 21–35. Erlikman, a Russian historian, notes that these figures are his estimates.

- The population listed here of 194.090 million is taken from Soviet era sources. Recent studies published in Russia put the actual corrected population in 1940 at 192.598 million. * [174]* [175]
- According to Erlikman in addition to the war dead there were 1,700,000 deaths due to Soviet repression. (200,000 executed; 4,500,000 sent to prisons and Gulag of whom 1,200,000 died; 2,200,000 deported of whom 300,000 died)* [176]

- Figures for Belarus and Ukraine include about two million civilian dead that are also listed in the total war dead of Poland. The territories of Poland annexed by the Soviet Union in 1939 included the Western Ukraine, West Belarus and the Vilnius Region. The territories of Poland annexed by the Soviet Union in 1939 included the Western Ukraine, West Belarus and the Vilnius Region which had a population of about 13.0 million, including about 1,400,000 in territory returned to Poland in 1945 (Białystok region and Zakerzonia). Polish historian Krystyna Kersten estimated losses of about two million in the Polish areas annexed by the Soviet Union. These losses are included in both the Polish and Russian figures for war dead.*[177] The formal transfer of the territories of Poland annexed by the Soviet Union occurred with the Polish–Soviet border agreement of August 1945.

Holocaust deaths

Further information: [The Holocaust and Holocaust victims](#)

Included in the figures of total war dead for each nation are victims of the Holocaust.

Jewish deaths The Holocaust is the term generally used to describe the genocide of approximately six million European Jews during World War II. Martin Gilbert estimates 5.7 million (78%) of the 7.3 million Jews in German occupied Europe were Holocaust victims.*[178] Estimates of Holocaust deaths range between 4.9 and 5.9 million Jews.*[179]

Statistical breakdown of Jewish dead:

- In Nazi extermination camps: according to Polish Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) researchers 2,830,000 Jews were murdered in the Nazi death camps (500,000 Belzec; 150,000 Sobibor; 850,000 Treblinka; 150,000 Chełmno; 1,100,000 Auschwitz; 80,000 Majdanek).*[180] Raul Hilberg puts the Jewish death toll in the death camps, including Romanian Transnistria at 3.0 million.*[181]
- In the USSR by the Einsatzgruppen: Raul Hilberg puts the Jewish death toll in the area of the mobile killing groups at 1.4 million.*[181]
- Aggravated deaths in the Ghettos of Nazi-occupied Europe: Raul Hilberg puts the Jewish death toll in the Ghettos at 700,000.*[181]
- Yad Vashem has identified the names of four million Jewish Holocaust dead.*[182]

The figures for the pre-war Jewish population and deaths in the table below are from *The Columbia Guide to the*

Holocaust.*[179] The low, high and average percentage figures for deaths of the pre war population have been added.

- Hungarian Jewish Holocaust victims within the 1939 borders were 200,000.*[185]
- Romanian Jewish Holocaust victims totalled 469,000 in 1939 borders which includes 300,000 in Bessarabia and Bukovina occupied by the U.S.S.R. in 1940.*[185]*[186]
- According to Martin Gilbert, Jewish Holocaust victims totalled 8,000 in Italy and 562 in the Italian colony of Libya.*[187]

Non-Jews persecuted and killed by Nazi and Nazi-affiliated forces See also: [The Holocaust in Ukraine](#)

Some scholars maintain that the definition of the Holocaust should also include the other victims persecuted and killed by the Nazis.*[188]*[189]

- Donald L. Niewyk professor of history at Southern Methodist University maintains that the Holocaust can be defined in four ways: first, that it was the genocide of the Jews alone; second, that there were several parallel Holocausts, one for each of the several groups; third, the Holocaust would include Roma and the handicapped along with the Jews; fourth, it would include all racially motivated German crimes, such as the murder of Soviet prisoners of war, Polish and Soviet civilians, as well as political prisoners, religious dissenters, and homosexuals. Using this definition, the total number of Holocaust victims is between 11 million and 17 million people.*[190]
- According to the College of Education of the University of South Florida *Approximately 11 million people were killed because of Nazi genocidal policy*.*[191]
- R.J. Rummel estimated the death toll due to Nazi Democide at 20.9 million persons.*[192]
- Timothy Snyder put the victims of the Nazis killed only as result of *deliberate policies of mass murder* such as executions, deliberate famine and in death camps at 10.4 million persons including 5.4 million Jews.*[193]
- German scholar Hellmuth Auerbach puts the death toll in the Hitler era at 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust and 7 million other victims of the Nazis.*[194]
- Dieter Pohl puts the total number of victims of the Nazi era at between 12 and 14 million persons, including 5.6–5.7 million Jews.*[195]

- **Roma** Included in the figures of total war dead are the Roma victims of the Nazi persecution, some scholars include the Roma deaths with the Holocaust. Most estimates of Roma (Gypsies) victims range from 130,000 to 500,000.*[190]*[196] Ian Hancock, Director of the Program of Romani Studies and the Romani Archives and Documentation Center at the University of Texas at Austin, has argued in favour of a higher figure of between 500,000 and 1,500,000 Roma dead.*[197] Hancock writes that, proportionately, the death toll equaled “and almost certainly exceed[ed], that of Jewish victims” .*[198] In a 2010 publication, Ian Hancock stated that he agrees with the view that the number of Romanis killed has been underestimated as a result of being grouped with others in Nazi records under headings such as “remainder to be liquidated” , “hangers-on” and “partisans” .*[199]

The following figures are from *The Columbia Guide to the Holocaust*, the authors maintain that “statistics on Gypsy losses are especially unreliable and controversial. These figures (cited below) are based on necessarily rough estimates” .*[200]

- **Handicapped persons:** 200,000 to 250,000 handicapped persons were killed.*[201] A 2003 report by the German Federal Archive put the total murdered during the Action T4 and Action 14f13 programs at 200,000.*[202]*[203]
- **Prisoners of War:** POW deaths in Nazi captivity totalled 3.1 million*[204] including 2.6 to 3 million Soviet prisoners of war.*[205]
- **Ethnic Poles:** 1.8 to 1.9 million ethnic Polish civilians were victims during the German occupation (see Nazi crimes against ethnic Poles).*[206]
- **Russians, Ukrainians and Belarusians:** According to Nazi ideology, Slavs were useless sub-humans. As such, their leaders, the Soviet elite, were to be killed and the remainder of the population enslaved or expelled further eastward. As a result, millions of civilians in the Soviet Union were deliberately killed, starved, or worked to death.*[207] Contemporary Russian sources use the terms “genocide” and “premeditated extermination” when referring to civilian losses in the occupied USSR. Civilians killed in reprisals during the Soviet partisan war and wartime-related famine account for a major part of the huge toll.*[208] The *Cambridge History of Russia* puts overall civilian deaths in the Nazi-occupied USSR at 13.7 million persons including 2 million Jews. There were an additional 2.6 million deaths in the interior regions of the Soviet Union. The authors maintain “scope for error in this number is very wide” . At least 1 million perished in the wartime GULAG camps or in deportations. Other deaths occurred in the wartime evacuations and due to war related malnutrition and disease in the interior. The authors maintain that both Stalin and Hitler “were both responsible but in different ways for these deaths” , and “In short the general picture of Soviet wartime losses suggests a jigsaw puzzle. The general outline is clear: people died in colossal numbers but in many different miserable and terrible circumstances. But individual pieces of the puzzle do not fit well; some overlap and others are yet to be found” .*[209] Bohdan Wytwycky maintained that civilian losses of 3.0 million Ukrainians and 1.4 million Belarusians “were racially motivated” .*[210]*[211] According to Paul Robert Magocsi, between 1941 and 1945, approximately 3,000,000 Ukrainian and other non-Jewish victims were killed as part of Nazi extermination policies in the territory of modern Ukraine.*[212] Dieter Pohl puts the total number of victims of the Nazi policies in the USSR at 500,000 civilians killed in the repression of partisans, 1.0 million victims of the Nazi Hunger Plan, c. 3.0 million Soviet POW and 1.0 million Jews (in pre-war borders).*[213] Soviet author Georgiy A. Kumanev put the civilian death toll in the Nazi-occupied USSR at 8.2 million (4.0 million Ukrainians, 2.5 million Belarusians, and 1.7 million Russians).*[214] A report published by the Russian Academy of Sciences in 1995 put the death toll due to the German occupation at 13.7 million civilians (including Jews): 7.4 million victims of Nazi genocide and reprisals; 2.2 million persons deported to Germany for forced labor; and 4.1 million famine and disease deaths in occupied territory. Sources published in the Soviet Union were cited to support these figures.*[215]
- **Homosexuals:** According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum “Between 1933 and 1945 the police arrested an estimated 100,000 men as homosexuals. Most of the 50,000 men sentenced by the courts spent time in regular prisons, and between 5,000 and 15,000 were interned in concentration camps.” They also noted that There are no known statistics for the number of homosexuals who died in the camps.*[216]
- **Other victims of Nazi persecution:** Between 1,000 and 2,000 Roman Catholic clergy,*[217] about 1,000 Jehovah's Witnesses,*[218] and an unknown number of Freemasons*[219] perished in Nazi prisons and camps. “The fate of black people from 1933-45 in Nazi Germany and in German-occupied territories ranged from isolation to persecution, sterilization, medical experimentation, incarceration, brutality, and murder.” *[220] During the Nazi era Communists, Socialists, Social Democrats, and trade union leaders were victims of Nazi persecution.*[221]
- **Serbs:** The numbers of Serbs murdered by the

Ustaše is the subject of debate and estimates vary widely. Yad Vashem estimates over 500,000 murdered, 250,000 expelled and 200,000 forcibly converted to Catholicism.*[222] The estimate of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is that the Ustaše murdered between 320,000 and 340,000 ethnic Serbs in the Independent State of Croatia between 1941–45, with roughly 45,000 to 52,000 murdered at the Jasenovac concentration camp alone.*[223] According to the Wiesenthal Center at least 90,000 Serbs, Jews, Gypsies and anti-fascist Croatians perished at the hands of the Ustashe at the camp at Jasenovac.*[224] According to Yugoslav sources published in the Tito era the estimates of the number of Serb victims range from 200,000 to at least 600,000 persons.*[225] See also World War II persecution of Serbs.

Japanese war crimes

Main article: Japanese war crimes

Included with total war dead are victims of Japanese war crimes.

- R. J. Rummel estimates the civilian victims of Japanese democide at 5,424,000. Detailed by country: China 3,695,000; Indochina 457,000; Korea 378,000; Indonesia 375,000; Malaya-Singapore 283,000; Philippines 119,000, Burma 60,000 and Pacific Islands 57,000.

Rummel estimates POW deaths in Japanese custody at 539,000 Detailed by country: China 400,000; French Indochina 30,000; Philippines 27,300; Netherlands 25,000; France 14,000; Britain 13,000; British Colonies 11,000; US 10,700; Australia 8,000.*[12]*[226]

- Werner Gruhl estimates the civilian deaths at 20,365,000. Detailed by country: China 12,392,000; Indochina 1,500,000; Korea 500,000; Dutch East Indies 3,000,000; Malaya and Singapore 100,000; Philippines 500,000; Burma 170,000; Forced laborers in Southeast Asia 70,000, 30,000 interned non-Asian civilians; Timor 60,000; Thailand and Pacific Islands 60,000.*[227]

Gruhl estimates POW deaths in Japanese captivity at 331,584. Detailed by country: China 270,000; Netherlands 8,500; Britain 12,433; Canada 273; Philippines 20,000; Australia 7,412; New Zealand 31; and the United States 12,935.*[227]

- Out of 60,000 Indian Army POWs taken at the Fall of Singapore, 11,000 died in captivity.*[228]

- There were 14,657 deaths among the total 130,895 western civilians interned by the Japanese due to famine and disease.*[229]*[230]

Repression in the Soviet Union

The total war dead in the USSR includes victims of Soviet repression. The number of deaths in the Gulag labor camps increased as a result of wartime overcrowding and food shortages.*[231] The Stalin regime deported the entire populations of ethnic minorities considered to be potentially disloyal.*[232] Since 1990 Russian scholars have been given access to the Soviet-era archives and have published data on the numbers of people executed and those who died in Gulag labor camps and prisons.*[233] The Russian scholar Viktor Zemskov puts the death toll from 1941–1945 at about 1 million based on data from the Soviet archives.*[234] The Soviet-era archive figures on the Gulag labor camps has been the subject of a vigorous academic debate outside Russia since their publication in 1991. J. Arch Getty and Stephen G. Wheatcroft maintain that Soviet-era figures more accurately detail the victims of the Gulag labor camp system in the Stalin era.*[235]*[236] Robert Conquest and Steven Rosefielde have disputed the accuracy of the data from the Soviet archives, maintaining that the demographic data and testimonials by survivors of the Gulag labor camps indicate a higher death toll.*[237]*[238] Rosefielde posits that the release of the Soviet Archive figures is disinformation generated by the modern KGB.*[239] Rosefielde maintains that the data from the Soviet archives is incomplete; for example, he pointed out that the figures do not include the 22,000 victims of the Katyn massacre.*[240] Rosefielde's demographic analysis puts the number of excess deaths due to Soviet repression at 2,183,000 in 1939–40 and 5,458,000 from 1941–1945.*[241] Michael Haynes and Romy Huson accept the figures from the Soviet archives as being an accurate tally of Stalin's victims, they maintain that the demographic data depicts an underdeveloped Soviet economy and the losses in World War Two rather than indicating a higher death toll in the Gulag labor camps.*[242]

In August 2009 the Polish Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) researchers estimated 150,000 Polish citizens were killed due to Soviet repression. Since the collapse of the USSR, Polish scholars have been able to do research in the Soviet archives on Polish losses during the Soviet occupation.*[177] Andrzej Paczkowski puts the number of Polish deaths at 90,000–100,000 of the 1.0 million persons deported and 30,000 executed by the Soviets.*[243] In 2005 Tadeusz Piotrowski estimated the death toll in Soviet hands at 350,000.*[244]

The Estonian State Commission on Examination of Policies of Repression put civilian deaths due to the Soviet occupation in 1940–1941 at 33,900 including (7,800 deaths) of arrested people, (6,000) deportee deaths, (5,000) evacuee deaths, (1,100) people gone missing and

(14,000) conscripted for forced labor. After the reoccupation by the U.S.S.R., 5,000 Estonians died in Soviet prisons during 1944–45.*[245]

The following is a summary of the data from the Soviet archives:

Reported deaths for the years 1939–1945 1,187,783, including: judicial executions 46,350; deaths in Gulag labor camps 718,804; deaths in labor colonies and prisons 422,629.*[246]

Deported to **special settlements**: (figures are for deportations to Special Settlements only, not including those executed, sent to Gulag labor camps or conscripted into the Soviet Army. Nor do the figures include additional deportations after the war).

Deported from annexed territories 1940–41 380,000 to 390,000 persons, including: Poland 309–312,000; Lithuania 17,500; Latvia 17,000; Estonia 6,000; Moldova 22,842.*[247] In August 1941, 243,106 Poles living in the Special Settlements were amnestied and released by the Soviets.*[248]

Deported during the War 1941–1945 about 2.3 million persons of Soviet ethnic minorities including: Soviet Germans 1,209,000; Finns 9,000; Karachays 69,000; Kalmyks 92,000; Chechens and Ingush 479,000; Balkars 37,000; Crimean Tatars 191,014; Meskhetian Turks 91,000; Greeks, Bulgarians and Armenians from Crimea 42,000; Ukrainian OUN members 100,000; Poles 30,000.*[249]

A total of 2,230,500*[250] persons were living in the settlements in October 1945 and 309,100 deaths were reported in special settlements for the years 1941–1948.*[251]

Russian sources list Axis prisoner of war deaths of 580,589 in Soviet captivity based on data in the Soviet archives (Germany 381,067; Hungary 54,755; Romania 54,612; Italy 27,683; Finland 403, and Japan 62,069).*[252] However some western scholars estimate the total at between 1.7 and 2.3 million.*[253]

Military casualties by branch of service

Germany

1. The number killed in action was 2,303,320; died of wounds, disease or accidents 500,165; 11,000 sentenced to death by court martial; 2,007,571 missing in action or unaccounted for after the war; 25,000 suicides; 12,000 unknown;*[290] 459,475 confirmed POW deaths, of whom 77,000 were in the custody of the U.S., UK and France; and 363,000 in Soviet custody. POW deaths includes 266,000 in the post-war period after June 1945, primarily in Soviet captivity.*[291]
2. Rüdiger Overmans writes “It seems entirely plausible, while not provable, that one half of the 1.5 million missing on the eastern front were killed in ac-

tion, the other half (700,000) however in fact died in Soviet custody” .*[292]

3. Soviet sources list the deaths of 474,967 of the 2,652,672 German Armed Forces POW taken in the war.*[293]

USSR

1. Estimated total Soviet military war dead from 1941–45 on the Eastern Front (World War II) including missing in action, POWs and Soviet partisans range from 8.6 to 10.6 million.*[277] There were an additional 127,000 war dead in 1939–40 during the Winter War with Finland.*[294]
2. The official figures for military war dead and missing from 1941–45 are 8,668,400 comprising 6,329,600 combat related deaths, 555,500 non-combat deaths.*[295] 500,000 missing in action and 1,103,300 POW dead and another 180,000 liberated POWs who most likely emigrated to other countries.*[296]*[297]*[298] Figures include Navy losses of 154,771.*[299] Non-combat deaths include 157,000 sentenced to death by court martial.*[300]
3. Casualties in 1939–40 include the following dead and missing, Battle of Khalkhin Gol in 1939 (8,931); Invasion of Poland of 1939 (1,139); Winter War with Finland (1939–40) (126,875).*[273]
4. The number of wounded includes 2,576,000 permanently disabled.*[301]
5. The official Russian figure for total POW held by the Germans is 4,059,000; the number of Soviet POW who survived the war was 2,016,000, including 180,000 who most likely emigrated to other countries, and an additional 939,700 POW and MIA who were redrafted as territory was liberated. This leaves 1,103,000 POW dead. However, western historians put the number of POW held by the Germans at 5.7 million and about 3 million as dead in captivity (in the official Russian figures 1.1 million are military POW and remaining balance of about 2 million are included with civilian war dead).*[296]*[302]
6. Conscripted reservists is an estimate of men called up, primarily in 1941, who were killed in battle or died as POWs before being listed on active strength. Soviet and Russian sources classify these losses as civilian deaths.*[303]

British Commonwealth

1. Number served: UK and Crown Colonies (5,896,000); India-(British colonial administration) (2,582,000), Australia (993,000); Canada (1,100,000); New Zealand (295,000); South Africa (250,000).*[304]

2. Total war related deaths reported by the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission**: UK and Crown Colonies (383,786); India-(British colonial administration) (87,032), Australia (40,464); Canada (45,383); New Zealand (11,929); South Africa (11,903).*[278]
3. Total military dead for the United Kingdom alone: 264,443. Royal Navy (50,758); British Army (144,079); Royal Air Force (69,606).*[305]*[306]
4. Wounded: UK and Crown Colonies (284,049); India-(British colonial administration) (64,354), Australia (39,803); Canada (53,174); New Zealand (19,314); South Africa (14,363).*[279]*[307]*[308]
5. Prisoner of war: UK and Crown Colonies (180,488); India-(British colonial administration) (79,481); Australia (26,358); South Africa (14,750); Canada (9,334); New Zealand (8,415).*[279]*[307]*[308]
6. The **Debt of Honour Register** from the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** lists the 1.7m men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died during the two world wars.*[309]

U.S.

1. Battle deaths (including POWs who died in captivity, does not include those who died of disease and accidents) *[282] were 292,131: Army 234,874 (including **Army Air Forces** 52,173); Navy 36,950; Marine Corps 19,733; and Coast Guard 574 (185,924 deaths occurred in the European/Atlantic theater of operations and 106,207 deaths occurred in Asia/Pacific theater of operations).*[282]*[310]
2. During World War II, 14,059 American POWs died in enemy captivity throughout the war (12,935 held by Japan and 1,124 held by Germany).*[311]
3. During World War II, 1.2 million African Americans served in the U.S. Armed Forces and 708 were killed in action. 350,000 American women served in the Armed Forces during World War II and 16 were killed in action.*[312] During World War II, 26,000 Japanese-Americans served in the Armed Forces and over 800 were killed in action.*[313]

Commonwealth military casualties

The **Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)** Annual Report 2010–2011*[278] is the source of the military dead for the **British Empire**. The war dead totals listed in the report are based on the research by the CWGC to identify and commemorate Commonwealth war dead. The statistics tabulated by the CWGC are representative of the number of names commemorated for

all servicemen/women of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth and former UK Dependencies, whose death was attributable to their war service. Some auxiliary and civilian organizations are also accorded war grave status if death occurred under certain specified conditions. For the purposes of CWGC the dates of inclusion for Commonwealth War Dead are 3 September 1939 to 31 December 1947.

5.1.3 Charts and graphs

- Military and civilian deaths during World War II for the Allied and the Axis Powers.
- Axis Military personnel killed, percentage by country.
- World War II Military Deaths by Country (using Wikipedia's cited numbers)

5.1.4 See also

- World War II casualties of Poland
- World War II casualties of the Soviet Union
- German casualties in World War II
- Equipment losses in World War II
- World War I casualties
- List of wars and disasters by death toll

5.1.5 Footnotes

^A Albania

- No reliable statistics on Albania's wartime losses exist, but the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration reported about 30,000 Albanian war dead. Albanian official statistics claim somewhat higher losses.*[14]
- Jewish Holocaust victims totalled 200, these Jews were Yugoslav citizens resident in Albania. Jews of Albanian origin survived the Holocaust.*[185]

^B Australia

- The **Australian War Memorial***[15] reports 39,648 military deaths. This figure includes all personnel who died from war-related causes during 1939–47.
- According to official statistics Australian battle casualties included 27,073 killed, died of wounds or died as POW; wounded or injured in action were 23,477, these figures exclude non-battle casualties, such as deaths in non operational areas and deaths due to natural causes.*[314]*[315]

- The Australian government does not regard merchant mariners as military personnel and the 349 Australians killed in action while crewing merchant ships around the world,*[316] are included in the total civilian deaths. Other civilian fatalities were due to air raids and attacks on passenger ships.
- The preliminary data for Australian losses included 23,365 killed, 6,030 missing, 39,803 wounded, and 26,363 POWs.*[308]

^C Austria

- Military war dead reported by Rüdiger Overmans of 261,000 are included with Germany.*[317]
- Austrian civilian casualties were 99,700 victims of Nazi persecution and 24,000 killed in Allied air raids. The Austrian government provides the following information on human losses during the rule of the Nazis. “For Austria the consequences of the Nazi regime and the Second World War were disastrous: During this period 2,700 Austrians had been executed and more than 16,000 citizens murdered in the concentration camps. Some 16,000 Austrians were killed in prison, while over 67,000 Austrian Jews were deported to death camps, only 2,000 of them lived to see the end of the war. In addition, 247,000 Austrians lost their lives serving in the army of the Third Reich or were reported missing, and 24,000 civilians were killed during bombing” raids.*[150]

^D Belgium

- Belgian government sources reported 12,000 military war dead which included (8,800 killed, 500 missing in action, 200 executed, 800 resistance movement fighters and 1,800 POWs) and civilian losses of 73,000 which included (32,200 deaths due to military operations, 3,400 executed, 8,500 political deportees, 5,000 workers in Germany and 27,000 Jewish Holocaust victims).*[318]
- Losses of about 10,000 in the German Armed Forces are not included in these figures, they are included with German military casualties.*[319]

^E Brazil

- The Brazilian Expeditionary Force war dead were 510,*[320] Navy losses in the Battle of the Atlantic were 492.*[19]
- Civilian losses due to attacks on merchant shipping were 470 merchant mariners and 502 passengers.*[19]

^F Bulgaria

- Total Bulgarian military war dead were 18,500 including 6,671 battle deaths*[321]
- There were 3,000 civilian deaths in Allied air raids including 1,400 in the bombing of Sofia*[322]
- A Russian historian in a handbook of human losses in the 20th century has provided the following assessment of Bulgarian casualties: Military deaths: 2,000 military Axis occupation forces in Yugoslavia and Greece; 10,124 dead as allies of the USSR and 10,000 Anti-Fascist Partisan deaths.*[323] Regarding partisan and civilian casualties Erlikman notes “According to the official data of the royal government 2,320 were killed and 199 executed. The communists claim that 20–35,000 persons died. In reality deaths were 10,000, including and unknown number of civilians.”*[323]

^G Burma

- Military casualties with the pro-Japanese Burma National Army were 400 killed in action, 1,500 other deaths, 715 missing, 2,000 wounded and 800 POW*[21]
- Civilian deaths during the Japanese occupation of Burma totalled 250,000; 110,000 Burmese, plus 100,000 Indian and 40,000 Chinese civilians in Burma.*[21]
- Werner Gruhl estimates 70,000 Asian laborers *died cruelly* during the construction of the Burma Railway.*[324]

^H Canada

- The Canadian War Museum puts military losses at 42,000 plus 1,600 Merchant Navy deaths. An additional 700 military dead from Newfoundland are included with the U.K.*[22]
- The Canadian Virtual War Memorial contains a registry of information about the graves and memorials of Canadians and Newfoundlanders who served valiantly and gave their lives for their country.*[325]
- The preliminary data for Canadian losses included killed 37,476, missing 1,843, wounded 53,174 and POW 9,045.*[326]

^I China Sources for total Chinese war dead are divergent and range from 10 to 20 million as detailed below.

- John W. Dower has noted “So great was the devastation and suffering in China that in the end it is necessary to speak of uncertain 'millions' of deaths. Certainly, it is reasonable to think in general terms of approximately 10 million Chinese war dead, a total surpassed only by the Soviet Union.” Dower cited

a United Nations report from 1947 that put Chinese war dead at 9 million.*[38]

- According to **Rana Mitter** “the death toll on China is still being calculated, but conservative estimates number the dead at 14 million”*[327] Rana Mitter cited the estimate of Chinese casualties by **Odd Arne Westad** of 2 million combat deaths and 12 civilian deaths, Mitter also cited a Chinese study published in 2006 that put the death toll in the war at 8 to 10 million.*[328]
- An academic study of the Chinese population concluded that “a conservative estimate would put total human casualties directly caused by the war of 1937-1945 at between 15,000,000 and 20,000,000”*[28] This study cited a Chinese Nationalist source that put total civilian casualties at 2,144,048 =(1,073,496 killed; 237,319 wounded; 71,050 captured by Japanese; 335,934 killed in Japanese air raids; 426,249 wounded in air raids), military casualties at 6,750,000 from 1937-1943 (1,500,000 killed; 3,000,000 wounded; 750,000 missing; 1,500,000 deaths caused by sickness,etc.*[329] In addition 960,000 collaborator forces and 446,736 Communist were killed or wounded*[329]
- The official Chinese government (communist) statistic for China's civilian and military casualties in the **Second Sino-Japanese War** from 1937–1945 is 20 million dead and 15 million wounded.*[330]
- Chinese scholar **Bianxiu Yue** has published a study of China's population losses in the **Second Sino-Japanese War** . He put total Chinese losses at 20.6 million dead and 14.2 million injured.*[331]
- Official Nationalist Chinese casualty figures were: killed 1,319,958; wounded 1,716,335 and missing 130,126,*[332] An academic study of the Chinese population concluded that these figures are “unreasonably low” and “highly suspect”*[333]
- **R. J. Rummel's** estimate of total war dead from 1937–45 is 19,605,000.*[334] Military dead: 3,400,000 (including 400,000 POW) Nationalist/Communist, and 432,000 collaborator forces.Civilian war deaths: 3,808,000 killed in fighting and 3,549,000 victims of Japanese war crimes (not including an additional 400,000 POWs).Other deaths: Repression by Chinese Nationalists 5,907,000 (3,081,000 military conscripts who died due to mistreatment and 2,826,000 civilian deaths caused by Nationalist government, including the 1938 Yellow River flood); political repression by Chinese Communists 250,000 and by Warlords 110,000. Additional deaths due to famine were 2,250,000.

- **Werner Gruhl** estimates China's total war losses at 15,554,000, Civilians :12,392,000 including (8,191,000) due to the Japanese brutality and military dead 3,162,000.*[27]

^J Cuba

- Cuba lost 5 merchant ships and 79 dead merchant mariners.*[19]

^K Czechoslovakia

- According to the Czechoslovak State Statistical Office the population at 1/1/1939(within post war 1945-1992 borders) was 14,612,000*[30] The population in 1939 included about 3.3 million ethnic Germans that were expelled after the war or were German military casualties during the war.
- Russian demographer **Boris Uralnis** estimated Czechoslovak war dead of 340,000 persons, 46,000 military and 294,000 civilians*[31]
- A Russian historian in a handbook of human losses in the 20th century has provided the following assessment of Czechoslovak casualties:*[32]
35,000 Military deaths: including: killed during 1938 occupation (171); Czechoslovak Forces with the Western Allies (3,220); Czechoslovak military units on Eastern front (4,570); Slovak Republic Axis forces (7,000); Czechs in German forces (5,000), partisan losses 10,000 and (5,000) POWs.
320,000 Civilian deaths: (10,000) in bombing and shelling; (22,000) executed; (285,000 in camps including 270,000 Jews, 8,000 Roma); and (3,000) forced laborers in Germany.*[32]

^L Denmark

- The Danish Ministry of Education has detailed Denmark's losses in the war of about 8,000 persons including 2,685 killed in Denmark in bombing raids, resistance fighters and those executed by the Germans and 3,000 who died outside Denmark including (2,000 merchant seamen, 63 serving with Allied forces, 600 in German camps, 400 workers in Germany). In addition 2,000 Danish volunteers were killed serving in the Germany military.*[33]

^M Dutch East Indies

- The United Nations reported in 1947 that “about 30,000 Europeans and 300,000 Indonesian internees and forced laborers died during the occupation.” They reported, “The total number who were killed by the Japanese, or who died from, hunger, disease and lack of medical attention is estimated at

3,000,000 for Java alone, 1,000,000 for the Outer Islands. Altogether 35,000 of the 240,000 Europeans died; most of them were men of working age.”^[335]

- John W. Dower cited the 1947 UN report that estimated 4 million famine and forced labor dead during the Japanese Occupation of Indonesia.^[38]
- Werner Gruhl estimated the civilian death toll due to the war and Japanese occupation at 3,000,000 Indonesians and 30,000 interned Europeans.^[336]
- A discussion of the famine in Java during 1944–45, leads Pierre van der Eng to conclude that 2.4 million Indonesians perished.^[37]
- Dutch Military losses in Asia were 2,500 killed in the 1942 Dutch East Indies campaign^[337]
- Data from the Netherlands Institute of War Documentation puts the number of Dutch POW captured by the Japanese at 37,000 of whom 8,500 died.^[338]
- The Japanese interned 105,530 Dutch civilians in the East Indies, of whom 13,567 died.^[338]

^MA Egypt

- Egyptian military casualties were 1,125 killed and 1,308 wounded. The British used the Egyptian army to guard lines of communication and to clear minefields.^[339]

^N Estonia

- Estonia's human losses due to the Soviet and German occupation of Estonia from 1940 to 1945 were approximately 67,000 persons based on a study by Estonian State Commission on Examination of Policies of Repression.^[41]
- Soviet occupation 1940-41 dead and missing of 43,900 including (7,800) arrested persons who were murdered or perished in the Soviet Union; (6,000) deported persons who perished in the Soviet Union; (24,000) mobilized persons who perished in the Soviet Union and (1,100) persons who went missing)
- Losses during the 1941–1944 Occupation of Estonia by Nazi Germany were 23,040, including (7,800) executed by Nazis and (1,040) killed in prison camps. (200) people died in forced labor in Germany. (800) deaths in Soviet bombing raids against Estonian cities, (1,000) killed in Allied air raids on Germany and (1,000) perished at sea while attempting to flee the country in 1944–45. (10,000) Estonians were war dead in the Germany armed forces and (1,000) surrendered POW were executed

by the Soviets.^[340] Included in the above figures is the genocide of (243) Roma people and (929) Jews^[341]

- After the reoccupation by the USSR, 16,000 Estonians died in Soviet repressions during 1944–53.^[342]
- Total deaths from 1940–53 due the war and the Soviet occupation were approximately 83,000 persons (7.3% of the population).^[245]

^O Ethiopia

- Total military and civilian dead in the East African Campaign were 100,000 including 15,000 native military with Italian forces.^[42]
- Small and Singer put the military losses at 5,000.^[343]
- The deaths of African soldiers conscripted by Italy are not included with the Italian war dead. The Italian Ministry of Defense estimated 10,000 deaths of native soldiers in East African Campaign^[344]
- These totals do not include losses in the Italian Second Italo-Abyssinian War and Italian occupation from 1935–41. The official Ethiopian government report lists 760,000 deaths due to the war and Italian occupation from 1935–41.^[345] However, R.J. Rummel estimates 200,000 Ethiopians and Libyans were killed by the Italians from the 1920s–1941 “based on Discovery TV Cable Channel Program “Timewatch”, which aired January 17, 1992.^[346]

^P Finland

- Military dead include killed and missing from the Winter War and Continuation War with the Soviet Union, as well as action against German forces in 1944–45. Winter War (1939–40) losses were 22,830, military deaths from 1941–44 were 58,715, and 1,036 in 1944–45 in the Lapland War.^[43]
- The Finnish National Archives website lists the names of the 95,000 Finnish war dead. The war dead database 1939-1945 includes all servicemen and women who died during being listed in the Finnish army, navy or the air force. It also includes foreign volunteers who died during their service in Finland and Finnish SS-men who died while serving in the German army. The database contains civilians in case they have been buried at a military cemetery. That was sometimes done if the deceased was, for example, an ammunition worker, air raid victim or a civilian worker who for some other reason died because of the war. Some parishes continued burying in second world war military cemeteries up to the 1980s.^[44]

- Soviet sources list the deaths of 403 of the 2,377 Finnish POW taken in the War. * [347]
- During the Winter war of 1939–40 the Swedish Volunteer Corps served alongside the Finns in combat.
- 1,407 Finnish volunteers served in the Finnish Volunteer Battalion of the Waffen-SS and 256 were killed in action. * [348]
- Civilian war dead were 2,000, * [45] due in part to the bombing of Helsinki in World War II.

^Q France

- French military war of 210,000 dead include 150,000 regular forces (1939–40 Battle of France 92,000; 1940–45 on Western Front (World War II) 58,000); 20,000 French resistance fighters and 40,000 POWs in Germany. * [349] Civilian losses of 390,000 include: (60,000 killed in bombardments, 60,000 in land fighting, 30,000 murdered in executions, 60,000 political deportees, 40,000 workers in Germany, 100,000 victims of Nazi genocide (Jews & Roma) and 40,000 French nationals in the German Armed forces who were conscripted in Alsace-Lorraine.) * [349]
- The French Ministry of Defense puts French military war dead at 200,000. * [350] They note that these losses include combatants from the French colonies as well as metropolitan France; regular soldiers and members of the resistance. * [351]
- Vadim Erlikman a Russian historian, estimates losses of Africans in the French Colonial Forces at about 22,000. * [352]
- 752 civilians were killed during the US air attacks on French Tunisia in 1942–43. * [353]
- R. J. Rummel estimates the deaths of 20,000 anti-Fascist Spanish refugees resident in France who were deported to Nazi camps, these deaths are included with French civilian casualties. * [192]

^R French Indochina

- John W. Dower estimated 1.0 million deaths due to Vietnamese Famine of 1945 during Japanese occupation. * [258]
- Werner Gruhl estimates the civilian death toll due to the war and Japanese occupation at 1,500,000. * [336]
- Vietnamese sources put the number of deaths during the 1944–45 famine in North Vietnam at between 1 and 2 million. * [46]

^S Germany The following notes summarize German casualties, the details are presented in *German casualties in World War II*.

German population

- The 1939 Population for Germany within 1937 borders File:DR1937.1.png was 69.3 million persons * [47]
- Foreign nationals of German ancestry in eastern Europe were subject to conscription by Nazi Germany during the war. According to a 1958 report by the West German Statistisches Bundesamt (Federal Statistical Office) the pre war ethnic German population in eastern Europe was 7,423,300 persons (249,500 Baltic states & Memel; 380,000 Danzig; 1,371,000 Poland (1939 Borders) ; 3,477,000 Czechoslovakia; 623,000 Hungary; 536,800 Yugoslavia; and 786,000 Romania). * [354] * [355] These German estimates are disputed. A recent analysis by a Polish scholar found that “Generally speaking, the German estimates... are not only highly arbitrary, but also clearly tendentious in presentation of the German losses” . He maintains that the German government figures from 1958 overstated the total number of the ethnic Germans living in Poland prior to war as well as the total civilian deaths due to the post war expulsions. * [356]

Total German war dead

- (1949)The West German Statistisches Bundesamt (Federal Statistical Office)estimated total war dead of 5,483,000; (3,250,000)military; (500,000) civilians killed in bombing raids and the land campaign; (1,533,000) deaths in the expulsions from Poland and (200,000) victims of Nazi racial, religious or political persecution. These figures are for Germany in 1937 borders File:DR1937.1.png and do not include Austria or foreign nationals of German ancestry in eastern Europe * [357]
- (1953) The German economist de: Bruno Gleitze from the German Institute for Economic Research estimated total war dead of 6,000,000; (3,100,000)military; (600,000) civilians killed in bombing raids and the land campaign; (800,000) deaths to expulsion from Poland (300,000) victims of Nazi racial, religious or political persecution, (1,200,000) increase in natural deaths due to the war. These figures are for Germany in 1937 borders File:DR1937.1.png and do not include Austria or foreign nationals of German ancestry in eastern Europe. * [358]
- (1956) The West German Statistisches Bundesamt (Federal Statistical Office)estimated total war dead of 5,650,000 = (3,760,000)military; (430,000)civilians killed in bombing raids and the land campaign;

- (1,260,000) deaths to expulsion from Poland and (200,000) victims of Nazi racial, religious or political persecution. These figures are for Germany in 1937 borders [File:DR1937.1.png](#) and do not include Austria or foreign nationals of German ancestry in eastern Europe.*[359]
- (1961) The West German government issued a statement listing a total of 7,032,800 war dead: (military dead 3,760,000 in prewar 1937 borders [File:DR1937.1.png](#) and 432,000 foreign nationals of German ancestry in eastern Europe); (430,000 civilians killed in bombing raids and the land campaign in prewar 1937 borders); (300,000 victims of Nazi racial, religious or political persecution including 170,000 Jews); (expulsion dead 1,224,900 in prewar 1937 borders and 885,900 foreign nationals of German ancestry in eastern Europe) These figures do not include Austria.*[360] The Statistisches Jahrbuch für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1960, listed Austrian casualties as 250,000 military dead and 24,000 civilians killed in bombing raids*[147]
 - (1984) A German demographic study estimated 6,900,000 deaths caused by the war in prewar 1937 borders [File:DR1937.1.png](#). (3,800,000)military and (3,100,000) civilians.*[47]
 - (1991) A German demographic study estimated 5,450,000 to 5,600,000 war dead (4,300,000 military dead; 430,000 civilians killed in bombing raids and the land campaign and 882,000 deaths due to expulsions from Poland). These figures are for Germany in 1937 borders [File:DR1937.1.png](#) and do not include Austria or foreign nationals of German ancestry in eastern Europe*[361]
 - (1998) A German demographic study estimated 5,500,000 to 6,900,000 war dead. These figures vary because of the shift of borders between 1937 and 1940.*[362]
 - (2005) The German government issued a report listing total war dead of 7,375,800 = (3,100,000 soldiers killed; 1,200,000 soldiers missing; 500,000 civilians killed in bombing raids; 2,251,500 civilian victims of expulsions and deportations; 24,300 Austrian civilians killed and 300,000 victims of Nazi racial, religious or political persecution. These figures include Austria and foreign nationals of German ancestry in eastern Europe.)*[363]
- German military casualties
- (1945)The casualty figures compiled by the German High Command (OKW) as of January 31, 1945 put total military losses at 2,001,399 dead, 1,902,704 missing and POW held by Allies and 4,429,875 wounded.*[364]
 - (1946)The Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. estimated German military dead at 3,250,000.*[365]
 - (1947)The combined staff of the U.K., Canada and the U.S. prepared “A study of the employment of German manpower from 1933-1945” . They estimated German casualties up until April 30, 1945 at 2,230,324 dead, 2,870,404 missing and POW held by Allies.*[366]*[367]
 - (1960) The West German government issued figures of the war losses. Total military dead were put at 4,440,000 (3,760,000 in prewar 1937 borders [File:DR1937.1.png](#); 430,000 foreign nationals of German ancestry in eastern Europe and 250,000 Austria.)*[147]
 - (1974) The Maschke Commission found that about 1.2 million German military personnel reported as missing more than likely died as POWs, including 1.1 million in the USSR.*[368]
 - (1985) The Deutsche Dienststelle (WASt) has been responsible for providing information for the families of those military personnel who were killed or went missing in the war, they do not compile figures of the total war dead. By 1985 they had identified 3.1 million confirmed dead and 1.2 million missing and presumed dead.*[367] The Deutsche Dienststelle (WASt) reported the same figures in 2005*[363]
 - (1993) The Russian historian G.Krivosheev puts the losses of the "Vlasovites, Balts and Muslims etc.” in German service at 215,000*[172] According to Krivosheev 450,600 German POWs died in Soviet captivity (356,700 in camps and 93,900 in transit)*[369]
 - (2000) Rüdiger Overmans, an associate of the German Armed Forces Military History Research Office*[370] provided a reassessment of German military war dead based on a statistical survey of German military personnel records at the Deutsche Dienststelle (WASt). The Overmans research project was financed by a private foundation and published with the endorsement of the German Armed Forces Military History Research Office of the Federal Ministry of Defense (Germany). The study found that the statistics compiled by German military during the war were incomplete and did not provide an accurate accounting of casualties. The research by Overmans concluded that German military dead and missing were 5,318,000 (4,456,000 in prewar 1937 borders [File:DR1937.1.png](#) and 539,000 foreign nationals of German ancestry in eastern Europe, 261,000 Austria and 63,000 foreign nationals from western European nations). The Overmans study did not include Soviet citizens in German service*[148] The details of the Overmans study are presented in German casualties in

World War II. In a separate study Overmans concluded that the actual death toll of German POWs was about 1.1 million men including (1.0 million) in the USSR*[371]

Civilian Casualties

1. **^S1** Official German and Austrian sources from the 1950s reported about 2,950,000 civilian war dead: 434,000 air raid dead (410,000 Germany, 24,000 Austria)*[372] 300,00 deaths due to Nazi racial, religious and political persecution not including victims of the Nazi euthanasia program.*[373] Austrian sources put the number of victims of the Nazis at at 100,000;*[374] 2,111,000 Deaths due to expulsion of the Germans from east-central Europe.*[375]*[376] The German government still maintains that 2.0 million civilians perished during the flight and expulsions from Eastern Europe.*[377]
1. **^S2** Recent research indicates about 1,550,000 civilian war dead: 353,000 000 air raid dead*[378] 300,000 00 deaths due to Nazi racial, religious and political persecution in Germany*[379] and 100,000 in Austria.*[374] German government sources reported 200,000 victims of the Nazi euthanasia program*[380] Deaths due to expulsion of the Germans from east-central Europe were 600,000 according to a report by the German Federal Archive*[381]

Civilian casualties in air raids

- (1945-47) The United States Strategic Bombing Survey gave three different figures for German air raid deaths.

1- The summary report of September 30, 1945 put total casualties for the entire period of the war at 305,000 killed and 780,000 wounded.*[1]

2- The section *Effects of Strategic Bombing on the German War Economy* of October 31, 1945 put the losses at 375,000 killed and 625,000 wounded*[2]

3- The section *The Effect of Bombing on Health and Medical Care in Germany* of January 1947 made a preliminary calculated estimate of air raid dead at 422,000. Regarding overall losses they concluded that "It was further estimated that an additional number, approximately 25% of known deaths in 1944-45, were still unrecovered and unrecorded. With an addition of this estimate of 1944-45 unrecorded deaths, the final estimation gave in round numbers a half a million German civilians killed by Allied aerial attacks"*[3]

1. **^** United States Strategic Bombing Survey, Summary Report

2. **^** 'United States Strategic Bombing Survey, *Effects of Strategic Bombing on the German War Economy*, pages 13, 136

3. **^** *United States Strategic Bombing Survey, The Effect of Bombing on Health and Medical Care in Germany*, pp. 11-13

- (1956) A German government study put German air war dead at 635,000; 500,000 killed by allied strategic bombing and 135,000 refugees killed during the evacuations from eastern Europe in 1945. These figures include 593,000 Germany in 1937 borders File:DR1937.1.png (410,000 civilians, 32,000 foreigners and POW and 23,000 military and Police killed in strategic bombing and 127,000 civilians and 1,000 military and Police refugees fleeing on the eastern front). There were an additional 42,000 dead in Austria and the annexed territories(26,000 civilians, 7,000 foreigners and POW and 1,000 military and Police were killed in strategic bombing and 7,000 refugees fleeing on the eastern front)*[382]*[383]*[384]

- Historian Richard Overy in 2014 published a study of the air war *The Bombers and the Bombed: Allied Air War Over Europe 1940-1945* in which he disputed the official German figures of air war dead. He estimated total air raid deaths at 353,000. Overy maintains that the German estimates are based on incorrect speculations for losses during the last three months of the war when there was a gap in the record keeping system. He points out that the figures for air raid dead in the last three months of the war were estimated in the West German figures from 1956 at 300,000 people which he believes is not plausible. The official figures include an inflated total of 60,000 in the *Bombing of Dresden* and the inclusion of refugees fleeing westward.*[154]

Civilians killed in 1945 military campaign

- The West German government in made a rough estimate in 1956 of 20,000 civilians killed during the 1945 military campaign in current post war German borders, not including the former German territories in Poland.*[147] However, there is a more recent estimate of 22,000 civilians killed during the fighting in Berlin only.*[385]

Deaths due to Nazi political, racial and religious persecution

- The West German government put the number of Germans killed by the Nazi political, racial and religious persecution at 300,000 (including 170,000 German Jews)*[363]*[386]

- A 2003 report by the German Federal Archive put the total murdered during the Action T4 Euthanasia program at over 200,000 persons. [387]

Expulsion and flight of ethnic Germans The following notes summarize German expulsion casualties, the details are presented in the flight and expulsion of Germans (1944–1950) , the forced labor of Germans in the Soviet Union' and the Demographic estimates of the flight and expulsion of Germans. The figures for these losses are currently disputed, estimates of the total deaths range from 500,000 to 2,000,000. The death toll attributable to the flight and expulsions was estimated at 2.2 million by the West German government in 1958. [388] German government reports which were released to the public in 1987 and 1989 have caused some historians in Germany to put the actual total at 500,000 to 600,000. [389] English language sources put the death toll at 2 to 3 million based on the West German government statistical analysis of the 1950s. [390]*[391]*[392]*[393]*[394]*[395]*[396]*[397]*[398]*[399]

- (1950) The West German government made a preliminary estimate of 3.0 million civilian deaths in the expulsions.(1.5 million in prewar 1937 Germany Oder–Neisse line#/media/File:Oder-neisse.gif and 1.5 million foreign nationals of German ancestry in eastern Europe) [400]
 - (1954-1961) The Schieder commission made preliminary estimates the civilian death toll in the expulsions of about 2.3 million persons, broken out as follows: 2,000,000 Poland (in post war borders) and the Kaliningrad Oblast of Russia; 225,600 Czechoslovakia; 69,000 Yugoslavia; 40,000 Romania; 6,000 Hungary. These preliminary figures were superseded with the publication of the 1958 West German demographic study. [401]
 - (1958) A West German government demographic study estimated 2,225,000 civilians died during the flight during the war, post war expulsions and the Forced labor of Germans in the Soviet Union, broken out as follows: Germany in 1937 borders Oder–Neisse line#/media/File:Oder-neisse.gif 1,339,000; Poland in 1939 borders 185,000; Danzig 83,000; Czechoslovakia 273,000; Yugoslavia 136,000; Romania 101,000; Hungary 57,000; Baltic States 51,000. [147]*[402]
 - (1965), The search service of the German churches and Red Cross was able to confirm 473,013 civilian deaths in eastern Europe due to the expulsions, broken out as follows: 367,392 Poland(in post war borders); 18,889 Sudetenland; 64,779 Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Yugoslavia; 9,064 Baltic States ; and 12,889 Germans resettled in Poland. There were an additional 1,905,991 unsolved cases of persons reported missing. The results of this survey were kept secret until 1987. [403]*[404]*[405]*[406]*[407]
 - (1966)The West German Federal Ministry for Expellees, Refugees and War Victims issued a statement that put the number of expulsion dead at 2,111,000 (1,225,000 Germany in 1937 borders Oder–Neisse line#/media/File:Oder-neisse.gif and 886,000 foreign nationals of German ancestry in eastern Europe) [376]*[408]
 - (1974)A study by the German Federal Archive estimated a death toll of 600,000 of civilians in the expulsions and deportations to the USSR. (400,000 in Poland (in post war borders) and the Kaliningrad Oblast of Russia; 130,000 in Czechoslovakia and 80,000 in Yugoslavia.) The authors of the report maintain that these figures cover only those deaths caused violent acts and deaths in forced labor and internment camps. They also stated that their figures do not include deaths due to malnutrition and disease, this has been disputed by historian Ingo Haar who believes that total losses are between 500-600,000 [409] This report was kept secret and not published until 1989. [410]
 - (1985) A demographic analysis which has the support of the German government, estimated 2,020,000 civilians died during the post war expulsions and the forced labor of Germans in the Soviet Union broken out as follows: (870,000Germany in 1937 borders east of the Oder–Neisse line; 108,000 Germans resettled in Poland during the war; 174,000 Poland in 1939 borders ; 40,000 Danzig; 220,000 Czechoslovakia; 106,000 Yugoslavia; 75,000 Romania; 84,000 Hungary; 33,000 Baltic States; 310,000 USSR) [411]
 - The German government currently maintains that 2.0 million civilians perished in the flight and expulsion from Eastern Europe. In 2006 Christoph Bergner, Secretary of State in Germany's Bureau for Inner Affairs maintained that the figure of 2 million deaths is correct because it includes the deaths from malnutrition and disease of those civilians subject to the expulsions. [412]
 - A 2005 report by the German government search service put the death toll at 2,251,500, they did not provide details of the figure [413] The current position in 2015 of the German government Federal Agency for Civic Education is that 2 million civilians perished in the expulsions, they cited as the source for this figure Gerhard Reichling, Die deutschen Vertriebenen in Zahlen. [414]
- The German government figures of 2.0 to 2.5 million civilian deaths due to the expulsions have been disputed by scholars since the publication

of the results of the German church search service survey and the report by the [German Federal Archive](#).^[409]^[415]^[416]^[417]^[418]^[419]^[420]^[421]

- German historians Hans Henning Hahn and Eva Hahn have published a detailed study of the flight and expulsions. They maintain that figures related to flight and expulsion have been manipulated by the German government due to political pressure. The Hahn's believe the official German figure of 2 million deaths is an historical myth, lacking foundation. They place the ultimate blame for the mass flight and expulsion on the wartime policy of the Nazis in Eastern Europe. The Hahn's maintain that the 473,013 confirmed deaths is a correct accounting of the losses. Most of these losses occurred during the Nazi organized flight and evacuation during the war, and the forced labor of Germans in the Soviet Union; they point out that there are 80,522 confirmed deaths in the postwar internment camps.^[415]
- German historian [Rüdiger Overmans](#) published a study of German military casualties, this project did not investigate civilian expulsion deaths.^[422] Overmans did however provide a critical analysis of the previous studies by German government of the human losses in the expulsions. Overmans maintains that these studies lack adequate support, he maintains that a figure of 500,000 expulsion dead is credible and that there are more arguments for the lower figures rather than the higher figures, he believes that new research is needed to determine the correct balance of the human losses in the expulsions. According to Overmans the figure of 1.9 million missing persons reported by the search service is unreliable as it includes military dead and persons of dubious German ancestry who were not expelled after the war but remained in eastern Europe, also the figures for expellees living in the GDR was understated.^[416]^[417]^[423]
- German historian [Ingo Haar](#) called into question the validity of the official government figure of 2.0 million expulsion deaths in a 2006 article in the German newspaper [Süddeutsche Zeitung](#).^[409] Since then Haar has published three articles in academic journals that covered the background of the research by the West German government on the expulsions. According to Haar the numbers were set too high for postwar political reasons. His own research indicates that all reasonable estimates of deaths from expulsions lie between around 500,000 and 600,000, he maintains that deaths due to disease, hunger and other conditions are already included in these numbers.^[420]^[421]^[424]^[425]
- The [German Historical Museum](#) puts the number of deaths due to the expulsions at 600,000, they main-

tain that the figure of 2 million deaths in the previous government studies cannot be supported.^[426]

- A joint Czech–German Historical Commission determined that between 15,000 and 30,000 Germans perished in the expulsions. The commission found that the demographic estimates by the German government of 220,000 to 270,000 civilian deaths due to expulsions from Czechoslovakia were based on faulty data. The Commission determined that the demographic estimates by the German government counted as missing 90,000 ethnic Germans assimilated into the Czech population; military deaths were understated and that the 1950 census data used to compute the demographic losses was unreliable.^[427]
- Polish historian [Bernadetta Nitschke](#) has provided a summary of the research in Poland on German losses due to the flight and resettlement of the Germans from Poland, not including other eastern European countries. Nitschke contrasted the estimate of 1.6 million deaths in Poland reported by the West German government in the 1950s with the figure of 400,000 (in Poland only) that was disclosed in 1989. According to Nitschke most of the civilian deaths occurred during the flight and evacuation during the war, the deportation to the U.S.S.R. for forced labor, and after the resettlement in the Soviet occupation zone in post war Germany.^[428]
- Polish historians [Witold Sienkiewicz](#) and [Grzegorz Hryciuk](#) believe that between 600,000 and 1.2 million German civilians perished during the wartime evacuations. The main causes of death were cold, stress, and bombing.^[429] According to Sienkiewicz and Hryciuk between 200,000-250,000 persons were held in postwar Polish internment camps and between 15,000-60,000 perished.^[430]

Post war increase in natural deaths

- German government figures of war losses do not include the increase in natural deaths with war casualties. The German economist [Bruno Gleitze](#) from the [German Institute for Economic Research](#) estimated that there were 1,200,000 excess deaths caused by the harsh conditions in Germany during and after the war. Gleitze estimated 400,000 excess deaths during the war and 800,000 in post war Germany^[358] The West German Statistisches Bundesamt put the actual deaths from 1939-46 due to natural causes at 7,130,000 persons, the demographic study by [Peter Marschalck](#) estimated the expected deaths in peacetime due to natural causes of 5,900,000 persons, a difference of 1,230,000 excess deaths.^[47] In Allied-occupied Germany the shortage of food was an acute problem in 1946–47. The average kilocalorie intake per day was only

1,600 to 1,800, an amount insufficient for long-term health.*[431]

^T Greece

- The Greek government is planning to claim reparations from Germany for war damages.*[432]*[433]
- The Greek National Council for Reparations from Germany reports the following casualties during the Axis occupation of Greece during World War II. Military dead 35,077, including: 13,327 killed in the Greco-Italian War of 1940–41; 1,100 with the Greek Royal Forces in the Middle East, and 20,650 partisan deaths. Civilian deaths 171,845, including: 56,225 executed by Axis forces; 105,000 dead in German concentration camps (including Jews); 7,120 deaths due to bombing; 3,500 merchant marine dead; 600,000 Famine deaths during the war*[51]
- A study published by Cambridge University Press in 2010 estimated that Greece suffered approximately 300,000 deaths during the Axis occupation as a result of famine and malnutrition*[52]
- Gregory Frumkin, who was throughout its existence editor of the *Statistical Year-Book of the League of Nations* gave the following assessment of Greek losses in the war. He points out that that “the data on Greek war losses are frequently divergent and even inconsistent” . His estimates for Greek losses are as follows: the war dead included 20,000 military deaths in the Greco-Italian War of 1940–41, 60,000 non-Jewish civilians, 20,000 non-Jewish deportees, 60,000 Jews and 140,000 famine deaths during the Axis occupation of Greece during World War II.*[434]
- In campaigns against the Greek Resistance the German occupiers engaged in a policy of reprisals against civilians, the most notorious were the Distomo massacre and the Massacre of Kalavryta. According to the German historian Dieter Pohl at least 25,000 but perhaps even more civilians were killed in mass executions. Pohl maintains that about 1 million persons (14% of the population) were displaced in the campaigns against the Greek Resistance because their homes were destroyed or they were expelled and became refugees.*[435]

^TA Guam

- Guam was a United States administered territory during World War Two. The local Chamorro people were granted U.S. citizenship in the Guam Organic Act of 1950.

- According to an official U.S. report during the Battle of Guam on December 8–10, 4 Guam local military personnel and 3 Guam residents were killed in the battle.*[436] However, Japanese sources reported 40–50 of the local population killed.*[437]

- Between 1,000*[54] to 2,000*[55] Chamorro people were killed or otherwise died of abuse and mistreatment during the Japanese occupation of Guam from December 10, 1941 until August 10, 1944, including an estimated 600 civilians who were massacred by the Japanese during the Battle of Guam (1944).*[55]

^U Hungary

- Tamás Stark of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences has provided the following assessment of Hungarian losses. Military losses were 300,000 to 310,000 including 110–120,000 killed in action and 200,000 in Soviet POW and labor camps and 20–25,000 Jews in Hungarian military labor service.*[56] About 210,000 were from Hungary in the 1939 borders and about 100,000 men who were conscripted from the annexed territories of Greater Hungary in Slovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia.*[57] Civilian dead within the borders of present-day Hungary included 220,000 Hungarian Jews killed in the Holocaust and 44,000 deaths from military operations*[57]

^V Iceland

- Confirmed losses of civilian sailors due to German attacks and mines.*[59]

^W India

- India which was a British Colony during World War II included the present day India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. India under British administration is sometimes referred to as the British Raj.
- The war dead of 87,028 listed here are those reported by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission,*[438]
- Gurkhas recruited from Nepal fought with the British Indian Army during the Second World War. Gurkha casualties with the British Indian Army can be broken down as: 8,985 killed or missing and 23,655 wounded.*[439]
- The preliminary 1945 data for Indian losses was, killed 24,338, missing 11,754, wounded 64,354 and POW 79,489.*[308] Out of 60,000 Indian Army POWs taken at the Fall of Singapore, 11,000 died in captivity.*[228]

- The pro-Japanese Indian National Army lost 2,615 dead and missing.*[21]

Bengal famine of 1943

- John W. Dower estimated 1.5 million civilian deaths in the Bengal famine of 1943.*[62]
- Amartya Sen currently the Lamont University Professor at Harvard University has recently estimated that a figure of 2.0 to 2.5 million fatalities may be more accurate.*[63]

^X Iran

- Losses during allied occupation in 1941.*[65]

^Y Iraq

- Losses during Anglo-Iraqi War and UK occupation in 1941.*[65]
- According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum between 150-180 Jews were killed in the Farhud pogrom in 1941.*[67]

^Z Ireland

- Although neutral, an estimated 70,000 of the Irish Free State's citizens volunteered in the British military service. Some 40 Irish citizens were killed by accidental bombings in Dublin and Carlow, and 33 Irish merchant seamen were killed in U-boat attacks by Germany.*[69]*[440]*[440]

^AA Italy The casualties recorded for Italy do not include Italians who were born in Italian colonies and possessions (ethnic Italians in Libya, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and the Dodecanese) and in national territories that Italy lost with the Paris peace treaty of 1947 (mainly the Julian March, Istria and Zara/Zadar; a large part of the victims of the Foibe massacres are thus not included).

- Updated studies (2010) by the *Ufficio dell'Albo d'Oro* of the Italian Ministry of Defence, p. 4 have revised the military deaths to 319,207, of which 246,432 belonged to the Army, 31,347 to the Navy, 13,210 to the Air Force, 15,197 to the Partisan formations and 13,021 to the armed forces of the Italian Social Republic.
- The Italian government issued an accounting of the war dead in 1957, they broke out the losses before and after the Armistice with Italy: military dead and missing 291,376 (204,376 pre-armistice and 87,030 post armistice). Civilian dead and missing at 153,147 (123,119 post armistice) including in air

raids 61,432 (42,613 post armistice).*[1] A brief summary of data from this report can be found online.*[2]

Military war dead

Confirmed dead were 159,957 (92,767 pre-armistice, 67,090 post armistice)*[3]

Missing and presumed dead(including POWs) were 131,419 (111,579 pre-armistice, 19,840 post armistice)*[4]

Losses by branch of service: Army 201,405; Navy 22,034; Air Force 9,096; Colonial Forces 354; Chaplains 91; Fascist militia

10,066; Paramilitary 3,252; not indicated 45,078.*[5]

Military Losses by theatre of war: Italy 74,725 (37,573 post armistice); France 2,060 (1,039 post armistice);

Germany 25,430 (24,020 post armistice); Greece, Albania, and Yugoslavia 49,459 (10,090 post armistice);

USSR 82,079 (3,522 post armistice); Africa 22,341 (1,565 post armistice), at sea 28,438 (5,526 post armistice);

other and unknown 6,844 (3,695 post armistice).*[6]

1. ^ Roma:Istituto Centrale Statistica. *Morti E Dispersi Per Cause Belliche Negli Anni 1940-45* Rome, 1957.

2. ^ "The effects of war losses on mortality estimates for Italy: A first attempt. Demographic Research, Vol. 13, No. 15". Demographic-research.org. Retrieved 2011-06-15.

3. ^ Roma:Istituto Centrale Statistica *Morti E Dispersi Per Cause Belliche Negli Anni 1940-45* Rome 1957, pp. 4-5

4. ^ Roma:Istituto Centrale Statistica *Morti E Dispersi Per Cause Belliche Negli Anni 1940-45*, Rome 1957, pp. 6-7

5. ^ Roma:Istituto Centrale Statistica *Morti E Dispersi Per Cause Belliche Negli Anni 1940-45*, Rome 1957, p. 20

6. ^ Roma:Istituto Centrale Statistica *Morti E Dispersi Per Cause Belliche Negli Anni 1940-45*, Rome 1957, pp. 10-11

- Military losses in Italy after the September 1943 Armistice with Italy, included 5,927 with the Allies, 17,488 Italian resistance movement fighters in Italy and 13,000 RSI Italian Social Republic Fascist forces.*[441]

- Included in the losses are 64,000 victims of Nazi reprisals and genocide including 30,000 POWs and 8,500 Jews.*[192]

- According to **Martin Gilbert**, Jewish Holocaust victims totaled 8,000 in Italy and 562 in the Italian colony of Libya* [187]

^AB Japan

- Estimates for total Japanese war dead from 1937-1945 range from at least 2.5 million* [442] to 3.237 million* [443]
- According to the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare Japanese war dead(1937–45) totaled 3.1 million persons including 2.3 million soldiers and Army/Navy civilian employees(including civilians, Koreans and Chinese from Taiwan conscripted by Japanese military), 500,000 civilians in Japan and 300,000 civilians living outside of Japan.* [444]

Military dead

- According to a report compiled by the Relief Bureau of the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare in March 1964, combined Japanese Army and Navy deaths during the war(1937–45) numbered approximately 2,121,000(not including Koreans and Chinese from Taiwan conscripted by Japanese military), broken down as follows:* [445]

Key: Location, Army dead, Navy dead, (Total dead)

Japan Proper: 58,100, 45,800, (103,900)
 Bonin Islands: 2,700, 12,500, (15,200)
 Okinawa: 67,900, 21,500, (89,400)
 Formosa (Taiwan): 28,500, 10,600, (39,100)
 Korea: 19,600, 6,900, (26,500)
 Sakhalin, the Aleutian, and Kuril Islands: 8,200, 3,200, (11,400)
 Manchuria: 45,900, 800, (46,700)
 China (inc. Hong Kong): 435,600, 20,100, (455,700)
 Siberia: 52,300, 400, (52,700)
 Central Pacific: 95,800, 151,400, (247,200)
 Philippines: 377,500, 121,100, (498,600)
 French Indochina: 7,900, 4,500, (12,400)
 Thailand: 6,900, 100, (7,000)
 Burma (inc. India): 163,000, 1,500, (164,500)
 Malaya & Singapore: 8,500, 2,900, (11,400)
 Andaman & Nicobar Islands: 900, 1,500, (2,400)
 Sumatra: 2,700, 500, (3,200)
 Java: 2,700, 3,800, (6,500)
 Lesser Sundas: 51,800, 1,200, (53,000)
 Borneo: 11,300, 6,700, (18,000)
 Celebes: 1,500, 4,000, (5,500)
 Moluccas: 2,600, 1,800, (4,400)
 New Guinea: 112,400, 15,200, (127,600)
 Bismarck Archipelago: 19,700, 10,800, (30,500)
 Solomon Islands: 63,200, 25,000, (88,200)
 Total: 1,647,200, 473,800, (2,121,000)

Overall, perhaps two thirds of all Japanese military dead came not from combat, but from starvation and disease.* [446] In some cases this figure was potentially even higher, up to 80% in the Philippines* [447] and a staggering 97% in New Guinea.* [448]

- According to **John W. Dower** the Japanese source Showa Shi – 1959 by Shigeki Toyama put Japanese war dead from 1937-1941 in the Second Sino-Japanese War at 185,467* [449]
- In 1949 the report of the Japanese government Economic Stabilization Board put military war dead from December 1941 to December 21, 1946 at 1,555,308 Killed and 309,402 wounded* [450]* [451] These figures do not include an additional 240,000 missing Army personnel. The figures of wounded show only those receiving pensions.* [450] The details of these figures are as follows:* [452]* [453]

Army

China after Pearl Harbor 202,958 killed and 88,920 wounded.
 vs. United States 485,717 killed and 34,679 wounded.
 vs. U.K. and Netherlands 208,026 killed and 139,225 wounded.
 vs. Australia 199,511 killed and 15,000 wounded.
 French Indochina 2,803 killed and 6,000 wounded.
 Manchuria & USSR 7,483 killed and 4,641 wounded.
 other overseas 23,388 killed and 0 wounded
 Japan proper 10,543 killed and 6,782 wounded
 Army total 1,140,429 killed and 295,247 wounded.
 Navy
 Sailors 300,386 killed and 12,275 wounded and missing.
 Civilians in Navy service 114,493 killed and 1,880 wounded and missing.
 Navy total 414,879 killed and 14,155 wounded and missing.

- The Japanese Central Liaison Office reported in July 1947 to the Allied occupation authorities that Japanese military dead from 1935-1945 were 1,687,738(1,340,700 Army and 347,038 Navy)* [454]
- The Yasukuni Shrine in Japan lists a total of 191,250 war dead from 1937 to 1941 in the Second Sino-Japanese War and 2,133,915 in the Pacific War Their figures include civilians who participated in combat and Chinese(Taiwan) and Koreans in the Japanese Armed Forces.
- According to the calculations of **Werner Gruhl** Japanese military war dead were 2,565,878 (250,000 from 1931–41 and 2,315,878 from 1942-45)* [455]

- **John W. Dower** Dower maintains that “only one third of the military deaths occurred in actual combat, the majority being caused by illness and starvation.” * [456] According to Dower over 300,000 Japanese POW were missing after being captured by the Soviets. Japanese figures as of 12/31/1948 listed 469,074 missing personnel in Soviet hands, while at the same time the Soviets admitted to holding 95,000 Japanese prisoners thus leaving 374,041 surrendered Japanese personnel who were unaccounted for and presumed dead. * [457] According to Dower “Known deaths of Japanese troops awaiting repatriation in Allied(non-Soviet) hands were listed as 81,090 by U.S. authorities. * [458] * [459]
- The Japanese Ministry of Welfare and Foreign Office reported from 1951-60 that 254,000 military personnel and civilians were confirmed dead and 95,000 went missing in Soviet hands after the war. The details of these losses are as follows: 199,000 in Manchurian transit camps, 36,000 in North Korea, 9,000 on Sakhalin and 103,000 in the USSR. * [460]
- According to the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare 65,000 soldiers and civilians were killed in the 1945 military campaign against the Soviet Union, after the war ended deaths at the hands of the Red Army and local Chinese population were 185,000 Manchuria, 28,000 in North Korea and 10,000 on Sakhalin and the Kurile islands. An additional 700,000 were taken prisoner by the Soviets were 50,000 died in forced labor in the USSR and Outer Mongolia. * [461]
- The Japanese government figures for POW deaths are not in agreement with Soviet figures. Russian sources report that the Soviets reported the POW deaths of 62,105 (61,855 Japanese and 214 collaborator forces) out of the 640,105 captured (609,448 Japanese and 30,657 collaborator forces). * [462]

Civilian Dead

- The 1949 report of the Japanese government Economic Stabilization Board detailed the casualties caused by air raids and sea bombardment. Total casualties were 668,315 including 299,485 dead, 24,010 missing and 344,820 injured. These figures include the casualties in Tokyo (東京) 97,031 dead, 6,034 missing and 113,923 injured; in Hiroshima (広島) 86,141 dead, 14,394 missing and 46,672 injured, in Nagasaki (長崎) 26,238 dead, 1,947 missing and 41,113 injured. * [463] * [464] * [465] According to **John W. Dower** an error which appears in English language sources puts the total killed in air raids at 668,000, a figure which includes dead, missing and injured. * [458]
- A Japanese academic study published in 1979 by The Committee for the Compilation of Materials on

Damage Caused by the Atomic Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki puts the total dead in the atomic attacks at 140,000 (\pm 10,000) in Hiroshima and 70,000 (\pm 10,000) in Nagasaki. * [466] According to the authors of the report a study of atomic bomb related casualties in Hiroshima in December 1945 was “lost and not discovered until twenty years later” , they cited a similar survey in Nagasaki done in December 1945. * [467] The authors maintain that the lower casualty figures published in the immediate post war era did not include military personnel and missing persons. * [468] The figures of dead in the atomic attacks from this study were cited by **John W. Dower** in his 'War Without Mercy' * [469]

- According to the **World Nuclear Association**, “In Hiroshima, of a resident civilian population of 250,000 it was estimated that 45,000 died on the first day and a further 19,000 during the subsequent four months. In Nagasaki, out of a population of 174,000, 22,000 died on the first day and another 17,000 within four months. Unrecorded deaths of military personnel and foreign workers may have added considerably to these figures. About 15 square kilometers (over 50%) of the two cities was destroyed. It is impossible to estimate the proportion of these 103,000 deaths, or of the further deaths in military personnel, which were due to radiation exposure rather than to the very high temperatures and blast pressures caused by the explosions.” They noted that “To the 103,000 deaths from the blast or acute radiation exposure at Hiroshima and Nagasaki have since been added those due to radiation-induced cancers, which amounted to some 400 within 30 years, and which may ultimately reach about 550. (Some 93,000 exposed survivors were still being monitored 50 years later.)” * [470]
- The **Radiation Effects Research Foundation** puts the number of deaths (within two to four months), in Hiroshima at 90,000 to 166,000 persons, and in Nagasaki at 60,000 to 80,000 persons. They noted that deaths caused by the atomic bombings include those that occurred on the days of the bombings due to the overwhelming force and heat of the blasts, as well as later deaths attributable to radiation exposure. The total number of deaths is not known precisely because military personnel records in each city were destroyed; entire families perished, leaving no one to report deaths; and unknown numbers of forced laborers were present in both cities * [471]
- The **U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey** published the following estimates of Japanese casualties due to U.S. bombing.

1-Summary Report (July 1946) Total civilian casualties in Japan, as a result of 9 months of air attack, including those from the atomic bombs, were approximately

806,000. Of these, approximately 330,000 were fatalities.*[472]

2-United States Strategic Bombing Survey, Medical Division (1947) The bombing of Japan killed 333,000 civilians and injured 473,000. Of this total 120,000 died and 160,000 were injured in the atomic bombings, leaving 213,000 dead and 313,000 injured by conventional bombing.*[473]

3-The effects of air attack on Japanese urban economy. Summary report (1947) Estimated that 252,769 Japanese were killed and 298,650 injured in the air war.*[474]

4-The Effects of strategic bombing on Japanese morale Based on a survey of Japanese households the death toll was put at 900,000 dead and 1.3 million injured, the SBS noted that this figure was subject to a maximum sampling error of 30%.*[475]

5-Strategic Bombing Survey The Effects of Atomic Bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki The most striking result of the atomic bombs was the great number of casualties. The exact number of dead and injured will never be known because of the confusion after the explosions. Persons unaccounted for might have been burned beyond recognition in the falling buildings, disposed of in one of the mass cremations of the first week of recovery, or driven out of the city to die or recover without any record remaining. No sure count of even the prepaid populations existed. Because of the decline in activity in the two port cities, the constant threat of incendiary raids, and the formal evacuation programs of the Government, an unknown number of the inhabitants had either drifted away from the cities or been removed according to plan. In this uncertain situation, estimates of casualties have generally ranged between 100,000 and 180,000 for Hiroshima, and between 50,000 and 100,000 for Nagasaki. The Survey believes the dead at Hiroshima to have been between 70,000 and 80,000, with an equal number injured; at Nagasaki over 35,000 dead and somewhat more than that injured seems the most plausible estimate.*[476]

- John W. Dower puts Japanese civilian dead in Battle of Saipan at 10,000 and 150,000 in Battle of Okinawa.*[458]
- War related deaths of Japanese merchant marine personnel were 27,000.*[477]

^AC Korea

- American researcher R. J. Rummel estimated 378,000 Korean dead due to forced labor in Japan and Manchuria. According to Rummel, "Information on Korean deaths under Japanese occupation is difficult to uncover. We do know that 5,400,000 Koreans were conscripted for labor beginning in 1939, but how many died can only be roughly estimated."*[478]

- Werner Gruhl estimated the civilian death toll due to the war and Japanese occupation at 533,000*[479]
- John W. Dower has noted "Between 1939 and 1945, close to 670,000 Koreans were brought to Japan for fixed terms of work, mostly in mines and heavy industry, and it has been estimated that 60,000 or more of them died under harsh conditions of their work places. Over 10,000 others were probably killed in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki" .*[480]

^AD Latvia

- Independent Russian historian Vadim Erlikman estimated Latvian civilian war dead from 1941-45 at 220,000 (35,000 in military operations; 110,000 executed, 35,000 in Germany and 40,000 due to hunger and disease. Military dead were estimated with Soviet forces at 10,000 and 15,000 with German. POW deaths 3,000.*[83]

^AE Lithuania

- Independent Russian historian Vadim Erlikman estimated Lithuanian civilian war dead from 1941-45 at 345,000 (25,000 in military operations; 230,000 executed, 15,000 in Germany and 75,000 due to hunger and disease. Military dead were estimated with Soviet forces at 15,000 and 5,000 with German. POW deaths 4,000.*[85]

^AF Luxembourg

- Total war dead were 5,000*[481] which included military losses of about 3,000 with the German Armed Forces and 200 in a separate unit attached to the Belgian Army.

^AG Malaya and Singapore

- The British colony of Malaya consisted of the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay States. Today they are the nations Malaysia and Singapore.
- According to John W. Dower "Malayan officials after the war claimed, possibly with exaggeration, that as many as 100,000 residents, mostly Chinese, may have been killed by the Japanese; of 73,000 Malaysians transported to work on the Burma-Siam railway, 25,000 were reported to have died."*[482]
- According to Werner Gruhl in Singapore the Japanese murdered 5,000 to 10,000 Chinese in 1942. In Malaya and Singapore an estimated 50,000 Chinese were killed in this genocide by the end of the war*[483]

^AH Malta

- About 1,500 civilians were killed during the Siege of Malta (World War II)*[484] Maltese civilian war dead are included with the U.K. by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

^AI Mexico

- Mexico lost 7 merchant ships and 63 dead merchant mariners.*[89] A Mexican Air Force unit *Escuadrón 201* served in the Pacific and suffered 5 combat deaths.

^AJ Mongolia

- Military losses with USSR against Japan in the 1939 Battle of Khalkhin Gol (200) and the 1945 Soviet invasion of Manchuria (72) campaigns.*[91]

^AK Nauru

- During World War II Japan occupied Nauru in August 1942 and deported 1,200 Nauruans to work as laborers in the Caroline Islands, where 463 died. The survivors returned to Nauru in January 1946.*[92]

^BG Nepal

- Gurkhas recruited from Nepal fought with the British Indian Army and Nepalese Army during the Second World War. The war dead reported by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for India include Nepalese in the British Indian Army and Nepalese Army.*[485]
- Gurkha casualties can be broken down as: 8,985 killed or missing and 23,655 wounded.*[439]

^AL Netherlands

- In 1948 the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) issued a report of war losses. They listed 210,000 direct war casualties in the Netherlands ,not including the Dutch East Indies.

Military deaths 6,750 which included 3,900 regular Army, 2,600 Navy forces, and 250 POW in Germany. Civilian deaths of 203,250 which included 1,350 Merchant seaman, 2,800 executed, 2,500 dead in Dutch concentration camps, 20,400 killed by acts of war, 104,000 Jewish Holocaust dead, 18,000 political prisoners in Germany, 27,000 workers in Germany,

3,700 Dutch nationals in the German armed forces and 7,500 missing and presumed dead in Germany and 16,000 deaths

in the Dutch famine of 1944. Not Included in the figure of 210,000 war dead are 70,000 “indirect war casualties” , which are attributed to an increase in natural deaths from 1940-1945 and 1,650 foreign nationals killed while serving in the Dutch Merchant Marine*[1]

1. ^ Cite error: The named reference cbs.nl was invoked but never defined (see the help page).

- The Netherlands War Graves Foundation maintains a registry of the names of Dutch war dead.*[486]

^AM Newfoundland

- Newfoundland's losses are not listed separately since they served with U.K. and Canadian Forces during the war. According to the Canadian War Museum " Over 700 Newfoundlanders also died during the war.*[22]
- The losses of the Newfoundland Merchant Navy are commemorated at the Allied Merchant Navy Memorial in Newfoundland,*[487]
- Civilian losses were due to the sinking of the SS Caribou in October 1942.*[95]

^AN New Zealand

- The Auckland War Museum puts the number of World War II dead at 11,671*[96]
- The preliminary data for New Zealand losses was killed 10,033, missing 2,129, wounded 19,314 and POW 8,453.*[308]

^AO Norway

- According to Norwegian government sources the war dead were 10,200*[1]

Military(Norwegian & Allied Forces)2,000 (800 Army, 900 Navy and 100 Air).*[1]

Civilians 7,500 (3,600 Merchant seaman, 1,500 resistance fighters, 1,800 civilians killed and 600 Jews killed)*[1]

In German Armed Forces700 *[1]

1. ^ *a *b *c *d Cite error: The named reference Gregory_Frumkin_1951._pp._112-114 was invoked but never defined (see the help page).

^AP Papua New Guinea

- Civilian deaths were caused by Allied bombing and shellfire and Japanese atrocities. Both the Allies and Japanese also conscripted civilians to work as laborers and porters.*[99]

^AQ Philippines

- According to **Werner Gruhl** the death toll due to the war and Japanese occupation at 527,000 (27,000 military dead, 141,000 massacred, 22,500 forced labor deaths and 336,500 deaths due war related famine). Civilian losses included victims of Japanese war crimes, such as the **Manila massacre** which claimed the lives of 100,000 Filipinos*[100]
- Between 5,000 and 10,000 Filipinos serving with the Filipino troops, Scouts, Constabulary and Philippine Army units lost their lives on the **Bataan Death March**.*[488]

^AR Poland Total Polish war dead

- **Czesław Łuczak** in 1993 estimated Poland's war dead to be 5.9 to 6.0 million, including 2.9 to 3.0 million Jews killed in the **Holocaust** and 2.0 million ethnic Polish victims of the German and Soviet occupations, (1.5 million under German occupation and the balance of 500,000 in the former eastern Polish regions under Soviet occupation).*[489] Łuczak also included in his figures an estimated 1,000,000 war dead of Polish citizens from the ethnic **Ukrainian** and **Belarusian** ethnic groups who comprised 20% of Poland's pre-war population.*[490]*[491]
- In 2009, the **Polish Institute of National Remembrance (IPN)** put the figure of Poland's dead at between 5,620,000 and 5,820,000; including an estimated 150,000 Polish citizens who died due to Soviet repression. The IPN's figures include 2.7 to 2.9 million Polish Jews who died in the Holocaust and 2,770,000 ethnic Poles.*[492] including ("Direct War Losses" –543,000; "Murdered in Camps and in Pacification" –506,000; "Deaths in prisons and Camps" 1,146,000; "Deaths outside of prisons and Camps" 473,000; "Murdered in Eastern Regions" 100,000; "Deaths in other countries" 2,000.)*[493] Polish researchers have determined that the Nazis murdered 2,830,000 Jews (including 1,860,000 Polish Jews) in the extermination camps in Poland, in addition over 1.0 million Polish Jews were murdered by the **Einsatzgruppen** in the eastern regions or died of starvation and disease while in ghettos.*[492]
- **Tadeusz Piotrowski** estimated Poland's losses in World War II to be 5.6 million; including 5,150,000

victims of Nazi crimes against ethnic Poles and The Holocaust, 350,000 deaths during the Soviet occupation in 1940–41 and about 100,000 Poles killed in 1943–44 during the massacres of Poles in Volhynia. Losses by ethnic group were 3,100,000 Jews; 2,000,000 ethnic Poles; 500,000 Ukrainians and Belarusians.*[494]

- The **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** maintains that in addition to 3 million Polish Jews killed in the Holocaust. "Documentation remains fragmentary, but today scholars of independent Poland believe that at least 1.9 million Polish civilians (non-Jews) were victims of German Occupation policies and the war.*[495]
- Total losses by geographic area were about 4.4 million in present-day Poland and about 1.6 million in the Polish areas annexed by the Soviet Union.*[496]*[497] Polish historian **Krystyna Kersten** estimated losses of about 2.0 million in the Polish areas annexed by the Soviet Union.*[177] Contemporary Russian sources also include Poland's losses in the annexed territories with Soviet war deaths.*[498]
- The official Polish government report on war damages prepared in 1947 listed 6,028,000 war victims during the German occupation (including 123,178 military deaths, 2.8 million Poles and 3.2 million Jews), out of a population of 27,007,000 ethnic Poles and Jews; this report excluded ethnic **Ukrainian** and **Belarusian** losses. Losses were calculated for the territory of Poland in 1939, including the territories annexed by the USSR.*[499] The figure of 6.0 million war dead has been disputed by Polish scholars since the fall of communism who now put the total actual losses at about 3.0 million Jews and 2.0 million ethnic Poles, not including other ethnic groups (Ukrainians and Belarusians). They maintain that the official statistics include those persons who were missing and presumed dead, but actually remained abroad in the West and the USSR after the war.*[491]*[500]

Polish losses during the Soviet occupation (1939–1941)

- In August 2009, the **Polish Institute of National Remembrance (IPN)** researchers estimated 150,000 Polish citizens were killed due to Soviet repression. Since the collapse of the USSR, Polish scholars have been able to do research in the Soviet archives on Polish losses during the Soviet occupation.*[177]
- **Andrzej Paczkowski** puts the number of Polish deaths at 90,000–100,000 of the 1.0 million persons deported and 30,000 executed by the Soviets.*[243]
- In 2005 **Tadeusz Piotrowski** estimated the death toll in Soviet hands at 350,000.*[501]

- An earlier estimate made in 1987 by Franciszek Proch of the Polish Association of Former Political Prisoners of Nazi and Soviet Concentration Camps estimated the total dead due to the Soviet occupation at 1,050,000.*[502]

Polish military casualties

- Poland lost a total of 139,800 regular soldiers and 100,000 Polish resistance movement fighters during the war.*[491] Polish military casualties. Military dead and missing were 66,000 and 130,000 wounded in the 1939 Invasion of Poland, in addition 17,000–19,000 were killed by the Soviets in the Katyn massacre and 12,000 died in German POW camps.*[503] The Polish contribution to World War II included the Polish Armed Forces in the West, and the 1st Polish Army fighting under Soviet command. Total casualties of these forces in exile were 33,256 killed in action, 8,548 missing in action, 42,666 wounded and 29,385 interned.*[503] The Polish Red Cross reported that the 1944 Warsaw Uprising cost the lives of 120,000–130,000 Polish civilians and 16,000–17,000 Polish resistance movement fighters.*[491]*[504] The names of Polish war dead are presented at a database online.*[505]
- During the war, 2,762,000*[506] Polish citizens of German descent declared their loyalty to Germany by signing the *Deutsche Volksliste*. A West German government report estimated the deaths of 108,000 Polish citizens serving in the German armed forces,*[507] these men were conscripted in violation of international law.*[508] The Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) estimates 200,000–210,000 Polish citizens, including 76,000 ethnic Poles were conscripted into the Soviet armed forces in 1940–41 during the occupation of the eastern regions. The (IPN) also reported that the Germans conscripted 250,000 Polish nationals into the Wehrmacht, 89,300 later deserted and joined the Polish Armed Forces in the West.*[493]

^AS Timor

- Officially neutral, East Timor was occupied by Japan during 1942–45. Allied commandos initiated a guerrilla resistance campaign and most deaths were caused by Japanese reprisals against the civilian population. The Australian Dept. of Defence estimated the civilian death toll at 40,000 to 70,000.*[107] However, another source puts the death toll at 40,000 to 50,000.*[509]

^AT Romania

- Demographer Boris Uralnis estimated Romanian war dead at 300,000 military and 200,000 civilians*[510]

- Total Romanian military war dead were approximately 300,000. Total killed were 93,326 (72,291 with Axis and 21,035 with Allies). Total missing and POW were 341,765 (283,322 with Axis and 58,443 with Allies), only about 80,000 survived Soviet captivity.*[511]

- Civilian losses included 160,000 Jewish Holocaust dead,*[185] the genocide of Roma people 36,000 and 7,693 civilians killed in Allied air raids on Romania*[512]

^AU Ruanda Urundi

- The 1943 famine in Ruanda which took 300,000 lives was due to a local drought and the harsh wartime policies of the Belgian colonial administration to increase food production for the war effort in the Congo.*[109]*[513]
- As Ruanda [Rwanda] was not occupied nor its food supply cut off, these deaths are not usually included with World War II casualties. However, at least one historian has compared the 1943 famine there to the Bengal famine of 1943, which is attributed to war.*[514]

^AW South Africa

- The war dead of 11,906 listed here are those reported by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission,*[515]
- The preliminary 1945 data for South African losses was killed 6,840, missing 1,841 wounded 14,363 and POW 14,589.*[308]

^AX South Pacific Mandate

- This territory includes areas now known as the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, and the Northern Mariana Islands.
- Micronesian war related civilian deaths were caused by American bombing and shellfire; and malnutrition caused by the U.S. blockade of the islands. In addition the civilian population was conscripted by the Japanese as forced laborers and were subjected to numerous mindless atrocities.*[516]
- John W. Dower put Japanese civilian dead in Battle of Saipan at 10,000*[458]

^AY Soviet Union The following notes summarize Soviet casualties, the details are presented in World War II casualties of the Soviet Union

- A 1993 report published by the **Russian Academy of Science** estimated the total Soviet losses in World War II at 26.6 million.*[6]*[517]*[518] The Russian Ministry of Defense in 1993 put total military dead and missing from 1941–45 at 8,668,400*[296]*[297] These figures have generally been accepted by historians in the west.*[519]*[520]*[521]

Total population losses

- Russian demographers E.M. Andreev, L.E. Darski and T. L. Kharkova (ADK) authored a study of the Soviet population from 1922–1991 which was published by the **Russian Academy of Science**, they put total losses from 1941–1945 at 26.6 million*[6]*[522] which is the figure accepted by the Russian government for total losses in the war. Andreev, Darski and Kharkova (ADK) estimated the population of the USSR in June 1941 within the 1946–1991 borders of the USSR at 196.716 million, this figure included the 1939 USSR population of 168.625 million, a natural growth in the population from 1939 to mid 1941 of 7.923 million and territories annexed by the USSR of 20.268 million, (eastern regions of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Romanian Bessarabia and Bukovina, Tuva, Zakarpattia Oblast, South Sakhalin and the Kaliningrad Oblast).*[523]
- According to the Russian demographer Dr. L.L. Rybakovsky there are a wide range of estimates for total war dead by Russian scholars. He cites figures of total war dead that range from 21.8 million up to 28.0 million. Rybakovsky points out that the variables that are used to compute losses are by no means certain and are currently disputed by historians in Russia. Some Russian historians put the figure as high as 46.0 million by counting the population deficit due to children not born during the war. Based on the birth rate prior to the war there is a population shortfall of about 20 million births in 1946, some would have been born but died during the war and the balance were never born. The figures for the number of children born during the war who did not survive as well as those unborn are rough estimates.*[524]

Military Casualties

- The official Russian Ministry of Defense figure for military total dead and missing from 1941 to 1945 is 8,668,400; including 6,330,000 killed in action or died of wounds and 556,000 dead from non-combat causes; 500,000 MIA and 1,283,000 dead and missing POW. Official Russian figures indicate 4,559,000 POWs and missing, out of which about 500,000 missing were killed in battle, 939,700 were

conscripted back into the Soviet army during the war as territories were being liberated, 1,836,000 liberated POWs are known to have returned to the USSR after the war, this leaves 1,103,300 POW presumed dead and another 180,000 liberated POWs who most likely emigrated to other countries after the war.*[296]*[297]

- Richard Overy has noted that “The official figures themselves must be viewed critically, given the difficulty of knowing in the chaos of 1941 and 1942 exactly who had been killed, wounded or even conscripted” .*[525]
- Official Russian statistics issued in 1993 for military dead do not include an additional estimated 500,000 conscripted reservists missing or killed before being listed on active strength, 1,000,000 civilians treated as POW by Germany; and an estimated 150,000 militia and 250,000 Soviet partisan dead, who are considered civilian war losses in the official figures.*[526] The estimate by most western historians of Soviet military POW deaths is about 3 million out of 5.7 million total POWs in German hands.*[192]
- In 2000, the late S.N. Mikhalev of the History department of Krasnoyarsk State Pedagogical University*[527] published a critical analysis of the official Russian wartime casualty statistics, he estimated actual Soviet military war dead at more than 10.9 million persons. He maintained that the official figures cannot be reconciled to the total men drafted and that POW deaths were understated*[528]
- The figure of 8.7 million war dead is based on the field reports of the Red Army and the reconciliation of the balance for persons conscripted. An alternative method to determine Soviet war losses is the Russian Military Archives data base listing the names with the individual war dead and missing. S.A. Il'enkov, an official of the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense, maintained, “We established the number of irreplaceable losses of our Armed Forces at the time of the Great Patriotic War of about 13,850,000” .*[529]
- There were additional casualties in 1939–40, which totalled 136,945: **Battle of Khalkhin Gol** in 1939 (8,931); **Invasion of Poland** of 1939 (1,139); and the **Winter War** with Finland from 1939–40 (126,875).*[273]
- The names of many Soviet war dead are presented in the **OBD Memorial** database online.*[530]

Civilian war dead

- In 1995 the Russian Academy of Science published a report that analyzed Soviet losses in the war. They

estimated civilian deaths in the German occupied USSR at 13.7 million persons, which included 7.4 million deaths caused by direct, intentional actions of violence, 2.2 million deaths of civilians deported to Germany for forced labor; and 4.1 million famine and disease deaths in occupied territory. The authors cited sources published in the Soviet era to support these figures.* [531]

- Russian demographers E.M. Andreev, L.E. Darski and T. L. Kharkova (ADK) study of the Soviet population from 1922–1991 estimated that there was an increase of 1.3 million in **Infant mortality** caused by the war.* [519]* [522]
- The Russian Academy of Science report estimated an additional 2.5 to 3.2 million civilian dead due to famine in Soviet territory not occupied by the Germans.* [532]

^AZ Spain

- There were 4,500 military deaths with the all Spanish **Blue Division** serving with the German Army in the U.S.S.R. The unit was withdrawn by Spain in 1943.* [533]
- R.J. Rummel estimates the deaths of 20,000 anti-Fascist Spanish refugees resident in France who were deported to Nazi camps, these deaths are included with French civilian casualties.* [192]

^BA Sweden

- During the **Winter war** of 1939–40 the **Swedish Volunteer Corps** served with the Finnish Armed Forces and lost 28 men in combat.* [132]
- 33 Swedish sailors were killed when submarine HMS Ulven was sunk by a German mine on April 16, 1943.
- During the war, Swedish merchant shipping was attacked by both German and Soviet submarines; 2,000 merchant seamen were killed.* [534]

^BB Switzerland

- The Americans accidentally bombed Switzerland during the war causing civilian casualties.* [535]* [536]

^BC Thailand

- Military deaths included: 108 dead in the **French–Thai War** (1940–41)* [537] and 5,559 who died either resisting the **Japanese invasion** (1941), or fighting alongside Japanese forces in the **Burma Campaign** of 1942–45.* [538]

- **Allied bombing in 1944–45** caused 2,000 civilian deaths.* [539]
- Unlike other parts of South East Asia, Thailand did not suffer from famine during the war.* [540]

^BD Turkey

- The **Refah tragedy** (Turkish: Refah faciası) refers to a maritime disaster during World War II, when the cargo steamer Refah of neutral Turkey, carrying Turkish military personnel from Mersin in Turkey to Port Said, Egypt was sunk in eastern Mediterranean waters by a torpedo fired from an unidentified submarine. Of the 200 passengers and crew aboard, only 32 survived.* [139]

^BE United Kingdom and Colonies

- The **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** reported a total of 383,718 military dead from all causes for both the UK and non-dominion British colonies, figures include identified burials and those commemorated by name on memorials. These figures include deaths that occurred after the war up until 31 December 1947.* [541]
- The **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** also maintains a **Roll of Honour** of those civilians under Crown Protection (including foreign nationals) who died as a result of enemy actions in the Second World War. The names of 67,170 are commemorated in the **Civilian War Dead Roll of Honour**.* [542]
- The official UK report on war casualties of June 1946 provided a summary of the U.K. war losses. This report (HMSO 6832) listed: * [1]* [2]

Total war dead of 357,116; Navy (50,758); Army (144,079); Air Force (69,606); Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service (624); Merchant Navy (30,248); British Home Guard (1,206) and Civilians (60,595).

The total still missing on 2/28/1946 were 6,244; Navy (340); Army (2,267); Air Force (3,089); Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service (18); Merchant Navy (530); British Home Guard (0) and Civilians (0).

These figures included the losses of Newfoundland and Southern Rhodesia.

Colonial forces are not included in these figures.

There were an additional 31,271 military deaths due to “natural causes” which are not included in these figures. Deaths due to air and V-rocket attacks were 60,595 civilians and 1,206 British Home Guard.

1. ^ Cite error: The named reference HMSO_6832 was invoked but never defined (see the help page).
2. ^ UK Central Statistical Office *Statistical Digest of the War* HMSO 1951
 - The preliminary 1945 data for colonial forces was killed 6,877, missing 14,208, wounded 6,972 and POW 8,115.*[308]
 - UK casualties include losses of the colonial forces.*[543] UK colonial forces included units from East Africa, West Africa, Ghana, the Caribbean, Malaya, Burma, Hong Kong, Jordan, Sudan, Malta and the Jewish Brigade. The Cyprus Regiment made up of volunteers that fought with the UK Army, and suffered about 358 killed and 250 missing.*[544] Gurkhas recruited from Nepal fought with the British Army during the Second World War. Included with U.K. casualties are citizens of the various European countries occupied by Germany. There were separate RAF squadrons with citizens from Poland (17); Czechoslovakia (5); Netherlands (1); Free French (7); Yugoslavia (2); Belgium (3); Greece (3); Norway (2). Volunteers from the United States served in 3 RAF squadrons known as the *Eagle Squadrons*. Many foreign nationals and persons from the British colonies served in the UK Merchant Navy.*[545]

^BF United States

American military dead#**^BF1**

- Total U.S. military deaths in battle and from other causes were 407,316. The breakout by service is as follows: Army 318,274 (234,874 battle, 83,400 nonbattle),*[281] Navy 62,614,*[281] Marine Corps 24,511,*[281] and the Coast Guard 1,917.*[546]*[547]
- Deaths in battle were 292,131. The breakout by service is as follows: Army 234,874,*[281] Navy 36,950,*[281] Marine Corps 19,733,*[281] and Coast Guard 574.*[484]*[546] These losses were incurred during the period 12/1/41 until 12/31/46 including an additional 126 men in October 1941 when the *USS Kearny* and the *USS Reuben James* were attacked by U-Boats.
- The *United States Army Air Forces* losses, which are included in the Army total, were 52,173 deaths due to combat and 35,946 from non-combat causes.*[282]
- U.S. Combat Dead by Theater of war: Europe–Atlantic 183,588 (Army ground forces 141,088, Army Air Forces 36,461, and Navy/Coast Guard 6,039); Asia–Pacific 108,504 (Army ground forces 41,592, Army Air Forces 15,694, Navy/Coast Guard 31,485, Marine Corps 19,733); unidentified theaters 39 (Army).*[282]*[310] Included with combat deaths are 14,059 POWs (1,124 in Europe and 12,935 in Asia).*[310] The details of U.S. military casualties are listed online: the U.S. Army,*[282] the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Marine Corps.*[548]
- U.S. Army figures include the deaths of 5,337 Filipinos serving in the *Philippine Scouts*, of whom 5,135 died in battle (see p. 118).*[282]
- The names of individual U.S. military personnel killed in World War II can be found at the U.S. National Archives.*[549]
- *American Battle Monuments Commission* website lists the names of military and civilian war dead from World War II buried in ABMC cemeteries or listed on Walls of the Missing.*[550]

American civilian dead #**^BF2**

- According to the *Usmm.org*, 9,521 merchant mariners lost their lives in the war (8,421 killed and 1,100 who later died of wounds). In 1950, the *United States Coast Guard* put U.S. Merchant Marine losses at 5,662 (845 due to enemy action, 37 in prison camps, and 4,780 missing), excluding U.S. Army transports and foreign flagged ships and they did not break out losses between the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.*[551]*[552]*[553]
- The names of U.S. Merchant Mariners killed in World War II are listed by *USMM.org*.*[551]*[554]
- During World War II the *Civil Air Patrol* assumed many missions including anti-submarine patrol and warfare, border patrols, and courier services. During World War II CAP's coastal patrol had flown 24 million miles, found 173 enemy U-boats, attacked 57, hit 10 and sank two, dropping a total of 83 bombs and depth charges throughout the conflict.*[555] By the end of the war, 64 CAP members had lost their lives in the line of duty.*[556]
- According to U.S. War Department figures, 18,745 American civilians were interned in the war (13,996 in the Far East and 4,749 in Europe). A total of 2,419 American civilian internees were listed as dead and missing. Under Japanese internment, 992 died and another 544 were listed as "unknown"; under German internment, 168 died and a further 715 were listed as "unknown" .*[289]*[557]*[558]
- During World War II, 68 U.S. civilians were killed during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.*[559]
- The official U.S report listed 1 U.S. civilian killed during the Battle of Guam on December

8–10. [436] However, another source reported 13 “civilians” killed during in the battle [560] and 70 U.S. civilians were killed during the **Battle of Wake Island** from December 8–23, 1941. [561] 98 U.S. civilian POWs were massacred by the Japanese on **Wake Island** in October 1943.

- 6 U.S. civilians were killed in Oregon in May 1945 by Japanese **balloon bombs**. [562]

^BG Yugoslavia

- The official Yugoslav figure for total war dead is 1.7 million (300,000 military and 1,400,000 civilians). This figure is cited in reference works dealing with World War II [145] [563] [564] Studies in Yugoslavia by **Franjo Tudjman** and **Ivo Lah** put losses at 2.1 million [565] However, the official Yugoslav figure has been disputed studies by **Vladimir Žerjavić** and **Bogoljub Kočović** who put actual losses at about 1.0 million persons. [566] [567] [568] [569] The calculation of Yugoslav losses is not an exact accounting listing of the dead, but is based on demographic calculations of the population balance which estimate births during the war and natural deaths. The number of persons who emigrated after the war (ethnic Germans, Hungarians, Italians and Yugoslav refugees to the west) are rough estimates. [566] [567] [569]
- The U.S. Bureau of the Census published a report in 1954 that concluded that Yugoslav war-related deaths were 1,067,000. The U.S. Bureau of the Census noted that the official Yugoslav government figure of 1.7 million war dead was overstated because it “was released soon after the war and was estimated without the benefit of a postwar census” . [567]
- A recent study by **Vladimir Žerjavić** estimates total war related deaths at 1,027,000, which included losses of 237,000 Yugoslav **partisans** and 209,000 “Quislings and collaborators”(see discussion below losses of Yugoslav collaborators) [570] Civilian dead of 581,000 included 57,000 Jews. Losses by each Yugoslav republic were: Bosnia 316,000; Serbia 273,000; Croatia 271,000; Slovenia 33,000; Montenegro 27,000; Macedonia 17,000; and killed abroad 80,000. [566]
- **Bogoljub Kočović**, a Yugoslav statistician, calculated that the actual war losses were 1,014,000. [569]
- **Jozo Tomasevich**, Professor Emeritus of Economics at San Francisco State University, stated that the calculations of **Kočović** and **Žerjavić** “seem to be free of bias, we can accept them as reliable” . [571]

The losses of Yugoslav collaborators

- Croatian emigres in the west made exaggerated allegations that 500-600,000 Croats and Chetniks were massacred by the Partisans after the war, these claims are cited by **Rudolph Rummel** in his study *Statistics of Democide* [572] **Jozo Tomasevich** noted that the figures of the number of collaborators killed by the Partisans are disputed. According to Tomasevich some Croatian exiles “have been more moderate in their estimates”, putting the death toll at “about 200,000” . [573] Regarding the death toll in the reprisals by the Yugoslav partisans Tomasevich believed that “It is impossible to establish the exact number of victims in these operations, although fairly accurate figures could probably be reached after much additional unbiased research” [574]

The reasons for the high human toll in Yugoslavia were as follows

- Military operations** between the occupying military forces and their quisling collaborators against the **Yugoslav resistance**. [146]
- German forces, under express orders from Hitler, fought with a special vengeance against the Serbs, who were considered **Untermensch**. [146] One of the worst one-day massacres during the German military occupation of Serbia was the **Kragujevac massacre**.
- Deliberate acts of reprisal against target populations were perpetrated by all combatants. All sides practiced the shooting of hostages on a large scale. At the end of the war, many **Ustaše** and Slovene collaborators were killed in or as a result of the **Bleiburg repatriations**. [146]
- The systematic extermination of large numbers of people for political, religious or racial reasons. The most numerous victims were **Serbs**. [146] According to **Yad Vashem** “During their four years in power, the Ustasa carried out a Serb genocide, exterminating over 500,000, expelling 250,000 and forcing another 200,000 to convert to Catholicism. The Ustasa also killed most of Croats Jews, 20,000 Gypsies and many thousands of their political enemies.” [575] According to the **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** “The Croat authorities murdered between 320,000 and 340,000 ethnic Serb residents of Croatia and Bosnia during the period of **Ustaša** rule; more than 30,000 Croatian Jews were killed either in Croatia or at **Auschwitz-Birkenau**” . [576] The **USHMM** reports between 77,000 and 99,000 persons were killed at the **Jasenovac** and **Stara Gradiška** concentration camps. [577] The **Jasenovac Memorial Site** quotes a similar figure of between 80,000 and 100,000 victims. **Stara Gradiška** was a sub-camp of **Jasenovac** established for women and children. [578] The names and data for 12,790 victims at **Stara Gradiška** have been established Serbian sources currently claim that 700,000 persons were murdered at **Jasenovac** [578] Some 40,000 **Roma** were murdered. [579] Jewish victims in Yugoslavia totaled 67,122. [580]
- Reduced food supply caused famine and dis-

ease.* [146]

F. Allied bombing of German supply lines caused civilian casualties. The hardest hit localities were Podgorica, Leskovac, Zadar and Belgrade.* [146]

G. The demographic losses due to the reduction of 335,000 births and emigration of about 660,000 are not included with war casualties.* [146]

^BH Other Nations

- Dominican Republic had 27 Merchant Mariners killed * [581]

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- [540] E. Bruce Reynolds, “Aftermath of Alliance: The Wartime Legacy in Thai-Japanese Relations”, *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, v21, n1, March 1990, pp 66-87. Thailand exported rice to neighboring Japanese-occupied countries during 1942–45 (p 72n) and did not experience the notorious famines that occurred in India and French Indochina (see above) between 1943–44.
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5.1.7 External links

- The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names
- The Fallen of World War II

5.2 Consequences of Nazism

Nazism and the acts of the Nazi German state profoundly affected many countries, communities and people before, during and after World War II. While the attempt of Germany to exterminate several nations viewed as subhuman by Nazi ideology was eventually stopped by the Allies, Nazi aggression nevertheless led to the deaths of tens of millions and the ruin of several states.

5.2.1 Jewish people

Of the world's 15 million Jews in 1939, more than a third were killed in the Holocaust.* [1]* [2] Of the three million Jews in Poland, the heartland of European Jewish culture, fewer than 350,000 survived. Most of the remaining Jews in Eastern and Central Europe were destitute refugees who were unable or unwilling to return to countries that became Soviet puppet states, or countries they felt had betrayed them to the Nazis.

5.2.2 Poland



During World War II 85% of buildings in Warsaw were destroyed by German troops.

The Nazis intended to destroy the Polish nation completely. In 1941, the Nazi leadership decided that Poland was to be fully cleared of ethnic Poles within 10 to 20 years and settled by German colonists.* [3] From the beginning of the occupation, Germany's policy was to plunder and exploit Polish territory, turning it into a giant concentration camp for Poles who were to be eventually exterminated as "Untermenschen".* [3] The policy of plunder and exploitation inflicted material losses to Polish industry, agriculture, infrastructure and cultural landmarks, with the cost of the destruction by Germans alone estimated at approximately €525 billion or \$640 billion.* [4] The remaining industry was largely destroyed or transported to Russia by Soviet occupation forces following the war.

The official Polish government report of war losses prepared in 1947 reported 6,028,000 war victims out of a population of 27,007,000 ethnic Poles and Jews alone. For political reasons the report excluded the losses to the Soviet Union and the losses among Polish citizens of Ukrainian and Belarusian origin.

Poland's eastern border was significantly moved westwards to the Curzon line. The resulting territorial loss of 188,000 km² (formerly populated by 5.3 million ethnic Poles* [5]) was to be compensated by the addition of 111,000 km² of former German territory east of the Oder-Neisse line (formerly populated by 11.4 million ethnic Germans* [6]). Kidnapping of Polish children by Germany also took place, in which children who were believed to hold German blood were taken away; 20,000–200,000* [7] Polish children were taken away from their parents. Out of the abducted only 10–15% returned home.* [8] Polish elites were decimated and over half of the Polish intelligentsia were murdered. Some professions lost 20–50% of their members, for example 58% of Polish lawyers, 38% of medical doctors and 28% of university workers were exterminated by the Nazis. The Polish capital Warsaw was razed by German forces and most of its old and newly acquired cities lay in ruins (e.g. Wrocław) or lost to the Soviet Union (e.g. Lwów). In addition Poland became a Soviet satellite state, remaining under a Soviet-controlled communist government until 1989. Russian troops did not withdraw from Poland until 1993.

See also

- Expulsion of Poles by Germany
- Generalplan Ost
- German AB-Aktion in Poland
- Holocaust in Poland
- Operation Tannenberg

5.2.3 Central Europe

Central Europe's response to the Nazis (and involvement with the Nazis) was a mixture of resistance and support depending on time and political circumstances. Austria for example was first vehemently opposed to the Nazi Party but later became a key member of the Axis Powers. Other Central European countries, namely Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria, first attempted to remain neutral but later fought alongside the Nazis during the invasion of the Soviet Union. Yugoslavia's response was also mixed; Croatia and Slovenia fought alongside the Nazis (and in some cases fought with distinction) whereas Serbia did not. Some Central European countries did not fight but were conquered by the Nazis including Czechoslovakia.

Nazi war materiel was made in many captured Czech factories using Czech laborers during the war. As a consequence of the war and especially Soviet occupation, Central European countries found themselves under the “Soviet sphere of influence” (as agreed upon at the Yalta Conference). Immediately following the war, communist governments were installed in all of these countries and any forms of 'western style democracy' that existed before the war were erased. For the countries of Central Europe installation of totalitarian Communism meant the decline of their economies and more significantly, a loss of national sovereignty and unique global identity until the collapse of the Warsaw Pact in 1989 (see also “the Velvet Revolution”).

5.2.4 Soviet Union

More than 26 million Soviet citizens had been killed as a result of the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, including 10,651,000 soldiers who died in battle against Hitler's armies or died in POW camps.* [9] Millions of civilians also died from starvation, exposure, atrocities, and massacres, and a huge area of the Soviet Union from the suburbs of Moscow and the Volga River to the western border had been destroyed, depopulated, and reduced to rubble. The mass death and destruction there badly damaged the Soviet economy, society, and national psyche. The death toll included c.a. 1.5 million Soviet Jews killed by the German invaders.* [10] The mass destruction and mass murder was one of the reasons why the Soviet Union installed satellite states in Central Europe; as the government hoped to use the countries as a buffer zone against any new invasions from the West. This helped break down the wartime alliance between the Soviet Union and the Western Allies, setting the stage for the Cold War, which lasted until 1989, two years before the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Soviet culture in the 1950s was defined by results of the Great Patriotic War.

Close to 60% of the European war dead were from the Soviet Union. Russian historian Vadim Erlikman has detailed Soviet losses totaling 26.5 million war related deaths. Military losses of 10.6 million include 7.6 million killed or missing in action and 2.6 million POW dead, plus 400,000 paramilitary and Soviet partisan losses. Civilian deaths totaled 15.9 million which included 1.5 million from military actions. 7.1 million victims of Nazi genocide and reprisals; 1.8 million deported to Germany for forced labor; and 5.5 million famine and disease deaths. Additional famine deaths which totaled 1 million during 1946–47 are not included here. These losses are for the entire territory of the USSR including territories annexed in 1939–40.* [11]

To the north, the Germans reached Leningrad (Saint Petersburg) in August 1941. The city was surrounded on 8 September, beginning a 900-day siege during which about 1.2 million citizens perished.

Of the 5.7 million Soviet prisoners of war captured by the Germans, more than 3.5 million had died while in German captivity by the end of the war.* [12] On 11 February 1945, at the conclusion of the Yalta Conference, the United States and United Kingdom signed a Repatriation Agreement with the USSR.* [13] The interpretation of this Agreement resulted in the forcible repatriation of all Soviets regardless of their wishes.* [14] Millions of Soviet POWs and forced laborers transported to Germany are believed to have been treated as traitors, cowards and deserters on their return to the USSR (see Order No. 270).* [15]* [16] According to some sources, many were executed or deported to the Soviet prison camps, over 1.5 million surviving Red Army soldiers imprisoned by the Germans were sent to the Gulag in Siberia and the far north.* [17]* [18]* [19] However, statistical data from Soviet archives, that became available after Perestroika, attest that the overall increase of the Gulag population was minimal during 1945–46* [20] and only 272,867 of repatriated Soviet POWs and civilians (out of 4,199,488) were imprisoned* [21].

Belarus

Belarus lost a quarter of its pre-war population, including practically all its intellectual elite and 90% of the country's Jewish population. Following bloody encirclement battles, all of the present-day Belarus territory was occupied by the Germans by the end of August 1941. The Nazis imposed a brutal regime, deporting some 380,000 young people for slave labour, and killing hundreds of thousands of civilians more. At least 5,295 Belarusian settlements were destroyed by the Nazis and some or all their inhabitants killed (out of 9,200 settlements that were burned or otherwise destroyed in Belarus during World War II). More than 600 villages like Khatyn were burned with their entire population.* [22] More than 209 cities and towns (out of 270 total) were destroyed. Himmler had pronounced a plan according to which 3/4 of Belarusian population was designated for "eradication" and 1/4 of racially cleaner population (blue eyes, light hair) would be allowed to serve Germans as slaves (Ostarbeiter).

Some recent estimates raise the number of Belarusians who perished in War to "3 million 650 thousand people, unlike the former 2.2 million. That is to say not every fourth inhabitant but about 40% of the pre-war Belarusian population perished (considering the present-day borders of Belarus)." * [23] This compares to 15% of Poland's post war borders and 19% of Ukrainian population in post war border and comparing to 2% of Czechoslovakian population that perished in post war borders.

Ukraine

Estimates on population losses in Ukraine range from 7 million to 11 million. More than 700 cities and towns and

28,000 villages were destroyed.* [24]

See also

- Forced settlements in the Soviet Union
- Generalplan Ost
- Hunger Plan
- Occupation of Belarus by Nazi Germany
- Operation Keelhaul
- World War II casualties

5.2.5 Yugoslavia



Due to their strong opposition to Nazism, Serbs were considered enemies of Nazi Germany. Alongside Jews, Serbs were killed and expelled in wartime Yugoslavia.

It is estimated that 1,700,000 people were killed during World War II in Yugoslavia from 1941 to 1945. Very high losses were among Serbs who lived in Bosnia and Croatia, as well as Jewish and Romani minorities, with losses also high among all other non-collaborating populations. In the summer of 1941, the Serbian uprising came at the time of the German invasion of the USSR. The Nazi response was the execution of 100 Serbian civilians for every killed soldier and 50 Serbian civilians for every wounded soldier. The Yugoslav Partisans fought both a guerrilla campaign against the Axis occupiers and a civil war against the Chetniks. The Independent State of Croatia was established as a Nazi puppet-state, ruled by the fascist militia known as the Ustaše. During this time the Independent State of Croatia created extermination camps for anti-fascists, communists, Serbs, Muslims, Gypsies and Jews, one of the most infamous being the Jasenovac concentration camp. A large number of men, women and children, mostly Serbs, were murdered in these camps. In 1945, the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia was created as a communist republic.* [25]

5.2.6 Western Europe

Britain and France were on the side of the victors, but they were exhausted and bankrupted by the war, and Britain never recovered its status as a superpower. With Germany and Japan in ruins as well, the world was left with two dominant powers, the United States and the Soviet Union. Economic and political reality in Western Europe would soon force the dismantling of the European colonial empires, especially in Africa and Asia.

One of the most important political consequences of the Nazi experience in Western Europe was the establishment of new, human rights-based political alliances which eventually became the European Union and an international military alliance of democratic European countries known as NATO to counterbalance the Soviets' Warsaw Pact and Comintern until communist rule in Eastern Europe ended in the late 1980s.

The Communists emerged from the war sharing the vast prestige of the victorious Soviet armed forces, and for a while it looked as though they might take power in France, Italy and Greece. The West quickly acted to prevent this from happening, hence the Cold War.

5.2.7 Greece

In Greece the German occupation (April 1941 – October 1944) destroyed the economy through war reparations, plundering of the country's resources and hyperinflation. In addition, the Germans left most of the country's infrastructure in ruins as they withdrew in 1944. As a result of an Allied blockade and German indifference to local needs, the first winter of the occupation was marked by widespread famine in the main urban centres, with as many as 300,000 civilians dead from starvation. Although these levels of starvation were not repeated in the next years, malnourishment was common throughout the occupation. In addition, thousands more were executed by German forces as reprisals for partisan activities. As part of the Holocaust, Greece's Jewish community was almost wiped out, especially the large Sephardi community of Thessaloniki, which had earned the city the sobriquet "Mother of Israel" and had first settled there in the early 16th century at the invitation of the then-ruling Ottoman Empire. In total, at least 81% (ca. 60,000) of Greece's total pre-war Jewish population perished.

The bitterest and longest-lasting legacy of the German occupation was the social upheaval it wrought. The old political elites were sidelined, and the Resistance against the Axis brought to the fore the leftist National Liberation Front (EAM), arguably the country's first true mass-movement, where the Communists played a central role. In an effort to oppose its growing influence, the Germans encouraged the pre-war conservative establishment to confront it, and allowed the creation of armed units. As elsewhere in Eastern Europe, in the last year of the occu-

pation, conditions in Greece often approximated a civil war between EAM and everyone else. The rift would become permanent in December 1944, when EAM and the British-backed government clashed in Athens, and again in a fully fledged civil war from 1946–1949.

5.2.8 Germany



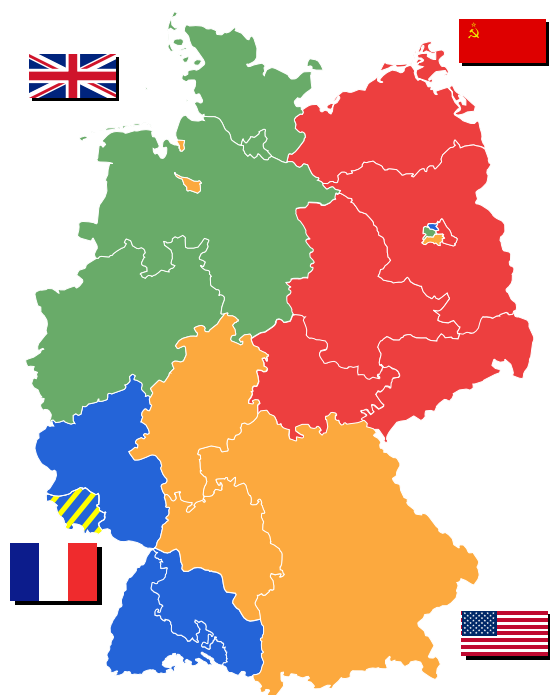
German territories lost in both World Wars are shown in black, present-day Germany is marked dark grey on this 1914 map.

More than 7 million Germans, including almost 2 million civilians, died during World War II (see World War II casualties). After the end of the war in Europe additional casualties were incurred during the Allied occupation and also during the population expulsions that followed.

After the war, the German people were often viewed with contempt because they were blamed by other Europeans for Nazi crimes. Germans visiting abroad, particularly in the 1950s and 1960s, attracted insults from locals, and from foreigners who may have lost their families or friends in the atrocities. Today in Europe and worldwide (particularly in countries that fought against the Axis), Germans may be scorned by elderly people who were alive to experience the atrocities committed by Nazi Germans during World War II. This resulted in a feeling of controversy for many Germans, causing numerous discussions and rows among scholars and politicians in Post-War West Germany (for example, the "Historikerstreit" [historians' argument] in the 1980s) and after Reunification. Here, the discussion was mainly about the role that the unified Germany should play in the world and in Europe. Bernard Schlink's novel *The Reader* concerns how post-war Germans dealt with the issue.

Following World War II, the Allies embarked on a program of denazification, but as the Cold War intensified these efforts were curtailed in the west.

Germany itself and the German economy were devastated, with great parts of most major cities destroyed by the bombings of the Allied forces, sovereignty taken away by the Allies and the territory filled with millions of refugees from the former eastern provinces which the Allies had decided were to be annexed by the Soviet Union and Poland, moving the eastern German border westwards to the Oder-Neisse line and effectively reducing Germany in size by roughly 25%. (see also Potsdam Conference) The remaining parts of Germany were divided among the Allies and occupied by British (the north-west), French (the south-west), Americans (the south) and Soviets (the east) troops.



Postwar occupation zones in Germany

The expulsions of Germans from the lost areas in the east (see also Former eastern territories of Germany), the Sudetenland, and elsewhere in eastern Europe went on for several years. The number of Germans expelled totaled roughly 15,000,000. Estimates of number of deaths in connection with expulsion range from under 500,000 to 3 million.

After a short time the Allies broke over ideological problems (Communism versus Capitalism), and thus both sides established their own spheres of influence, creating a previously non-existent division in Germany between East and West, (although the division largely followed the borders of states which had existed in Germany before Bismarck's unification less than 100 years before).

A constitution for East Germany was drafted on 30 May 1949. Wilhelm Pieck, a leader of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) party (which was created by a forced merger of the Social Democratic Party of Ger-

many (SPD) and Communist Party of Germany (KPD) in the Soviet sector), was elected first President of the German Democratic Republic.

West Germany, (officially: Federal Republic of Germany, FRG – this is still the official name of the unified Germany today) received (*de facto*) semi-sovereignty in 1949, as well as a constitution, called the *Grundgesetz* (Basic Law). The document was not called a Constitution officially, as at this point, it was still hoped that the two German states would be reunited in the near future.

The first free elections in West Germany were held in 1949, which were won by the Christian Democratic Party of Germany (CDU) (conservatives) by a slight margin. Konrad Adenauer, a member of the CDU, was the first *Bundeskanzler* (Chancellor) of West Germany.

Both German states introduced, in 1948, their own money, colloquially called *West-Mark* and *Ost-Mark* (Western Mark and Eastern Mark).

Foreign troops still remain in Germany today, for example Ramstein Air Base, but the majority of troops left following the end of the Cold War (By 1994 for Soviet troops, mandated under the terms of the Treaty on the Final Settlement With Respect to Germany and in the mid-1990s for Western forces). The Bush Administration in the United States in 2004 stated intentions to withdraw most of the remaining American troops out of Germany in the coming years. During the years 1950–2000 more than 10,000,000 U.S. military personnel were stationed in Germany.* [26]

The West German economy was by the mid 1950s rebuilt thanks to the abandonment in mid-1947 of some of the last vestiges of the Morgenthau Plan and to fewer war reparations imposed on West Germany (see also *Wirtschaftswunder*). After lobbying by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Generals Clay and Marshall, the Truman administration realized that economic recovery in Europe could not go forward without the reconstruction of the German industrial base on which it previously had been dependent.* [27] In July 1947, President Harry S. Truman rescinded on “national security grounds” * [27] the punitive JCS 1067, which had directed the U.S. forces of occupation in Germany to “take no steps looking toward the economic rehabilitation of Germany.” It was replaced by JCS 1779, which instead stressed that “[a]n orderly, prosperous Europe requires the economic contributions of a stable and productive Germany.” * [28]

The dismantling of factories in the western zones, for further transport to the Soviet Union as reparations, was in time halted as frictions grew between East and West. Limits were placed on permitted levels of German production in order to prevent resurgence of German militarism, part of which included severely restricting German steel production and affected the rest of the German economy very negatively (see "The industrial plans for Germany"). Dismantling of factories by France and Great Britain as reparations and for the purpose of lower-

ing German war and economic potential under the “level of industry plans” took place (halted in 1951), but to nowhere near the scale of the dismantling and transport to the Soviet Union of factories in the eastern zone of occupation. The Eastern Block did not accept the Marshall Plan, denouncing it as American economic imperialism, and thus it (East Germany included) recovered much more slowly than their Western counterparts. German political and economic control of its main remaining centers of industry was reduced, the Ruhr area was under international control. The Ruhr Agreement was imposed on the Germans as a condition for permitting them to establish the Federal Republic of Germany.*[29] (see also the International Authority for the Ruhr (IAR)). In the end, the beginning of the Cold War led to increased German control of the area, although permanently limited by the pooling of German coal and steel into a multinational community in 1951 (see European Coal and Steel Community). The neighboring Saar area, containing much of Germany's remaining coal deposits, handed over by the U. S. to French economic administration as a protectorate in 1947 and did not politically return to Germany until January 1957, with economic reintegration occurring a few years later. (see also the Monnet Plan). Upper Silesia, Germany's second largest center of mining and industry, had been handed over to Poland at the Potsdam Conference, and its population expelled.

The Allies confiscated intellectual property of great value, all German patents, both in Germany and abroad, and used them to strengthen their own industrial competitiveness by licensing them to Allied companies.*[30] Beginning immediately after the German surrender and continuing for the next two years the U.S. pursued a vigorous program to harvest all technological and scientific know-how as well as all patents in Germany. John Gimbel comes to the conclusion, in his book *Science Technology and Reparations: Exploitation and Plunder in Postwar Germany*, that the “intellectual reparations” taken by the U.S. and the UK amounted to close to \$10 billion.*[31]*[32]*[33] During the more than two years that this policy was in place, no industrial research in Germany could take place, as any results would have been automatically available to overseas competitors who were encouraged by the occupation authorities to access all records and facilities. Meanwhile, thousands of the best German researchers were being put to work in the Soviet Union and in the U.S. (see also Operation Paperclip)

For several years following the surrender German nutritional levels were very low, resulting in very high mortality rates. Throughout all of 1945 the U.S. forces of occupation ensured that no international aid reached ethnic Germans.*[34] It was directed that all relief went to non-German displaced persons, liberated Allied POWs, and concentration camp inmates.*[34] During 1945 it was estimated that the average German civilian in the US and UK occupation zones received 1200 calories a day.*[34] Meanwhile, non-German displaced persons were receiv-

ing 2300 calories through emergency food imports and Red Cross help.*[34] In early October 1945 the UK government privately acknowledged in a cabinet meeting that German civilian adult death rates had risen to 4 times the pre-war levels and death rates amongst the German children had risen by 10 times the pre-war levels.*[34] The German Red Cross was dissolved, and the International Red Cross and the few other allowed international relief agencies were kept from helping Germans through strict controls on supplies and travel.*[34] The few agencies permitted to help Germans, such as the indigenous Caritasverband, were not allowed to use imported supplies. When the Vatican attempted to transmit food supplies from Chile to German infants the US State Department forbade it.*[34] The German food situation reached its worst during the very cold winter of 1946–1947 when German calorie intake ranged from 1,000–1,500 calories per day, a situation made worse by severe lack of fuel for heating.*[34] Meanwhile, the Allies were well fed, average adult calorie intake was; U.S. 3200–3300; UK 2900; U.S. Army 4000.*[34] German infant mortality rate was twice that of other nations in Western Europe until the close of 1948.*[34]

As agreed by the Allies at the Yalta conference Germans were used as forced labor as part of the reparations to be extracted to the countries ruined by Nazi aggression. By 1947 it is estimated that 4,000,000 Germans (both civilians and POWs) were being used as forced labor by the U.S., France, the UK and the Soviet Union. German prisoners were for example forced to clear minefields in France and the low countries. By December 1945 it was estimated by French authorities that 2,000 German prisoners were being killed or maimed each month in accidents.*[35] In Norway the last available casualty record, from 29 August 1945, shows that by that time a total of 275 German soldiers died while clearing mines, while 392 had been maimed.*[36] Death rates for the German civilians doing forced labor in the Soviet Union ranged between 19% and 39%, depending on category. (see also Forced labor of Germans in the Soviet Union).

Norman Naimark writes in *“The Russians in Germany: A History of the Soviet Zone of Occupation, 1945–1949.”* that although the exact number of women and girls who were raped by members of the Red Army in the months preceding and years following the capitulation will never be known, their numbers are likely in the hundreds of thousands, quite possibly as high as the 2,000,000 victims estimate made by Barbara Johr, in *“Befreier und Befreite”*. Many of these victims were raped repeatedly. Naimark states that not only had each victim to carry the trauma with her for the rest of her days, it inflicted a massive collective trauma on the East German nation (the German Democratic Republic). Naimark concludes *“The social psychology of women and men in the soviet zone of occupation was marked by the crime of rape from the first days of occupation, through the founding of the GDR in the fall of 1949, until - one could argue - the*

present.” * [37]

The post-war hostility shown to the German people is exemplified in the fate of the **War children**, sired by German soldiers with women from the local population in nations such as Norway where the children and their mothers after the war had to endure many years of abuse. In the case of Denmark the hostility felt towards all things German also showed itself in the treatment of German refugees during the years 1945 to 1949. During 1945 alone 7000 German children under the age of 5 died as a result of being denied sufficient food and denied medical attention by Danish doctors who were afraid that rendering aid to the children of the former enemy would be seen as an unpatriotic act. Many children died of easily treatable ailments. As a consequence “more German refugees died in Danish camps, “than Danes did during the entire war.”” * [38] * [39] * [40] * [41]

During the Cold War, it was difficult for West Germans to visit East German relatives and friends and impossible vice versa. For East Germans, especially after the building of the Berlin Wall on 13 August 1961 and until Hungary opened up its border to the West in the late 1980s, thus allowing hundreds of thousands of vacationing East Germans to flee into Western Europe, it was only possible to get to West Germany by illegally fleeing across heavily fortified and guarded border areas.

44 years after the end of World War II, the Berlin Wall fell on 9 November 1989. The East and West parts of Germany were reunited on 3 October 1990.

Economic and social divisions between East and West Germany continue to play a major role in politics and society in Germany at present. It is likely the contrast between the generally well-off and economically diverse West and the weaker, heavy-industry reliant East will continue at least into the foreseeable future.

See also

- Berlin Wall
- Cold War
- German reunification
- Germany
 - East Germany
 - West Germany
- History of Germany since 1945
- Marshall Plan
- Ostpolitik

5.2.9 World politics

The war led to the discrediting and dissolution of the **League of Nations** and led to the founding of the **United Nations** on 24 October 1945. Like its predecessor, the UN was established to help prevent other world wars and contain or stop smaller conflicts. The principles enshrined in the **Charter of the United Nations** are a testament to the world's attitudes at the fall of the Third Reich.

5.2.10 International law



Nuremberg Trials. Defendants in the dock. The main target of the prosecution was Hermann Göring (at the left edge on the first row of benches), considered to be the most important surviving official in the Third Reich after Hitler's death.

The effect the Nazis had on present-day international law should not be underestimated. The **United Nations Genocide Convention**, a series of laws that made genocide a crime, was approved in December 1948, three years after the Nazi defeat. * [42] That same month, the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** also became a part of international law. The **Nuremberg trials**, followed by other **Nazi war crimes trials**, also created an unwritten rule stating that government officials who “follow orders” from leaders in committing crimes against humanity cannot use such a motive to excuse their crimes. It also had an effect through the **Fourth Geneva Convention** (Art 33) in making collective punishments a war crime. * [43]

5.2.11 Racism

After the world viewed the Nazi death camps, many Western peoples began to outwardly oppose ideas of racial superiority. Liberal anti-racism became a staple of many Western governments. Whereas racism is still present, openly racist publications were looked down upon. The move towards tolerance of different cultures in Western societies has continued to the present day. Since the collapse of Nazi Germany, Western populations have been wary of racial political parties and have actively

discouraged white ethnocentrism, fearing the return of a catastrophe similar to the purges carried out by Nazis in Germany. On the other hand, it can be argued that the conception of multiculturalism as one of the pillars of contemporary Western society has gained importance because of the same reaction. The actions of the Nazis caused an increase in Anti-German sentiment.

5.2.12 Military

German military doctrine under the Nazi regime, characterized (with some controversy) as *Blitzkrieg*, called for air strikes that softened an intended victim for attack by motorized, mechanized, and airborne forces on the *schwerpunkt* (focal point), followed by encirclement by motorized forces, and exploitation of the gap by conventional infantry forces. Radio communication allowed for the close coordination necessary for such attacks, and allowed for coordination of the air force. The Nazis as much broke the rules of engagement which previously governed nations at war (such violations often deemed after the war as crimes against peace) as they innovated techniques of war. Axis reverses beginning with Allied routs of overextended German forces in El Alamein and Stalingrad resulted from British and Soviet forces adopting Nazi field strategies, and as the United States became a participant in the war it adopted much the same techniques of aerial attack upon Nazi Germany, if with greater force than the Luftwaffe could ever inflict.

As Nazi Germany faced severe defeat after the *Battle of Kursk* and especially the *cross-channel invasion* it introduced cross-channel use of the V-1 flying bomb and V-2 rocket, although too late and too ineffectively to turn the war to its advantage. The German military machine was developing jet aircraft as fighters and bombers and long-range missiles, but far too late (they were only in the design and test stages) to change the outcome of the war. The victorious Allies would incorporate the early innovations of jet technology and long-distance rocket-based missiles into their armed forces, but only after the end of World War II after getting them beyond the developmental stages of design and testing.

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5.3 Japanese war crimes



Chinese prisoners being buried alive.

Japanese war crimes occurred in many Asian and Pacific countries during the period of Japanese imperialism, primarily during the Second Sino-Japanese War and World War II. These incidents have also been described as an **Asian Holocaust***[1] and **Japanese war atrocities**.*[2]*[3]*[4] Some war crimes were committed by military personnel from the Empire of Japan in the late 19th century, although most took place during the first part of the *Shōwa Era*, the name given to the reign of Emperor Hirohito, until the surrender of the Empire of Japan, in 1945.

Some historians and governments of some countries hold Japanese military forces, namely the Imperial Japanese Army, the Imperial Japanese Navy, and the Imperial Japanese family, especially Emperor Hirohito, responsible for killings and other crimes committed against millions of civilians and prisoners of war.*[5]*[6]*[7]*[8]*[9] Some Japanese soldiers have admitted to committing these crimes.*[10] Airmen of the Imperial Japanese Army Air Service and Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service were not included as war criminals because there was no positive or specific customary international humanitarian law that prohibited the unlawful conduct of aerial warfare either before or during World War II. The Imperial Japanese Army Air Service took part in conducting chemical and biological attacks on enemy nationals during the Second Sino-Japanese War and World War II and the use of such weapons in warfare were generally prohibited by international agreements signed by Japan, including the Hague Conventions (1899 and 1907), which banned the use of “poison or poisoned weapons” in warfare.*[11]*[12]

Since the 1950s, senior Japanese Government officials have issued numerous apologies for the country's war crimes. Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that the country acknowledges its role in causing “tremendous damage and suffering” during World War II, es-

pecially in regard to the IJA entrance into Nanjing during which Japanese soldiers killed a large number of non-combatants and engaged in looting and rape.* [13] Some members of the Liberal Democratic Party in the Japanese government such as former prime minister Junichiro Koizumi and current Prime Minister Shinzo Abe have prayed at the Yasukuni Shrine, which includes convicted Class A war criminals in its honored war dead. Some Japanese history textbooks only offer brief references to the various war crimes,* [14] and members of the Liberal Democratic Party such as Shinzo Abe have denied some of the atrocities such as government involvement in abducting women to serve as "comfort women" (sex slaves).* [10]* [15]

5.3.1 Definitions

Main article: Definitions of Japanese war crimes

War crimes have been defined by the Tokyo Charter



Soochow, China, 1938. A ditch full of the bodies of Chinese civilians, killed by Japanese soldiers.

as "violations of the laws or customs of war,"* [16] which includes crimes against enemy combatants and enemy non-combatants.* [17] War crimes also included deliberate attacks on citizens and property of neutral states as they fall under the category of non-combatants, as at the attack on Pearl Harbor.* [18] Military personnel from the Empire of Japan have been accused or convicted of committing many such acts during the period of Japanese imperialism from the late 19th to mid-20th centuries. They have been accused of conducting a series of human rights abuses against civilians and prisoners of war throughout East Asia and the western Pacific region. These events reached their height during the Second Sino-Japanese War of 1937–45 and the Asian and Pacific

campaigns of World War II (1941–45). In addition to Japanese civil and military personnel, Koreans and Taiwanese who were forced to serve in the military of the Empire of Japan were also found to have committed war crimes as part of the Japanese Imperial Army.* [19]* [20]

International and Japanese law

Japan did not sign the 1929 Geneva Convention on the Prisoners of War (except the 1929 Geneva Convention on the Sick and Wounded),* [21] though in 1942, it did promise to abide by its terms.* [22] The crimes committed also fall under other aspects of international and Japanese law. For example, many of the crimes committed by Japanese personnel during World War II broke Japanese military law, and were subject to court martial, as required by that law.* [23] The Empire also violated international agreements signed by Japan, including provisions of the Hague Conventions (1899 and 1907) such as protections for prisoners of war and a ban on the use of chemical weapons, the 1930 Forced Labour Convention which prohibited forced labor, the 1921 International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children which prohibited human trafficking, and other agreements.* [24]* [25] The Japanese government also signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact (1929), thereby rendering its actions in 1937–45 liable to charges of crimes against peace,* [26] a charge that was introduced at the Tokyo Trials to prosecute "Class A" war criminals. "Class B" war criminals were those found guilty of war crimes *per se*, and "Class C" war criminals were those guilty of crimes against humanity. The Japanese government also accepted the terms set by the Potsdam Declaration (1945) after the end of the war, including the provision in Article 10 of punishment for "all war criminals, including those who have visited cruelties upon our prisoners."



Japanese bayonet practice with dead Chinese near Tianjin.

Japanese law does not define those convicted in the post-1945 trials as criminals, despite the fact that Japan's governments have accepted the judgments made in the tri-

als, and in the *Treaty of San Francisco* (1952). This is because the treaty does not mention the legal validity of the tribunal. Had Japan certified the legal validity of the war crimes tribunals in the San Francisco Treaty, the war crimes would have become open to appeal and overturning in Japanese courts. This would have been unacceptable in international diplomatic circles. Current Prime Minister *Shinzō Abe* has advocated the position that Japan accepted the Tokyo tribunal and its judgments as a condition for ending the war, but that its verdicts have no relation to domestic law. According to this view, those convicted of war crimes are not criminals under Japanese law.* [27]

Historical and geographical extent

Outside Japan, different societies use widely different timeframes in defining Japanese war crimes. For example, the annexation of *Korea* by Japan in 1910 was enforced by the Japanese military, and the *Society of Yi Dynasty Korea* was switched to the political system of the Empire of Japan. Thus, North and South Korea refer to “Japanese war crimes” as events occurring during the period of Korea under Japanese rule.

By comparison, the *Western Allies* did not come into military conflict with Japan until 1941, and *North Americans*, *Australians*, *South East Asians* and *Europeans* may consider “Japanese war crimes” to be events that occurred in 1941–45.* [28]

Japanese war crimes were not always carried out by ethnic Japanese personnel. A small minority of people in every Asian and Pacific country invaded or occupied by Japan collaborated with the Japanese military, or even served in it, for a wide variety of reasons, such as economic hardship, coercion, or antipathy to other imperialist powers.* [29]

Japan's sovereignty over *Korea* and *Formosa (Taiwan)*, in the first half of the 20th century, was recognized by international agreements—the *Treaty of Shimonoseki* (1895) and the *Japan–Korea Annexation Treaty* (1910)—and they were considered at the time to be integral parts of the Japanese Empire. Under the international law of today, there is a possibility the *Japan–Korea Annexation Treaty* was illegal,* [30] as the native populations were not consulted, there was armed resistance to Japan's annexations, and war crimes may also have been committed during the civil wars.

5.3.2 Background

Japanese military culture and imperialism

Main articles: *Statism in Shōwa Japan*, *Japanese militarism*, *Eugenics in Japan* and *Ethnic issues in Japan*

Military culture, especially during Japan's imperialist phase had great bearing on the conduct of the Japanese military before and during *World War II*. After the *Meiji Restoration* and the collapse of the *Tokugawa Shogunate*, the *Emperor* became the focus of military loyalty. During the so-called “Age of Empire” in the late 19th century, Japan followed the lead of other world powers in developing an empire, pursuing that objective aggressively.

Unlike many other major powers, Japan had not signed the *Geneva Convention*—also known as the *Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War*, Geneva July 27, 1929—which was the version of the Geneva Convention that covered the treatment of prisoners of war during *World War II*.* [31] Nevertheless, Japan ratified the *Hague Conventions* of 1899 and 1907 which contained provisions regarding prisoners of war* [32] and an *Imperial Proclamation* (1894) stated that Japanese soldiers should make every effort to win the war without violating international law. According to historian *Yuki Tanaka*, Japanese forces during the *First Sino-Japanese War*, released 1,790 Chinese prisoners without harm, once they signed an agreement not to take up arms against Japan again.* [33] After the *Russo-Japanese War* (1904–05), all 79,367 *Russian Empire* prisoners were released and were paid for labour performed, in accordance with the *Hague Convention*.* [33] Similarly the behaviour of the Japanese military in *World War I* (1914–18) was at least as humane as that of other militaries, with some German POWs of the Japanese finding life in Japan so agreeable that they stayed and settled in Japan after the war.* [34]* [35]



Two Japanese officers, Toshiaki Mukai and Tsuyoshi Noda competing to see who could kill (with a sword) one hundred people first. The bold headline reads, "Incredible Record' (in the Contest to Decapitate 100 People)—Mukai 106 – 105 Noda—Both 2nd Lieutenants Go Into Extra Innings” .

The events of the 1930s and 1940s

By the late 1930s, the rise of militarism in Japan created at least superficial similarities between the wider Japanese military culture and that of Nazi Germany's elite military personnel, such as those in the *Waffen-SS*. Japan also had a military secret police force within the IJA, known as the *Kempeitai*, which resembled the Nazi *Gestapo* in its role in annexed and occupied countries, but which had existed for nearly a decade before Hitler's own birth.*[36] Perceived failure or insufficient devotion to the Emperor would attract punishment, frequently of the physical kind.*[37] In the military, officers would assault and beat men under their command, who would pass the beating on to lower ranks, all the way down. In POW camps, this meant prisoners received the worst beatings of all,*[38] partly in the belief that such punishments were merely the proper technique to deal with disobedience.*[37]

5.3.3 Crimes

The Japanese military during the 1930s and 1940s is often compared to the military of Nazi Germany during 1933–45 because of the sheer scale of suffering. Much of the controversy regarding Japan's role in World War II revolves around the death rates of prisoners of war and civilians under Japanese occupation. Historian Sterling Seagrave has written that:

Arriving at a probable number of Japan's war victims who died is difficult for several interesting reasons, which have to do with Western perceptions. Both Americans and Europeans fell into the unfortunate habit of seeing WW1 and WW2 as separate wars, failing to comprehend that they were interlaced in a multitude of ways (not merely that one was the consequence of the other, or of the rash behavior of the victors after WW1). Wholly aside from this basic misconception, most Americans think of WW2 in Asia as having begun with Pearl Harbor, the British with the fall of Singapore, and so forth. The Chinese would correct this by identifying the Marco Polo Bridge incident as the start, or the Japanese seizure of Manchuria earlier. It really began in 1895 with Japan's assassination of Korea's Queen Min, and invasion of Korea, resulting in its absorption into Japan, followed quickly by Japan's seizure of southern Manchuria, etc. – establishing that Japan was at war from 1895–1945. Prior to 1895, Japan had only briefly invaded Korea during the Shogunate, long before the Meiji Restoration, and the invasion failed. Therefore, Rummel's estimate of 6-million to 10-million dead between

1937 (the Rape of Nanjing) and 1945, may be roughly corollary to the time-frame of the Nazi Holocaust, but it falls far short of the actual numbers killed by the Japanese war machine. If you add, say, 2-million Koreans, 2-million Manchurians, Chinese, Russians, many East European Jews (both Sephardic and Ashkenazi), and others killed by Japan between 1895 and 1937 (conservative figures), the total of Japanese victims is more like 10-million to 14-million. Of these, I would suggest that between 6-million and 8-million were ethnic Chinese, regardless of where they were resident.*[39]

According to the findings of the Tokyo Tribunal, the death rate among POWs from Asian countries, held by Japan was 27.1%.*[40] The death rate of Chinese POWs was much higher because—under a directive ratified on August 5, 1937 by Emperor Hirohito—the constraints of international law on treatment of those prisoners was removed.*[41] Only 56 Chinese POWs were released after the surrender of Japan.*[42] After March 20, 1943, the Japanese Navy was under orders to execute all prisoners taken at sea.*[43]

Attacks on Pearl Harbor, Malaya, Singapore, and Hong Kong



The USS Arizona (BB-39) burning during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Article 1 of the 1907 Hague Convention III – *The Opening of Hostilities* prohibited the initiation of hostilities against neutral powers “without previous and explicit warning, in the form either of a reasoned declaration of war or of an ultimatum with conditional declaration of war” and Article 2 further stated that “[t]he existence of a state of war must be notified to the neutral Powers without delay, and shall not take effect in regard to them until after the receipt of a notification, which may, however, be given by telegraph.” Japanese diplomats intended to deliver the notice to the United States thirty minutes before the attack

on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, but it was delivered to the U.S. government an hour after the attack was over. Tokyo transmitted the 5,000-word notification (commonly called the “14-Part Message”) in two blocks to the Japanese Embassy in Washington, but transcribing the message took too long for the Japanese ambassador to deliver it in time.*[44] The 14-Part Message was actually about sending a message to U.S. officials that peace negotiations between Japan and the U.S. were likely to be terminated, not a declaration of war. In fact, Japanese officials were well aware that the 14-Part Message was not a proper declaration of war as required by the 1907 Hague Convention III – *The Opening of Hostilities*. They decided not to issue a proper declaration of war anyway as they feared that doing so would expose the possible leak of the secret operation to the Americans.*[45]*[46] Some conspiracy theorists charged that President Franklin D. Roosevelt willingly allowed the attack to happen in order to create a pretext for war but no credible evidence supports that claim.*[47]*[48]*[49] The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan declared war on the U.S. and the U.S. declared war on Japan in response the same day.

Simultaneously with the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 (Honolulu time), Japan invaded the British colonies of Malaya and bombed Singapore and Hong Kong, without a declaration of war or an ultimatum. Both the U.S. and Britain were neutral when Japan attacked their territories without explicit warning of a state of war.*[50]*[51]

Like with the victims of several other unannounced attacks*[52] the U.S. officially classified all 3,649 military and civilian casualties and destruction of military property at Pearl Harbor as non-combatants as there was no state of war between the U.S. and Japan when the attack occurred.*[53]*[54]*[55] Joseph B. Keenan, the chief prosecutor in the Tokyo Trials, says that the attack on Pearl Harbor not only happened without a declaration of war but also a treacherous and deceitful act. In fact, Japan and the U.S. were still negotiating for a possible peace agreement which kept U.S. officials very distracted when Japanese planes bombed Pearl Harbor. Keenan explained the definition of a war of aggression and the criminality of the attack on Pearl Harbor:

The concept of aggressive war may not be expressed with the precision of a scientific formula, or described like the objective data of the physical sciences. Aggressive War is not entirely a physical fact to be observed and defined like the operation of the laws of matter. It is rather an activity involving injustice between nations, rising to the level of criminality because of its disastrous effects upon the common good of international society. The injustice of a war of aggression is criminal of its extreme grossness, considered both from the point of view of the will of the aggressor to

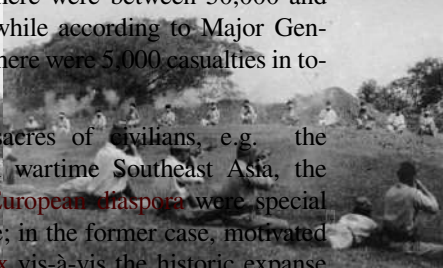
inflict injury and from the evil effects which ensue ... Unjust war are plainly crimes and not simply torts or breaches of contracts. The act comprises the willful, intentional, and unreasonable destruction of life, limb, and property, subject matter which has been regarded as criminal by the laws of all civilized peoples ... The Pearl Harbor attack breached the Kellogg–Briand Pact and the Hague Convention III. In addition, it violated Article 23 of the Annex to the Hague Convention IV, of October 1907 ... But the attack of Pearl Harbor did not alone result in murder and the slaughter of thousands of human beings. It did not eventuate only in the destruction of property. It was an outright act of undermining and destroying the hope of a world for peace. When a nation employs a deceit and treachery, using periods of negotiations and the negotiations themselves as a cloak to screen a perfidious attack, then there is a prime example of the crime of all crimes.*[56]*[57]

Admiral Yamamoto, who planned the attack on Pearl Harbor, was fully aware that if Japan lost the war, he would be tried as a war criminal for that attack (although he was killed by the United States Army Air Forces in Operation Vengeance in 1943). At the Tokyo Trials, Prime Minister Hideki Tojo; Shigenori Tōgō, then Foreign Minister; Shigetarō Shimada, the Minister of the Navy; and Osami Nagano, Chief of Naval General Staff, were charged with crimes against peace (charges 1 to 36) and murder (charges 37 to 52) in connection with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Along with war crimes and crimes against humanity (charges 53 to 55), Tojo was among the seven Japanese leaders sentenced to death and executed by hanging in 1948, Shigenori Tōgō received a 20-year sentence, Shimada received a life sentence, and Nagano died of natural causes during the Trial in 1947.*[46]*[58]

Over the years, many Japanese nationalists argued that the attack on Pearl Harbor was justified as they acted in self-defense in response to the oil embargo imposed by the United States. Most historians and scholars agreed that the oil embargo cannot be used as justification for using military force against a foreign nation imposing the oil embargo because there is a clear distinction between a perception that something is essential to the welfare of the nation-state and a threat truly being sufficiently serious to warrant an act of force in response, which Japan failed to consider. Japanese scholar and diplomat, Takeo Iguchi, states that it is “[h]ard to say from the perspective of international law that exercising the right of self-defense against economic pressures is considered valid.” While Japan felt that its dreams of further expansion would be brought to a screeching halt by the American embargo, this “need” cannot be considered proportional with the destruction suffered by the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, intended by Japanese military planners to be as

comprehensive as possible. * [46]

Mass killings



top to bottom; Japanese soldiers shooting blindfolded Sikh prisoners before bayonetting them. This set of four photographs were found among Japanese records when British troops entered Singapore.

R. J. Rummel, a professor of political science at the University of Hawaii, estimates that between 1937 and 1945, the Japanese military murdered from nearly 3 to over 10 million people, most likely 6 million Chinese, Koreans, Malaysians, Indonesians, Filipinos and Indochinese, among others, including Western prisoners of war. According to Rummel, “This democide [i.e., death by government] was due to a morally bankrupt political and military strategy, military expediency and custom, and national culture.” * [59] According to Rummel, in China alone, during 1937–45, approximately 3.9 million Chinese were killed, mostly civilians, as a direct result of the Japanese operations and 10.2 million in the course of the war. * [60] The most infamous incident during this period was the Nanking Massacre of 1937–38, when, according to the findings of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, the Japanese Army massacred as many as 300,000 civilians and prisoners of war, although the accepted figure is somewhere in the hundreds of thousands. * [61]

During the Second Sino-Japanese War the Japanese followed what has been referred to as a “killing policy”, including against minorities like Hui Muslims in China. According to Wan Lei, “In a Hui clustered village in Gaocheng county of Hebei, the Japanese captured twenty Hui men among whom they only set two younger men free through “redemption”, and buried alive the other eighteen Hui men. In Mengcun village of Hebei, the Japanese killed more than 1,300 Hui people within three years of their occupation of that area.” Mosques were also desecrated and destroyed by the Japanese, and Hui cemeteries were also destroyed. * [62] Many Hui Chinese Muslims in the Second Sino-Japanese war fought in the war against Japan.

In Southeast Asia, the Manila massacre of February 1945 resulted in the death of 100,000 civilians in the Philippines. It is estimated that at least one out of every 20

Filipinos died at the hands of the Japanese during the occupation. * [63] * [64] In Singapore during February and March 1942, the Sook Ching massacre was a systematic extermination of perceived hostile elements among the Chinese population there. Lee Kuan Yew, the ex-Prime Minister of Singapore, said during an interview with National Geographic that there were between 50,000 and 90,000 casualties, * [65] while according to Major General Kawamura Saburo, there were 5,000 casualties in total. * [66]

There were other massacres of civilians, e.g. the Kalagong massacre. In wartime Southeast Asia, the Overseas Chinese and European diaspora were special targets of Japanese abuse; in the former case, motivated by an inferiority complex vis-à-vis the historic expanse and influence of Chinese culture that did not exist with the Southeast Asian indigenes, and the latter, motivated by a racist Pan-Asianism and a desire to show former colonial subjects the impotence of their Western masters. * [67] The Japanese executed all the Malay Sultans on Kalimantan and wiped out the Malay elite in the Pontianak incidents. In the Jesselton Revolt, the Japanese slaughtered thousands of native civilians during the Japanese occupation of British Borneo and nearly wiped out the entire Suluk Muslim population of the coastal islands. During the Japanese occupation of the Philippines, when a Moro Muslim juramentado swordsman launched a suicide attack against the Japanese, the Japanese would massacre the man's entire family or village.

Historian Mitsuyoshi Himeta reports that a "Three Alls Policy" (*Sankō Sakusen*) was implemented in China from 1942 to 1945 and was in itself responsible for the deaths of “more than 2.7 million” Chinese civilians. This scorched earth strategy, sanctioned by Hirohito himself, directed Japanese forces to “Kill All, Burn All, and Loot All”. Additionally, captured Allied servicemen and civilians were massacred in various incidents, including:

- Alexandra Hospital massacre
- Laha massacre * [68]
- Banka Island massacre * [69]
- Parit Sulong
- Palawan Massacre
- SS Behar
- SS Tjialak massacre perpetrated by Japanese submarine I-8
- Wake Island massacre
- Tinta Massacre
- Bataan Death March
- *Shin'yō Maru* Incident

- Sulug Island massacre
- Pontianak incidents

Human experimentation and biological warfare



Shiro Ishii, commander of Unit 731.

Special Japanese military units conducted experiments on civilians and POWs in China. One of the most infamous was Unit 731 under Shirō Ishii. Unit 731 was established by order of Hirohito himself. Victims were subjected to experiments including but not limited to vivisection and amputations without anesthesia and testing of biological weapons. Anesthesia was not used because it was believed that anesthetics would adversely affect the results of the experiments.*[70]

To determine the treatment of frostbite, prisoners were taken outside in freezing weather and left with exposed arms, periodically drenched with water until frozen solid. The arm was later amputated; the doctor would repeat the process on the victim's upper arm to the shoulder. After both arms were gone, the doctors moved on to the legs until only a head and torso remained. The victim was then used for plague and pathogens experiments.*[71]

According to one estimate, the experiments carried out by Unit 731 alone caused 3,000 deaths.*[72] Furthermore,

according to the 2002 *International Symposium on the Crimes of Bacteriological Warfare*, the number of people killed by the Imperial Japanese Army germ warfare and human experiments is around 580,000.*[73] According to other sources, “tens of thousands, and perhaps as many as 400,000, Chinese died of bubonic plague, cholera, anthrax and other diseases ...”, resulting from the use of biological warfare.*[74] Top officers of Unit 731 were not prosecuted for war crimes after the war, in exchange for turning over the results of their research to the Allies. They were also reportedly given responsible positions in Japan's pharmaceutical industry, medical schools and health ministry.*[75]*[76]

One case of human experimentation occurred in Japan itself. At least nine out of 11 crew members survived the crash of a U.S. Army Air Forces B-29 bomber on Kyūshū, on May 5, 1945. (This plane was Lt. Marvin Watkins' crew of the 29th Bomb Group of the 6th Bomb Squadron.*[77]) The bomber's commander was separated from his crew and sent to Tokyo for interrogation, while the other survivors were taken to the anatomy department of Kyushu University, at Fukuoka, where they were subjected to vivisection or killed.*[78]*[79]

During the final months of World War II, Japan had planned to use plague as a biological weapon against U.S. civilians in San Diego, California, during Operation Cherry Blossoms at Night, hoping that the plague would spread as much terror to the American population and thereby dissuading America from attacking Japan. The plan was set to launch at night on September 22, 1945, but Japan surrendered five weeks earlier.*[80]*[81]*[82]*[83]

On March 11, 1948, 30 people, including several doctors and one female nurse, were brought to trial by the Allied war crimes tribunal. Charges of cannibalism were dropped, but 23 people were found guilty of vivisection or wrongful removal of body parts. Five were sentenced to death, four to life imprisonment, and the rest to shorter terms. In 1950, the military governor of Japan, General Douglas MacArthur, commuted all of the death sentences and significantly reduced most of the prison terms. All of those convicted in relation to the university vivisection were free after 1958.*[84] In addition, many participants who were responsible for these vivisections were never charged by the Americans or their allies in exchange for the information on the experiments.

In 2006, former IJN medical officer Akira Makino stated that he was ordered—as part of his training—to carry out vivisection on about 30 civilian prisoners in the Philippines between December 1944 and February 1945.*[85] The surgery included amputations.*[86] Most of Makino's victims were Moro Muslims.*[87]*[88]*[89]*[90]*[91] Ken Yuasa, a former military doctor in China, has also admitted to similar incidents in which he was compelled to participate.*[92]

Use of chemical weapons

See also: [Change chemical weapon attack](#)

According to historians Yoshiaki Yoshimi and Ken-taro Awaya, during the Second Sino-Japanese War, gas weapons, such as tear gas, were used only sporadically in 1937, but in early 1938 the Imperial Japanese Army began full-scale use of phosgene, chlorine, Lewisite and nausea gas (red), and from mid-1939, mustard gas (yellow) was used against both Kuomintang and Communist Chinese troops. [93]

According to Yoshimi and Seiya Matsuno, Emperor Hirohito signed orders specifying the use of chemical weapons in China. [94] For example, during the Battle of Wuhan from August to October 1938, the Emperor authorized the use of toxic gas on 375 separate occasions, despite the 1899 Hague Declaration IV, 2 – *Declaration on the Use of Projectiles the Object of Which is the Diffusion of Asphyxiating or Deleterious Gases* [95] and Article 23 (a) of the 1907 Hague Convention IV – *The Laws and Customs of War on Land*. [24] [96] A resolution adopted by the League of Nations on 14 May condemned the use of poison gas by Japan.

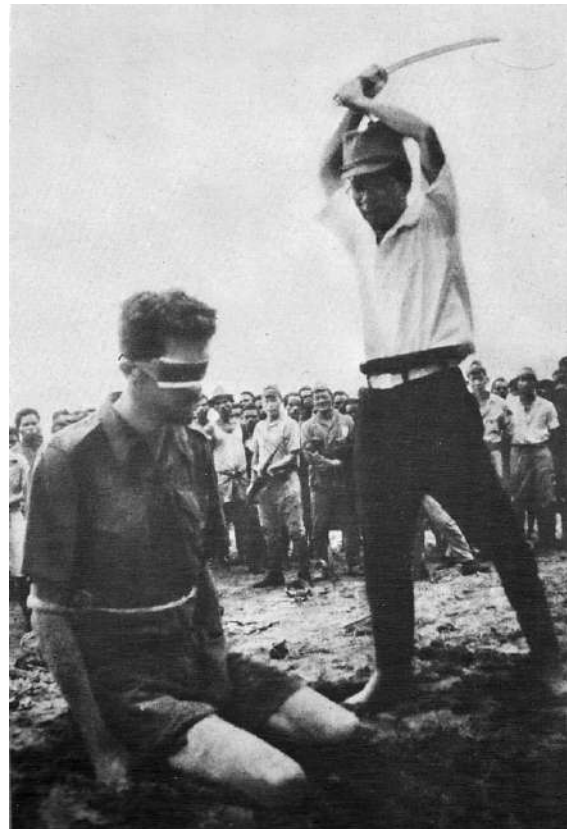
Another example is the Battle of Yichang in October 1941, during which the 19th Artillery Regiment helped the 13th Brigade of the IJA 11th Army by launching 1,000 yellow gas shells and 1,500 red gas shells at the Chinese forces. The area was crowded with Chinese civilians unable to evacuate. Some 3,000 Chinese soldiers were in the area and 1,600 were affected. The Japanese report stated that “the effect of gas seems considerable”. [97]

In 2004, Yoshimi and Yuki Tanaka discovered in the Australian National Archives documents showing that cyanide gas was tested on Australian and Dutch prisoners in November 1944 on Kai Islands (Indonesia). [98]

Torture of prisoners of war

Japanese imperial forces employed widespread use of torture on prisoners, usually in an effort to gather military intelligence quickly. [99] Tortured prisoners were often later executed. A former Japanese Army officer who served in China, Uno Shintaro, stated:

The major means of getting intelligence was to extract information by interrogating prisoners. Torture was an unavoidable necessity. Murdering and burying them follows naturally. You do it so you won't be found out. I believed and acted this way because I was convinced of what I was doing. We carried out our duty as instructed by our masters. We did it for the sake of our country. From our filial obligation to our ancestors. On the battlefield, we never really considered the Chinese humans.



An Australian POW, Sgt. Leonard Siffleet, captured in New Guinea, about to be beheaded by a Japanese officer with a guntō, 1943.

When you're winning, the losers look really miserable. We concluded that the Yamato race [i.e., Japanese] was superior. [100]

The effectiveness of torture might also have been counterproductive to Japan's war effort. After the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II, the Japanese military tortured a captured American P-51 fighter pilot named Marcus McDilda in order to discover how many atomic bombs the Allies had and what the future targets were. McDilda, who knew nothing about the atomic bomb nor the Manhattan Project, “confessed” under torture that the U.S. had 100 atomic bombs and that Tokyo and Kyoto were the next targets. McDilda's false confession may have swayed the Japanese leaders' decision to surrender. [101]

Execution and killing of captured Allied airmen

Many Allied airmen captured by the Japanese on land or at sea were executed in accordance with official Japanese policy. During the Battle of Midway in June, 1942, three American airmen who were shot down and landed at sea were spotted and captured by Japanese warships. After brief interrogations, two airmen were killed, their bodies then tied to five-gallon kerosene cans filled with water and



A blindfolded Doolittle Raider taken captive in 1942.

dumped overboard from destroyer *Makigumo*; the third was killed and his body dumped overboard from *Arashi*.

On August 13, 1942, Japan passed the **Enemy Airmen's Act**, which stated that Allied pilots who bombed non-military targets in the **Pacific Theater** and were captured on land or at sea by Japanese forces were subject to trial and punishment despite the absence of any international law containing provisions regarding **aerial warfare**.^[102] This legislation was passed in response to the **Doolittle Raid**, which occurred on April 18, 1942, in which American B-25 bombers under the command of **Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle** bombed Tokyo and other Japanese cities. According to the **Hague Convention of 1907** (the only convention which Japan had ratified regarding the treatment of prisoners of war), any military personnel captured on land or at sea by enemy troops were to be treated as prisoners of war and not punished for simply being lawful combatants. Eight Doolittle Raiders captured upon landing in China (and unaware of the existence of the **Enemy Airmen's Act**) were the first Allied aircrew to be brought before a **kangaroo court** in Shanghai under the act, charged with alleged (but unproven) strafing of Japanese civilians during the Doolittle Raid. The eight aircrew were forbidden to give any defense and, despite the lack of legitimate evidences, were found guilty of participating in aerial military operations against Japan. Five of the eight sentences were commuted to life imprisonment; the other three airmen were taken to a cemetery outside Shanghai, where they were executed by firing squad on October 14, 1942.^[103]^[104]

The **Enemy Airmen's Act** contributed to the deaths of hundreds of Allied airmen throughout the Pacific War. An estimated 132 Allied airmen shot down during the **bombing campaign against Japan** in 1944–1945 were summarily executed after short kangaroo trials or drumhead courts-martial. Imperial Japanese military personnel deliberately killed 33 American airmen at Fukuoka, including fifteen who were beheaded shortly after the Japanese Government's intention to surrender was announced on August 15, 1945.^[105] Mobs of civilians also killed several Allied airmen before the Japanese mil-

itary arrived to take the airmen into custody.^[106] Another 94 airmen died from other causes while in Japanese custody, including 52 who were killed when they were deliberately abandoned in a prison during the **bombing of Tokyo** on May 24–25, 1945.^[107]^[108]

Cannibalism

Many written reports and testimonies collected by the Australian War Crimes Section of the Tokyo tribunal, and investigated by prosecutor **William Webb** (the future Judge-in-Chief), indicate that Japanese personnel in many parts of Asia and the Pacific committed acts of **cannibalism** against Allied prisoners of war. In many cases this was inspired by ever-increasing Allied attacks on Japanese supply lines, and the death and illness of Japanese personnel as a result of hunger. According to historian Yuki Tanaka: “cannibalism was often a systematic activity conducted by whole squads and under the command of officers”.^[109] This frequently involved murder for the purpose of securing bodies. For example, an **Indian POW**, *Havildar* Changdi Ram, testified that: “[on November 12, 1944] the Kempeitai beheaded [an Allied] pilot. I saw this from behind a tree and watched some of the Japanese cut flesh from his arms, legs, hips, buttocks and carry it off to their quarters ... They cut it [into] small pieces and fried it.”^[110]

In some cases, flesh was cut from living people: another **Indian POW**, *Lance Naik* Hatam Ali (later a citizen of Pakistan), testified in **New Guinea** and stated:

“... the Japanese started selecting prisoners and every day one prisoner was taken out and killed and eaten by the soldiers. I personally saw this happen and about 100 prisoners were eaten at this place by the Japanese. The remainder of us were taken to another spot 50 miles [80 km] away where 10 prisoners died of sickness. At this place, the Japanese again started selecting prisoners to eat. Those selected were taken to a hut where their flesh was cut from their bodies while they were alive and they were thrown into a ditch where they later died.”^[111]

Perhaps the most senior officer convicted of cannibalism was Lt Gen. **Yoshio Tachibana** (立花芳夫, *Tachibana Yoshio*), who with 11 other Japanese personnel was tried in August 1946 in relation to the execution of U.S. Navy airmen, and the cannibalism of at least one of them, during August 1944, on Chichi Jima, in the **Bonin Islands**. The airmen were beheaded on Tachibana's orders. Because military and international law did not specifically deal with cannibalism, they were tried for murder and “prevention of honorable burial”. Tachibana was sentenced to death, and hanged.^[112]

Forced labor

Main article: [Slavery in Japan](#)

The Japanese military's use of forced labor, by Asian



Australian and Dutch prisoners of war at Tarsau in Thailand, 1943.

civilians and POWs also caused many deaths. According to a joint study by historians including Zhifen Ju, Mitsuyoshi Himeta, Toru Kubo and Mark Peattie, more than 10 million Chinese civilians were mobilised by the *Kōa-in* (Japanese Asia Development Board) for forced labour.*[113] More than 100,000 civilians and POWs died in the construction of the Burma-Siam Railway.*[114]

The U.S. Library of Congress estimates that in Java the Japanese military forced between four and ten million *romusha* (Japanese: “manual laborers”) to work.*[115] About 270 thousand of these Javanese laborers were sent to other Japanese-held areas in Southeast Asia, but only 52 thousand were repatriated to Java, meaning that there was a death rate of eighty percent.

According to historian Akira Fujiwara, Emperor Hirohito personally ratified the decision to remove the constraints of international law (The Hague Conventions) on the treatment of Chinese prisoners of war in the directive of 5 August 1937. This notification also advised staff officers to stop using the term “prisoners of war”.*[116] The Geneva Convention exempted POWs of sergeant rank or higher from manual labour, and stipulated that prisoners performing work should be provided with extra rations and other essentials. Japan was not a signatory to the 1929 Geneva Convention on the Prisoners of War at the time, and Japanese forces did not follow the convention, although they ratified the 1929 Geneva Convention on the Sick And Wounded.*[21]

Comfort women

Main article: [Comfort women](#)

The terms “comfort women” (慰安婦 *ianfu*) Hangul: 위안부 or “military comfort women” (從軍慰安婦 *jūgun-*

ianfu) are euphemisms for women in Japanese military brothels in occupied countries, who were often recruited by deception or abducted and forced into sexual slavery.

In 1992, historian Yoshiaki Yoshimi published material based on his research in archives at Japan's National Institute for Defense Studies. Yoshimi claimed that there was a direct link between imperial institutions such as the *Kōa-in* and “comfort stations”. When Yoshimi's findings were published in the Japanese news media on 12 January 1993, they caused a sensation and forced the government, represented by Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato Koichi, to acknowledge some of the facts that same day. On 17 January Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa presented formal apologies for the suffering of the victims, during a trip in South Korea. On 6 July and 4 August, the Japanese government issued two statements by which it recognised that “Comfort stations were operated in response to the request of the military of the day”, “The Japanese military was, directly or indirectly, involved in the establishment and management of the comfort stations and the transfer of comfort women” and that the women were “recruited in many cases against their own will through coaxing and coercion”.*[117]

The controversy was re-ignited on 1 March 2007, when Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe mentioned suggestions that a U.S. House of Representatives committee would call on the Japanese Government to “apologise for and acknowledge” the role of the Japanese Imperial military in wartime sex slavery. Abe denied that it applied to comfort stations. “There is no evidence to prove there was coercion, nothing to support it.”*[118] Abe's comments provoked negative reactions overseas. For example, a *New York Times* editorial on March 6 said:*[119]

These were not commercial brothels. Force, explicit and implicit, was used in recruiting these women. What went on in them was serial rape, not prostitution. The Japanese Army's involvement is documented in the government's own defense files. A senior Tokyo official more or less apologized for this horrific crime in 1993 ... Yesterday, he grudgingly acknowledged the 1993 quasi apology, but only as part of a pre-emptive declaration that his government would reject the call, now pending in the United States Congress, for an official apology. America isn't the only country interested in seeing Japan belatedly accept full responsibility. Korea, China, and the Philippines are also infuriated by years of Japanese equivocations over the issue.

The same day, veteran soldier Yasuji Kaneko admitted to *The Washington Post* that the women “cried out, but it didn't matter to us whether the women lived or died. We were the emperor's soldiers. Whether in military brothels or in the villages, we raped without reluctance.”*[120]

On 17 April 2007, Yoshimi and another historian, Hirofumi Hayashi, announced the discovery, in the archives of the Tokyo Trials, of seven official documents suggesting that Imperial military forces, such as the *Tokkeitai* (naval secret police), directly coerced women to work in front-line brothels in China, Indochina and Indonesia. These documents were initially made public at the war crimes trial. In one of these, a lieutenant is quoted as confessing having organized a brothel and having used it himself. Another source refers to *Tokkeitai* members having arrested women on the streets, and after enforced medical examinations, putting them in brothels.*[121]

On May 12, 2007, journalist Taichiro Kaijima announced the discovery of 30 Netherland government documents submitted to the Tokyo tribunal as evidence of a forced massed prostitution incident in 1944 in Magelang.*[122]

In other cases, some victims from East Timor testified they were forced when they were not old enough to have started menstruating and repeatedly raped by Japanese soldiers.*[123]

A Dutch-Indonesian comfort woman, Jan Ruff-O'Hearn (now resident in Australia), who gave evidence to the U.S. committee, said the Japanese Government had failed to take responsibility for its crimes, that it did not want to pay compensation to victims and that it wanted to rewrite history. Ruff-O'Hearn said that she had been raped "day and night" for three months by Japanese soldiers when she was 19.*[124]

Only one Japanese woman published her testimony. In 1971 a former comfort woman, forced to work for Japanese soldiers in Taiwan, published her memoirs under the pseudonym of Suzuko Shirota.*[125]

There are different theories on the breakdown of the comfort women's place of origin. While some Japanese sources claim that the majority of the women were from Japan, others, including Yoshimi, argue as many as 200,000 women,*[126] mostly from Korea, and some other countries such as China, the Philippines, Burma, the Dutch East Indies, Netherlands,*[127] and Australia*[128] were forced to engage in sexual activity.*[129] In June 2014, more official documents from the government of Japan's archives were made public, documenting sexual violence committed by Imperial Japanese soldiers in French Indochina and Indonesia.*[130]

On 26 June 2007, the U.S. House of representatives Foreign Affairs Committee passed a resolution asking that Japan "should acknowledge, apologize and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its military's coercion of women into sexual slavery during the war" .*[131] On 30 July 2007, the House of Representatives passed the resolution, while Shinzo Abe said this decision was "regrettable" .*[132]

Looting

Many historians state that the Japanese government and individual military personnel engaged in widespread looting during the period of 1895 to 1945.*[133]*[134] The stolen property included private land, as well as many different kinds of valuable goods looted from banks, depositories, temples, churches, mosques, museums, other commercial premises and private homes.

Perfidy

Throughout the Pacific War, Japanese soldiers often feigned injury or surrender in order to lure the approaching American forces before attacking them. One of the most famous examples of this was the "Goettge Patrol" during the early days of the Guadalcanal Campaign in August 1942. After the patrol saw a white flag displayed on the west bank of Matanikau River, Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Frank Goettge assembled 25 men, primarily consisting of intelligence personnel, to search the area. Unknown to the patrol, the white flag was actually a Japanese flag with the **Hinomaru** disc insignia obscured. A Japanese prisoner earlier tricked the Marines by telling them that there were a number of Japanese west of the Matanikau River who wanted to surrender, knowing they would be ambushed.*[135] The Goettge Patrol landed by boat west of the Lunga Point perimeter, between Point Cruz and the Matanikau River, on a reconnaissance mission to contact a group of Japanese troops that American forces believed might be willing to surrender. Soon after the patrol landed, a group of Japanese naval troops ambushed and almost completely wiped out the patrol. Goettge was among the dead. Only three Americans made it back to American lines in the Lunga Point perimeter alive. News of the killing and treachery by the Japanese outraged the American Marines:

This was the first mass killing of the Marines on Guadalcanal. We were shocked. Shocked ... because headquarters had believed anything a Jap had to say ... The loss of this patrol and the particularly cruel way in which they had met death, hardened our hearts toward the Japanese. The idea of taking prisoners was swept from our minds. It was too dangerous.*[136]

Second Lieutenant D. A. Clark of the 7th Marines told a similar story while patrolling Guadalcanal:

I was on my first patrol here, and we were moving up a dry stream bed. We saw 3 Japs come down the river bed out of the jungle. The one in front was carrying a white flag. We thought they were surrendering. When they

got up to us they dropped the white flag and then all 3 threw hand grenades. We killed 2 of these Japs, but 1 got away. Apparently they do not mind a sacrifice in order to get information.*[135]

Samuel Eliot Morison, in his book, *The Two-Ocean War: A Short History of the United States Navy in the Second World War*, wrote:

There were innumerable incidents such as a wounded Japanese soldier at Guadalcanal seizing a scalpel and burying it in the back of a surgeon who was about to save his life by an operation; and a survivor of the Battle of Vella Lavella, rescued by PT-163, pulling a gun and killing a bluejacket in the act of giving a Japanese sailor a cup of coffee.*[137]

These incidents, along with many other perfidious actions of the Japanese throughout the Pacific War, led to an American tendency to shoot the dead or wounded Japanese soldiers and those who were attempting to surrender and not take them as prisoners of war easily. Two Marines of Iwo Jima told cautionary tales. One confided: “They always told you take prisoners but we had some bad experiences on Saipan taking prisoners, you take them and then as soon as they get behind the lines they drop grenades and you lose a few more people. You get a little bit leery of taking prisoners when they are fighting to the death and so are you.” The other reported, “Very few of them came out on their own; when they did, why, usually one in the front he'd come out with his hands up and one behind him, he'd come out with a grenade.”*[138]*[139]*[140]

5.3.4 War crimes trials

Soon after the war, the Allied powers indicted 25 persons as Class-A war criminals, and 5,700 persons were indicted as Class-B or Class-C war criminals by Allied criminal trials. Of these, 984 were initially condemned to death, 920 were actually executed, 475 received life sentences, 2,944 received some prison terms, 1,018 were acquitted, and 279 were not sentenced or not brought to trial. These numbers included 178 ethnic Taiwanese and 148 ethnic Koreans.*[141] The Class-A charges were all tried by the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, also known as “the Tokyo Trials”. Other courts were formed in many different places in Asia and the Pacific.

Tokyo Trials

Main article: International Military Tribunal for the Far East



General Tomoyuki Yamashita (second right) was tried in Manila between October 29 and December 7, 1945, by a U.S. military commission relating to the Manila Massacre and earlier occurrences in Singapore, and was sentenced to death. The case set a precedent regarding the responsibility of commanders for war crimes, and is known as the *Yamashita Standard*.

The International Military Tribunal for the Far East was formed to try accused people in Japan itself.

High-ranking officers who were tried included Koichi Kido and Sadao Araki. Three former (unelected) prime ministers: Koki Hirota, Hideki Tojo and Kuniaki Koiso were convicted of Class-A war crimes. Many military leaders were also convicted. Two people convicted as Class-A war criminals later served as ministers in post-war Japanese governments.

- Mamoru Shigemitsu served as foreign minister both during the war and in the post-war Hatoyama government.
- Okinori Kaya was finance minister during the war and later served as justice minister in the government of Hayato Ikeda. These two had no direct connection to alleged war crimes committed by Japanese forces, and foreign governments never raised the issue when they were appointed.

Hirohito and all members of the imperial family implicated in the war such as Prince Chichibu, Prince Asaka, Prince Takeda and Prince Higashikuni were exonerated from criminal prosecutions by MacArthur, with the help of Bonner Fellers who allowed the major criminal suspects to coordinate their stories so that the Emperor would be spared from indictment.*[142] Many historians

criticize this decision. According to John Dower, “with the full support of MacArthur's headquarters, the prosecution functioned, in effect, as a defense team for the emperor”*[143] and even Japanese activists who endorse the ideals of the Nuremberg and Tokyo charters, and who have labored to document and publicize the atrocities of the Showa regime “cannot defend the American decision to exonerate the emperor of war responsibility and then, in the chill of the Cold War, release and soon afterwards openly embrace accused right-winged war criminals like the later prime minister Nobusuke Kishi.”*[144] For Herbert Bix, “MacArthur's truly extraordinary measures to save Hirohito from trial as a war criminal had a lasting and profoundly distorting impact on Japanese understanding of the lost war.”*[145]

Other trials

Main articles: [Khabarovsk War Crime Trials](#) and [Nanjing War Crimes Tribunal](#)

Between 1946 and 1951, the United States, the United



26 October 1945, Sandakan, North Borneo. During the investigation into Sandakan Death Marches and other incidents, Sergeant Hosotani Naoji (left, seated), a member of the Kempeitai unit at Sandakan, is interrogated by Squadron Leader F.G. Birchall (second right) of the Royal Australian Air Force, and Sergeant Mamo (right), a Nisei member of the U.S. Army/Allied Translator and Interpreter Service. Naoji confessed to shooting two Australian POWs and five ethnic Chinese civilians.

Kingdom, China, the Soviet Union, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, France, the Netherlands and the Philippines all held military tribunals to try Japanese indicted for Class B and Class C war crimes. Some 5,600 Japanese personnel were prosecuted in more than 2,200 trials outside Japan. Class B defendants were accused of having committed such crimes themselves; class C defendants, mostly senior officers, were accused of planning, ordering or failing to prevent them.

The judges presiding came from the United States, China, the United Kingdom, Australia, the Netherlands, France, the Soviet Union, New Zealand, India and the

Philippines. Additionally, the Chinese Communists also held a number of trials for Japanese personnel. More than 4,400 Japanese personnel were convicted and about 1,000 were sentenced to death.

The largest single trial was that of 93 Japanese personnel charged with the summary execution of more than 300 Allied POWs, in the Laha massacre (1942). The most prominent ethnic Korean convicted was Lieutenant General Hong Sa Ik, who orchestrated the organisation of prisoner of war camps in Southeast Asia. In 2006, the South Korean government “pardoned” 83 of the 148 convicted Korean war criminals.*[20] One hundred-sixty Taiwanese who had served in the forces of the Empire of Japan were convicted of war crimes and 11 were executed.*[19]

5.3.5 Post-war events and reactions

The parole-for-war-criminals movement

In 1950, after most Allied war crimes trials had ended, thousands of convicted war criminals sat in prisons across Asia and across Europe, detained in the countries where they were convicted. Some executions were still outstanding as many Allied courts agreed to reexamine their verdicts, reducing sentences in some cases and instituting a system of parole, but without relinquishing control over the fate of the imprisoned (even after Japan and Germany had regained their status as sovereign countries).

An intense and broadly supported campaign for amnesty for all imprisoned war criminals ensued (more aggressively in Germany than in Japan at first), as attention turned away from the top wartime leaders and towards the majority of “ordinary” war criminals (Class B/C in Japan), and the issue of criminal responsibility was reframed as a humanitarian problem.

On March 7, 1950, MacArthur issued a directive that reduced the sentences by one-third for good behavior and authorized the parole of those who had received life sentences after fifteen years. Several of those who were imprisoned were released earlier on parole due to ill-health.

The Japanese popular reaction to the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal found expression in demands for the mitigation of the sentences of war criminals and agitation for parole. Shortly after the San Francisco Peace Treaty came into effect in April 1952, a movement demanding the release of B- and C-class war criminals began, emphasizing the “unfairness of the war crimes tribunals” and the “misery and hardship of the families of war criminals.” The movement quickly garnered the support of more than ten million Japanese. In the face of this surge of public opinion, the government commented that “public sentiment in our country is that the war criminals are not criminals. Rather, they gather great sympathy as victims of the war, and the number of people concerned about the war crimes tribunal system itself is steadily increasing.”

The parole-for-war-criminals movement was driven by two groups: those from outside who had 'a sense of pity' for the prisoners; and the war criminals themselves who called for their own release as part of an anti-war peace movement. The movement that arose out of 'a sense of pity' demanded 'just set them free (tonikaku shakuho o) regardless of how it is done'.

On September 4, 1952, President Truman issued Executive Order 10393, establishing a Clemency and Parole Board for War Criminals to advise the President with respect to recommendations by the Government of Japan for clemency, reduction of sentence, or parole, with respect to sentences imposed on Japanese war criminals by military tribunals.*[146]

On May 26, 1954, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles rejected a proposed amnesty for the imprisoned war criminals but instead agreed to "change the ground rules" by reducing the period required for eligibility for parole from 15 years to 10.*[147]

By the end of 1958, all Japanese war criminals, including A-, B- and C-class were released from prison and politically rehabilitated. Hashimoto Kingorô, Hata Shunroku, Minami Jirô, and Oka Takazumi were all released on parole in 1954. Araki Sadao, Hiranuma Kiichirô, Hoshino Naoki, Kaya Okinori, Kido Kôichi, Ôshima Hiroshi, Shimada Shigetarô, and Suzuki Teiichi were released on parole in 1955. Satô Kenryô, whom many, including Judge B. V. A. Röling regarded as one of the convicted war criminals least deserving of imprisonment, was not granted parole until March 1956, the last of the Class A Japanese war criminals to be released. On April 7, 1957, the Japanese government announced that, with the concurrence of a majority of the powers represented on the tribunal, the last ten major Japanese war criminals who had previously been paroled were granted clemency and were to be regarded henceforth as unconditionally free from the terms of their parole.

Official apologies

Further information: [List of war apology statements issued by Japan](#)

The Japanese government considers that the legal and moral positions in regard to war crimes are separate. Therefore, while maintaining that Japan violated no international law or treaties, Japanese governments have officially recognised the suffering which the Japanese military caused, and numerous apologies have been issued by the Japanese government. For example, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, in August 1995, stated that Japan "through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations", and he expressed his "feelings of deep remorse" and stated his "heartfelt apology". Also, on September 29, 1972,

Japanese Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka stated: "[t]he Japanese side is keenly conscious of the responsibility for the serious damage that Japan caused in the past to the Chinese people through war, and deeply reproaches itself."*[148]

The official apologies are widely viewed as inadequate or only a symbolic exchange by many of the survivors of such crimes or the families of dead victims. On October 2006, while Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed an apology for the damage caused by its colonial rule and aggression, more than 80 Japanese lawmakers from his ruling party LDP paid visits to the Yasukuni Shrine. Many people aggrieved by Japanese war crimes also maintain that no apology has been issued for particular acts or that the Japanese government has merely expressed "regret" or "remorse"*[149] On 2 March 2007, the issue was raised again by Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe, in which he denied that the military had forced women into sexual slavery during World War II. He stated, "The fact is, there is no evidence to prove there was coercion." Before he spoke, a group of Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers also sought to revise the Kono Statement.*[10]*[15] This provoked negative reaction from Asian and Western countries.

On 31 October 2008, the chief of staff of Japan's Air Self-Defense Force Toshio Tamogami was dismissed with a 60 million yen allowance*[150] due to an essay he published, arguing that Japan was not an aggressor during World War II, that the war brought prosperity to China, Taiwan and Korea, that the Imperial Japanese Army's conduct was not violent and that the Greater East Asia War is viewed in a positive way by many Asian countries and criticizing the war crimes trials which followed the war.*[151] On 11 November, Tamogami added before the Diet that the personal apology made in 1995 by former prime minister Tomiichi Murayama was "a tool to suppress free speech"*[150]

Some in Japan have asserted that what is being demanded is that the Japanese Prime Minister or the Emperor perform *dogeza*, in which an individual kneels and bows his head to the ground—a high form of apology in East Asian societies that Japan appears unwilling to do.*[152] Some point to an act by West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, who knelt at a monument to the Jewish victims of the Warsaw Ghetto, in 1970, as an example of a powerful and effective act of apology and reconciliation similar to dogeza, although not everyone agrees.*[153]

On 13 September 2010, Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada met in Tokyo with six former American POWs of the Japanese and apologized for their treatment during World War II. Okada said: "You have all been through hardships during World War II, being taken prisoner by the Japanese military, and suffered extremely inhumane treatment. On behalf of the Japanese government and as the foreign minister, I would like to offer you my heartfelt apology."*[154]

On 29 November 2011, Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro Genba apologized to former Australian POWs on behalf of the Japanese government for pain and suffering inflicted on them during the war.*[155]

Compensation

There is a widespread perception that the Japanese government has not accepted the legal responsibility for compensation and, as a direct consequence of this denial, it has failed to compensate the individual victims of Japanese atrocities. In particular, a number of prominent human rights and women's rights organisations insist that Japan still has a moral or legal responsibility to compensate individual victims, especially the sex slaves conscripted by the Japanese military in occupied countries and known as "*comfort women*".

The Japanese government officially accepted the requirement for monetary compensation to victims of war crimes, as specified by the Potsdam Declaration. The details of this compensation have been left to bilateral treaties with individual countries, except North Korea, because Japan recognises South Korea as the sole legitimate government of the Korean Peninsula. In the Asian countries involved, claims to compensation were either abandoned by their respective countries, or were paid out by Japan under the specific understanding that it was to be used for individual compensation. In some cases such as with South Korea, the compensation was not paid out to victims by their governments, instead being used for civic projects and other works. Due to this, large numbers of individual victims in Asia received no compensation.

Therefore, the Japanese government's position is that the proper avenues for further claims are the governments of the respective claimants. As a result, every individual compensation claim brought to Japanese court has failed. Such was the case in regard to a British POW who was unsuccessful in an attempt to sue the Japanese government for additional money for compensation. As a result, the British Government later paid additional compensation to all British POWs. There were complaints in Japan that the international media simply stated that the former POW was demanding compensation and failed to clarify that he was seeking *further* compensation, in addition to that paid previously by the Japanese government.

A small number of claims have also been brought in US courts, though these have also been rejected.*[156]

During the treaty negotiation with South Korea, the Japanese government proposed that it pay monetary compensation to individual Korean victims, in line with the payments to Western POWs. The Korean government instead insisted that Japan pay money collectively to the Korean government, and that is what occurred. The South Korean government then used the funds for economic development. The content of the negotiations was not released by the Korean government until 2004, although it

was public knowledge in Japan. Due to the release of the information by the Korean government, a number of claimants have stepped forward and are attempting to sue the government for individual compensation of victims.

There are those that insist that because the governments of China and Taiwan abandoned their claims for monetary compensation, then the moral or legal responsibility for compensation belongs with these governments. Such critics also point out that even though these governments abandoned their claims, they signed treaties that recognised the transfer of Japanese colonial assets to the respective governments. Therefore, to claim that these governments received no compensation from Japan is incorrect, and they could have compensated individual victims from the proceeds of such transfers. Others dispute that Japanese colonial assets in large proportion were built or stolen with extortion or force in occupied countries, as was clearly the case with artworks collected (or stolen) by Nazis during World War II throughout Europe.

The Japanese government, while admitting no legal responsibility for the so-called "comfort women", set up the Asian Women's Fund in 1995, which gives money to people who claim to have been forced into prostitution during the war. Though the organisation was established by the government, legally, it has been created such that it is an independent charity. The activities of the fund have been controversial in Japan, as well as with international organisations supporting the women concerned. Some argue that such a fund is part of an ongoing refusal by the Japanese government to face up to its responsibilities, while others say that the Japanese government has long since finalised its responsibility to individual victims and is merely correcting the failures of the victims' own governments. California Congressman Mike Honda, speaking before U.S. House of Representatives on behalf of the women, said that "without a sincere and unequivocal apology from the government of Japan, the majority of surviving Comfort Women refused to accept these funds. In fact, as you will hear today, many Comfort Women returned the Prime Minister's letter of apology accompanying the monetary compensation, saying they felt the apology was artificial and disingenuous."*[157]

Intermediate compensation The term "intermediate compensation" (or intermediary compensation) was applied to the removal and reallocation of Japanese industrial (particularly military-industrial) assets to Allied countries. It was conducted under the supervision of Allied occupation forces. This reallocation was referred to as "intermediate" because it did not amount to a final settlement by means of bilateral treaties, which settled all existing issues of compensation. By 1950, the assets reallocated amounted to 43,918 items of machinery, valued at ¥165,158,839 (in 1950 prices). The proportions in which the assets were distributed were: China, 54.1%; the Netherlands, 11.5%; the Philippines 19%, and; the United Kingdom, 15.4%.

Compensation under the San Francisco Treaty

Main article: [Treaty of San Francisco](#)

Compensation from Japanese overseas assets

Japanese overseas assets refers to all assets owned by the Japanese government, firms, organization and private citizens, in colonised or occupied countries. In accordance with Clause 14 of the San Francisco Treaty, Allied forces confiscated all Japanese overseas assets, except those in China, which were dealt with under Clause 21. It is considered that Korea was also entitled to the rights provided by Clause 21.

Compensation to Allied POWs Clause 16 of the San Francisco Treaty stated that Japan would transfer its assets and those of its citizens in countries which were at war with any of the Allied Powers or which were neutral, or equivalents, to the Red Cross, which would sell them and distribute the funds to former prisoners of war and their families. Accordingly, the Japanese government and private citizens paid out £4,500,000 to the Red Cross.

According to historian Linda Goetz Holmes, many funds used by the government of Japan were not Japanese funds but relief funds contributed by the governments of the US, the UK and the Netherlands and sequestered in the Yokohama Specie Bank during the final year of the war.* [159]

Allied territories occupied by Japan Clause 14 of the treaty stated that Japan would enter into negotiations with Allied powers whose territories were occupied by Japan and suffered damage by Japanese forces, with a view to Japan compensating those countries for the damage.

Accordingly, the Philippines and South Vietnam received compensation in 1956 and 1959 respectively. Burma and Indonesia were not original signatories, but they later signed bilateral treaties in accordance with clause 14 of the San Francisco Treaty.

The last payment was made to the Philippines on 22 July 1976.

Debate in Japan

From a fringe topic to an open debate Until the 1970s, Japanese war crimes were considered a fringe topic in the media. In the Japanese media, the opinions of the political centre and left tend to dominate the editorials of newspapers, while the right tend to dominate magazines. Debates regarding war crimes were confined largely to the editorials of tabloid magazines where calls for the overthrow of "Imperialist America" and revived veneration of the Emperor coexisted with pornography. In 1972, to commemorate the normalisation of relation-

ship with China, *Asahi Shimbun*, a major liberal newspaper, ran a series on Japanese war crimes in China including the Nanking Massacre. This opened the floodgates to debates which have continued ever since. The 1990s are generally considered to be the period in which such issues become truly mainstream, and incidents such as the Nanking Massacre, Yasukuni Shrine, comfort women, the accuracy of school history textbooks, and the validity of the Tokyo Trials were debated, even on television.

As the consensus of Japanese jurists is that Japanese forces did not technically commit violations of international law, many right wing elements in Japan have taken this to mean that war crimes trials were examples of victor's justice. They see those convicted of war crimes as "Martyrs of Shōwa" (昭和殉難者 *Shōwa Jūnansha*), Shōwa being the name given to the rule of Hirohito. This interpretation is vigorously contested by Japanese peace groups and the political left. In the past, these groups have tended to argue that the trials hold some validity, either under the Geneva Convention (even though Japan hadn't signed it), or under an undefined concept of international law or consensus. Alternatively, they have argued that, although the trials may not have been technically valid, they were still just, somewhat in line with popular opinion in the West and in the rest of Asia.



Member of the right-wing revisionist group "Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform" putting up a banner reading "(Teach the kids the correct history" in front of the Yasukuni Jinja

By the early 21st century, the revived interest in Japan's imperial past had brought new interpretations from a group which has been labelled both "new right" and "new left". This group points out that many acts committed by Japanese forces, including the Nanjing Incident, were violations of the Japanese military code. It is suggested that had war crimes tribunals been conducted by the post-war Japanese government, in strict accordance with Japanese military law, many of those who were accused would still have been convicted and executed. Therefore, the moral and legal failures in question were the fault of the Japanese military and the government, for not executing their constitutionally defined duty.

The new right/new left also takes the view that the Allies committed no war crimes against Japan, because Japan

was not a signatory to the Geneva Convention, and as a victors, the Allies had every right to demand some form of retribution, to which Japan consented in various treaties.

Under the same logic, the new right/new left considers the killing of Chinese who were suspected of guerrilla activity to be perfectly legal and valid, including some of those killed at Nanjing, for example. They also take the view that many Chinese civilian casualties resulted from the scorched earth tactics of the Chinese nationalists. Though such tactics are arguably legal, the new right/new left takes the position that some of the civilian deaths caused by these scorched earth tactics are wrongly attributed to the Japanese military.

Similarly, they take the position that those who have attempted to sue the Japanese government for compensation have no legal or moral case.

The new right/new left also takes a less sympathetic view of Korean claims of victimhood, because prior to annexation by Japan, Korea was a tributary of the Qing Dynasty and, according to them, the Japanese colonisation, though undoubtedly harsh, was “better” than the previous rule in terms of human rights and economic development.

They also argue that, the *Kantōgun* (also known as the Kwantung Army) was at least partly culpable. Although the *Kantōgun* was nominally subordinate to the Japanese high command at the time, its leadership demonstrated significant self-determination, as shown by its involvement in the plot to assassinate Zhang Zuolin in 1928, and the Manchurian Incident of 1931, which led to the foundation of Manchukuo in 1932. Moreover, at that time, it was the official policy of the Japanese high command to confine the conflict to Manchuria. But in defiance of the high command, the *Kantōgun* invaded China proper, under the pretext of the Marco Polo Bridge Incident. The Japanese government not only failed to court martial the officers responsible for these incidents, but it also accepted the war against China, and many of those who were involved were even promoted. (Some of the officers involved in the Nanking Massacre were also promoted.)

Whether or not Hirohito himself bears any responsibility for such failures is a sticking point between the new right and new left. Officially, the imperial constitution, adopted under Emperor Meiji, gave full powers to the Emperor. Article 4 prescribed that “The Emperor is the head of the Empire, combining in Himself the rights of sovereignty, and exercises them, according to the provisions of the present Constitution” and article 11 prescribed that “The Emperor has the supreme command of the Army and the Navy” .

For historian Akira Fujiwara, the thesis that the emperor as an organ of responsibility could not reverse cabinet decisions is a myth (shinwa) fabricated after the war.*[160] Others argue that Hirohito deliberately styled his rule in the manner of the British constitutional monarchy, and he

always accepted the decisions and consensus reached by the high command. According to this position, the moral and political failure rests primarily with the Japanese High Command and the Cabinet, most of whom were later convicted at the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal as class-A war criminals, apart all members of the imperial family such as Prince Chichibu, Prince Yasuhiko Asaka, Prince Higashikuni, Prince Hiroyasu Fushimi and Prince Takeda.

Nippon Kaigi, the main revisionist lobby The denial of Japanese war crimes is one of the key missions of the openly revisionist lobby Nippon Kaigi (Japan Conference), a nationalistic nonparty organisation that was established in 1997 and also advocates patriotic education, the revision of the constitution, and official visits to Yasukuni Shrine.*[161]*[162]*[163]*[164]Nippon Kaigi's members and affiliates include countless lawmakers, many ministers, a few prime ministers, and the chief priests of prominent Shinto shrines. The chairman, Toru Miyoshi, is a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Japan.

Later investigations

As with investigations of Nazi war criminals, official investigations and inquiries are still ongoing. During the 1990s, the South Korean government started investigating some people who had allegedly become wealthy while collaborating with the Japanese military.*[165]*[166] In South Korea, it is also alleged that, during the political climate of the Cold War, many such people or their associates or relatives were able to acquire influence with the wealth they had acquired collaborating with the Japanese and assisted in the covering-up, or non-investigation, of war crimes in order not to incriminate themselves. With the wealth they had amassed during the years of collaboration, they were able to further benefit their families by obtaining higher education for their relatives.*[166]

Non-government bodies and persons have also undertaken their own investigations. For example, in 2005, a South Korean freelance journalist, Jung Soo-woong, located in Japan some descendants of people involved in the 1895 assassination of Empress Myeongseong (Queen Min). The assassination was conducted by the Genyōsha, perhaps under the auspices of the Japanese government, because of the Empress's involvement in attempts to reduce Japanese influence in Korea. Jung recorded the apologies of the persons.

As these investigations continue more evidence is discovered each day. It has been claimed that the Japanese government intentionally destroyed the reports on Korean comfort women.*[167]*[168] Some have cited Japanese inventory logs and employee sheets on the battlefield as evidence for this claim. For example, one of the names on the list was of a comfort woman who stated she was

forced to be a prostitute by the Japanese. She was classified as a nurse along with at least a dozen other verified comfort women who were not nurses or secretaries. Currently, the South Korean government is looking into the hundreds of other names on these lists.* [169]

Today cover-ups by Japan and other countries such as the United Kingdom are slowly exposed as more thorough investigations are conducted. The reason for the cover-up was because the British government wanted to end the war crimes trial early in order to maintain good relations with Japan to prevent the spread of communism.* [170] Meanwhile, scholars and public intellectuals continue to criticize Japan for what they view as a refusal to acknowledge and apologize fully for Japanese war crimes. Amitai Etzioni of the Institute for Communitarian Policy Studies, who was a child in Germany when the Nazis rose to power, has stated in response to Prime Minister Abe's visits to Yasukuni Shrine, "Unlike Japan, [Germany] faced their past, came to terms with it and learned from it. Japan should do the same."* [171]

Tamaki Matsuoka's documentary "Torn Memories of Nanjing" includes interviews with Japanese veterans who admit to raping and killing Chinese civilians.* [172]

Potentially in contrast to Prime Minister Abe's example of his Yasukuni Shrine visits, by February 2015 some concern within the Imperial House of Japan—which normally does not issue such statements—over the issue was voiced by Crown Prince Naruhito.* [173] Naruhito stated on his 55th birthday (February 23, 2015) that it was "important to look back on the past humbly and correctly", in reference to Japan's role in World War II-era war crimes, and that he was concerned about the ongoing need to "correctly pass down tragic experiences and the history behind Japan to the generations who have no direct knowledge of the war, at the time memories of the war are about to fade".* [174]

5.3.6 List of major crimes

- Andaman Islands occupation
- Balalae Island

5.3.7 See also

- Japan and weapons of mass destruction
- Nazi human experimentation

Japanese movements

- Japanese fascism
- Japanese nationalism
- Political extremism in Japan

- Nippon Kaigi
- Uyoku dantai

Anti-Japanese movements

- 2005 anti-Japanese demonstrations
- Anti-Japanese sentiment
- Anti-Japanese sentiment in China
- Anti-Japanese sentiment in Korea

Agreements

- Japan-China Joint Declaration On Building a Partnership of Friendship and Cooperation for Peace and Development
- Joint Communiqué of the Government of Japan and the Government of the People's Republic of China

War crimes

- Command responsibility
- List of war crimes
- Nazi crime
- German war crimes
- Italian war crimes
- Soviet war crimes

5.3.8 Notes

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Assembly line of Messerschmitt Bf 109G-6s fighters in a German aircraft factory.

The mobilization of funds, people, natural resources and matériel for the production and supply of military equipment and military forces during World War II was a critical component of the war effort. During the conflict, the Allies outpaced the Axis powers in most production categories. Access to the funding and industrial resources necessary to sustain the war effort was linked to their respective economic and political alliances. As formerly neutral powers (such as the United States) joined the escalating conflict, territory changed hands, combatants were defeated, the balance of power shifted in favour of the Allies (as did the means to sustain the military production required to win the war).

5.4 Military production during World War II



Russian women working in city factory at the height of the Siege of Leningrad.

Military production during World War II includes the arms, ammunitions, natural resources, personnel and financing which were mobilized for the war. Military production, in this article, means everything produced by the belligerents from the occupation of Austria in early 1938 to the surrender and occupation of Japan in late 1945.

5.4.1 Historical context



German poster entitled “Designing and Building the East” .

During the 1930s, political forces in Germany increased their financial investment in the military to develop the armed forces required to support near- and long-term political and territorial goals. Germany's economic, scientific, research and industrial capabilities were one of the most technically advanced in the world at the time and supported a rapidly growing, innovative military. However, access to (and control of) resources and production capacity required to entertain long-term goals (such as

European control, German territorial expansion and the destruction of the USSR) were limited. Political demands necessitated the expansion of Germany's control of natural and human resources, industrial capacity and farmland beyond its borders. Germany's military production was tied to resources outside its area of control, a dynamic not found amongst the Allies.



British Commonwealth in 1921.

In 1938 the British Commonwealth was a global superpower, with political and economic control of a quarter of the world's population, industry and resources. From 1938 to mid-1942, the British coordinated the Allied effort in all global theatres. They fought the German, Italian, Japanese and Vichy armies, air forces and navies across Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, India, the Mediterranean and in the Atlantic, Indian, Pacific and Arctic Oceans. British forces destroyed Italian armies in North and East Africa and occupied overseas colonies of occupied European nations. Following engagements with Axis forces, British Empire troops occupied Libya, Italian Somaliland, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran and Iraq. The Empire funded and delivered needed supplies by Arctic convoys to the USSR, and supported Free French forces to recapture French Equatorial Africa. Britain also established governments in exile in London to rally support in occupied Europe for the Allied effort. The British defeated, held back or slowed the Axis powers for three years while mobilizing their globally integrated economy and industrial infrastructure to build what became, by 1942, the most extensive military apparatus of the war. This allowed their later allies (such as the United States) to mobilise their economies and develop the military forces required to play a role in the war effort, and for the British to go on the offensive in its theatres of operation.*[1]*[2]

The entry of the United States into the war in late 1941 injected financial, human and industrial resources into Allied operations. Like the Commonwealth countries, the US produced more than its own military forces required and armed itself and its allies for the most industrialized war in history.*[3] At the beginning of the war, the British and French placed large orders for aircraft with American manufacturers and the US Congress approved plans to increase its air forces by 3,000 planes. In May 1940, Franklin D. Roosevelt called for the production of 185,000 aeroplanes, 120,000 tanks, 55,000 anti-aircraft guns and 18 million tons of merchant shipping in two years. Adolf Hitler was told by his advisors that this was



The first atomic bomb.

American propaganda; in 1939, annual aircraft production for the US military was less than 3,000 planes. By the end of the war US factories had produced 300,000 planes,*[4]*[5] and by 1944 had produced two-thirds of the Allied military equipment used in the war—bringing military forces into play in North and South America, the Caribbean, the Atlantic, Western Europe and the Pacific.

The U.S. produced large quantities of military equipment into late 1945, including nuclear weapons, and became one of the strongest, most technically advanced military forces in the world. In addition to out-producing the Axis, the Allies produced technological innovations; through the Tizard Mission, British contributions included radar (instrumental in winning the Battle of Britain), sonar (improving their ability to sink U-boats), and the proximity fuze; the Americans led the Manhattan Project (which eliminated the need to invade Japan). The proximity fuze, for example, was five times as effective as contact or timed fuzes and was devastating in naval use against Japanese aircraft and so effective against German ground troops that General George S. Patton said it “won the Battle of the Bulge for us.”*[6]

The human and social costs of the war on the population of the USSR were immense, with combat deaths alone in the millions. Recognising the importance of their population and industrial production to the war effort, the USSR evacuated the majority of its European territory—moving 2,500 factories, 17 million people and great quantities of resources to the east.*[7] Out of German reach, the USSR produced equipment and forces critical to the Axis defeat

in Europe. Over one million women served in the Soviet armed forces.



Assembly line production of fighter aircraft near Niagara Falls, New York.

The statistics below illustrate the extent to which the Allies outproduced the Axis. Production of machine tools tripled, and thousands of ships were built in shipyards which did not exist before the war.*[8] According to William S. Knudsen, “We won because we smothered the enemy in an avalanche of production, the like of which he had never seen, nor dreamed possible.”*[9]

Access to resources and large, controlled international labour pools and the ability to build arms in relative peace were critical to the eventual victory of the Allies. According to Donald Douglas (founder of the Douglas Aircraft Company), “Here's proof that free men can out-produce slaves.”*[10]

5.4.2 Production summaries 1939–1945

Personnel

Major weapons groups

Economy

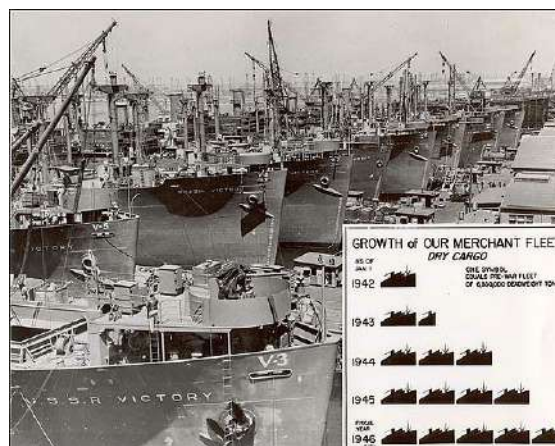
In billions of international dollars, at 2014 prices.

*[11]

Vital commerce and raw materials

- Cargo and resources in metric tonnes

5.4.3 Production overview: service, power and type



To move raw materials and supply distant forces, large numbers of cargo ships had to be built

Land forces

See also: British armoured fighting vehicle production during World War II, French combat vehicle production during World War II, American armoured fighting vehicle production during World War II, Soviet combat vehicle production during World War II and German armoured fighting vehicle production during World War II

Air forces

Naval forces

Commercial forces

Resources

All figures in millions of tonnes

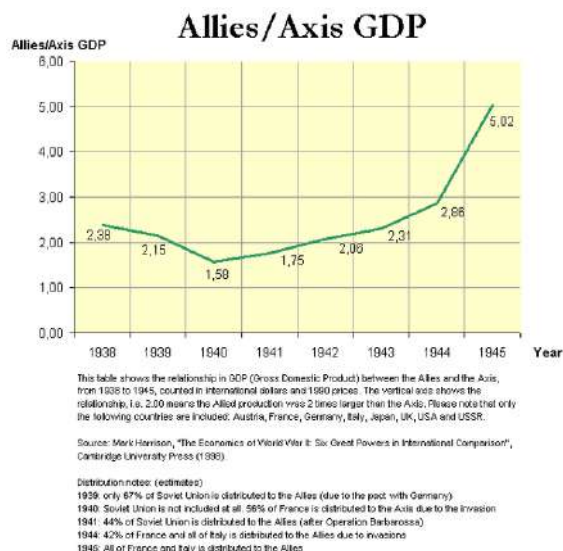
See also: Swedish iron ore during World War II

5.4.4 Reference data for summary tables

GDP

GDP provides insight into the relative strength of the belligerents in the run up to, and during the conflict.

- [1] Billions of international dollars, at 1990 prices. Adjusted annually for changing compositions within each alliance.
- [2] In 1939, the USSR invaded and took over Eastern Poland
- [3] The USSR occupied the Baltic states in mid 1940
- [4] Alaska and Hawaii did not become states of the US until post-war
- [5] GDP ratio: A 2.06 ratio means combined Allied GDP was 2.06 times higher than Axis GDP.



The relationship in GDP between the major Allied and Axis powers 1938-1945.

Table notes

1. France to Axis: 1940:50% (light green), 1941-44:100% (brown)
2. USSR to Allies: 1941:44% (light green), 1942-1945:100%.
3. US direct support to the Allies begins with Lend Lease in March 1941, though the US made it possible for the Allies to purchase US-produced materiel from 1939* [22]
4. Italy to Allies and Axis: 1938:0%, 1939-1943:100% Axis (brown), 1944-1945:100% Allies
5. Japanese to Axis begins with Tripartite Pact in 1940
6. The Allied and Axis totals are *not* the immediate sum of the table values; see the distribution rules used above.

Personnel - Allied - British Empire

Including all non-British subjects in British services.

Note:

1. Auxiliary units include Home Guard, Reserves, Police regiments, etc.

Personnel - Axis - German Reich

Including all non-German subjects in German services.

Note:

1. Auxiliary units include Home Guard, Wehrmachtsgelände, Reserves, Police regiments, etc.
2. USSR includes Armenia 4k SS, 14k Wehr, 7k Aux; Azerbaijan 55k SS, 70k Wehr; Belarus 12k Wehr, 20k Aux; Cossack 200k Wehr; Estonia 20k SS, 50k Wehr, 7k Aux; Georgia 10k SS; 30k Wehr; Kalmyk 5k Wehr; Latvia 55k SS; 87k Wehr, 300 Air, 23k Aux; Lithuania 50k Wehr, 10 Aux; North Caucasus 4k SS; Russia 60k SS, 26k Wehr; Turkestan 16k Wehr; Ukrainian 300k Wehr; 2k Aux; Tatar/Urals 12k Wehr

Aircraft - Allied - British Empire

See also: [List of aircraft of the United Kingdom in World War II](#)

Within the UK, initially aircraft production was very vulnerable to enemy bombing. To expand and diversify the production base the British setup "Shadow factories". These brought other manufacturing companies - such as vehicle manufacturers - into aircraft production, or aircraft parts production. These inexperienced companies were set up in groups under the guidance or control of the aircraft manufacturers. New factory buildings were provided with government money.* [23]

Aircraft - Allies - France, Poland and minor powers

Production numbers until the time of the German occupation of the respective country. Some types listed were in production before the war, those listed were still in production at the time of or after the Munich crisis.

Aircraft - Axis - All

Occupied countries produced weapons for the Axis powers. Figures are for the period of occupation only.

5.4.5 Propaganda posters

5.4.6 See also

- Allied technological cooperation during World War II
- Combined Food Board
- Combined Munitions Assignments Board
- Combined Raw Materials Board
- Combined Shipping Adjustment Board
- American armored fighting vehicle production during World War II

- British armoured fighting vehicle production during World War II
- German armored fighting vehicle production during World War II
- Soviet armored fighting vehicle production during World War II
- United States aircraft production during World War II
- Forced labour under German rule during World War II
- Technology during World War II

5.4.7 References

- [1] the five *King George V* class were started prior to war, a further four battleships were cancelled to make resources available for construction of other ships (Gazark & Dulin)
- [2] Two battlecruisers of *Kronstadt-class* laid down but never progressed
- [3] The majority of Blenheims were built as light bombers
- [4] Total includes 140 unarmed Defiants produced as target tugs
- [5] Pre-war production. 165 additional to export customers. Sea Gladiator conversions and production listed in Sea Gladiator entry.
- [6] includes post-war production
- [7] Includes some post-war production and conversions of Spitfires
- [8] changed to ground attack role during war
- [9] up to 1942 the Hurricane was chiefly used as a fighter aircraft
- [10] includes transport and Coastal Command reconnaissance versions
- [11] Includes pre-war production
- [12] a variant of the Blenheim, 457 of the total were produced as trainer aircraft
- [13] used as light bomber and transport aircraft in Middle East and Mediterranean theatre
- [14] assault gliders generally not reusable following use
- [15] Initially used as light bomber e.g. during Battle of France
- [16] Including: Arpin A-1 (1) , Airspeed Cambridge (2), Airspeed Fleet Shadower (1), Avro Tudor (2), Blackburn B-20 (1), Boulton Paul P.92 (1), Burnelli CBY-3 (2), CAC Woomera, Australia (2), Chrislea Airguard (1) , de Havilland Dove (1), de Havilland T.K.5 (1) , Fairey Spearfish (5), Fane F.1/40 (1), General Aircraft Cagnet (1), General Aircraft Owllet (1), General Aircraft Fleet Shadower (1), General Aircraft GAL.47 (1), General Aircraft GAL.55 (2), General Aircraft GAL.56 (4), Canadian Car and Foundry FDB-1, Canada (1), Gloster F.5/34 (2) , Gloster F.9/37 (2) , Handley Page Manx (1), Hawker Hotspur (1), Hawker Tornado (4), Miles M.20 (2), Miles X Minor (1), Miles M.35 (1), Miles M.39 (1), Miles LR 5 (1), Parnall 382 (1), Reid and Sigrist R.S.1/2 (2), Saro A33 (1), Saro Shrimp (1), Short Shetland (2), Supermarine Type 322 (2), Vickers Type 432 (1), Vickers VC.1 Viking (1), Vickers Windsor (3)
- [17] includes: CCF Maple Leaf Trainer II (2 plus 10 built in Mexico)
- [18] includes: Folland Fo.108 engine test bed (12), General Aircraft Cygnet (10), General Aircraft Monospar ST-25 (30), Hawker Henley (200), Hawker Sea Fury (10), Miles M.15 (2), Miles M.18 (3) , Miles Mercury (6), Percival Petrel (27), Percival Vega Gull (~20), Supermarine Spiteful fighter (19)
- [19] Delivered to France.
- [20] Only 1 out of 6 (the prototype) completed before German occupation.
- [21] Only 1 (designated P.11g) used by Poland in 1939. The remaining ones were exported to various Balkan countries.
- [22] Around 200 more airframes were in advanced production stage.
- [23] not counting uncompleted PZL.50
- [24] Production was started in Denmark, but not completed before the German invasion.
- [25] Originally an advanced fighter-training aircraft, this type was later used as a light attack plane, in particular by the Air Force of the Independent State of Croatia.
- [26] not counting P.4/34
- [27] According to some sources a license production was started in Denmark but not completed before the German invasion.
- [28] All but 5 delivered to Bulgaria.
- [29] Prototypes that were used in combat.
- [30] Never entered service
- [31] Number refers to production resumed after German occupation.
- [32] Produced shortly before the war and mainly used for testing and propaganda purposes.
- [33] Conversion from MS.406/410.
- [34] Conversion from MS.406.
- [35] Produced before the war and 2 delivered to Japan, which used it for testing and practice.
- [36] All produced before the war, but used until 1944.

- [37] Only 90 German-built Me 210 were completed and delivered, about 100 Hungarian-built were supplied to Germany
- [38] Also used as a fighter and for reconnaissance
- [39] Produced for Germany after German occupation.
- [40] Only bomber versions listed here.
- [18] Including 23.4 synthetic.
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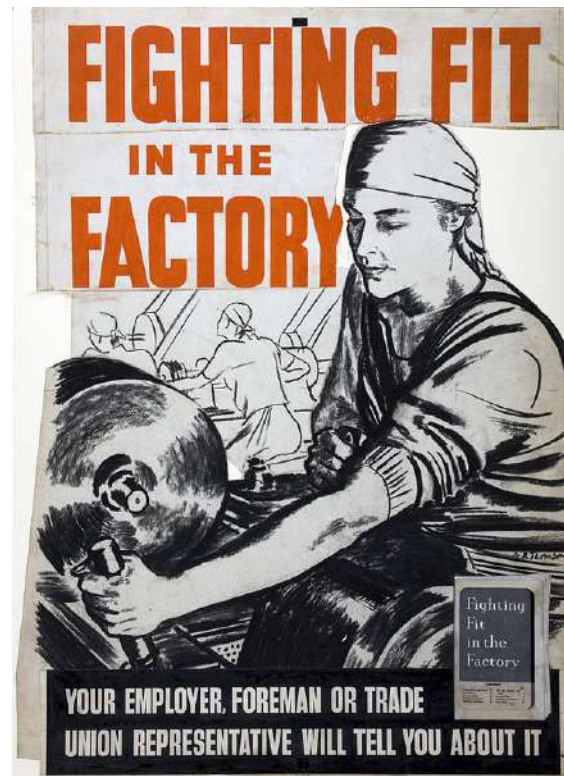
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5.5 Home front during World War II

The **home front** covers the activities of the civilians in a nation at war. World War II was a total war; homeland production became even more invaluable to both the Allied and Axis powers. Life on the home front during World War II was a significant part of the war effort for all participants and had a major impact on the outcome of the war. Governments became involved with new issues such as rationing, manpower allocation, home defense, evacuation in the face of air raids, and response to occupation by an enemy power. The morale and psychology of the people responded to leadership and propaganda.



INF3-160 *Fighting Fit in the Factory* Artist A R Thomson

Typically women were mobilized to an unprecedented degree.

All of the powers involved had learned from their experiences good and bad on the home front during World War I. Their success in mobilizing economic output was a major factor in supporting combat operations. Among morale-boosting activities that also benefited combat efforts, the home front engaged in a variety of scrap drives for materials crucial to the war effort such as metal, rubber, and rags.

5.5.1 Overview

The major powers devoted 50–61 percent of their total GDP to munitions production. The Allies produced about three times as much in munitions as the Axis powers.

Source: Goldsmith data in Harrison (1988) p. 172

Source: Jerome B Cohen, *Japan's Economy in War and Reconstruction* (1949) p 354

5.5.2 Allies

Main article: [Allies of World War II](#)

The Allies called themselves the "United Nations" (even before that organization formed in 1945), and pledged their support to the Atlantic Charter of 1941. The Char-



Salvage – Help put the lid on Hitler by saving your old metal and paper

ter stated the ideal goals of the war: no territorial aggrandizement; no territorial changes made against the wishes of the people; restoration of self-government to those deprived of it; free access to raw materials; reduction of trade restrictions; global cooperation to secure better economic and social conditions for all; freedom from fear and want; freedom of the seas; and abandonment of the use of force, as well as the disarmament of aggressor nations.

Belgium

Main article: [Belgium in World War II](#)

The sudden German invasion of neutral Belgium in May 1940 led in a matter of 18 days to the collapse of the Belgian army; King Leopold obtained an armistice that involved direct German military administration. The King refused the demand of the government that he flee with them to Britain; he remained as a puppet ruler under German control. The Belgian bureaucracy remained in place and generally cooperated with the German rulers. Two pro-German movements, the Flemish National Union comprising Flemish (Dutch-speaking) separatists and the Walloon (French-speaking) Rexists led by Léon Degrelle (1906–94) supported the invaders and encouraged their young men to volunteer for the German army.*[1] Small but active resistance movements, largely Commu-

nist, provided intelligence to the Allies. During the Holocaust in Belgium, the Nazis hunted down the 70,000 Jews living in Belgium, most of them refugees, and killed 29,000 of them.*[2]

The Germans expected to exploit Belgium's industrial resources to support their war machine. Their policies created severe shortages for the Belgian people, but shipped out far less than Germany had expected. They set up the "Armaments Inspection Board" in 1940 to relay munitions orders to factories; the Board came under the control of the German Minister of Armaments, Albert Speer in 1943, and had offices in industrial areas that were supposed to facilitate orders for matériel, and supervise production. However, factory production fell sharply after 1942. Although collaboration with the Nazis, especially among the Flemish, was evident in 1940, it soon faded in importance. Labor strikes and systematic sabotage slowed production, as did the emigration of workers to rural areas, Allied bombing, food shortages, and worker resentment to forced labor.*[3]

The Allies retook all of Belgium in September 1944 as the Germans retreated. They reappeared briefly during the hard fighting of the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944, but were finally expelled in January 1945. The London-based government-in-exile returned, but had to confront the resistance movements that demanded radical political change.*[4]

China

See also: [Second Sino-Japanese War](#)

China suffered the second highest number of casualties of the entire war. Civilians in the occupied territories had to endure many large-scale massacres, including that in Nanking. In a few areas, Japanese forces also unleashed newly developed biological weapons on Chinese civilians leading to an estimated 200,000 dead.*[5] Tens of thousands died when Nationalist troops broke the levees of the Yangtze to stop the Japanese advance after the loss of the Chinese capital, Nanjing. Millions more Chinese died because of famine during the war.

Japan captured major coastal cities like Shanghai early in the war; cutting the rest of China off from its chief sources of finance and industry. Millions of Chinese moved to remote regions to avoid invasion. Cities like Kunming ballooned with new arrivals. Entire factories and universities were often taken along so the society could still function. Japan replied with hundreds of air raids on the new capital of Chongqing.

Although China received much aid from the United States, China did not have sufficient infrastructure to properly arm or even feed its military forces, let alone its civilians.

China was divided into three zones, with the Nationalists

in the southwest and the Communists led by **Mao Zedong** (Mao) in control of much of the northwest. Coastal areas were occupied by the Japanese and civilians were treated harshly; young men were drafted into a puppet Chinese army.

France

Main article: [Vichy France](#)

Further information: [German occupation of France during World War II](#) and [Italian occupation of France during World War II](#)

After the stunningly quick victory in June 1940, France was knocked out of the war and part of it, with its capital in **Vichy**, became an informal ally of the Germans. A powerful Resistance movement sprang up, as the Germans fortified the coast against an Allied invasion and occupied the northern half of the country.*[6] The Germans captured 2,000,000 French soldiers, and kept them in **prisoner of war** camps inside Germany for the duration of the war, using them as hostages to guarantee French cooperation. The Vichy French government, cooperated closely with the Germans, sending food, machinery and workers to Germany. Several hundred thousand Frenchmen and women were forced to work in German factories, or volunteered to do so, as the French economy itself deteriorated. Nevertheless, there was a strong **Resistance** movement, with fierce anti-resistance activities carried out by the Nazis and the French police. Most Jews were rounded up by the Vichy police and handed over to the Germans, who sent them to death camps.*[7]*[8]

War wives The two million French soldiers held as POWs and forced laborers in Germany throughout the war were not at risk of death in combat, but the anxieties of separation for their 800,000 wives were high. The government provided a modest allowance, but one in ten became prostitutes to support their families.*[9] Meanwhile, the Vichy regime promoted a highly traditional model of female roles.*[10] After the war, France gave women the vote and additional legal and political rights, although nothing on the scale of the enfranchisement that followed World War I.

Food shortages of the home front Women suffered shortages of all varieties of consumer goods and the absence of the men in POW camps.*[11] The rationing system was stringent but badly mismanaged, leading to pronounced malnourishment, black markets and hostility to state management of the food supply. The Germans seized about 20% of the French food production, which caused severe disruption to the household economy of the French people.*[12] French farm production fell by half because of the lack of fuel, fertilizer and workers; even so, the Germans seized half the meat, 20 percent of the

produce and two percent of the champagne.*[13] Supply problems quickly affected French stores which lacked most items. The government answered by rationing, but German officials set the policies and hunger prevailed, especially affecting youth in urban areas. The queues lengthened in front of shops. Some people—including German soldiers who could take advantage of arbitrary **exchange rates** that favored Germany—benefited from the **black market**, where food was sold without tickets at very high prices. Farmers especially, diverted meat to the black market, which meant that there was much less for the open market. Counterfeit food tickets were also in circulation. Direct buying from farmers in the countryside and barter against cigarettes became common. These activities were strictly forbidden, however, and thus carried out at the risk of confiscation and fines. Food shortages were most acute in the large cities. Vitamin deficiencies and malnutrition were prevalent.*[14] Advice about eating a healthier diet and home growing produce was distributed. Slogans like 'Digging for Victory' and 'Make Do and Mend' appeared on national posters and became a part of the war effort. The city environment made these efforts nearly negligible.*[15] In the more remote country villages, however, clandestine slaughtering, vegetable gardens and the availability of milk products permitted better survival. The official ration provided starvation level diets of 1,300 or fewer calories a day, supplemented by home gardens and, especially, black market purchases.*[16]

Netherlands

See also: [Dutch famine of 1944](#)

The Dutch famine of 1944, known as the “**Hongerwinter**” (“**Hunger winter**”) was a man-made famine imposed by Germany in the occupied western provinces during the winter of 1944–1945. A German blockade cut off food and fuel shipments from farm areas. A total 4.5 million people were affected, of whom 18,000 died from the episode despite an elaborate system of emergency soup kitchens.*[17]

Poland

Main articles: [Occupation of Poland \(1939–1945\)](#), [Polish culture during World War II](#) and [Polish Underground State](#)

Food deprivation as a Nazi weapon The **Nazi Hunger Plan** was to quickly kill the Jews of Poland and slowly force the Poles to leave by threat of starvation, so that they could be replaced by new German settlers. The Nazis coerced Poles to work in Germany by providing favorable food rations for families who had mem-



'Harvesting' – Artist Allinson 1939–1946

bers working in the Reich. The ethnic German population in Poland *Volksdeutsche* were given good rations and were allowed to shop for food in special stores. The German occupiers created a draconian system of food controls, including strong penalties for the omnipresent black market. There was a sharp increase in mortality due to the general malnutrition, and a decline in birth rates.*[18]*[19]*[20]*[21]

By mid 1941, the German minority in Poland received 2,613 calories per day while Poles received 699 and Jews in the ghetto 184.*[22] The Jewish ration fulfilled 7.5 percent of their daily needs; Polish rations only 26 percent. Only the ration allocated to Germans fulfilled the full needs of their daily Calorie intake.*[23]

Additionally the **Generalplan Ost** of the Nazis, which envisioned the elimination of the Slavic population in the occupied territories and artificial famines-as proposed in the **Hunger Plan**, were to be used.

Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto: 1943 On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland, conquering it in three weeks, as the Soviets invaded the eastern areas. During the German occupation, there were two distinct civilian uprisings in Warsaw, one in 1943, the other in 1944. The first took place in an entity, less than two square miles in area, which the Germans carved out of the city and called "Ghetto Warschau." Into the thus created Ghetto,

around which they built high walls, the Germans crowded 550,000 Polish Jews, many from the Polish provinces. At first, people were able to go in and out of the Ghetto, but soon its border became an "iron curtain." Unless on official business, Jews could not leave, and non-Jews, including Germans, could not enter. Entry points were guarded by German soldiers. Because of extreme conditions and hunger, mortality in the Ghetto was high. Additionally, in 1942, the Germans moved 400,000 ghetto residents to **Treblinka** where they were gassed on arrival. When, on April 19, 1943, the Ghetto Uprising commenced, the population of the Ghetto had dwindled to 60,000 individuals. In the following three weeks, virtually all died as the Germans fought and systematically destroyed the buildings in the Ghetto.*[25]

Warsaw Uprising of 1944 The uprising by Poles began on August 1, 1944, when the Polish underground, the "Home Army", aware that the Soviet Army had reached the eastern bank of the Vistula, sought to liberate Warsaw much as the French resistance had liberated Paris a few weeks earlier. Joseph Stalin had his own group of Communist leaders for the new Poland and did not want the Home Army or its leaders (based in London) to control Warsaw. So he halted the Soviet offensive and gave the Germans free rein to suppress it. During the ensuing 63 days, 250,000 Poles of the Home Army surrendered to the Germans. After the Germans forced all the surviving population to leave the city, Hitler ordered that any buildings left standing be dynamited – 98 percent of the buildings in Warsaw were destroyed.*[26]

Soviet Union

During the invasion of the Soviet Union, rapid German advances in the early months of the war, almost captured the cities of **Moscow** and **Leningrad**. The bulk of Soviet industry which could not be evacuated was either destroyed or lost due to German occupation. Agricultural production was interrupted, with grain harvests left standing in the fields that would later cause hunger reminiscent of the early 1930s. In one of the greatest feats of war logistics, factories were evacuated on an enormous scale, with 1,523 factories dismantled and shipped eastwards along four principal routes to the **Caucasus**, **Central Asian**, the **Ural**, and **Siberian regions**.*[27] In general, the tools, dies and production technology were moved, along with the blueprints and their management, engineering staffs and skilled labor.

The whole of the Soviet Union become dedicated to the war effort. The population of the Soviet Union was probably better prepared than any other nation involved in the fighting of World War II to endure the material hardships of the war. This is primarily because the Soviets were so used to shortages and coping with economic crisis in the past, especially during wartime—(World War I), brought

similar restrictions on food.*[28] Conditions were nevertheless severe. World War II was especially devastating to citizens of the USSR because it was fought on Soviet territory and caused massive destruction. In Leningrad, under German siege, over a million people died of starvation and disease. Many factory workers were teenagers, women and old people. The government implemented rationing in 1941 and first applied it to bread, flour, cereal, pasta, butter, margarine, vegetable oil, meat, fish, sugar and confectionery all across the country. The rations remained largely stable in other places during the war. Additional rations were often so expensive that they could not add substantially to a citizen's food supply unless that person was especially well-paid. Peasants received no rations and had to make do with any local resources they farmed themselves. Most rural peasants struggled and lived in unbearable poverty but others sold any surplus they had at a high price and a few became rouble millionaires until a currency reform two years after the end of the war wiped out their wealth.*[29]

Despite harsh conditions, the war led to a spike in Soviet nationalism and unity. Soviet propaganda toned down extreme Communist rhetoric of the past as the people now rallied to the belief of protecting their Motherland against the evils of the German invaders. Ethnic minorities thought to be collaborators were forced into exile. Religion, which was previously shunned, became a part of a Communist Party propaganda campaign in Soviet society in order to mobilize the religious elements. The social composition of Soviet society changed drastically during the war. There was a burst of marriages in June and July 1941 between people about to be separated by the war and in the next few years the marriage rate dropped off steeply, with the birth rate following shortly thereafter to only about half of what it would have been in peacetime. For this reason mothers with several children during the war received substantial honors and money benefits if they had a great enough number of children—mothers could earn around 1,300 rubles for having their fourth child and earn up to 5,000 rubles for their tenth.*[30]

Survival in Leningrad The city of Leningrad endured more suffering and hardships than any other city in the Soviet Union during World War II. Hunger, malnutrition, disease, starvation, and even cannibalism became common during the siege which lasted from September 1941 – January 1944. It was a plight that has become the focus of Paulina Simons 'The Bronze Horseman.' Many Soviet citizens lost weight, grew weaker, and became more vulnerable to disease. If malnutrition persisted for long enough, its effects were irreversible. People's feelings of loyalty disappeared if they got hungry enough and they would steal from their closest family members to survive.*[31]

The citizens of Leningrad managed to survive with varying degrees of success. Since only four hundred thousand

Russians were evacuated before the siege began, this left two and a half million in Leningrad, including four hundred thousand children. Subsequently, more managed to escape; this was most successful when the nearby lake Ladoga froze over and people could walk over the ice road—or “road of life”—to safety.*[32] Those in influential political or social positions used their connections to other elites to leave Leningrad both before and after the siege began. Some factory owners even looted state funds to secure transport out of the city during the first summer of the war.*[33] The most risky means of escape, however, was to defect to the enemy and hope to avoid governmental punishment.

Most survival strategies during the siege, though, involved staying within the city and facing the problems through resourcefulness or luck. One way to do this was by securing factory employment because many factories became autonomous and possessed more of the tools of survival during the winter, such as food and heat. Workers got larger rations than regular civilians and factories were likely to have electricity if they produced crucial goods. Factories also served as mutual-support centers and had clinics and other services like cleaning crews and teams of women who would sew and repair clothes. Factory employees were still driven to desperation on occasion and people resorted to eating glue or horses in factories where food was scarce, but factory employment was the most consistently successful method of survival, and at some food production plants not a single person died.*[34]

Survival opportunities open to the larger Soviet community included bartering and farming on private land. Black markets thrived as private barter and trade became more common, especially between soldiers and civilians. Soldiers, who had more food to spare, were eager to trade with Soviet citizens that had extra warm clothes to trade. Planting vegetable gardens in the spring became popular, primarily because citizens got to keep everything grown on their own plots. The campaign also had a potent psychological effect and boosted morale, a survival component almost as crucial as bread.*[35]

Many of the most desperate Soviet citizens turned to crime as a way to support themselves in trying times. Most common was the theft of food and of ration cards, which could prove fatal for a malnourished person if their card was stolen more than a day or two before a new card was issued. For these reasons, the stealing of food was severely punished and a person could be shot for as little as stealing a loaf of bread. More serious crimes such as murder and cannibalism also occurred, and special police squads were set up to combat these crimes, though by the end of the siege, roughly 1,500 had been arrested for cannibalism.*[36]



US Government Publicity photo of American machine tool worker in Texas

United States

Main articles: [United States home front during World War II](#) and [American propaganda during World War II](#)

In the United States, farming and other production was increased. For example, citizens were encouraged to plant “victory gardens”, personal farms that children sometimes worked on.*[37] Standlee (2010) argues that during the war the traditional gender division of labor changed somewhat, as the “home” or domestic female sphere expanded to include the “home front”; meanwhile the public sphere—the male domain—was redefined as the international stage of military action.*[38]

The Philippines Main article: [History of the Philippines § World War II and Japanese occupation](#)

The Philippines was an American possession on the way to independence (scheduled in 1946) and controlled its own internal affairs. The Japanese invaded and quickly conquered the islands in early 1942. The Japanese military authorities immediately began organizing a new government structure in the Philippines and established the [Philippine Executive Commission](#). They initially organized a [Council of State](#), through which they directed civil affairs until October 1943, when they declared the Philippines an independent republic. The Japanese-sponsored [Second Philippine Republic](#) headed by President José P. Laurel proved to be ineffective and unpopular as Japan maintained very tight controls.*[39]

Japanese occupation of the Philippines was opposed by large-scale underground and guerrilla activity. The [Philippine Army](#), as well as remnants of the U.S. [Army Forces Far East](#) continued to fight the Japanese in a guerrilla war. They formed an auxiliary unit of the [United States Army](#). Their effectiveness was such that by the end of the war, Japan controlled only twelve of the forty-eight

provinces. One element of resistance in the Central Luzon area was furnished by the [Hukbalahap](#), which armed some 30,000 people and extended their control over much of Luzon.*[40] The Americans invaded in 1944–45; the [battle for Manila](#) was contested street by street with large numbers of civilians killed.

As in most occupied countries, crime, looting, corruption, and black markets were endemic.*[41] With a view of building up the economic base of the [Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere](#), the Japanese Army envisioned using the islands as a source of agricultural products needed by its industry. For example, Japan had a surplus of sugar from Taiwan, and a severe shortage of cotton, so they try to grow cotton in on sugar lands with disastrous results. They lacked the seeds, pesticides, and technical skills to grow cotton. Jobless farm workers flock to the cities, where there was minimal relief and few jobs. The Japanese Army also tried using cane sugar for fuel, castor beans and copra for oil, derris for quinine, cotton for uniforms, and abaca (hemp) for rope. The plans were very difficult to implement in the face of limited skills, collapsed international markets, bad weather, and transportation shortages. The program was a failure that gave very little help to Japanese industry, and diverted resources needed for food production.*[42] As Karnow reports, Filipinos “rapidly learned as well that ‘co-prosperity’ meant servitude to Japan’s economic requirements.”*[43]

Living conditions were bad throughout the Philippines during the war. Transportation between the islands was difficult because of lack of fuel. Food was in very short supply, with sporadic famines and epidemic diseases*[44]*[45]

The Japanese tried to remove all Western and American cultural influences. They met fierce resistance when they tried to undermine the Catholic Church by arresting 500 Christian missionaries. The Filipinos came to feel morally superior to the brutal Japanese and rejected their advances.*[46] Newspapers and the media were tightly censored. The Japanese tried to reshape schools and impose the Japanese language. They formed neighborhood associations to inform on the opposition.*[47]

5.5.3 Britain and Commonwealth

Britain

See [Timeline of the United Kingdom home front during World War II](#).

Britain’s total mobilization during this period proved to be successful in winning the war, by maintaining strong support from public opinion. The war was a “people’s war” that enlarged democratic aspirations and produced promises of a postwar welfare state.*[48]*[49]



Salvage – *Up Housewives and at 'em – put out your paper, metal, bones.* Artist Yates-Wilson

Mobilization of women Historians credit Britain with a highly successful record of mobilizing the home front for the war effort, in terms of mobilizing the greatest proportion of potential workers, maximizing output, assigning the right skills to the right task, and maintaining the morale and spirit of the people.*[50] Much of this success was due to the systematic planned mobilization of women, as workers, soldiers and housewives, enforced after December 1941 by conscription.*[51] The women supported the war effort, and made the rationing of consumer goods a success. In some ways, the government over planned, evacuating too many children in the first days of the war, closing cinemas as frivolous then re-opening them when the need for cheap entertainment was clear, sacrificing cats and dogs to save a little space on shipping pet food, only to discover an urgent need to keep the rats and mice under control.*[52] In the balance between compulsion and voluntarism, the British relied successfully on voluntarism. The success of the government in providing new services, such as hospitals, and school lunches, as well as the equalitarian spirit of the People's war, contributed to widespread support for an enlarged welfare state. Munitions production rose dramatically, and the quality remained high. Food production was emphasized, in large part to open up shipping for munitions. Farmers increased the number of acres under cultivation from 12,000,000 to 18,000,000, and the farm labor force

was expanded by a fifth, thanks especially to the Women's Land Army.*[53]

Parents had much less time for supervision of their children, and the fear of juvenile delinquency was upon the land, especially as older teenagers took jobs and emulated their older siblings in the service. The government responded by requiring all youth over 16 to register, and expanded the number of clubs and organizations available to them.*[54]

Munitions In mid-1940, the RAF (Royal Air Force) was called on to fight the Battle of Britain but it had suffered serious losses. It lost 458 aircraft—more than current production—in France and was hard pressed. The government decided to concentrate on only five types of aircraft in order to optimize output. They were: Wellingtons, Whitley Vs, Blenheims, Hurricanes and Spitfires. These aircraft received extraordinary priority. Covering the supply of materials and equipment and even made it possible to divert from other types the necessary parts, equipment, materials and manufacturing resources. Labor was moved from other aircraft work to factories engaged on the specified types. Cost was not an object. The delivery of new fighters rose from 256 in April to 467 in September—more than enough to cover the losses—and Fighter Command emerged triumphantly from the Battle of Britain in October with more aircraft than it had possessed at the beginning.*[55] Starting in 1941, the US provided munitions through Lend lease that totaled \$15.5 billion* [56]

Rationing Main article: [Rationing in the United Kingdom during and after World War II](#)

Food, clothing, petrol, leather and other such items were



War-time food and cookery demonstrations 1940

rationed. However, items such as sweets and fruits were not rationed, as they would spoil. Access to luxuries was severely restricted, although there was also a significant black market. Families also grew victory gardens, and small home vegetable gardens, to supply themselves with food. Many things were conserved to turn into weapons later, such as fat for nitroglycerin production. People in



A British Restaurant in London, 1942. 2000 were opened to serve low cost basic meals to people who had run out of rationing coupons.[57]*

the countryside were less affected by rationing as they had greater access to locally sourced unrationed products than people in metropolitan areas and were more able to grow their own.

The rationing system, which had been originally based on a specific basket of goods for each consumer, was much improved by switching to a points system which allowed the housewives to make choices based on their own priorities. Food rationing also permitted the upgrading of the quality of the food available, and housewives approved—except for the absence of white bread and the government's imposition of an unpalatable wheat meal "national loaf." People were especially pleased that rationing brought equality and a guarantee of a decent meal at an affordable cost.*[58]

Evacuation From very early in the war, it was thought that the major industrial cities of Britain, especially London in the southeast, would come under Luftwaffe air attack, which did happen with *The Blitz*. Some children were sent to Canada, the USA and Australia and millions of children and some mothers were evacuated from London and other major cities when the war began under government plans for the evacuation of civilians, but they often filtered back. When the Blitz bombing began on September 6, 1940, they evacuated again. The discovery of the poor health and hygiene of evacuees was a shock to many Britons, and helped prepare the way for the *Beveridge Report*. Children were evacuated if their parents agreed but in some cases they did not have a choice. The children were only allowed to take a few things with them, including a gas mask, books, money, clothes, ration book and some small toys.*[59]*[60]

Belfast during the war See also: *Belfast Blitz*
Belfast in Northern Ireland was a representative British



A news theatre in Leicester Square – publicity for Movietone News coverage of the "Mareth Victory"

city that has been well studied by historians.*[61]*[62] It was a key industrial city producing ships, tanks, aircraft, engineering works, arms, uniforms, parachutes and a host of other industrial goods. The unemployment that had been so persistent in the 1930s disappeared, and labour shortages appeared. There was a major munitions strike in 1944.*[63] As a key industrial city, Belfast became a target for German bombing missions, but it was thinly defended; there were only 24 anti-aircraft guns in the city for example. The Northern Ireland government under *Richard Dawson Bates* (Minister for Home Affairs) had prepared too late, assuming that Belfast was too distant. When Germany conquered France in spring 1940 it gained closer airfields. The city's fire brigade was inadequate, there were no public air raid shelters as the Northern Ireland government was reluctant to spend money on them and there were no searchlights in the city, which made shooting down enemy bombers all the more difficult. After seeing the Blitz in London in the autumn of 1940, the government began the construction of air raid shelters. The Luftwaffe in early 1941, flew reconnaissance missions that identified the docks and industrial areas to be targeted. Especially hard hit were the working class areas in the north and east of the city where over a thousand were killed and hundreds were seriously injured. Many people left the city afraid of future attacks. The bombing revealed the terrible slum conditions. In May 1941, the Luftwaffe hit the docks and the Harland and Wolff shipyard, closing it for six months. Apart from the numbers of dead, the Belfast blitz saw half of the city's houses destroyed. Approximately twenty million pounds worth of damage was caused. The Northern Ireland government was criticized heavily for its lack of preparation. The criticism forced the resignation of Northern Ireland's

Prime Minister **J. M. Andrews**. The bombing raids continued until the invasion of Russia in the summer of 1941. The American army arrived in 1942–44, setting up bases around Northern Ireland, and spending freely.

Welfare state Main article: **Beveridge Report**

An **Emergency Hospital Service** was established at the beginning of the war, in the expectation that it would be required to deal with large numbers of casualties.

A common theme called for an expansion of the welfare state as a reward to the people for their wartime sacrifices.*[64] The goal was operationalized in a famous report by **William Beveridge**. It recommended that the various income maintenance services that a grown-up piecemeal since 1911 be systematized and made universal. Unemployment benefits and sickness benefits were to be universal. There would be new benefits for maternity. The old-age pension system would be revised and expanded, and require that a person retire. A full-scale National Health Service would provide free medical care for everyone. All the major parties endorsed the principles and they were largely put into effect when peace returned.*[65]

Memory The themes of equality and sacrifice were dominant during the war, and in the memory of the war. Harris points out that the war was seen at the time and by a generation of writers as a period of outstanding national unity and social solidarity. There was little antiwar sentiment during or after the war. Furthermore, Britain turned more toward the collective welfare state during the war, expanding it in the late 1940s and reaching a broad consensus supporting it across party lines. By the 1970s and 1980s, however, historians were exploring the subtle elements of continuing diversity and conflict in society during the war period.*[66] For example, at first historians emphasized that strikes became illegal in July 1940, and no trade union called one during the war. Later historians pointed to the many localized unofficial strikes, especially in coal mining, shipbuilding, the metal trades, and engineering, with as many as 3.7 million man days lost in 1944.*[67]

The **BBC** collected 47,000 wartime recollections and 15,000 images in 2003–6 and put them online.*[68] The CD audiobook *Home Front 1939–45* also contains a selection of period interviews and actuality recordings.*[69]

Canada

Main article: **Canada in the World Wars and Interwar Years § World War II**

Canada joined the war effort on September 10, 1939; the government deliberately waited after Britain's decision to go to war, partly to demonstrate its independence from



Two boys in Montreal gather rubber for wartime salvage, 1942

Britain and partly to give the country extra time to import arms from the United States as a non-belligerent.*[70] War production was ramped up quickly, and was centrally managed through the **Department of Munitions and Supply**. Unemployment faded away.

Canada became one of the largest trainers of pilots for the Allies through the **British Commonwealth Air Training Plan**. Many Canadian men joined the war effort, so with them overseas and industries pushing to increase production, women took up positions to aid in the war effort. The hiring of men in many positions in civilian employment was effectively banned later in the war through measures taken under the *National Resources Mobilization Act*..

Shipyards and repair facilities expanded dramatically as over a thousand warships and cargo vessels were built, along with thousands of auxiliary craft, small boats and others.*[71]

Canada expanded food production, but shipped so much to Britain that food rationing had to be imposed. In 1942 it shipped to Britain 25 per cent of total meat production (including 75% of the bacon), 65 per cent of cheese and 13 per cent of the eggs.*[72]

Ethnics from enemy countries Since 20% of Canada's population were not of British or French origin, their status was of special concern. The main goal was to integrate the marginalized European ethnicities—as opposed to the First World War policy of internment camps for Ukrainians and Germans. In the case of Germany,

Italy and especially Japan, the government watched the ethnics closely for signs of loyalty to their homelands. The fears proved groundless.*[73] In February 1942 21,000 Japanese Canadians were rounded up and sent to internment camps that closely resembled similar camps in the US because the two governments had agreed in 1941 to coordinate their evacuation policies.*[74] Most had lived in British Columbia, but in 1945 they were released from detention and allowed to move anywhere in Canada *except* British Columbia, or they could go to Japan. Most went to the Toronto area.*[75]*[76]



Shop Stewards in the canteen of the Burrard Dry Dock in North Vancouver, Canada. Commencing in 1942, Burrard Dry Dock hired over 1000 women, all of whom were dismissed at the end of the war to make way for returning men.

Women Canadian women responded to urgent appeals to make-do, recycle and salvage in order to come up with needed supplies. They saved fats and grease; gathered recycled goods, handed out information on the best methods to use that one may get the most out of recycled goods and organized many other events to decrease the amount of waste. Volunteer organizations led by women also prepared packages for the military overseas or for prisoners of war in Axis countries.

With World War II came the dire need for employees in the workplace, without women to step-in, the economy would have collapsed. By autumn 1944 the number of women working full-time in Canada's paid labor force was twice what it had been in 1939, and that figure of between 1,000,000 and 1,200,000 did not include part-time workers or women working on farms."*[77] Women had to take on this intensive labor and while they did this they still had to find time to make jam, clothes and other such acts of volunteering to aid the men overseas.

Australia

Main article: Australian home front during World War II

The government greatly expanded its powers in order to better direct the war effort, and Australia's industrial and human resources were focused on supporting the Australian and American armed forces. There were a few Japanese attacks, most notably on Darwin in February 1942, along with the widespread fear in 1942, that Australia would be invaded.



Australian women were encouraged to contribute to the war effort by joining one of the female branches of the armed forces or participating in the labor force

Australia entered the war in 1939 and sent its forces to fight the Germans in the Middle East (where they were successful) and Singapore (where they were captured by the Japanese in 1942). By 1943, 37% of the Australian GDP was directed at the war effort. Total war expenditure came to £2,949 million between 1939 and 1945.*[78]

The Curtin Labor Government took over in October 1941, and energized the war effort, with rationing of scarce fuel, clothing and some food. When Japan entered the war in December 1941, the danger was at hand, and all women and children were evacuated from Darwin and northern Australia. The Commonwealth Government took control of all income taxation in 1942, which gave it extensive new powers and greatly reduced the states' financial autonomy.*[79] Manufacturing grew rapidly, with the assembly of high performance guns and aircraft a specialty. The number of women working in factories rose from 171,000 to 286,000.*[80] The arrival of tens of thousands of Americans was greeted with relief, as they could protect Australia where Britain could not. The US sent in \$1.1 billion in Lend Lease, and Australia returned about the same total in services, food, rents and supplies to the Americans.*[81]

New Zealand

New Zealand, with a population of 1.7 million, including 99,000 Maori, was highly mobilized during the war. The Labour party was in power and promoted unionization and the welfare state. The armed forces peaked at 157,000 in September 1942; 135,000 served abroad, and

10,100 died. Agriculture expanded, sending record supplies of meat, butter and wool to Britain. When American forces arrived, they were fed as well. The nation spent £574 million on the war, of which 43% came from taxes, 41% from loans and 16% from American Lend Lease. It was an era of prosperity as the national income soared from £158 million in 1937 to £292 million in 1944. Rationing and price controls kept inflation to only 14% during 1939–45. * [82] * [83]

Montgomerie shows that the war dramatically increased the roles of women, especially married women, in the labour force. Most of them took traditional female jobs. Some replaced men but the changes here were temporary and reversed in 1945. After the war, women left traditional male occupations and many women gave up paid employment to return home. There was no radical change in gender roles but the war intensified occupational trends under way since the 1920s. * [84] * [85]

India

Main article: [India in World War II](#)

During World War II, India was a colony of Britain known as **British Raj**. Britain declared war on behalf of India without consulting with Indian leaders. * [86] This resulted in resignation of Congress Ministries. * [87]

The British recruited some 2.5 million Indian volunteers, who played major roles as soldiers in the Middle East, North Africa, and Burma in the **British Indian Army**. India became the main base for British operations against Japan, and for American efforts to support China.

In Bengal, with an elected Muslim local government under British supervision, the cutoff of rice imports from Burma led to severe food shortages, made worse by maladministration. Prices soared and millions starved because they could not buy food. In the **Bengal famine of 1943**, three million people died. * [88]

A small anti-British force of about 40,000 men (and a few women) formed in Southeast Asia, the **Indian National Army (INA)** under Subhas Chandra Bose. It was under Japanese army control and performed poorly in combat. Its members were captured Indian soldiers from British Indian Army who gained release from extreme conditions in POW camps by joining the Japanese-sponsored INA. It participated in Battle Of Kohima and Battle of Imphal. In postwar Indian politics, some Indians called them heroes.

The Congress Party in 1942 demanded immediate independence, which Britain rejected. Congress then demanded the British immediately "Quit India" in August 1942, but the Raj responded by immediately jailing tens of thousands of national, state and regional leaders; knocking Congress out of the war. Meanwhile, the Muslim League supported the war effort and gained pres-

tige and membership, as well as British support for its demands for a separate Muslim state (which became Pakistan in 1947).

Hong Kong

Hong Kong was a British colony captured by Japan on December 25, 1941, after 18 days of fierce fighting. The conquest was swift, but was followed by days of large-scale looting; over ten thousand Chinese women were raped or gang-raped by the Japanese soldiers. * [89] The population halved, from 1.6 million in 1941 to 750,000 at war's end because of fleeing refugees; they returned in 1945. * [90]

The Japanese imprisoned the ruling British colonial elite and sought to win over the local merchant gentry by appointments to advisory councils and neighborhood watch groups. The policy worked well for Japan and produced extensive collaboration from both the elite and the middle class, with far less terror than in other Chinese cities. Hong Kong was transformed into a Japanese colony, with Japanese businesses replacing the British. However, the Japanese Empire had severe logistical difficulties and by 1943 the food supply for Hong Kong was problematic. The overlords became more brutal and corrupt, and the Chinese gentry became disenchanted. With the surrender of Japan the transition back to British rule was smooth, for on the mainland the Nationalist and Communists forces were preparing for a civil war and ignored Hong Kong. In the long run the occupation strengthened the pre-war social and economic order among the Chinese business community by eliminating some conflicts of interests and reducing the prestige and power of the British. * [91]

5.5.4 Axis

Germany

Germany had not fully mobilized in 1939, nor even in 1941. Not until 1943, under **Albert Speer** (the minister of armaments in the *Reich*), did Germany finally redirect its entire economy and manpower to war production. Instead of using all available Germans, it brought in millions of foreign workers from conquered countries, treating them badly (and getting low productivity in return). * [92] Germany's economy was simply too small for a longer all-out war. Hitler's strategy was to change this by a series of surprise blitzkriegs. This failed with defeats in Russia in 1941 and 1942, and against the economic power of the allies. * [93]

Forced labour Main article: [Forced labour under German rule during World War II](#)

Instead of expanding the economies of the occupied nations, the Nazis seized the portable machinery and rail cars, requisitioned most of their industrial output, took large quantities of food (15% of French output), and forced the victims to pay for their military occupation.*[94]

The Nazis forced 15 million people to work in Germany (including POWs); many died from bad living conditions, mistreatment, malnutrition, and executions. At its peak, forced laborers comprised 20% of the German work force and were a vital part of the **German economic exploitation** of the conquered territories. They were especially concentrated in munitions and agriculture.*[95] For example, 1.5 million French soldiers were kept in POW camps in Germany as hostages and forced workers and, in 1943, 600,000 French civilians were forced to move to Germany to work in war plants.*[96]

Economy Although Germany had about double the population of Britain (80 million versus 40 million), it had to use far more labor to provide food and energy. Britain imported food and employed only a million people (5% of the labour force) on farms, while Germany used 11 million (27%). For Germany to build its twelve synthetic oil plants with a capacity of 3.3 million tons a year required 2.4 million tons of structural steel and 7.5 million man-days of labor. (Britain imported all its oil from Iraq, Persia and North America). To overcome this problem, Germany employed millions of forced laborers and POWs; by 1944, they had brought in more than five million civilian workers and nearly two million prisoners of war—a total of 7.13 million foreign workers.



*Teenage girls in agricultural work in the occupied territories, one of the possible duties assigned by the **Bund Deutscher Mädel** (League of Young German Women), the female version of the **Hitler Youth**, with compulsory membership for girls. The caption in *Das Deutsche Mädel*, in its May 1942 issue, states: “bringing all the enthusiasm and life force of their youth, our young daughters of the Work Service make their contribution in the German territories regained in the East*



Gertrud Scholtz-Klink, head of the women's wing of the Nazi Party as well as the Woman's Bureau in the German Labor Front

Rationing Rationing in Germany was introduced in 1939 immediately upon the outbreak of hostilities. **Hitler** was at first convinced that it would affect public support for the war if a strict rationing program was introduced. The **Nazi** popularity was in fact partially due to the fact that Germany under the Nazis was relatively prosperous, and Hitler did not want to lose popularity or faith. Hitler felt that food and other shortages had been a major factor in destroying civilian morale during World War I which led to defeatism and surrender.

Despite the rationing, civilians had sufficient amounts of food and clothing; witness **Howard K. Smith** later wrote that “[f]or a people engaged in a life-and-death war ... the German people for two years of war ate amazingly well.” The meat ration, for example, was 500g per week per person. After the **German** invasion of the **Soviet Union** in June 1941, however, this changed to 400g per week, then fell further. Estimating that the meat ration had dropped by up to 80% in five months of fighting in Russia, and citing many other changes in living conditions that suddenly occurred, Smith wrote that by the time he left Germany in late 1941, “for the first time ... *the German people are undernourished*”.*[97] The system gave extra rations for men involved in heavy industry, and extremely low starvation rations for Jews and Poles in the areas occupied by Germany, but not to the Poles inside Germany many of whom had been brought in to perform heavy labor in German war industries.

According to a 1997 post by Walter Felscher to the “Memories of the 1940s” electronic mailing list:

For every person, there were rationing cards for general foodstuffs, meats, fats (such as butter, margarine and oil) and tobacco products distributed every other month. The cards were printed on strong paper, containing numerous small “Marken” subdivisions printed with their value – for example, from “5 g Butter” to “100 g Butter”. Every acquisition of rationed goods required an appropriate “Marken”, and if a person wished to eat a certain soup at a restaurant, the waiter would take out a pair of scissors and cut off the required items to make the soup and amounts listed on the menu. In the evenings, restaurant-owners would spend an hour at least gluing the collected “Marken” onto large sheets of paper which they then had to hand in to the appropriate authorities.*[98]

The amounts available under rationing were sufficient to live from, but clearly did not permit luxuries. Whipped cream became unknown from 1939 until 1948, as well as chocolates, cakes with rich crèmes etc. Meat could not be eaten every day. Other items were not rationed, but simply became unavailable as they had to be imported from overseas: coffee in particular, which throughout was replaced by substitutes made from roasted grains. Vegetables and local fruit were not rationed; imported citrus fruits and bananas were unavailable. In more rural areas, farmers continued to bring their products to the markets, as large cities depended on long distance delivery. Many people kept rabbits for their meat when it became scarce in shops, and it was often a child's job to care for them each day.

Nursing Germany had a very large and well organized nursing service, with three main organizations, one for Catholics, one for Protestants, and the DRK (Red Cross). In 1934 the Nazis set up their own nursing unit, the Brown nurses, and absorbed one of the smaller groups, bringing it up to 40,000 members. It set up kindergartens, hoping to seize control of the minds of the younger Germans, in competition with the other nursing organizations. Civilian psychiatric nurses who were Nazi party members participated in the killing of invalids, although the process was shrouded in euphemisms and denials.*[99]

Military nursing was primarily handled by the DRK, which came under partial Nazi control. Frontline medical services were provided by male doctors and medics. Red Cross nurses served widely within the military medical services, staffing the hospitals that perforce were close to the front lines and at risk of bombing attacks. Two dozen were awarded the highly prestigious Iron Cross for heroism under fire. They are among the 470,000 German women who served with the military.*[100]

Displaced persons The conquest of Germany in 1945 freed 11 million foreigners, called “displaced persons” (DPs)- chiefly forced laborers and POWs. In addition to the POWs, the Germans seized 2.8 million Soviet workers to labor in factories in Germany. Returning them home was a high priority for the Allies. However, in the case of Russians and Ukrainians returning often meant suspicion or prison or even death. The UNRRA, Red Cross and military operations provided food, clothing, shelter and assistance in returning home. In all, 5.2 million were repatriated to the Soviet Union, 1.6 million to Poland, 1.5 million to France, and 900,000 to Italy, along with 300,000 to 400,000 each to Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, the Netherlands, Hungary, and Belgium.*[101]

Refugees In 1944–45, over 2.5 million ethnic Germans fled from Eastern Europe in family groups, desperately hoping to reach Germany before being overtaken by the Russians.*[102]*[103] Half a million died in the process, the survivors were herded into refugee camps in East and West Germany for years. Meanwhile, Moscow encouraged its troops to regard German women as targets for revenge. Russian Marshal Georgi Zhukov called on his troops to, “Remember our brothers and sisters, our mothers and fathers, our wives and children tortured to death by Germans....We shall exact a brutal revenge for everything.” Upwards of two million women inside Germany were raped in 1945 in a tidal wave of looting, burning and vengeance.*[104]

Japan

The Japanese home front was not well organized, as the government paid more attention to propaganda and not enough on mobilization of manpower, identification of critical choke points, food supplies, logistics, air raid shelters, and the evacuation of civilians from targeted cities. There was only a small increase of 1.4 million women entering the labor force between 1940 and 1944. The minister of welfare announced, “In order to secure its labor force, the enemy is drafting women, but in Japan, out of consideration for the family system, we will not draft them.”*[105]

The failure of the maximum utilization of womanpower was indicated by the presence of 600,000 domestic servants in wealthy families in 1944. The government wanted to raise the birthrate, even with 8.2 million men in the armed forces, of whom three million were killed. Government incentives help to raise the marriage rate, but the number of births held steady at about 2.2 million per year, with a 10% decline in 1944–45, and another 15% decline in 1945–46. Strict rationing of milk led to smaller babies. There was little or no long-term impact on the overall demographic profile of Japan.*[106]

The government began making evacuation plans in late 1943, and started removing entire schools in 1944;



Japanese Schoolchildren evacuating to rural areas in 1944

450,000 children were moved—with their teachers but not their parents. When the American bombing began in earnest in late 1944, 10 million people fled the cities to the safety of the countryside, including two-thirds of the residents of the largest cities and 87% of the children. Left behind were the munitions workers and government officials. By April 1945, 87% of the younger children had been moved to the countryside. Civil defense units were transformed into combat units, especially the Peoples Volunteer Combat Corps, enlisting civilian men up to the age of 60 and women to age 40. They were trained with bamboo pikes, since serious weapons were lacking; the media advocated “the Laureates Death of One Hundred Million” to defend the nation. Health conditions became much worse after the surrender in September 1945, with so much housing stock destroyed, and an additional 6.6 million Japanese repatriated from Manchuria, China, Indochina, Formosa, Korea, Saipan and the Philippines.*[107]

Food Agricultural production in the home islands held up well during the war until the bombing started. It fell from an index of 110 in 1942 to 84 in 1944 and only 65 in 1945. Worse, imports dried up.*[108] The Japanese food rationing system was effective throughout the war, and there were no serious incidences of malnutrition. A government survey in Tokyo showed that in 1944 families depended on the black market for 9% of their rice, 38% of their fish, and 69% of their vegetables.*[109] The Japanese domestic food supply depended, however, on imports, which were largely cut off by the American submarine and bombing campaigns. Likewise there was little deep sea fishing, so that the fish ration by 1941 was mostly squid harvested from coastal waters. The result was a growing food shortage, especially in the cities. There was some malnutrition but no reported starvation.*[110] Despite government rationing of food, some families were forced to spend more than their monthly income could offer on black market food purchases. They would rely on savings or exchange food for clothes or other posses-

sions.*[111]

Deaths The American aerial bombing of a total of 65 Japanese cities took from 400,000 to 600,000 civilian lives, with 100,000+ in Tokyo alone, over 200,000 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined. The Battle of Okinawa resulted in 80,000–150,000 civilian deaths. In addition civilian death among settlers who died attempting to return to Japan from Manchuria in the winter of 1945 were probably around 100,000. The total of Japanese military fatalities between 1937 and 1945 were 2.1 million; most came in the last year of the war and were caused by starvation or severe malnutrition in garrisons cut off from supplies.*[113]

Condition at war's end Health and living conditions worsened after the surrender in September 1945. Most of the housing stock in large cities was destroyed, just as refugees tried to return from the rural areas. Adding to the crisis there was an influx of 3.5 million returning soldiers and 3.1 million Japanese civilians forcibly repatriated from Imperial outposts in Manchuria, China, Indochina, Formosa, Korea, Saipan and the Philippines; about 400,000 civilians were left behind and not heard of again. Meanwhile, 1.2 million Koreans, POWs and other non-Japanese left Japan. The government implemented pro-natalist policies, which led to an increase in the marriage rate, but birth rates remained steady until they declined by 10% in the stress of the last year of the war, and another 15% during the hardship of the postwar period.*[114]

The American bombing campaign of all major cities severely impacted the economy, as did the shortages of oil and raw materials that intensified when Japanese merchant shipping was mostly sunk by American submarines. When industrial production was available to the military, for example, 24 percent of Japan's finished steel in 1937 was allocated to the military, compared to 85 percent in 1945.*[115] By the end of the war, output percent of the highest capacity was still 100 percent for steel, although only 75 percent for aluminum, 63 percent for machine tools, 42 percent for vacuum tubes, 54 percent cement, 32 percent cotton fabric, and 36 percent for wool.*[116]

5.5.5 Famines

Severe food shortages were common throughout the war zones, especially in Europe where Germany used starvation as a military weapon. Japan did not use it as a deliberate policy, but the breakdown of its transportation and distribution systems led to famine and starvation conditions among its soldiers on many Pacific islands.*[117] Bose (1990) studies the three great Asian famines that took place during the war: Bengal in India, Honan in China, and Tonkin in Vietnam. In each famine at least two million people died. They all occurred in densely

populated provinces where the subsistence foundations of agriculture was failing under the weight of demographic and market pressures. In each cases famine played a role in undermining the legitimacy of the state and the preexisting social structure.* [118]

5.5.6 Housing

A great deal of housing was destroyed or largely damaged during the war, especially in the Soviet Union,* [119] Germany, and Japan. In Japan, about a third of the families were homeless at the end of the war.* [120] In Germany, about 25% of the total housing stock was destroyed or heavily damaged; in the main cities the proportion was about 45%.* [121] Elsewhere in Europe, 22% of the prewar housing in Poland was totally destroyed; 21% in Greece; 9% in Austria, 8% in the Netherlands; 8% in France, 7% in Britain, 5% Italy and 4% in Hungary.* [122]

5.5.7 See also

- Women's roles in the World Wars#World War II
- Lotta Svärd
- Rosie the Riveter
- Squander Bug
- Timeline of the United Kingdom home front during World War II
- Utility furniture
- Veronica Foster
- Women's Land Army
- Military production during World War II

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5.6 Collaboration with the Axis Powers during World War II

Within nations occupied by the Axis Powers, some citizens, driven by nationalism, ethnic hatred, anti-Communism, anti-Semitism, or opportunism knowingly engaged in **collaboration with the Axis Powers during World War II**. These collaborationists committed some of the worst war crimes, crimes against humanity and atrocities of the Holocaust.*[1]

Collaboration is "a co-operation between elements of the population of a defeated state and the representatives of the victorious power".*[2] Stanley Hoffmann subdivided collaboration into involuntary (reluctant recognition of necessity) and voluntary (exploiting necessity).*[3] According to him, collaborationism can be subdivided into *servile* and *ideological*; the former is a deliberate service to an enemy, whereas the latter is a deliberate advocacy of co-operation with the foreign force which is seen as a champion of some desirable domestic transformations.*[3] In contrast, Bertram Gordon used the terms "collaborator" and "collaborationist" for non-ideological and ideological collaborations, respectively.*[4]

5.6.1 Requirements for collaboration

The Nazis did not consider everyone equally fit for cooperation. Even people from closely related nations were often valued differently in accordance with Nazi racial theories. The Jews were considered to be worst of all races and thus unfit for cooperation, although some were

used in concentration camps as Kapos to report on other prisoners and enforce order. Others governed ghettos and helped organize deportations to extermination camps (Jewish Ghetto Police).

5.6.2 By country

Albania

After the Italian invasion of Albania, the Royal Albanian Army, police and gendarmerie were amalgamated into the Italian armed forces. A fascist Albanian Militia was also formed and in the Yugoslav part of Kosovo they established Vulnetari (or Kosovars) a volunteer militia of Albanians from Kosovo. Ethnic Albanian elements of the Italian armed forces participated in the Italian invasion of Greece, and German-led Axis invasion of Yugoslavia. After the capitulation of Italy, the Germans stepped in and established more collaborationist units such as police volunteer regiments and a national militia. In annexed Kosovo, the Germans established the Kosovo Regiment out of Balli Kombëtar forces. In April 1943, Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler created the 21st Waffen Mountain Division of the SS Skanderbeg (1st Albanian) manned by Albanians and Kosovar Albanians. By June 1944, its military value against the Albanian and Yugoslav Partisans was considered poor, and by November 1944 it had been disbanded. The remaining cadre, now called *Kampfgruppe Skanderbeg*, was transferred to the Prinz Eugen Division where they successfully participated in actions against Josip Broz Tito's partisans in December 1944.*[5] The emblem of the division was a black Albanian eagle.*[6]

Belgium

Main article: German occupation of Belgium during World War II

Belgium was invaded by Nazi Germany in May 1940



A Vlaams Nationaal Verbond (VNV) meeting in Ghent in 1941

and remained under German occupation until the end of 1944.

Political collaboration took separate forms across the Belgian language divide. In Dutch-speaking Flanders, the *Vlaams Nationaal Verbond* (Flemish National Union or VNV), an authoritarian party and part of the pre-war *Flemish Movement*, became a major part of the German occupation strategy and VNV politicians were promoted to positions in the Belgian civil administration. VNV's comparatively moderate stance meant that it was increasingly eclipsed later in the war by the more-radical and pro-German *DeVlag* movement. In French-speaking Wallonia, Léon Degrelle's *Rexist Party*, a pre-war authoritarian and Catholic Fascist political party, became the VNV's Walloon equivalent, although Rex's Belgian nationalist stance put it at odds with the Flemish nationalism of VNV and the German *Flamenpolitik*. Rex became increasingly radical after 1941 and declared itself part of the *Waffen SS*. After the German invasion of the Soviet Union, Rex helped support the creation of a military unit to fight alongside German troops on the Eastern Front, the *Walloon Legion*, and a similar *Flemish Legion* was created in Flanders. Both began as formations in the German regular army but would eventually become part of the *Waffen SS*.

Although the pre-war Belgian government went into exile in 1940, the Belgian civil service was left in place for much of the occupation. The *Committee of Secretaries-General*, an administrative panel of civil servants, was created to coordinate the state's activities and, although it was intended to be a purely technocratic institution, has been accused of helping implement German occupation policies. The Belgian police have also been accused of collaborating during the occupation, especially in The Holocaust in Belgium.

Burma

Main articles: *State of Burma* and *Burma National Army*

The Japanese invasion was assisted by Burmese nationalists known as *Burma Independence Army*, who hoped for independence. They were later transformed into *Burma National Army* as the armed forces of *State of Burma*. Minority groups were also armed by Japanese, such as the *Arakan Defense Army* and the *Chin Defense Army*.^[7]

China

The Japanese set up several puppet regimes in occupied Chinese territories. The first of which was *Manchukuo* in 1932, followed by the *East Hebei Autonomous Council* in 1935. Similar to *Manchukuo* in its supposed ethnic identity, *Mengjiang* (*Mengkukuo*) was set up in late 1936. *Wang Kemin's* collaborationist *Provisional Government of the Republic of China* was set up in Beijing in 1937 following the start of full-scale military operations between China and Japan, another puppet regime

was the *Reformed Government of the Republic of China*, setup in Nanjing in 1938. The *Wang Jingwei* collaborationist government, established in 1940, "consolidated" these regimes, though in reality neither Wang's government nor the constituent governments had any autonomy, although the military of the *Wang Jingwei Government* was equipped by the Japanese with planes, cannons, tanks, boats, and German-style *stahlhelm* (already widely used by the *National Revolutionary Army*, the "official" army of the *Republic of China*).

The military forces of these puppet regimes, known collectively as the *Collaborationist Chinese Army*, numbered more than a million at their height, with some estimates that the number exceeded 2 million conscripts. Great numbers of collaborationist troops were men originally serving in warlord forces within the *National Revolutionary Army* who had defected when facing both Communists and Japanese as enemies. Although its manpower was very large, the soldiers were very ineffective compared to *NRA* soldiers due to low morale for being considered as "Hanjian". Although certain collaborationist forces had limited battlefield presence during the *Second Sino-Japanese War*, most were relegated to behind-the-line duties.

The *Wang Jingwei* government was disbanded after Japanese surrender to Allies in 1945, and *Manchukuo* and *Mengjiang* were destroyed by Soviet troops in the invasion of Manchuria.

Czechoslovakia

Main article: *German occupation of Czechoslovakia*

With the German annexation of *Czechoslovakia* between 1938–39, the country was divided. Most of the Czech part of pre-war *Czechoslovakia* was reconstituted into *Bohemia and Moravia*, a protectorate of Nazi Germany. The Protectorate had its own military forces, including a 12-battalion 'government army', police and gendamerie. The majority of the 'government army' was sent to northern Italy in 1944 as labor and guard troops.^[8]

The *Slovak Republic* (*Slovenská republika*) was a quasi-independent ethnic-Slovak state which existed from 14 March 1939 to 8 May 1945 as an ally and client state of Nazi Germany. The *Slovak Republic* existed on roughly the same territory as present-day *Slovakia* (with the exception of the southern and eastern parts of present-day *Slovakia*). The Republic bordered Germany, the *Bohemia and Moravia*, *Poland*, and *Hungary*.

Denmark

Main article: *German occupation of Denmark*

At 04:15 on 9 April 1940 (Danish standard time), German forces crossed the border into neutral Denmark, in



Members of Free Corps Denmark leaving for the East Front from Hellerup Station in Copenhagen

violation of a German–Danish treaty of non-aggression signed the previous year. After two hours the Danish government surrendered, believing that resistance was useless and hoping to work out an advantageous agreement with Germany. As a result of the cooperative attitude of the Danish authorities, German officials claimed that they would “respect Danish sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as neutrality.”* [9] The German authorities were inclined towards lenient terms with Denmark for several reasons which allowed Denmark a favorable relationship with Nazi Germany. The government remained intact and the parliament continued to function more or less as it had before, maintaining control over domestic policy.* [10] Danish public opinion generally backed the new government, particularly after the fall of France in June 1940.* [11]

Prior to, during and after the war Denmark enforced a restrictive refugee policy and handed Jewish refugees that managed to get over the border over to German authorities. 21 such incidents are known and 18 of the people transferred to German custody later died in concentration camps, including a woman and her three children.* [12] In 2005 prime minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen officially apologized for these policies.* [13]

Newspaper articles and news reports “which might jeopardize German-Danish relations” were outlawed.* [14] Following the German assault on the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941, German authorities demanded that Danish communists be arrested. The Danish government complied and directed the police to arrest 339 communists using secret registers. Of these, 246, including the three communist members of the Danish parliament, were imprisoned in the Horserød camp, in violation of the Danish constitution. On 22 August 1941, the Danish parliament passed the Communist Law, outlawing the communist party and communist activities, in another violation of the Danish constitution. In 1943, about half of the imprisoned communists were transferred to Stutthof concentration camp, where 22 of them died. On November 25, 1941, Denmark joined the Anti-Comintern Pact.

On 29 June 1941 *Frikorps Danmark* (Free Corps Den-

mark) was founded as a corps of Danish volunteers to fight against the Soviet Union. *Frikorps Danmark* was set up at the initiative of the SS and National Socialist Workers' Party of Denmark (DNSAP) who approached Lieutenant-Colonel C.P. Kryssing of the Danish army shortly after the invasion of the USSR had begun. According to Danish law, it was not illegal to join a foreign army, but active recruiting on Danish soil was illegal. German authorities disregarded this law and began recruiting efforts and ultimately 12,000 Danish citizens volunteered for German army duty of which 6,000 were approved for service.* [15] After the war it was retroactively made illegal to have served in the German army and many of the returning soldiers given long prison sentences.* [16]

Industrial production and trade was, partly due to geopolitical reality and economic necessity, redirected towards Germany. Many government officials saw expanded trade with Germany as vital to maintaining social order in Denmark.* [17] It was feared increased unemployment and poverty could lead to civil unrest which would result in a crackdown by the German authorities.* [18] The Danish government and King Christian X repeatedly discouraged sabotage and encouraged informing on the resistance movement, an activity some were sentenced to death for, after the war.* [19]* [20] The structure of the Danish unemployment system meant that unemployment benefits could be denied if jobs were available in Germany and this practice was widely followed resulting in an average of some 20,000 Danes working in German factories through the 5 years of the war.* [21]

In return for these concessions, the Danish cabinet rejected German demands for legislation discriminating against Denmark's Jewish minority. Demands to introduce the death penalty were likewise rebuffed and so were German demands to allow German military courts jurisdiction over Danish citizens and demands for the transfer of Danish army units to German military use.

Estonia

See also: Estonian war crimes trials and Estonian International Commission for Investigation of Crimes Against Humanity

Although the Estonian Self-Administration did not have complete freedom of action, it exercised a significant measure of autonomy, within the framework of German policy, political, racial and economic. Thus, the Directors exercised their powers pursuant to the laws and regulations of the Republic of Estonia, but only to the extent that these had not been repealed or amended by the German military command. The Director's position was voluntary. The Self-Administration's autonomy enabled it to maintain police structures that cooperated with the Germans in rounding up and killing Jews and Roma and in seeking out and killing Estonians deemed to be opponents of the occupiers, and it was ultimately incorporated



Nazi Estonian Legion Waffen SS recruiting center.

into the Estonian Security Police and SD. It also extended to the unlawful conscription of Estonians for forced labor or for military service under German command.* [22]

The Estonian Security Police and SD,* [23] the 286th, 287th and 288th Estonian Auxiliary Police Battalions, and 2.5–3% of the Estonian Omakaitse (Home Guard) militia units (approximately between 1,000 and 1,200 men) were directly involved in criminal acts, taking part in the rounding-up, guarding or killing of 400–1,000 Roma people and 6,000 Jews in the concentration camps in the Pskov region, Russia and the Jägala, Vaivara, Klooga and Lagedi camps in Estonia. Guarded by the above-listed formations, 15,000 Soviet POWs died in Estonia: some through neglect and mistreatment and some through execution.* [22]

France



Nazi French soldiers in Russia, November 1941.

See also: Vichy France

The Vichy government, headed by Marshall Philippe Pétain and Pierre Laval, actively collaborated in the extermination of the European Jews. It also participated in Porrajmos, the extermination of Roma people, and in the extermination of other “undesirables.” Vichy opened up a series of concentration camps in France where it interned



Waffen SS recruiting center in Calais, Northern France photographed shortly after liberation by the Allies.

Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, political opponents, etc. Directed by René Bousquet, the French police helped in the deportation of 76,000 Jews to the extermination camps. In 1995, President Jacques Chirac officially recognized the responsibility of the French state for the deportation of Jews during the war, in particular the more than 13,000 victims the Vel' d'Hiv Roundup of July 1942, during which Laval decided, of his own volition (and without being requested by the occupying German authorities), to deport children along with their parents. Only 2,500 of the deported Jews survived the war. The 1943 Battle of Marseille was another event during which the French police assisted the Gestapo in a massive raid, which included an urban reshaping plan involving the destruction of a whole neighbourhood in the popular Old Port. Some few collaborators were tried in the 1980s for crimes against humanity (Paul Touvier, etc.), while Maurice Papon, who had become after the war prefect of police of Paris (a function in which he illustrated himself during the 1961 Paris massacre) was convicted in 1998 for crimes against humanity. He had been Budget Minister under President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Other collaborators, such as Emile Dewoitine, managed to have important functions after the war (Dewoitine was eventually named head of Aérospatiale, the firm which created the Concorde plane). Debates concerning state collaboration remain, in 2008, very strong in France.

The French volunteers formed the Legion of French Volunteers Against Bolshevism and the Legion Imperiale, in 1945 the 33rd Waffen Grenadier Division of the SS Charlemagne (1st French), which was among the final defenders of Berlin.

Brittany Main article: Breton nationalism and World War II

Breton nationalists such as Olier Mordrel and François Debeauvais had longstanding links with Nazi Germany because of their fascist and Nordacist ideologies, linked to the belief that the Bretons were a “pure” Celtic branch of the Aryan-Nordic race. At the outbreak of the war they left France and declared support for Germany. After 1940, they returned and their supporters such as Célestin Lainé and Yann Goulet organized militias that worked in collaboration with the Germans. Lainé and Goulet later took refuge in Ireland.

French Indochina

The Japanese occupation forces kept the French Indochina under nominal rule of Vichy France until March 1945. After the French colonial administration was overthrown, the Japanese supported the establishment of Empire of Vietnam, Kingdom of Kampuchea and Kingdom of Laos as Japanese puppet states. Vietnamese militia were used to assist Japanese.*[24] In Cambodia, the ex-colonial Cambodian constabulary was allowed to continue its existence, though it was reduced to ineffectuality. A plan to create a Cambodian volunteer force was not realized due to Japanese surrender.*[25] In Laos, the local administration and ex-colonial Garde Indigene (Indigenous Guard, a paramilitary police force) were reformed by Prince Phetsarath who replaced its Vietnamese members with Laotians.*[26]

French North Africa

The German Wehrmacht forces in North Africa established the *Kommando Deutsch-Arabische Truppen*; which comprised two battalions of Arab volunteers of Tunisian origin, an Algerian battalion and a Moroccan battalion. The four units made up a total of 3,000 men; with German cadres.*[27]

Greece

Main article: Hellenic State (1941–44)

After the German invasion of Greece, a Nazi-held government was put in place. All three quisling prime ministers, (Georgios Tsolakoglou, Konstantinos Logothetopoulos and Ioannis Rallis), cooperated with the Axis authorities. Although their administrations did not directly assist the occupation forces, they did instigate suppressive measures, the most significant of which was the encouragement and, with the consent of the German forces, the creation of armed “anti-communist” and “anti-gangster” paramilitary organisations such as the

Security Battalions and others. Moreover, small but active Greek National-Socialist parties, like the Greek National Socialist Party of Georgios Merkouris, the ESPO organization or openly anti-semitic organisations, like the National Union of Greece, helped German authorities fight the Resistance, and identify and deport Greek Jews.*[28]

About one thousand Greeks from Greece and more from the Soviet Union, ostensibly avenging their ethnic persecution from Soviet authorities, joined the Waffen-SS, mostly in Ukrainian divisions. A special case was that of the infamous Ukrainian-Greek Sevastianos Foulidis, a fanatical anti-communist who had been recruited by the Abwehr as early as 1938 and became an official of the Wehrmacht, with extensive action in intelligence and agitation work in the Eastern front.*[29]

See also: Cham Albanian collaboration with the Axis

During the Axis occupation, a number of Cham Albanians set up their own administration and militia in Thesprotia, Greece, subservient to the fascist Balli Kombetar organization, and actively collaborated first with the Italian and, subsequently, the German occupation forces, committing a number of atrocities.*[30] In one incident, on 29 September 1943, Nuri and Mazzar Dino, Albanian paramilitary leaders, instigated the mass execution of all Greek officials and notables of Paramythia.*[31]

British Hong Kong

Hong Kong was a British crown colony before its occupation by Japanese. During the Japanese rule, former members of the Hong Kong Police including the Indians and Chinese were recruited into a reformed police called the *Kempeitai* with new uniforms.*[32]

India

Main articles: Indian National Army and Indische Legion
The *Legion Freies Indien*, or *Indische Freiwilligen Infanterie Regiment 950* (also known as the *Indische Freiwilligen-Legion der Waffen-SS*) was created in August 1942, chiefly from disaffected Indian soldiers of the British Indian Army, captured by the Axis in North Africa. Many, if not most, of the Indian volunteers who switched sides to fight with the German Army and against the British were strongly nationalistic supporters of the exiled, anti-British, former president of the Indian National Congress, *Netaji* (the Leader) Subhas Chandra Bose. The Royal Italian Army formed a similar unit of Indian prisoners of war, the *Battaglione Azad Hindoustan*. A Japanese-supported sovereign and autonomous state—the Azad Hind (Free India)—was also established with the Indian National Army as its military force. '(See also Tiger Legion.)



Troops of the Legion Freies Indien, France, February 1944.

Indonesia

Main article: Japanese occupation of Indonesia

Among Indonesians to receive Japanese imperial honours from Hirohito in November 1943 were Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta. Sukarno actively recruited and organised Indonesian Romusha forced labour.*[33] They succeeded respectively to become the founding President of the Republic of Indonesia and Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia in August 1945.

Latvia

In the days before the capture of Riga by German forces the deportations and murders of Latvians by the Soviet NKVD had reached their peak.*[34] Those that the NKVD could not deport in time before the arrival of the Germans were shot in the Central Prison.*[34] RSHA's instructions to their agents to unleash pogroms fell on fertile ground.*[34] After the entry of Einsatzkommando 1a and part of Einsatzkommando 2 into the Latvian capital* [35] contact between Viktors Arajs and *Brigadeführer* Walter Stahlecker was established on July 1. Stahlecker instructed Arajs on that same day to set up a commando unit that obtained an official name *Latvian Auxiliary Security Police* or *Arājs Kommando*.*[36] The group was composed of students and former officers of far-right wing orientation; all the members of this group were vol-



Latvian Auxiliary Police assemble a group of Jews, Liepāja, July 1941.

unteers, and free to leave at any time.*[36] The following day on July 2 Arajs learned from Stahlecker during a conference that the Arajs commando had to unleash a pogrom that looked spontaneous* [34] and these pogrom-like disorders were to break out before German occupation authorities had been properly established.*[37] The Einsatzkommando influenced* [38] mobs of former members of *Pērkonkrusts* and other extreme right-wing groups began mass arrests, pillaging and murders of Jews in Riga, which led to death of between 300 and 400 Jews. Killings continued under the supervision of *SS Brigadeführer* Walter Stahlecker and ended when more 2,700 Jews had been murdered.*[34]*[37] The activities of the Einsatzkommando were constrained after the full establishment of the German occupation authority, after which the SS made use of select units of native recruits.*[35] German General Wilhelm Ullersperger and Voldemar Weiss, a well known Latvian nationalist, appealed to the population via a radio address to attack "internal enemies" . During the next few months, activities of the Latvian Auxiliary Security Police was primarily focused on killing Jews, Communists and Red Army stragglers in Latvia as well as in neighboring Belorussia.* [36] The group alone murdered almost half of Latvia's Jewish population,*[39] about 26,000 Jews, mainly in November and December 1941.*[40] The creation of the Arajs Kommando was "one of the most significant inventions of the early Holocaust" ,*[39] that marked a transition from German organised *pogroms* to systematic killing of Jews by local volunteers (former army officers, policemen, students, Aizargi).*[37] This helped resolve a chronic problem with German personnel shortages, and provided the Germans with relief from the psychological stress of routinely murdering civilians.*[37] By the autumn of 1941, the SS deployed Latvian 'Police Battalions' to Leningrad, where they were consolidated as *Latvian Second SS Volunteer Brigade*.*[41] In 1943, this brigade, which would later become the *Latvian Nineteenth SS Volunteer Division*, was consolidated with the *Latvian Fifteen SS Volunteer Division* to become the *Latvian Legion*.*[41] Although formally the *Latvian Legion* (*Schutzmannschaft* or *Schuma*) was a volunteer *Waffen-SS* mili-

tary formation; it was voluntary only by name, because approximately 80-85% of personnel were conscripted into the legion.*[42]

Lithuania



Nazi-Lithuanian policeman with Jewish prisoners, Vilnius, 1941

Prior to the German invasion, some leaders in Lithuania and in exile believed Germany would grant the country autonomy along the lines of the status of the Slovakia protectorate. German intelligence *Abwehr* believed it had control of the Lithuanian Activist Front, a pro-German organization based in the Lithuanian embassy in Berlin. The German Nazis allowed Lithuanians to form the Provisional Government, but did not recognize it diplomatically and did not allow Lithuanian ambassador Kazys Škirpa to become the Prime Minister. Once German military rule in Lithuania was replaced by a German civil authority, the Provisional Government was disbanded.

Rogue units organised by Algirdas Klimaitis and supervised by SS *Brigadeführer* Walter Stahlecker started pogroms in and around Kaunas on June 25, 1941.*[43]*[44] Lithuanian collaborators would become involved in the murders of hundreds of thousands of Jews and Gypsies.*[45]*[46]*[47] Lithuanian-American scholar Saulius Sužiedėlis points to the increasingly antisemitic atmosphere clouding Lithuanian society, and the presence of antisemitic LAF émigrés who “needed little prodding from ‘foreign influences’”.*[48] Overall, he concludes that Lithuanian collaboration was “a significant help in facilitating all phases of the genocidal program . . . [and that] the local administration contributed, at times with zeal, to the destruction of Lithuanian Jewry” .*[49] Elsewhere, Sužiedėlis has similarly emphasised that Lithuania’s “moral and political leadership failed in 1941, and that thousands of Lithuanians participated in the Holocaust” .*[50] though warned that, “[u]ntil buttressed by reliable accounts providing time, place and at least an approximate number of victims, claims of large-scale pogroms before the advent of the German forces must be treated with caution” .*[51]

In 1941, the Lithuanian Security Police (*Lietuvos saugumo policija*), subordinate to Nazi Germany’s Security Police and Nazi Germany’s Criminal Police, was created.*[52] Of the 26 local police battalions formed, 10 were involved in systematic extermination of Jews known as the Holocaust. The Special SD and German Security Police Squad in Vilnius killed tens of thousands of Jews and ethnic Poles in Paneriai (see Ponary massacre) and other places.*[52] In Minsk, the 2nd Battalion shot about 9,000 Soviet prisoners of war, in Slutsk it massacred 5,000 Jews. In March 1942 in Poland, the 2nd Lithuanian Battalion carried out guard duty in the Majdanek extermination camp.*[53] In July 1942, the 2nd Battalion participated in the deportation of Jews from the Warsaw ghetto to a death camp.*[54] In August–October 1942, the police battalions formed from Lithuanians were in Ukraine: the 3rd in Molodechno, the 4th in Donetsk, the 7th-B in Vinnitsa, the 11th in Korosten, the 16th in Dnepropetrovsk, the 254th in Poltava and the 255th in Mogilyov (Belarus).*[55] One of the battalions was also used to put down the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943.*[53]

Lithuanian Territorial Defense Force Main article: Lithuanian Territorial Defense Force

The Lithuanian Territorial Defense Force, composed of volunteers, was formed in 1944. Its leadership was Lithuanian, whereas arms were provided by Germans. The purpose of the Lithuanian Territorial Defense Force was to defend Lithuania against the approaching Soviet Army and to defend the civilian population in the territory of Lithuania from actions by partisans. In practice, it was primarily engaged in suppressing the Polish population and the anti-Nazi Polish resistance of *Armia Krajowa*; the LTDF disbanded after it was ordered to act under Nazi command.*[56] Shortly before it was disbanded, the LTDF suffered a major defeat from Polish partisans in the battle of Murowana Oszmianka.*[53]

The participation of the local populace was a key factor in the Holocaust in Nazi-occupied Lithuania*[57] which resulted in the near total destruction of Lithuanian Jews*[a] living in the Nazi-controlled Lithuanian territories that would, from July 17, 1941, become the *Generalbezirk Litauen* of *Reichskommissariat Ostland*. Out of approximately 210,000*[58] Jews, (208,000 according to the Lithuanian pre-war statistical data)*[59] an estimated 195,000–196,000 perished before the end of World War II (wider estimates are sometimes published); most from June to December 1941.*[58]*[60] The events that took place in the western regions of the USSR occupied by Nazi Germany in the first weeks after the German invasion (including Lithuania - see map) marked the sharp intensification of The Holocaust.*[61]*[62]*[63]

Luxembourg

Main article: Luxembourgish collaboration with Nazi Germany

Luxembourg was invaded by Nazi Germany in May 1940 and remained under German occupation until early 1945. Initially, the country was governed as a distinct region as the Germans prepared to assimilate its Germanic population into Germany itself. The *Volksdeutsche Bewegung* (VdB) was founded in Luxembourg in 1941 under the leadership of Damian Kratzenberg, a German teacher at the Athénée de Luxembourg.*[64] It aimed to encourage the population towards a pro-German position, prior to outright annexation, using the slogan *Heim ins Reich*. In August 1942, Luxembourg was annexed and became a region of Nazi Germany, meaning that Luxembourgers were given the same legal obligations as German citizens. Luxembourgish men were conscripted into the German military.

British Malaya

The invading Japanese reorganized former British colonial police, and created a new auxiliary police. Later a 2000-men strong Malay Volunteer Army and a part-time Malay Volunteer Corps were created. Local residents were also encouraged to join Japanese Army as auxiliary 'Heiho'. There was a Railway Protection Corps as well.*[65]

Monaco

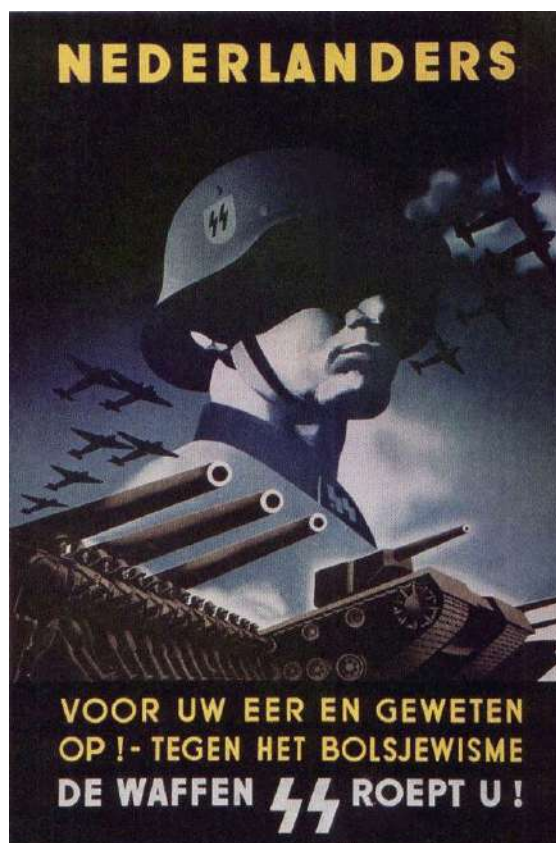
During the Nazi occupation of Monaco, the Monaco police arrested and turned over 42 Central European Jewish refugees to the Nazis while also protecting Monaco's own Jews.*[66]

Netherlands

The Germans reformed pre-war Dutch police and established a new Communal Police, which helped Germans fight resistance and deport Jews. The Dutch Nazi Party had its own militia units, whose members were transferred to other Paramilitaries like the Netherlands Landstorm or the Control Commando.

Thousands of Dutch volunteers joined the 11th SS Volunteer Panzergrenadier Division Nordland (created in February 1943). The division participated in fighting against the Soviet army and was crushed in the Battle of Berlin in April–May 1945.

This was also the case for the 5th SS Panzergrenadier Division Wiking. It was involved in several major battles on the Eastern Front.



SS Recruiting Poster for the Netherlands, urging Dutch people to “join the fight against Bolshevism”

SS-Freiwilligen Legion Niederlande, manned by Dutch volunteers and German officers, battled the Soviet army from 1941. In December 1943, it gained brigade status after fighting on the front around Leningrad. It was at Leningrad that the first European volunteer, a Dutchman, earned the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross: Gerardus Mooyman. In December 1944, it was transformed into the 23rd SS Volunteer Panzergrenadier Division Nederland and fought in Courland and Pomerania.*[6] It found its end scattered across Germany. 49. SS-Freiwilligen-Panzergrenadier-Regiment “de Ruyter” fought at the Oder and surrendered on 3 May 1945 to the Americans. 48. SS-Freiwilligen-Panzergrenadier-Regiment “General Seyffardt” however was split up into two groups. The first of these fought with *Kampfgruppe Vieweger* and went under in the fighting near Halbe. The few remaining survivors were captured by the Soviets. The other half of “General Seyffardt” fought with *Korpsgruppe Tettau* and surrendered to the western Allies. During the war famous actor and singer Johannes Heesters made his career in Nazi Germany, befriending high-ranking Nazis such as Joseph Goebbels and living in houses stolen from wealthy Jews.*[67]

Norway

In Norway, the national government, headed by Vidkun Quisling, was installed by the Germans as a puppet regime during the occupation, while king Haakon VII and the legally elected Norwegian government was in exile. Quisling encouraged Norwegians to volunteer for service in the Waffen-SS, collaborated in the deportation of Jews, and was responsible for the executions of members of the Norwegian resistance movement.

About 45,000 Norwegian collaborators joined the fascist party *Nasjonal Samling* (National Union), about 8,500 of them being enlisted in the collaborationist paramilitary organization *Hirden*. In addition, Norwegian police units helped arrest many of Norway's Jews. *Nasjonal Samling* had very little support among the population at large and Norway was one of few countries where resistance during World War II was widespread before the turning point of the war in 1942/43. After the war, Quisling and other collaborators were imprisoned, fined or executed. Quisling's name has become an international eponym for traitor.

Philippines

The Second Philippine Republic was a puppet state established by Japanese invasion forces. The puppet state relied on reformed Bureau of Constabulary* [68] and the Makapili militia to fight resistance movement. The president of the republic, José P. Laurel had his own presidential guard unit.* [69]

Poland



German propaganda recruitment poster – “Let's do agricultural work in Germany! Report immediately to your Vogt.”

Main articles: Occupation of Poland (1939–1945), Blue Police, Poles in the Wehrmacht and Jewish Ghetto Police

Unlike in most European countries occupied by Nazi Germany—where the Germans sought and found true collaborators among the locals—in occupied Poland there was no official collaboration either at the political or at the economic level.* [70]* [71] Poland also never officially

surrendered to the Germans.* [72] Under German occupation, the Polish army continued to fight underground, as *Armia Krajowa* and forest partisans – *Leśni*. The Polish resistance movement in World War II in German-occupied Poland was the largest resistance movement in all of occupied Europe.* [73] As a result, Polish citizens were unlikely to be given positions of any significant authority.* [70]* [71] The vast majority of the pre-war citizenry collaborating with the Nazis was the German minority in Poland which was offered one of several possible grades of German citizenship.* [74] In 1939, before the German invasion of Poland, 800,000 people declared themselves as members of the German minority in Poland mostly in Pomerania and Western Silesia. During the war there were about 3 million former Polish citizens of German origin who signed the official list of *Volksdeutsche*.* [71] People who became *Volksdeutsche* were treated by Poles with special contempt, and the fact of them having signed the *Volksliste* constituted high treason according to the Polish underground law.

There is a general consensus among historians that there was very little collaboration with the Nazis among the Polish nation as a whole, compared to other German-occupied countries.* [70]* [71]* [75] Depending on a definition of collaboration (and of a Polish citizen, based on ethnicity and minority status), scholars estimate number of “Polish collaborators” at around several thousand in a population of about 35 million (that number is supported by the Israeli War Crimes Commission).* [76] The estimate is based primarily on the number of death sentences for treason by the Special Courts of the Polish Underground State. Some estimates are higher, counting in all members of the German minority in Poland and any former Polish citizens declaring their German ethnicity (*Volksdeutsche*), as well as conscripted members of the Blue Police, low-ranking Polish bureaucrats employed in German occupational administration, and even workers in forced labor camps (ex. *Zivilarbeiter* and *Baudienst*). Most of the Blue Police were forcibly drafted into service; nevertheless, a significant number acted as spies for Polish resistance movement *Armia Krajowa*.* [75] John Connelly quoted a Polish historian (Leszek Gondek) calling the phenomenon of Polish collaboration “marginal” and wrote that “only relatively small percentage of Polish population engaged in activities that may be described as collaboration when seen against the backdrop of European and world history” .* [75]

In October 1939, the Nazis ordered the mobilization of the pre-war Polish police to the service of the occupational authorities. The policemen were to report for duty or face the death penalty, thus forming the so-called Blue Police.* [77] At its peak in 1943, it numbered around 16,000.* [78] Its primary task was to act as a regular police force and to deal with criminal activities, but were also used by the Germans in combating smuggling, resistance, and in measures against the Polish (and Polish Jewish) population: for example, it was present in *łapankas*

(rounding up random civilians for labor duties) and patrolling for Jewish escapees from the ghettos. Nonetheless many individuals in the Blue Police followed German orders reluctantly, often disobeyed German orders or even risked death acting against them.*[79]*[80]*[81] Many members of the Blue Police were in fact double agents for the Polish resistance.*[82]*[83] Some of its officers were ultimately awarded the Righteous among the Nations awards for saving Jews.*[84]*[85]

Following Nazi Germany's attack on the Soviet Union in June 1941, German forces quickly overran the territory of Poland controlled by the Soviets since their joint invasion of Poland in accordance with the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. A number of people collaborating with the Soviets before Operation Barbarossa were killed by local people. Belief in the *Żydokomuna* stereotype, combined with the German Nazi encouragement for expression of anti-Semitic attitudes, was a principal cause of massacres of Jews by gentile Poles in Poland's northeastern Łomża province in the summer of 1941, including the massacre at Jedwabne.*[86]*[87]

However, research shows that at least as far as Warsaw is concerned, the number of Poles aiding Jews far outnumbered those who sold out their Jewish neighbours to the Nazis. According to the studies of historian Gunnar S. Paulsson, during the Nazi occupation of Warsaw 70,000–90,000 Polish Gentiles aided Jews, while 3,000–4,000 were szmalcowniki, or blackmailers who collaborated with the Nazis in persecuting the Jews.*[88]



Two members of the Jewish Ghetto Police guarding the gates of the Warsaw Ghetto, June 1942

The collaboration by some Polish Jews, who belonged to Żagiew and Group 13 inflicted considerable damage to both Jewish and Polish underground movements, as members of the collaborationist groups acted as informants for the Germans, revealing the organized efforts by the resistance to hide Jews,*[89] and engaged in racketeering, blackmail and extortions inside the Warsaw Ghetto.*[90]*[91]

Also, the Jewish Ghetto Police was recruited from among Polish Jews living inside the ghettos who could be relied upon to follow German orders. Members of *Jüdischer Ordnungsdienst* were issued batons, identifying armband,

hats and badges, they were used by the Germans primarily for securing the deportation of other Jews to concentration camps, but their work encompassed all forms of public order in the Ghetto.*[92] The Polish-Jewish historian and Warsaw Ghetto archivist Emanuel Ringelblum described the cruelty of the ghetto police as “at times greater than that of the Germans.”.*[93] The size of each police outfit inside a ghetto varied greatly, with the Warsaw Ghetto having about 2,500 active members, Łódź Ghetto 1,200 and smaller ghettos like that in the city of Lwów had around 500 Jewish policeman.*[94]

One partisan unit of Polish right-wing National Armed Forces, the Holy Cross Mountains Brigade, decided to tacitly cooperate with the Germans in late 1944. It ceased hostile actions against the Germans for a few months, accepted logistic help and withdrew from Poland into Czechoslovakia with German approval in late stages of the war in order to avoid capture by the Soviets. Once in Czechoslovakia, the unit resumed hostilities against the Germans and on May 5 liberated the concentration camp at Holýšov.*[95]

In 1944 Germans clandestinely armed a few regional Armia Krajowa (AK) units operating in the area of Vilnius in order to encourage them to act against the Soviet partisans in the region; in Nowogrodek district and to a lesser degree in Vilnius district (AK turned these weapons against the Nazis during Operation Ostra Brama).*[52]*[96] Such arrangements were purely tactical and did not evidence the type of ideological collaboration as shown by Vichy regime in France or Quisling regime in Norway.*[79] The Poles main motivation was to gain intelligence on German morale and preparedness and to acquire much needed equipment.*[97] There are no known joint Polish-German actions, and the Germans were unsuccessful in their attempt to turn the Poles toward fighting exclusively against Soviet partisans.*[79] Further, most of such collaboration of local commanders with the Germans was condemned by AK headquarters.*[79] Tadeusz Piotrowski quotes Joseph Rothschild saying “The Polish Home Army was by and large untainted by collaboration” and adds that “the honor of AK as a whole is beyond reproach”.*[79]

Portuguese Timor

Portugal was neutral during WW2, but its colony Timor was occupied by the Japanese. Local militiamen were organized into so-called Black Columns to help Japanese forces fight Allies.*[98]

British Somaliland

During the Italian conquest of British Somaliland, local chief Afchar offered his men to fight alongside Italians against British forces.*[99]

Soviet Union



"I live with a German family and feel wonderful" —propagandistic recruitment poster for the Eastern worker program in German occupied Soviet territories

Following *Operation Barbarossa* Germany occupied large areas of western Soviet Union, parts of which remained under German control until late 1944. Soviet collaborators included numerous Russians, Ukrainians and members of other ethnic groups which inhabited the USSR. The *Waffen-SS* recruited from many nationalities living in the Soviet Union and the German government attempted to enroll Soviet citizens voluntarily for the *OST-Arbeiter* or Eastern worker program; originally this effort worked well, but the news of the terrible conditions they faced dried up the flow of new volunteers and the program became forcible.*[100]

Russia Main articles: Russian collaborationism with the Axis powers, Russian Liberation Army, Russian Liberation Movement, Lokot Republic, S.S. Sturmbrigade R.O.N.A. and Russian Corps

In Russia proper, ethnic Russians were allowed to govern the Lokot Republic, an autonomous sector in Nazi-occupied Russia. Military groups under Nazi command were formed, such as the notorious S.S. Sturmbrigade R.O.N.A., infamous because of its involvement in atrocities in Belarus and Poland, and the 30th *Waffen Grenadier Division of the SS (2nd Russian)*.*[101]

Ethnic Russians also enlisted in large numbers into the



Commanding officers of the S.S. Sturmbrigade R.O.N.A. (Russian National Liberation Army) during the Warsaw Uprising, where the unit was involved in committing numerous war-crimes, August 1944



Nazi Russian troops with POA (ROA —Russian Liberation Army) shoulder patches visible, 1944

many German auxiliary police units. Local civilians and Russian POWs, as well as Red Army defectors were encouraged to join the *Wehrmacht* as "hilfswillige". Some of them also served in so-called *Ost battalions* which, in particular, defended the French coastline against the expected Allied invasion.

The *Kalmykian Voluntary Cavalry Corps* was a unit of about 5,000 Kalmyk Mongol volunteers who chose to join the *Wehrmacht* in 1942 rather than remain in Kalmykia as the German Army retreated before the Red Army.

In May 1943, German General Helmuth von Pannwitz was given authorization to create a *Cossack Division* consisting of two brigades primarily from Don and Kuban Cossacks, including former exiled White Army commanders such as Pyotr Krasnov and Andrei Shkuro. The division however was then not sent to fight the Red Army, but was ordered, in September 1943, to proceed to Yugoslavia and fight Josip Broz Tito's partisans. In the summer of 1944, the two brigades were upgraded to become the 1st Cossack Cavalry Division and 2nd Cossack Cavalry Division. From the beginning of 1945, these divisions were combined to become XVth SS Cossack Cav-

alry Corps.

Pro-German Russian forces also included the anti-communist **Russian Liberation Army** (ROA, Russian: РОА: Русская Освободительная Армия), which saw action as a part of the *Wehrmacht*. On May 1, 1945, however, ROA turned against the SS and fought on the side of Czech insurgents during the Prague Uprising.

Ukraine Main article: [Ukrainian collaborationism with the Axis powers](#)

Before World War II, the territory of modern Ukraine



“Hitler, the Liberator” says this Nazi propaganda poster written in Ukrainian, December 1942



German Nazi police ("Orpo") with local Ukrainian collaborationist Schutzmannschaft troops, December 1942



Nazi Ukrainian personnel, 1943

was divided primarily between the **Ukrainian SSR** of the Soviet Union and the **Second Polish Republic**. Smaller regions were administered by Romania and Czechoslovakia. Only the Soviet Union recognised Ukrainian autonomy, and large numbers of Ukrainians, particularly from the East, fought in the Red Army.

The negative impact of Soviet policies implemented in the 1930s was still fresh in the memory of Ukrainians. These included the **Holodomor** of 1933, the **Great Terror**, the persecution of intellectuals during the **Great Purge** of 1937–38, the massacre of Ukrainian intellectuals after the annexation of **Western Ukraine** from Poland in 1939, the introduction and implementation of **collectivization**.

As a result, the population of whole towns, cities and villages greeted the Germans as liberators, which helps explain the unprecedented rapid progress of the German forces in the occupation of Ukraine.

Even before the German invasion, the **Nachtigall** and **Roland** battalions were set up and trained as Ukrainian battalions in the *Wehrmacht*, and were part of the initial invading force.

With the change in regime ethnic Ukrainians were allowed and encouraged to work in administrative positions with the auxiliary police, post office, and other government structures, taking the place of Russians and Jews.

Soviet citizens had a page in their internal **passports** with information regarding their ethnicity, party status, military rank, service in the Soviet Army reserve, and information as to where they were to assemble in case of war. This document also contained markings regarding a citizen's social status and reliability, (i.e., son of a kulak, party or **Komsomol** membership). Soviet POWs who were able to demonstrate Soviet unreliability, i.e., non membership in the **CPSU**, **Komsomol** or be of a discriminated class were quickly released from the POW camps. Often they were offered administrative and clerical positions or encouraged to join local police units. Some were trained as camp guards, while others were encouraged (in some cases forced) to enlist to fight in anti-Soviet military divisions.

During the period of occupation, Nazi-controlled

Ukrainian newspaper *Volhyn* wrote that “The element that settled our cities (Jews) ... must disappear completely from our cities. The Jewish problem is already in the process of being solved.” [102]

There is evidence of some Ukrainian participation in the Holocaust.* [103] The auxiliary police in Kiev participated in rounding up of Jews who were directed to the Babi Yar massacre.

Ukrainians participated in crushing the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943* [104] and the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 where a mixed force of German SS troops, Russians, Cossacks, Azeris and Ukrainians, backed by German regular army units—killed up to 40,000 civilians.* [105]* [106]



A badge used by personnel of the Ukrainian Liberation Army

The Ukrainian Liberation Army (Ukrainian: Українське Визвольне Військо, *Ukrayins'ke Vyzvol'ne Viys'ko*, UVV) was formed by the German Army (*Wehrmacht Heer*) in 1943 to collect the Ukrainian volunteer units that came into being during World War II. It was composed of former Ukrainian Hiwis, Ostbataillonen, and other Soviet prisoners of war (POWs) or volunteers.

Headed by Ukrainian general Mykhailo Omelianovych-Pavlenko, the unit grew to the size of 50,000 by 1944 and peaked at some 80,000 towards the end of the war.* [107] The army comprised a collection of units scattered all over Europe. In April 1945, remnants of the UVV were attached to the Ukrainian National Army, commanded by general Pavlo Shandruk.

On September 18, 1941 in Zhytomyr 3,145 Jews were murdered with the assistance of the Ukrainian People's Militia (Operational Report 106). In Korosten Ukrainian militia rounded up 238 Jews for liquidation (Operational Report 80) and carried out the killings by themselves –

similar to Sokal, where on June 30, 1941 they arrested and executed 183 Jews. At times the assistance was more active.* [108] Operational Report 88 informs that on September 6, 1941 for example, 1,107 Jewish adults were shot by the German forces while the Ukrainian militia unit assisting them liquidated 561 Jewish children and youths.* [109]

On April 28, 1943 German Command announced the establishment of the SS-Freiwilligen-Schützen-Division «Galizien».* [110] It has been accounted that approximately 83,000 people volunteered for service in the Division.* [111] The Division, was used in Anti-partisan operations in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. During the Brody offensive and Vienna Offensive to fight the Soviet forces. Those that survived surrendered to the Allies and the bulk emigrated to the West, primarily England, Australia and Canada.

Belarus Main articles: Belarusian collaborationism with the Axis powers and Belarusian Central Rada

Belarusian collaborators participated in various massacres of Belarusian villagers. Many of these collaborators retreated with German forces in the wake of the Red Army advance, and in January 1945, formed the 30th Waffen Grenadier Division of the SS (1st Belarussian).

Caucasus Main article: Turkic, Caucasian, Cossack, and Crimean collaborationism with the Axis powers
Ethnic Armenian, Georgian, Turkic and Caucasian



Nazi Azeri troops in combat gear. The unit helped suppress the Warsaw Uprising, August 1944

forces deployed by the Nazis consisted primarily of Soviet Red Army POWs assembled into ill-trained legions. Among these battalions were 18,000 Armenians, 13,000 Azerbaidjanis, 14,000 Georgians, and 10,000 men from the “North Caucasus.”* [112] American historian Alexander Dallin notes that the Armenian Legion and Georgian battalions were sent to the Netherlands as a result of Hitler's distrust of them, many of which later deserted.* [113] According to military historian Christopher Ailsby, the Turkic and Caucasian forces formed by the



Volunteer freiwillige troops of the Nazi Turkestan Legion in France, 1943

Germans were “poorly armed, trained, and motivated,” and were “unreliable and next to useless.”*[112]

The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (the Dashnaks) were suppressed in Armenia when the Armenian Republic was conquered by the Russian Bolsheviks in 1920 and ceased to exist. During World War II, some of the Dashnaks saw an opportunity in collaboration with the Germans to regain Armenia's independence. The Armenian Legion under the leadership of Drastamat Kanayan participated in the occupation of the Crimean Peninsula and the Caucasus.*[114]*[115] On December 15, 1942, the Armenian National Council was granted official recognition by Alfred Rosenberg, the Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories. The president of Council was Professor Ardasher Abeghian, its vice-president Abraham Guilkhandanian and it numbered among its members Garegin Nzhdeh and Vahan Papazian. Until the end of 1944 it published a weekly journal, Armenian, edited by Viken Shantn who also broadcast on Radio Berlin with the aid of Dr. Paul Rohrbach.*[116]

Straits Settlements

The British territory of Straits Settlements became under Japanese occupation after the fiasco suffered by Commonwealth forces in the Battle of Singapore. The Straits Settlements Police Force came under the control of the Japanese and all vessels owned by the Marine Police were confiscated.*[117]

Yugoslavia

See also: World War II in Yugoslavia

Prior to being invaded by Nazi Germany, the Yugoslav government was working on forging a pact with Germany. That pact was rejected by Yugoslav antifascists, who guided by general Dušan Simović demonstrated on March 26, 1941, and forced the government to withdraw. Angered by what he perceived as treason, Hitler invaded

the Kingdom of Yugoslavia without warning on April 6, 1941. Eleven days later Yugoslavia capitulated.



Chetniks pose with German soldiers

Most Chetniks in Yugoslavia collaborated with the Axis occupation to one degree or another in order to fight the rival Partisan resistance, whom they viewed as their primary enemy, by establishing *modus vivendi* or operating as “legalised” auxiliary forces under Axis control.*[118]*[119]*[120]*[121] Some units engaged in marginal*[122] resistance activities and avoided accommodations with the enemy.*[118]*[123] Over a period of time, and in different parts of the country, the Chetniks were drawn progressively*[122]*[124] into collaboration agreements: first with the Nedić forces in Serbia, then with the Italians in occupied Dalmatia and Montenegro, with some of the Ustaše forces in northern Bosnia, and after the Italian capitulation also with the Germans directly.*[125] While Chetnik collaboration reached “extensive and systematic”*[126]*[127] proportions, the Chetniks themselves referred to this policy of collaboration*[127] as “using the enemy”.*[125]

Bosnia and Herzegovina The 13th Waffen Mountain Division of the SS Handschar (1st Croatian), manned by Bosniaks and commanded by German officers,*[128] was created in February 1943 and operated until December 1944.*[129] The division participated in anti-guerrilla operations in Yugoslavia.*[6]

Croatia Main article: Independent State of Croatia
Ante Pavelić's Croatian puppet state was an ally of Nazi Germany. The Croatian extreme nationalists, Ustaše, killed thousands (around 100,000), primarily Serbs, in the Jasenovac concentration camp.*[130]*[131]

The 13th Waffen Mountain Division of the SS Handschar (1st Croatian), created in February 1943, and the 23rd Waffen Mountain Division of the SS Kama, created in January 1944, were manned by Croats and Bosniaks as well as local Germans.

Serbia Main article: Government of National Salvation



Haj Amin al-Husseini gives the Nazi salute while reviewing a unit of Bosnian SS volunteers in 1943 with Waffen SS General Sauberzweig.

Serbian collaborationist organizations the Serbian State Guard and the Serbian Volunteer Corps (the party militia of the extreme right-wing Yugoslav National Movement “Zbor” had over 30,000 members and helped guard and run concentration camps, and fought the Yugoslav Partisans alongside the Germans.

Montenegro The Italian governorate of Montenegro was established as an Italian protectorate with the support of Montenegrin separatists known as Greens. The Lovćen Brigade was the militia of the Greens who collaborated with the Italians. Other collaborationist units included local Chetniks, police, gendarmerie and Sandžak Muslim militia.* [132]

Macedonia In Bulgaria-annexed Yugoslav Macedonia, the Ohrana was organized by the occupation authority as auxiliary security forces.

Albanians In April 1943, Heinrich Himmler created 21st Waffen Mountain Division of the SS Skanderbeg (1st Albanian) manned by Albanian and Kosovar Albanian volunteers. By June 1944, the military value was deemed low in lieu of partisan aggression and by November 1944 it was disbanded. The remaining cadre, now called Kampfgruppe Skanderbeg, was transferred to the Prinz Eugen Division where they successfully participated in actions against Tito's partisans in December 1944. The emblem of the division was a black Albanian eagle.* [6] Balli Kombëtar was an Albanian nationalist and anti-communist organization which collaborated with the Axis Powers during their occupation of Greece and Yugoslavia. Their agenda was the creation of “Great Albania.”

Slovenia The Slovene Home Guard, was a collaborationist force, formed in September 1943 in the area of

Province of Ljubljana (then a part of Yugoslavia). It functioned like most collaborationist forces in Axis-occupied Europe during World War II, but had limited autonomy, and at first functioned as an auxiliary police force that assisted the Germans in anti-Partisan actions. Later, it gained more autonomy and conducted most of the anti-partisan operations in the Province of Ljubljana. Much of the Guard's equipment was Italian (confiscated when Italy dropped out of the war in 1943), although German weapons and equipment were used as well, especially later in the war. Similar, but much smaller units were also formed in Littoral (*Primorska*) and Upper Carniola (*Gorenjska*).

United Kingdom



British Free Corps insignia (based on the Union Jack) visible on the arm patches of Kenneth Berry and Alfred Minchin, posing in their Waffen-SS uniforms with German officers, 1944

The British Free Corps reached a maximum size of 27 troops in 1945.

Channel Islands Main article: Living with the enemy in the German-occupied Channel Islands

The Channel Islands were the only British territory in Europe occupied by Nazi Germany during World War II. The policy of the Island governments, acting under instructions from the British government communicated

before the occupation, was one of *passive co-operation*, although this has been criticised,*[133] particularly in the treatment of the few Jews in the islands. These measures were administered by the Bailiff and the Aliens Office.*[134] One Jew from Jersey died in a Jersey mental hospital during the war, three who had come to Guernsey were deported to France and from there were rounded up and sent to a camp and died.

Following the liberation of 1945 allegations against those accused of collaborating with the occupying authorities were investigated. By November 1946, the UK Home Secretary was in a position to inform the UK House of Commons*[135] that most of the allegations lacked substance and only 12 cases of collaboration were considered for prosecution, but the Director of Public Prosecutions had ruled out prosecutions on insufficient grounds. In particular, it was decided that there were no legal grounds for proceeding against those alleged to have informed to the occupying authorities against their fellow-citizens.*[136]

In Jersey and Guernsey, laws*[137]*[138] were passed to retrospectively confiscate the financial gains made by war profiteers and black marketeers, although these measures also affected those who had made legitimate profits during the years of military occupation.

During the occupation, cases of women fraternising with German soldiers had aroused indignation among some citizens. In the hours following the liberation, members of the British liberating forces were obliged to intervene to prevent revenge attacks.*[139]

5.6.3 Volunteers

Main articles: Wehrmacht foreign volunteers and conscripts, Waffen-SS foreign volunteers and conscripts, Europäische Freiwillige, Schutzmannschaft, Selbstschutz, Kapo (concentration camp), Jewish Ghetto Police and Hiwi (volunteer)

Although official Nazi policy barred non-Germans from joining the regular German army, the Wehrmacht, volunteers from most occupied countries and even a small number from some Commonwealth countries (British Free Corps). were permitted to join the ranks of the Waffen SS and the auxiliary police (*Schutzmannschaft*). Overall, nearly 600,000 Waffen-SS members were non-German, with some countries such as Belgium and the Netherlands contributing thousands of volunteers. Various collaborationist parties in occupied France and the unoccupied Vichy zone assisted in establishing the *Légion des volontaires français contre le bolchevisme (LVF)*. This volunteer army initially counted some 10,000 volunteers and would later become the 33rd Waffen SS division, one of the first SS divisions composed mostly of foreigners.

Following is a list of the 18 largest Waffen SS divisions

composed mostly or entirely of foreign volunteers (note that there were other foreign Waffen SS divisions composed mostly of forced conscripts).



Deutsch-Arabische Legion (Arab volunteers), 1943

Apart from frontline units, volunteers also played an important role in the large *Schutzmannschaft* units in the German-occupied territories in Eastern Europe. After Operation Barbarossa recruitment of local forces began almost immediately mostly by initiative of Himmler. These forces were not members of the regular armed forces and were not intended for frontline duty, but were instead used for rear echelon activities including maintaining the peace, fighting partisans, acting as police and organizing supplies for the front lines. In the later years of the war, these units numbered almost 200,000.

By the end of World War II, 60% of the Waffen SS was made up of non-German volunteers from occupied countries. The predominantly Scandinavian *11th SS Volunteer Panzergrenadier Division Nordland* division along with remnants of French, Italian, Spanish and Dutch volunteers were last defenders of the Reichstag in Berlin.

The Nuremberg Trials, in declaring the Waffen SS a criminal organisation, explicitly excluded conscripts, who had committed no crimes.*[140] In 1950, The U.S. High Commission in Germany and the U.S. Displaced Persons Commission clarified the U.S. position on the Baltic Waffen SS Units, considering them distinct from the German SS in purpose, ideology, activities and qualifications for membership.

5.6.4 Collaboration of governments

The most significant support of Germany came from the European Axis powers of the Balkans. Albania, being an Italian puppet state, declared war on the Allies along with the Kingdom of Italy in 1940, although the resistance movements and the peoples were against this. Later that year Slovakia declared war on Great Britain and the United States. Slovakian, Croatian and Albanian collaborators fought with the German forces against the Soviet Union on the eastern front throughout the war.

However, significant support was also given by many

countries initially at war with Germany but which subsequently elected to adopt a policy of co-operation.



French milice and résistants, in July 1944

The Vichy government in France is one of the best known and most significant examples of collaboration between former enemies of Germany and Germany itself. When the French Vichy government emerged at the same time of the Free French in London there was much confusion regarding the loyalty of French overseas colonies and more importantly their overseas armies and naval fleet. The reluctance of Vichy France to either disarm or surrender their naval fleet resulted in the British destruction of the French Fleet at Mers-el-Kebir on 3 July 1940. Later in the war French colonies were frequently used as staging areas for invasions or airbases for the Axis powers both in Indo China and Syria. This resulted in the invasion of Syria and Lebanon with the capture of Damascus on 17 June and later the Battle of Madagascar against Vichy French forces which lasted for seven months until November the same year.

Many other countries cooperated to some extent and in different ways. Denmark's government cooperated with the German occupiers until 1943 and actively helped recruit members for the *Nordland* and *Wiking* Waffen SS divisions and helped organize trade and sale of industrial and agricultural products to Germany. In Greece, the three quisling prime ministers (Georgios Tsolakoglou, Konstantinos Logothetopoulos and Ioannis Rallis) cooperated with the Axis authorities. Agricultural products (especially tobacco) were sent to Germany, Greek "volunteers" were sent to work to German factories, and special armed forces (such as the Security Battalions) were created to fight along German soldiers against the Allies and the Resistance movement. In Norway the government successfully managed to escape to London but Vidkun Quisling established a puppet regime in its absence—albeit with little support from the local population.

The Kingdom of Iraq was briefly an ally of the Axis, fighting the United Kingdom in the Anglo-Iraqi War of May 1941.

Anti-British sentiments were widespread in Iraq prior to

1941. Seizing power on 1 April 1941, the nationalist government of Prime Minister Rashid Ali repudiated the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty of 1930 and demanded that the British abandon their military bases and withdraw from the country. Ali sought support from Germany and Italy in expelling British forces from Iraq.

On 9 May 1941, Mohammad Amin al-Husayni, the Mufti of Jerusalem and associate of Ali, declared holy war^{*} [141] against the British and called on Arabs throughout the Middle East to rise up against British rule. On 25 May 1941, the Germans stepped up offensive operations.

Hitler issued Order 30: "The Arab Freedom Movement in the Middle East is our natural ally against England. In this connection special importance is attached to the liberation of Iraq ... I have therefore decided to move forward in the Middle East by supporting Iraq." ^{*} [142]

Hostilities between the Iraqi and British forces began on 2 May 1941, with heavy fighting at the RAF air base in Habbaniyah. The Germans and Italians dispatched aircraft and aircrew to Iraq utilizing Vichy French bases in Syria, which would later invoke fighting between Allied and Vichy French forces in Syria.

The Germans planned to coordinate a combined German-Italian offensive against the British in Egypt, Palestine, and Iraq. Iraqi military resistance ended by 31 May 1941. Rashid Ali and the Mufti of Jerusalem fled to Iran, then Turkey, Italy, and finally Germany, where Ali was welcomed by Hitler as head of the Iraqi government-in-exile in Berlin. In propaganda broadcasts from Berlin, the Mufti continued to call on Arabs to rise up against the British and aid German and Italian forces. He also helped recruit Muslim volunteers in the Balkans for the *Waffen-SS*.

5.6.5 See also

- Blue Division
- Collaborationism
- *Collaboration: Japanese Agents and Local Elites in Wartime China*
- International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania
- Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact
- Pursuit of Nazi collaborators
- Resistance during World War II
- Responsibility for the Holocaust

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5.6.8 External links

5.7 Resistance during World War II

Resistance movements during World War II occurred in every occupied country by a variety of means, ranging from non-cooperation, disinformation and propaganda, to hiding crashed pilots and even to outright warfare and the recapturing of towns. In many countries, resistance movements were sometimes also referred to as **The Underground**.

Among the most notable resistance movements were the Polish Resistance, including the Polish Home Army, Leśni, and the whole Polish Underground State; the Soviet partisans,*[a], the Italian *Resistenza* led mainly by the Italian CLN; the French Resistance, Yugoslav Partisans, the Belgian Resistance, the Norwegian Resistance, the Greek Resistance, the Dutch Resistance and the politically persecuted opposition in Germany itself (there were 16 main resistance groups and at least 27 failed attempts to assassinate Hitler with many more planned): in short, across German-occupied Europe.

Many countries had resistance movements dedicated to fighting the Axis invaders, and Germany itself also had an

anti-Nazi movement. Although Britain was not occupied during the war, the British made complex preparations for a British resistance movement. The main organisation was created by the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS, aka MI6) and is now known as Section VII.* [1] In addition there was a short-term secret commando force called the *Auxiliary Units*.* [2] Various organizations were also formed to establish foreign resistance cells or support existing resistance movements, like the *British Special Operations Executive* and the *American Office of Strategic Services* (the forerunner of the *Central Intelligence Agency*).

There were also resistance movements fighting against the Allied invaders. In *Italian East Africa*, after the Italian forces were defeated during the *East African Campaign*, some Italians participated in a guerrilla war against the British (1941–1943). The German Nazi resistance movement ("Werwolf") never amounted to much. The "Forest Brothers" of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania included many fighters who operated against the Soviet occupation of the Baltic States into the 1960s. During or after the war, similar anti-Soviet resistance rose up in places like Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and Chechnya. While the Japanese were famous for "fighting to the last man," Japanese holdouts tended to be individually motivated and there is little indication that there was any organized Japanese resistance after the war.

5.7.1 Organization

After the first shock following the *Blitzkrieg*, people slowly started to get organized, both locally and on a larger scale, especially when Jews and other groups were starting to be deported and used for the *Arbeitseinsatz* (forced labor for the Germans). Organization was dangerous, so much resistance was done by individuals. The possibilities depended much on the terrain; where there were large tracts of uninhabited land, especially hills and forests, resistance could more easily get organised undetected. This favoured in particular the *Soviet partisans* in Eastern Europe. In the much more densely populated Netherlands, the *Biesbosch* wilderness could be used to go into hiding. In northern Italy, both the Alps and the Apennines offered shelter to partisan brigades, though many groups operated directly inside the major cities.

There were many different types of groups, ranging in activity from humanitarian aid to armed resistance, and sometimes cooperating to a varying degree. Resistance usually arose spontaneously, but was encouraged and helped mainly from London and Moscow.

5.7.2 Forms of resistance

Various forms of resistance were:

- Non-violent

- Sabotage – the *Arbeitseinsatz* ("Work Contribution") forced locals to work for the Germans, but work was often done slowly or intentionally badly
- Strikes and demonstrations
- Based on existing organizations, such as the churches, students, communists and doctors (professional resistance)
- Armed
 - raids on distribution offices to get food coupons or various documents such as *Ausweise* or on birth registry offices to get rid of information about Jews and others the Nazis paid special attention to
 - temporary liberation of areas, such as in Yugoslavia, Paris, and northern Italy, occasionally in cooperation with the Allied forces
 - uprisings such as in Warsaw in 1943 and 1944, and in extermination camps such as in Sobibor in 1943 and Auschwitz in 1944
 - continuing battle and guerrilla warfare, such as the partisans in the USSR and Yugoslavia and the Maquis in France
- Espionage, including sending reports of military importance (e.g. troop movements, weather reports etc.)
- Illegal press to counter the Nazi propaganda
- Covert listening to BBC broadcasts for news bulletins and coded messages
- Political resistance to prepare for the reorganization after the war
- Helping people to go into hiding (e.g., to escape the *Arbeitseinsatz* or deportation)—this was one of the main activities in the Netherlands, due to the large number of Jews and the high level of administration, which made it easy for the Germans to identify Jews.
- Helping Allied military personnel caught behind Axis lines
- Helping POWs with illegal supplies, breakouts, communication, etc.
- Forgery of documents

5.7.3 Resistance operations

1939–1940

In March 1940, a partisan unit of the first guerrilla organization of the Second World War in Europe, led by Major Henryk Dobrzański (Hubal) completely destroyed



The first partisan of World War II Hubal and his unit - Poland winter 1939

a battalion of German infantry in a skirmish near the Polish village of Huciska. A few days later in an ambush near the village of Szalasy it inflicted heavy casualties upon another German unit. As time progressed, resistance forces grew in size and number. To counter this threat, the German authorities formed a special 1,000 man-strong anti-partisan unit of combined SS-Wehrmacht forces, including a Panzer group. Although Dobrzański's unit never exceeded 300 men, the Germans fielded at least 8,000 men in the area to secure it.*[3]*[4]

In 1940, Witold Pilecki, Polish resistance, presented to his superiors a plan to enter Germany's Auschwitz concentration camp, gather intelligence on the camp from the inside, and organize inmate resistance.*[5] The Home Army approved this plan, provided him with a false identity card, and on 19 September 1940, he deliberately went out during a street roundup in Warsaw-Łapanka, and was caught by the Germans along with other civilians and sent to Auschwitz. In the camp he organized the underground organization Związek Organizacji Wojskowej (ZOW).*[6] From October 1940, ZOW sent the first reports about the camp and its genocide to Home Army Headquarters in Warsaw through the resistance network organized in Auschwitz.*[7]

On the night of January 21–22, 1940, in the Soviet-occupied Podolian town of Czortków, the Czortków Uprising started. It was the first Polish uprising and the first anti-Soviet uprising of World War II. Anti-Soviet Poles, most of them teenagers from local high schools, stormed the local Red Army barracks and a prison, in order to release Polish soldiers kept there.

One of the events that helped the growth of the French Resistance was the targeting of the French Jews, Communists, Gypsies, homosexuals, Catholics, and others, forcing many into hiding. This in turn gave the French Resistance new people to incorporate into their political structures.

The 'Special Operations Executive' SOE was a British World War II organisation. Following Cabinet approval,

it was officially formed by Minister of Economic Warfare Hugh Dalton on 22 July 1940, to conduct espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance in occupied Europe against the Axis powers, and to aid local resistance movements. It was initially also involved in the formation of the Auxiliary Units, a top secret stay-behind resistance organisation which would have been activated in the event of a German invasion of Britain. SOE operated in all countries or former countries occupied by or attacked by the Axis forces, except where demarcation lines were agreed with Britain's principal allies (the Soviet Union and the United States).

After the war, the organisation was officially dissolved on 15 January 1946.

1941

31 August 1941 town Loznica in Serbia was freed by Draza Mihailovic "Chetniks" from Germans. Several Germans were killed and wounded, 93 were captured. This was first freed city in occupied Europe. Battle of Loznica (1941)

From April 1941, Bureau of Information and Propaganda of the Union for Armed Struggle started in Poland **Operation N** headed by Tadeusz Żenczykowski. Action was complex of sabotage, subversion and black-propaganda activities carried out by the Polish resistance against Nazi German occupation forces during World War II*[8]

Beginning in March 1941, Witold Pilecki's reports were being forwarded via the Polish resistance to the Polish government in exile and through it, to the British government in London and other Allied governments. These reports were the first relation about Holocaust and principal source of intelligence on Auschwitz for the Western Allies.*[9]

In February 1941, the Dutch Communist Party organized a general strike in Amsterdam and surrounding cities, known as the February strike, in protest against anti-Jewish measures by the Nazi occupying force and violence by fascist street fighters against Jews. Several hundreds of thousands of people participated in the strike. The strike was put down by the Nazis and some participants were executed.

In April 1941, the Liberation Front of the Slovene Nation was established in the Province of Ljubljana. Its armed wing were the Slovene Partisans. It represented both the working class and the Slovene ethnicity.*[10]

In May 1941, the Resistance Team "Elevtheria" (Freedom) was established in Thessaloniki by politicians Paraskevas Barbas, Apostolos Tzanis, Ioannis Passalidis, Simos Kerasidis, Athanasios Fidas, Ioannis Evthimiadis and military officer Dimitrios Psarros. Its armed wing concluded two armed forces; Athanasios Diakos with armed action in Kroussia, with Christodoulos Moschos

(captain “Petros”) as leader, and Odysseas Androutsos with armed action in Visaltia, with Athanasios Genios (captain “Lassanis”) as leader.*[11]*[12]*[13]

The first anti-soviet uprising during World War II began on June 22, 1941 (the start-date of Operation Barbarossa) in Lithuania.

Also on June 22, 1941 as a reaction to Nazi invasion of USSR Sisak People's Liberation Partisan Detachment was formed in Croatia, near the town of Sisak. It was first armed Anti-Fascist partisan detachment in Croatia.

Communist-initiated uprising against Axis started in Serbia on July 7, 1941., and six days later in Montenegro. The Republic of Užice (Ужичка република) was a short-lived liberated Yugoslav territory, the first part of occupied Europe to be liberated. Organized as a military mini-state it existed throughout the autumn of 1941 in the western part of Serbia. The Republic was established by the Partisan resistance movement and its administrative center was in the town of Užice. The government was made of “people's councils” (*odborni*), and the Communists opened schools and published a newspaper, *Borba* (meaning “Struggle”). They even managed to run a postal system and around 145 km (90 mi) of railway and operated an ammunition factory from the vaults beneath the bank in Užice.

In July 1941 Mieczysław Słowikowski (using the code-name “Rygor” —Polish for “Rigor”) set up “Agency Africa,” one of World War II's most successful intelligence organizations.*[14] His Polish allies in these endeavors included Lt. Col. Gwido Langer and Major Maksymilian Ciężki. The information gathered by the Agency was used by the Americans and British in planning the amphibious November 1942 Operation Torch*[15]*[16] landings in North Africa.

On 13 July 1941, in Italian-occupied Montenegro, Montenegrin separatist Sekula Drljević proclaimed an Independent State of Montenegro under Italian protectorate, upon which a nationwide rebellion escalated raised by Partisans, Yugoslav Royal officers and various other armed personnel. It was the first organized armed uprising in then occupied Europe, and involved 32,000 people. Most of Montenegro was quickly liberated, except major cities where Italian forces were well fortified. On 12 August —after a major Italian offensive involving 5 divisions and 30,000 soldiers —the uprising collapsed as units were disintegrating; poor leadership occurred as well as collaboration. The final toll of July 13 uprising in Montenegro was 735 dead, 1120 wounded and 2070 captured Italians and 72 dead and 53 wounded Montenegrins.

On 11 October 1941, in Bulgarian-occupied Prilep, Macedonians attacked post of the Bulgarian occupation police, which was the start of Macedonian resistance against the fascists who occupied Macedonia: Germans, Italians, Bulgarians and Albanians. The resistance finished successfully in August–November 1944 when independent Macedonian state was formed, and later it was

added to the Federation - Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia (later to be SFRJ).

During the time within which Hitler gave his anti-resistance *Nacht und Nebel* decree - made on the very day of the Attack on Pearl Harbor in the Pacific - the planning for Britain's Operation Anthropoid was underway, as a resistance move during World War II to assassinate Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazi “Protector of Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia” and the chief of Nazi's final solution, by the Czech resistance in Prague. Over fifteen thousand Czechs were killed in reprisals, with the most infamous incidents being the complete destruction of the towns of Lidice and Ležáky.

1942

The Luxembourgish general strike of 1942 was a pacific resistance movement organised within a short time period to protest against a directive that incorporated the Luxembourg youth into the Wehrmacht. A national general strike, originating mainly in Wiltz, paralysed the country and forced the occupying German authorities to respond violently by sentencing 21 strikers to death.

In September 1942, “The Council to Aid Jews Żegota” was founded by Zofia Kossak-Szczucka and Wanda Krahelska-Filipowicz (“Alinka”) and made up of Polish Democrats as well as other Catholic activists. Poland was the only country in occupied Europe where there existed such a dedicated secret organization. Half of the Jews who survived the war (thus over 50,000) were aided in some shape or form by Żegota.*[17] The most known activist of Żegota was Irena Sendler head of the children's division who saved 2,500 Jewish children by smuggling them out of the Warsaw Ghetto, providing them false documents, and sheltering them in individual and group children's homes outside the Ghetto.*[18]

On the night of 7–8 October 1942, **Operation Wieniec** started. It targeted rail infrastructure near Warsaw. Similar operations aimed at disrupting German transport and communication in occupied Poland occurred in the coming months and years. It targeted railroads, bridges and supply depots, primarily near transport hubs such as Warsaw and Lublin.

On 25 November, Greek guerrillas with the help of twelve British saboteurs*[19] carried out a successful operation which disrupted the German ammunition transportation to the German Africa Corps under Rommel—the destruction of Gorgopotamos bridge (Operation Harling).*[20]*[21]

On 20 June 1942, the most spectacular escape from Auschwitz concentration camp took place. Four Poles, Eugeniusz Bendera,*[22] Kazimierz Piechowski, Stanisław Gustaw Jaster and Józef Lempart made a daring escape.*[23] The escapees were dressed as members of the SS-Totenkopfverbände, fully armed and in an SS

staff car. They drove out the main gate in a stolen Rudolf Hoss automobile Steyr 220 with a smuggled report from Witold Pilecki about the Holocaust. The Germans never recaptured any of them.*[24]

The **Zamość Uprising** was an armed uprising of Armia Krajowa and Bataliony Chłopskie) against the forced expulsion of Poles from the Zamość region (Zamość Lands, *Zamojszczyzna*) under the Nazi Generalplan Ost. Nazi Germans attempting to remove the local Poles from the Greater Zamosc area (through forced removal, transfer to forced labor camps, or, in rare cases, mass murder) to get it ready for German colonization. It lasted from 1942–1944, and despite heavy casualties suffered by the Underground, the Germans failed.

1943

By the middle of 1943 partisan resistance to the Germans and their allies had grown from the dimensions of a mere nuisance to those of a major factor in the general situation. In many parts of occupied Europe Germany was suffering losses at the hands of partisans that he could ill afford. Nowhere were these losses heavier than in Yugoslavia.*[25]

—Basil Davidson



Группа евреев-партизан бригады им. Чкалова, 1943 г.

Belorussia, 1943. A Jewish partisan group of the Chkalov Brigade.

In early January 1943, the 20,000 strong main operational group of the Yugoslav Partisans, stationed in western Bosnia, came under ferocious attack by over 150,000 German and Axis troops, supported by about 200 Luftwaffe aircraft in what became known as the Battle of the Neretva (the German codename was “*Fall Weiss*” or “*Case White*”).*[26] The Axis rallied eleven divisions, six German, three Italian, and two divisions of the Independent State of Croatia (supported by Ustaše formations) as well as a number of Chetnik brigades.*[27]



Soviet partisan fighters behind German front lines in Belarus, 1943.

The goal was to destroy the Partisan HQ and main field hospital (all Partisan wounded and prisoners faced certain execution), but this was thwarted by the diversion and retreat across the Neretva river, planned by the Partisan supreme command led by Marshal Josip Broz Tito. The main Partisan force escaped into Serbia where it immediately took the offensive and succeeded in eliminating the Chetnik movement as a fighting force.

On 19 April 1943, three members of the Belgian resistance movement were able to stop the Twentieth convoy, which was the 20th prisoner transport in Belgium organised by the Germans during World War II. The exceptional action by members of the Belgian resistance occurred to free Jewish and Romani (“*gypsy*”) civilians who were being transported by train from the Dossin army base located in Mechelen, Belgium to the concentration camp Auschwitz. The 20th train convoy transported 1,631 Jews (men, women and children). Some of the prisoners were able to escape and marked this particular kind of liberation action by the Belgian resistance movement as unique in the European history of the Holocaust.

In October 1943, the rescue of the Danish Jews meant that nearly all of the Danish Jews were saved from KZ camps by the Danish resistance. This action is considered one of the bravest and most significant displays of public defiance against the Nazis. However, the action was largely due to the personal intervention of German diplomat Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz, who both leaked news of the intended round up of the Jews to both the Danish opposition and Jewish groups and negotiated with the Swedes to ensure Danish Jews would be accepted in Sweden.

On 26 March 1943 in Warsaw, **Operation Arsenal** was conducted by the Szare Szeregi (Gray Ranks) Polish Underground formation and led to the release of arrested troop leader Jan Bytnar “*Rudy*”. In an attack on the prison, Bytnar and 24 other prisoners were set free.*[28]

The Battle of Sutjeska from 15 May–16 June 1943 was a joint attack of the Axis forces that once again at-



“Germany is broken” (*German: Deutschland kaput*): defeatist poster disseminated in the General Government by Operation N after the battle of Stalingrad, 1943.

tempted to destroy the main Yugoslav Partisan force, near the Sutjeska river in southeastern Bosnia. The Axis rallied 127,000 troops for the offensive, including German, Italian, NDH, Bulgarian and Cossack units, as well as over 300 airplanes (under German operational command), against 18,000 soldiers of the primary Yugoslav Partisans operational group organised in 16 brigades. Facing almost exclusively German troops in the final encirclement, the Yugoslav Partisans finally succeeded in breaking out across the Sutjeska river through the lines of the German 118th Jäger Division, 104th Jäger Division and 369th (Croatian) Infantry Division in the northwestern direction, towards eastern Bosnia. Three brigades and the central hospital with over 2,000 wounded remained surrounded and, following Hitler's instructions, German commander-in-chief General Alexander Löhr ordered and carried out their annihilation, including the wounded and unarmed medical personnel. In addition, Partisan troops suffered from a severe lack of food and medical supplies, and many were struck down by typhoid. However, the failure of the offensive marked a turning point for Yugoslavia during World War II.

Operation Heads started —an action of serial assassinations of the Nazi personnel sentenced to death by the Special Courts for crimes against Polish citizens in occupied Poland. The Resistance fighters of Polish Home Army's unit Agat kill Franz Bürkl during Operation Bürkl in 1943, and Franz Kutschera during Operation Kutschera in 1944. Both men were high-ranking Nazi German SS and secret police officers responsible for the murder and brutal interrogation of thousands of Polish Jews and Polish resistance fighters and supporters.

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising lasted from 19 April-16 May, and cost the Nazi forces 17 dead and 93 wounded.

On 30 September the German forces occupying the Italian city of Naples were forced out by the townsfolk and the Italian Resistance before the arrival of the first Allied forces in the city on 1 October. This popular uprising is known as the Four days of Naples.*[29]

On October 9, 1943, the Kinabalu guerillas launched

the Jesselton Revolt against the Japanese occupation of British Borneo.

From November 1943, **Operation Most III** started. The Armia Krajowa provided the Allies with crucial intelligence on the German V-2 rocket. In effect, some 50 kg (110 lb) of the most important parts of the captured V-2, as well as the final report, analyses, sketches and photos, were transported to Brindisi by a Royal Air Force Douglas Dakota aircraft. In late July 1944, the V-2 parts were delivered to London.*[30]

1944



Member of the Polish Home Army defending a barricade in Warsaw's Powiśle district during the Warsaw Uprising, August 1944



Members of the French resistance group Maquis in La Tresorerie, 14 September 1944, Boulogne

On 11 February 1944, the Resistance fighters of Polish Home Army's unit Agat executed Franz Kutschera, SS and Reich's Police Chief in Warsaw in action known as **Operation Kutschera**.*[31]*[32]

In the spring of 1944, a plan was laid out by the Allies to kidnap General Müller, whose harsh repressive measures had earned him the nickname “the Butcher of Crete”. The operation was led by Major Patrick Leigh Fermor, together with Captain W. Stanley Moss, Greek



Members of the Dutch Eindhoven Resistance with troops of the US 101st Airborne Division in front of Eindhoven cathedral during Operation Market Garden, September 1944



The Vemork hydroelectric plant in Norway, site of the heavy water production, and a part of the German nuclear program, sabotaged by Norwegians between 1942 and 1944

SOE agents and Cretan resistance fighters. However, Müller left the island before the plan could be carried out. Undeterred, Fermor decided to abduct General Heinrich Kreipe instead.

On the night of 26 April, General Kreipe left his headquarters in Archanes and headed without escort to his well-guarded residence, “Villa Ariadni”, approximately 50 ft 6 in (15.39 m) 25 km outside Heraklion. Major Fermor and Captain Moss, dressed as German military policemen, waited for him 1 km (0.62 mi) before his residence. They asked the driver to stop and asked for their papers. As soon as the car stopped, Fermor quickly opened Kreipe’s door, rushed in and threatened him with his gun while Moss took the driver’s seat. After driving some distance the British left the car, with suitable decoy material being planted that suggesting an escape off the island had been made by submarine, and with the General began a cross-country march. Hunted by German patrols, the group moved across the mountains to reach the southern side of the island, where a British Motor Launch (ML 842, commanded by Brian Coleman) was to pick them



Polish resistance soldiers during 1944 Warsaw Uprising.



Yugoslav Partisan fighter Stjepan “Stevo” Filipović shouting “Smrt fašizmu sloboda narodu!” (“Death to fascism, freedom to the people!”) (the Partisan slogan) seconds before plunging to his death.



Berlin memorial plaque, Ruth Andreas-Friedrich (*Uncle Emil group*)

up. Eventually, on 14 May 1944, they were picked up (from Peristeres beach near Rhodakino) and transferred to Egypt.

In April–May 1944, the SS launched the daring airborne **Raid on Drvar** aimed at capturing Marshal Josip Broz Tito, the commander-in-chief of the Yugoslav Partisans, as well as disrupting their leadership and command structure. The Partisan headquarters were in the hills near Drvar, Bosnia at the time. The representatives of the Allies, Britain's Randolph Churchill and Evelyn Waugh, were also present. Elite German SS parachute commando units fought their way to Tito's cave headquarters and exchanged heavy gunfire resulting in numerous casualties on both sides.* [33] Interestingly, Chetniks under Draža Mihailović also flocked to the firefight in their own attempt to capture Tito. By the time German forces had penetrated to the cave, however, Tito had already fled the scene. He had a train waiting for him that took him to the town of Jajce. It would appear that Tito and his staff were well prepared for emergencies. The commandos were only able to retrieve Tito's marshal's uniform, which was later displayed in Vienna. After fierce fighting in and around the village cemetery, the Germans were able to link up with mountain troops. By that time, Tito, his British guests and Partisan survivors were fêted aboard the Royal Navy destroyer HMS *Blackmore* and her captain Lt. Carson, RN.

An intricate series of resistance operations were launched in France prior to, and during, **Operation Overlord**. On June 5, 1944, the BBC broadcast a group of unusual sentences, which the Germans knew were code words—possibly for the invasion of Normandy. The BBC would regularly transmit hundreds of personal messages, of which only a few were really significant. A few days before D-Day, the commanding officers of the Resistance heard the first line of Verlaine's poem, "Chanson d'automne", "*Les sanglots longs des violons de l'automne*" (*Long sobs of autumn violins*) which meant that the "day" was imminent. When the second line "*Blessent mon cœur d'une langueur*

monotone" (*wound my heart with a monotonous languor*) was heard, the Resistance knew that the invasion would take place within the next 48 hours. They then knew it was time to go about their respective pre-assigned missions. All over France resistance groups had been coordinated, and various groups throughout the country increased their sabotage. Communications were cut, trains derailed, roads, water towers and ammunition depots destroyed and German garrisons were attacked. Some relayed info about German defensive positions on the beaches of Normandy to American and British commanders by radio, just prior to 6 June. Victory did not come easily; in June and July, in the **Vercors plateau** a newly reinforced maquis group fought more than 10,000 German soldiers (no Waffen-SS) under General Karl Pflaum and was defeated, with 840 casualties (639 fighters and 201 civilians). Following the **Tulle Murders**, Major Otto Diekmann's Waffen-SS company wiped out the village of **Oradour-sur-Glane** on 10 June. The resistance also assisted the later Allied invasion in the south of France (**Operation Dragoon**). They started insurrections in cities such as Paris when allied forces came close.

Operation Tempest launched in Poland in 1944 would lead to several major actions by Armia Krajowa, most notable of them being the **Warsaw Uprising** that took place in between August 1 and October 2, and failed due to the Soviet refusal, due to differences in ideology, to help; another one was **Operation Ostra Brama**: the Armia Krajowa or Home Army turned the weapons given to them by the Nazi Germans (in hope that they would fight the incoming Soviets) against the Nazi Germans—in the end the Home Army together with the Soviet troops took over the Greater Vilnius area to the dismay of the Lithuanians.

On 25 June 1944, the **Battle of Osuchy** started—one of the largest battles between the Polish resistance and Nazi Germany in occupied Poland during World War II, essentially a continuation of the **Zamosc Uprising**.* [34] During **Operation Most III**, in 1944, the Polish Home Army or Armia Krajowa provided the British with the parts of the V-2 rocket.

Norwegian **sabotages** of the German nuclear program drew to a close after three years on 20 February 1944, with the saboteur bombing of the ferry SF Hydro. The ferry was to carry railway cars with heavy water drums from the **Vemork** hydroelectric plant, where they were produced, across Lake Tinnsjø so they could be shipped to Germany. Its sinking effectively ended Nazi nuclear ambitions. The series of raids on the plant was later dubbed by the British SOE as the most successful act of sabotage in all of World War II, and was used as a basis for the US war movie *The Heroes of Telemark*.

As an initiation of their uprising, **Slovakian rebels** entered Banská Bystrica on the morning of 30 August 1944, the second day of the rebellion, and made it their headquarters. By 10 September, the insurgents gained control of large areas of central and eastern Slovakia. That included

two captured airfields, and as a result of the two-week-old insurgency, the Soviet Air Force were able to begin flying in equipment to Slovakian and Soviet partisans.

5.7.4 Resistance movements during World War II

- British resistance movements ^[2][35]
 - SIS Section D and Section VII (planned Resistance organisations)
 - Auxiliary Units (planned hidden commando force to operate during military anti-invasion campaign)
 - Resistance to German occupation of the Channel Islands
- Albanian resistance movement
 - National Liberation Movement
 - Balli Kombëtar (anti-Italian and later anti-communist and anti-Yugoslav resistance movement)
- Austrian resistance movement, e.g. O5
- Belarusian resistance movement
 - *Chorny Kot* (anti-communist)
- Belgian Resistance
 - Armée secrète (AS)
 - Front de l'Indépendance (FI)
 - Mouvement National Belge (MNB)
 - Groupe G
 - Organisation Militaire Belge de Résistance (OMBR)
 - Partisans Armés (PA)
 - Witte Brigade
 - Mouvement National Royaliste (MNR-NKB)
 - Légion Belge
 - Armée Belge Reconstituée (ABR)
 - Comité de Défense des Juifs (CDJ)
 - Österreichische Freiheitsfront
 - Milices Patriotiques (MP-PM)
 - Service D
 - Les Affranchis
 - Insoumis
 - Kempische Legioen (KL)
- Borneo resistance movement
 - Kinabalu Guerillas
- Bulgarian resistance movement
 - Goryani - Bulgarian anti-communist resistance from 1944
- Burmese resistance movement (AFPFL – Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League)
- Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian anti-Soviet resistance movements ("Forest Brothers")
- Chechen resistance (anti-Soviet)
- Czech resistance movement
- Danish resistance movement
- Dutch resistance movement
 - Valkenburg resistance
- Estonian resistance movement
- French resistance movement
 - Maquis
 - Francs-tireurs et Partisans (FTP)
 - French Forces of the Interior (FFI)
 - Conseil National de la Résistance (CNR)
 - Bureau Central de Renseignements et d'Action (BCRA)
 - Free French Forces (FFL)
- German anti-Nazi resistance movement
 - White Rose
 - Red Orchestra
 - Edelweiss Pirates
 - European Union
 - Bästlein-Jacob-Abshagen Group
 - Saefkow-Jacob-Bästlein Organization
 - Kreisau Circle
 - Solf Circle
 - Confessing Church
 - Robert Uhrig Group
 - Neu Beginnen
 - Ehrenfeld Group
 - Vierergruppen in Hamburg, Munich and Vienna
 - Uncle Emil group^{*}[36]
- The Stijkel Group, a Dutch resistance movement, which mainly operated around the S-Gravenhage area.
- Werwolf, the Nazi resistance against the Allied occupation

- Greek Resistance
 - List of Greek Resistance organizations
 - Cretan resistance
 - National Liberation Front (EAM) and the Greek People's Liberation Army (ELAS), EAM's guerrilla forces
 - National Republican Greek League (EDES)
 - National and Social Liberation (EKKA)
- Chinese resistance movements
 - Northeast Anti-Japanese United Army
 - Anti-Japanese Army For The Salvation Of The Country
 - Chinese People's National Salvation Army
 - Heilungkiang National Salvation Army
 - Jilin Self-Defence Army
 - Northeast Anti-Japanese National Salvation Army
 - Northeast Anti-Japanese United Army
 - Northeast People's Anti-Japanese Volunteer Army
 - Northeastern Loyal and Brave Army
 - Northeastern People's Revolutionary Army
 - Northeastern Volunteer Righteous & Brave Fighters
 - Islamic resistance movement against Japan
 - Muslim Detachment (回民義勇隊 Huimin Zhidui)
 - Muslim corps
- Hong Kong resistance movements
 - Gangjiu dadui (Hong Kong-Kowloon Brigade)
 - Dongjiang Guerrillas (East River Guerrillas, Southern China and Hong Kong organisation)
- Indian resistance movements:
 - Quit India Movement, largely non-violent anti-British resistance within Indian territory
 - Indian National Army, pro-Japanese force fighting against Allied forces in SE Asia and along India's eastern-most borderlands
- Italian resistance movement
 - Italian Civil War
 - *Comitato di Liberazione Nazionale*
 - Four days of Naples
 - National Liberation Committee for Northern Italy
 - Italian Communist Party (PCI)
- Italian Socialist Party (PSI)
 - *Democrazia Cristiana*
 - *Partito d'Azione*
 - Labour Democratic Party (PDL)
 - *Giustizia e Libertà*
 - *Arditi del Popolo*
 - DELASEM
 - Assisi Network
- Italian Co-Belligerent Army, Navy, and Air Force
- Italian Partisan Republics
 - *Brigate Fiamme Verdi*
 - *Concentrazione Antifascista Italiana*
 - *Movimento Comunista d'Italia*
 - Scintilla
- Italian resistance against the Allies in East-Africa
- Japanese dissidence during the Shōwa period
 - *Japanese People's Emancipation League*
 - *Japanese People's Anti-war Alliance*
 - *The Nihon Heishi Kakusei Domei (League to Raise the Political Consciousness of Japanese Troops)*
- Jewish resistance under Nazi rule
 - *Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa* (ZOB, the Jewish Fighting Organisation, in Poland)
 - *Zydowski Związek Walki* (ZZW, the Jewish Fighting Union, in Poland)
- Korea resistance movement
 - Korean Liberation Army
 - Korean Volunteer Army
- Latvian resistance movement
- Libyan resistance movement
- Lithuanian resistance during World War II
 - Lithuanian Activist Front
 - Lithuanian Freedom Army
- Luxembourgish resistance during World War II
- Malayan resistance movement
- Moro Muslim resistance movement
 - Moro-Bolo Battalion
 - Maranao Militia
- Norwegian resistance movement

- *Milorg*
- XU
- Norwegian Independent Company 1 (Kompani Linge)
- *Nortraship*
- Osvald Group
- Philippine resistance movement
 - Allied guerrillas (composed of unsundered USAFFE troops including Filipino civilians).*[37]
 - *Hukbalahap*
- Polish resistance movement
 - *Armia Krajowa* (the Home Army —mainstream: Authoritarian/Western Democracy)
 - Cursed soldiers (anti-communist)
 - *Narodowe Siły Zbrojne* (National Armed Forces - Anti-Nazi, Anti-Communist)
 - *Bataliony Chłopskie* (Farmers' Battalions —mainstream, apolitical, stress on private property)
 - *Armia Ludowa* (the Peoples' Army—Soviet Proxies)
 - *Gwardia Ludowa* (the Peoples' Guard—Soviet Proxies)
 - *Gwardia Ludowa WRN* (The Peoples' Guard Freedom Equality Independence —mainstream; Polish Socialist Party's underground; progressive, anti —nazi and anti —Soviet; believed firmly in private property; believed in Marx's critique of the capitalist system, but rejected his solution)
 - *Leśni* (Forest People—various)
 - Polish Secret State
- Romanian resistance movement (anti-communist)
- Singaporean resistance movement
 - Dalforce
 - Force 136
- Slovak resistance movement
- Soviet resistance movement
- Thai resistance movement
- Ukrainian Insurgent Army (anti-German, anti-Soviet and anti-Polish resistance movement)
- Ukrainian People's Revolutionary Army (anti-German, anti-Soviet and anti-Polish resistance movement)
- *Viet Minh* (Vietnamese resistance organization that fought Vichy France and the Japanese, and later against the French attempt to re-occupy Vietnam)
- Yugoslavia
 - **Chetniks**: Serbian nationalist and royalist resistance and the first organized resistance movement in Europe, originally formed in 1904. They initially engaged in some marginal resistance activities for limited periods, particularly early in the war, which started on Yugoslav soil in April 1941. However, partially as a result of German reprisals (German policy, as in Eastern Europe, called for the killing of 100 Serbs for every 1 German soldier killed,*[38]) and partially out of a desire to create an ethnically homogeneous "Greater Serbia", the Chetniks remained mostly inactive against the occupiers and gradually entered into collaboration agreements with them. This collaboration occurred firstly with the Nazi quisling Government of National Salvation and with Fascist Italy. After the capitulation of Italy in September 1943, many Chetnik units began to collaborate directly with the Germans, and some units even collaborated with the Ustashe. The level of collaboration between the Chetniks and the occupying powers reached “extensive and systematic” proportions.
 - **Yugoslav Partisans** (communist-led resistance) fought throughout the war against fascists (German, Italian, Hungarian, Ustasha, Chetnik troops)

5.7.5 Notable individuals

5.7.6 Documentaries

- *Confusion was their business* (from the BBC series *Secrets of World War II* is a documentary about the SOE (Special Operations Executive) and its operations
- *The Real Heroes of Telemark* is a book and documentary by survival expert Ray Mears about the Norwegian sabotage of the German nuclear program (Norwegian heavy water sabotage)
- *Making Choices: The Dutch Resistance during World War II* (2005) This award-winning, hour-long documentary tells the stories of four participants in the Dutch Resistance and the miracles that saved them from certain death at the hands of the Nazis.

5.7.7 Dramatisations

- *'Allo 'Allo!* (1982–1992) a situation comedy about the French resistance movement (a parody of *Secret Army*)
- *L' Armée des ombres* (1969) internal and external battles of the French resistance. Directed by Jean-Pierre Melville
- *Battle of Neretva (film)* (1969) is a movie depicting events that took place during the Fourth anti-Partisan Offensive (*Fall Weiss*), also known as The Battle for the Wounded
- *Black Book (film)* (2006) depicts double and triple crosses amongst the Dutch Resistance
- *Bonhoeffer* (2004 premier at the Acacia Theatre) is a play about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a pastor in the Confessing Church executed for his participation in the German resistance.
- *Boško Buha* (1978) tells the tale of a boy who conned his way into partisan ranks at age of 15 and became legendary for his talent of destroying enemy bunkers
- *Charlotte Gray (2001)* – thought to be based on Nancy Wake
- *Come and See* (1985) is a Soviet made film about partisans in Belarus, as well as war crimes committed by the war's various factions.
- *Defiance* (2008) tells the story of the Bielski partisans, a group of Jewish resistance fighters operating in Belorussia.
- *Flame & Citron* (2008) is a movie based on two Danish resistance fighters who were in the Holger Danske (resistance group).
- *The Four Days of Naples* (1962) is a movie based on the popular uprising against the German forces occupying the Italian city of Naples.
- *A Generation* (1955) (Polish) two young men involved in resistance by GL
- *The Heroes of Telemark* (1965) is very loosely based on the Norwegian sabotage of the German nuclear program (the later *Real Heroes of Telemark* is more accurate)
- *Het Meisje met het Rode Haar* (1982) (Dutch) is about Dutch resistance fighter Hannie Schaft
- *Kanał* (1956) (Polish) first film ever to depict Warsaw Uprising
- *The Longest Day* (1962) features scenes of the resistance operations during Operation Overlord
- *Massacre in Rome* (1973) is based on a true story about Nazi retaliation after a resistance attack in Rome
- *My Opposition: the Diaries of Friedrich Kellner (2007)* is a Canadian film about Justice Inspector Friedrich Kellner of Laubach who challenged the Nazis before and during the war
- *Secret Army* (1977) a television series about the Belgian resistance movement, based on real events
- *Soldaat van Oranje* (1977) (Dutch) is about some Dutch students who enter the resistance in cooperation with England
- *Sophie Scholl – Die letzten Tage* (2005) is about the last days in the life of Sophie Scholl
- *Stärker als die Nacht* (1954) (East German) follows the story of a group of German Communist resistance fighters
- *The Battle of Sutjeska* (1973) is a movie based on the events that took place during the Fifth anti-Partisan Offensive (*Fall Schwartz*)

5.7.8 Notes

a ^ Sources vary with regard to what was the largest resistance movement during World War II. The confusion often stems from the fact that as war progressed, some resistance movements grew larger - and other diminished. In particular, Polish and Soviet territories were mostly freed from Nazi German control in the years 1944-1945, eliminating the need for their respective (anti-Nazi) partisan forces (in Poland, cursed soldiers continued to fight against the Soviets). Fighting in Yugoslavia, however, with Yugoslavian partisans fighting German units, continued till the end of the war. The numbers for each of those three movements can be roughly estimated as approaching 100,000 in 1941, and 200,000 in 1942, with Polish and Soviet partisan numbers peaking around 1944 at 350,000-400,000, and Yugoslavian, growing till the very end till they reached the 800,000.*[39]*[39]*[40]

Several sources note that Polish Armia Krajowa was the largest resistance movement in Nazi-occupied Europe. For example, Norman Davies wrote “Armia Krajowa (Home Army), the AK, which could fairly claim to be the largest of European resistance”.*[41] Gregor Dallas wrote “Home Army (Armia Krajowa or AK) in late 1943 numbered around 400,000, making it the largest resistance organization in Europe”.*[42] Mark Wyman wrote “Armia Krajowa was considered the largest underground resistance unit in wartime Europe”.*[43] Certainly, Polish resistance was the largest resistance till German invasion of Yugoslavia and invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941.

After that point, the numbers of Soviet partisans and Yugoslav partisans begun growing rapidly. The numbers of Soviet partisans quickly caught up and were very similar to that of the Polish resistance (a graph is also available here).*[39]*[44]

The numbers of Tito's Yugoslav partisans were roughly similar to those of the Polish and Soviet partisans in the first years of the war (1941–1942), but grew rapidly in the latter years, outnumbering the Polish and Soviet partisans by 2:1 or more (estimates give Yugoslavian forces about 800,000 in 1945, to Polish and Soviet forces of 400,000 in 1944).*[39]*[40] Some authors also call it the largest resistance movement in Nazi-occupied Europe, for example, Kathleen Malley-Morrison wrote: “The Yugoslav partisan guerrilla campaign, which developed into the largest resistance army in occupied Western and Central Europe...” .*[45]

The numbers of French resistance were smaller, around 10,000 in 1942, and swelling to 200,000 by 1944.*[46]

5.7.9 References

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5.8 German-occupied Europe



Map of Europe at the height of German control in 1942

German-occupied Europe refers to the sovereign countries of Europe which were occupied by the military forces of Nazi Germany at various times between 1939 and 1945 and administered by the Nazi regime.* [1]

5.8.1 Background

Several German occupied countries entered World War II as Allies of the United Kingdom or the Soviet Union. Some were forced to surrender such as Czechoslovakia; others like Poland (invaded on 1 September 1939)* [1] were conquered in battle and then occupied. In some cases, the legitimate governments went into exile, in other cases the governments-in-exile were formed by their citizens in other Allied countries. Selected countries occupied by Nazi Germany were officially neutral. Others were former members of the Axis powers that were occupied by German forces at a later stage of the war.

5.8.2 Occupied countries

The countries occupied included all, or most of the following:

5.8.3 See also

- *Drang nach Osten* (“The Drive Eastward”)
- *Lebensraum* (“Living Space”)
- *Neuordnung* (“New Order”)
- Areas annexed by Nazi Germany
- Pan-Germanism
- Greater Germanic Reich
- Reorganization of occupied dioceses during World War II
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- European Theatre of World War II
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5.9 Technology during World War II

Technology played a significant role in World War II. Some of the technologies used during the war were developed during the interwar years of the 1920s and 1930s, much was developed in response to needs and lessons learned during the war, while others were beginning to be developed as the war ended. Many wars had major effects on the technologies that we use in our daily lives. However, compared to previous wars, World War II had the greatest effect on the technology and devices that are used today. Technology also played a greater role in the conduct of WWII than in any other war in history, and had a critical role in its final outcome.



The Trinity explosion, which took place at New Mexico's White Sands Proving Ground on July 16, 1945, marked the beginning of the Atomic Age. [1]*

Many types of technology were customized for military use, and major developments occurred across several fields including:

- Weaponry: ships, vehicles, aircraft, artillery, small arms; and biological, chemical, and atomic weapons
- Logistical support: vehicles necessary for transporting soldiers and supplies, such as trains, trucks, ships, and aircraft
- Communications and intelligence: devices used for navigation, communication, remote sensing, and espionage
- Medicine: surgical innovations, chemical medicines, and techniques
- Rocketry: atomic bombs and automatic aircraft

World War II was the first war where military operations widely targeted the research efforts of the enemy. This included the exfiltration of Niels Bohr from German-occupied Denmark to Britain in 1943; the sabotage of Norwegian heavy water production; and the bombing of Peenemunde.

Military operations were also conducted to obtain intelligence on the enemy's technology; for example, the Bruneval Raid for German radar and Operation Most III for the German V-2.

5.9.1 Between the wars

In Britain there was the **Ten Year Rule** (adapted in August 1919), which declared the government should not expect another war within ten years. Consequently, they conducted very little military R & D. On the other hand, Germany and the Soviet Union were dissatisfied powers that for different reasons cooperated with each other on military R & D. **The Soviets offered Weimar Germany facilities** deep inside the USSR for building and testing arms and for military training, well away from Treaty inspectors' eyes. In return, they asked for access to German technical developments, and for assistance in creating a Red Army General Staff.

The great artillery manufacturer **Krupp** was soon active in the south of the USSR, near **Rostov-on-Don**. In 1925, a flying school was established at **Vivupal**, near **Lipetsk**, to train the first pilots for the future **Luftwaffe**. Since 1926, the **Reichswehr** had been able to use a tank school at **Kazan** (codenamed **Kama**) and a chemical weapons facility in **Samara Oblast** (codenamed **Tomka**). In turn, the Red Army gained access to these training facilities, as well as military technology and theory from Weimar Germany.

In the late 1920s, Germany helped Soviet industry begin to modernize, and to assist in the establishment of tank production facilities at the **Leningrad Bolshevik Factory** and the **Kharkov Locomotive Factory**. This cooperation would break down when Hitler rose to power in 1933. The failure of the **World Disarmament Conference** marked the beginnings of the arms race leading to war.

In **France** the lesson of World War I was translated into the **Maginot Line** which was supposed to hold a line at the border with **Germany**. The **Maginot Line** did achieve its political objective of ensuring that any German invasion had to go through **Belgium** ensuring that France would have **Britain** as a military ally. France and **Russia** had more, and much better, tanks than **Germany** as of the outbreak of their hostilities in 1940. As in World War I, the French generals expected that armour would mostly serve to help **infantry** break the static trench lines and storm **machine gun** nests. They thus spread the armour among their infantry divisions, ignoring the new German doctrine of **blitzkrieg** based on the fast movement using concentrated armour attacks, against which there was no effective defense but mobile **anti-tank guns** - infantry **Antitank rifles** not being effective against medium and heavy tanks.

Air power was a major concern of **Germany** and **Britain** between the wars. Trade in aircraft engines continued, with **Britain** selling hundreds of its best to **German firms** - which used them in a first generation of aircraft, and then improved on them much for use in **German aircraft**. These new inventions lead way to major success for the **Germans** in World War II. **Germany** had always been and has continued to be in the forefront of internal combus-

tion engine development. **Göttingen** was the world center of aerodynamics and fluid dynamics in general, at least up to the time when the highly dogmatic **Nazi party** came to power. This contributed to the **German development** of jet aircraft and of submarines with improved under-water performance.

Induced nuclear fission was discovered in **Germany** in 1939 by **Otto Hahn** (and expatriate Jews in **Sweden**), but many of the scientists needed to develop nuclear power had already been lost, due to anti-Jewish and anti-intellectual policies.

Scientists have been at the heart of warfare and their contributions have often been decisive. As **Ian Jacob**, the wartime military secretary of **Winston Churchill**, famously remarked on the influx of refugee scientists (including 19 **Nobel laureates**), "the Allies won the [Second World] War because our **German scientists** were better than their **German scientists**".*[2]

5.9.2 Allied cooperation

Main article: **Allied technological cooperation during World War II**

The **Allies of World War II** cooperated extensively in the development and manufacture of new and existing technologies to support military operations and intelligence gathering during the **Second World War**. There are various ways in which the allies cooperated, including the **American Lend-Lease** scheme and hybrid weapons such as the **Sherman Firefly** as well as the **American-led Manhattan Project**. Several technologies invented in **Britain** proved critical to the military and were widely manufactured by the **Allies** during the **Second World War**.*[3]*[4]*[5]*[6]

The origin of the cooperation stemmed from a 1940 visit by the **Aeronautical Research Committee** chairman **Henry Tizard** that arranged to transfer **U.K.** military technology to the **U.S.** in case of the successful invasion of the **U.K.** that **Hitler** was planning as **Operation Sea Lion**. **Tizard** led a **British technical mission**, known as the **Tizard Mission**, containing details and examples of **British technological developments** in fields such as **radar**, **jet propulsion** and also the early **British research** into the **atomic bomb**. One of the devices brought to the **U.S.** by the **Mission**, the **resonant cavity magnetron**, was later described as "the most valuable cargo ever brought to our shores".*[7]

5.9.3 Weaponry

Main article: **List of World War II weapons**

Military weapons technology experienced rapid advances during **World War II**, and over six years there was a dis-

orientating rate of change in combat in everything from aircraft to small arms. Indeed, the war began with most armies utilizing technology that had changed little from World War I, and in some cases, had remained unchanged since the 19th century. For instance cavalry, trenches, and World War I-era battleships were normal in 1940, however within only six years, armies around the world had developed jet aircraft, ballistic missiles, and even atomic weapons in the case of the United States.

The best jet fighters at the end of the war easily outflow any of the leading aircraft of 1939, such as the Spitfire Mark I. The early war bombers that caused such carnage would almost all have been shot down in 1945, many by radar-aimed, proximity fuse-detonated anti-aircraft fire, just as the 1941 “invincible fighter”, the Zero, had by 1944 become the “turkey” of the “Marianas Turkey Shoot”. The best late-war tanks, such as the Soviet JS-3 heavy tank or the German Panther medium tank, handily outclassed the best tanks of 1939 such as Panzer IIIs. In the navy the battleship, long seen as the dominant element of sea power, was displaced by the greater range and striking power of the aircraft carrier. The chaotic importance of amphibious landings stimulated the Western Allies to develop the Higgins boat, a primary troop landing craft; the DUKW, a six-wheel-drive amphibious truck, amphibious tanks to enable beach landing attacks and Landing Ship, Tanks to land tanks on beaches. Increased organization and coordination of amphibious assaults coupled with the resources necessary to sustain them caused the complexity of planning to increase by orders of magnitude, thus requiring formal systematization giving rise to what has become the modern management methodology of project management by which almost all modern engineering, construction and software developments are organized.

Aircraft

In the Western European Theatre of World War II, air power became crucial throughout the war, both in tactical and strategic operations (respectively, battlefield and long-range). Superior German aircraft, aided by ongoing introduction of design and technology innovations, allowed the German armies to overrun Western Europe with great speed in 1940, largely assisted by lack of Allied aircraft, which in any case lagged in design and technical development during the slump in research investment after the Great Depression. Since the end of World War I, the French Air Force had been badly neglected, as military leaders preferred to spend money on ground armies and static fortifications to fight another World War I-style war. As a result, by 1940, the French Air Force had only 1562 planes and was together with 1070 RAF planes facing 5,638 Luftwaffe fighters and fighter-bombers. Most French airfields were located in north-east France, and were quickly overrun in the early stages of the campaign. The Royal Air Force of the United King-

dom possessed some very advanced fighter planes, such as Spitfires and Hurricanes, but these were not useful for attacking ground troops on a battlefield, and the small number of planes dispatched to France with the British Expeditionary Force were destroyed fairly quickly. Subsequently, the Luftwaffe was able to achieve air superiority over France in 1940, giving the German military an immense advantage in terms of reconnaissance and intelligence.

German aircraft rapidly achieved air superiority over France in early 1940, allowing the Luftwaffe to begin a campaign of strategic bombing against British cities. Utilizing France's airfields near the English Channel the Germans were able to launch raids on London and other cities during the Blitz, with varying degrees of success.

After World War I, the concept of massed aerial bombing —“The bomber will always get through”—had become very popular with politicians and military leaders seeking an alternative to the carnage of trench warfare, and as a result, the air forces of Britain, France, and Germany had developed fleets of bomber planes to enable this (France's bomber wing was severely neglected, whilst Germany's bombers were developed in secret as they were explicitly forbidden by the Treaty of Versailles).

The bombing of Shanghai by the Imperial Japanese Navy on January 28, 1932, and August 1937 and the bombings during the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939), had demonstrated the power of strategic bombing, and so air forces in Europe and the United States came to view bomber aircraft as extremely powerful weapons which, in theory, could bomb an enemy nation into submission on their own. As a result, the fear of bombers triggered major developments in aircraft technology.

Nazi Germany had put only one large, long-range strategic bomber (the Heinkel He 177 Greif, with many delays and problems) into production, while the America Bomber concept resulted only in prototypes. The Spanish Civil War had proved that tactical dive-bombing using Stukas was a very efficient way of destroying enemy troops concentrations, and so resources and money had been devoted to the development of smaller bomber craft. As a result, the Luftwaffe was forced to attack London in 1940 with heavily overloaded Heinkel and Dornier medium bombers, and even with the unsuitable Junkers Ju 87. These bombers were painfully slow—Italian engineers had been unable to develop sufficiently large piston aircraft engines (those that were produced tended to explode through extreme overheating), and so the bombers used for the Battle of Britain were woefully undersized. As German bombers had not been designed for long-range strategic missions, they lacked sufficient defenses. The Messerschmitt Bf 109 fighter escorts had not been equipped to carry enough fuel to guard the bombers on both the outbound and return journeys, and the longer-range Bf 110s could be outmanoeuvred by the short-range British fighters. (A bizarre feature of the war was

how long it took to conceive of the **Drop tank**.) The air defense was well organized and equipped with effective radar that survived the bombing. As a result, German bombers were shot down in large numbers, and were unable to inflict enough damage on cities and military-industrial targets to force Britain out of the war in 1940 or to prepare for the planned invasion.

British long-range bomber planes such as the **Short Stirling** had been designed before 1939 for strategic flights and given a large armament, but their technology still suffered from numerous flaws. The smaller and shorter ranged **Bristol Blenheim**, the RAF's most-used bomber, was defended by only one hydraulically operated machine-gun turret, and whilst this appeared sufficient, it was soon revealed that the turret was a pathetic defence against squadrons of German fighter planes. American bomber planes such as the **B-17 Flying Fortress** had been built before the war as the only adequate long-range bombers in the world, designed to patrol the long American coastlines. Defended by as many as six machine-gun turrets providing 360° cover, the B-17s were still vulnerable without fighter protection even when used in large formations.

Despite the abilities of Allied bombers, though, Germany was not quickly crippled by Allied air raids. At the start of the war the vast majority of bombs fell miles from their targets, as poor navigation technology ensured that Allied airmen frequently could not find their targets at night. The bombs used by the Allies were very high-tech devices, and mass production meant that the precision bombs were often made sloppily and so failed to explode. German industrial production actually rose continuously from 1940 to 1945, despite the best efforts of the Allied air forces to cripple industry.

Significantly, the bomber offensive kept the revolutionary **Type XXI U-Boat** from entering service during the war. Moreover, Allied air raids had a serious propaganda impact on the German government, all prompting Germany to begin serious development on air defence technology—in the form of fighter planes.

The jet aircraft age began during the war with the development of the **Heinkel He 178**, the first true turbojet. Late in the war the Germans brought in the first operational Jet fighter, the **Messerschmitt Me 262**. However, despite their technological edge, German jets were overwhelmed by Allied air superiority, frequently being destroyed on or near the airstrip. Other jet aircraft, such as the British **Gloster Meteor**, which flew missions but never saw combat, did not significantly distinguish themselves from top-line piston-driven aircraft.

Aircraft saw rapid and broad development during the war to meet the demands of aerial combat and address lessons learned from combat experience. From the open cockpit airplane to the sleek jet fighter, many different types were employed, often designed for very specific missions. Aircraft were used in anti-submarine warfare against Ger-

man U-Boats, by the Germans to mine shipping lanes and by the Japanese against previously formidable Royal Navy battleships such as **HMS Prince of Wales (53)**.

During the war the Germans produced various Glide bomb weapons, which were the first smart bombs; the **V-1 flying bomb**, which was the first cruise missile weapon; and the **V-2 rocket**, the first **ballistic missile** weapon. The last of these was the first step into the space age as its trajectory took it through the stratosphere, higher and faster than any aircraft. This later led to the development of the **Intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)**. **Wernher Von Braun** led the V-2 development team and later emigrated to the United States where he contributed to the development of the **Saturn V** rocket, which took men to the moon in 1969.

Theoretical foundation The laboratory of **Ludwig Prandtl** at **University of Göttingen** was the main center of theoretical and mathematical aerodynamics and fluid dynamics research from soon after 1904 to the end of World War II. Prandtl coined the term **boundary layer** and founded modern (mathematical) **aerodynamics**. The laboratory lost its dominance when the researchers were dispersed after the war.

Fuel The Axis countries had serious shortages of petroleum from which to make liquid fuel. The Allies had much more petroleum production. Germany, long before the war, developed a process to make **synthetic fuel** from coal. Synthesis factories were principal targets of the **Oil Campaign of World War II**.

The USA added **tetra ethyl lead** to its aviation fuel, with which it supplied Britain and other Allies. This octane enhancing additive allowed higher compression ratios, allowing higher efficiency, giving more speed and range to Allied Airplanes, and reducing the cooling load.

Vehicles

The Treaty of Versailles had imposed severe restrictions upon Germany constructing vehicles for military purposes, and so throughout the 1920s and 1930s, German arms manufacturers and the **Wehrmacht** had begun secretly developing **tanks**. As these vehicles were produced in secret, their technical specifications and battlefield potentials were largely unknown to the European Allies until the war actually began. When German troops invaded the **Benelux** nations and **France** in May 1940, German weapons technology proved to be immeasurably superior to that of the Allies.

The **French Army** suffered from serious technical deficiencies with its tanks. In 1918, France's **Renault FT** had been the most advanced in the world; although small, capable of far outperforming their slow and clumsy British, German, or American counterparts. However, this su-

periority resulted in tank development stagnating after World War I. By 1939, French tanks were virtually unchanged from 1918. French and British Generals believed that a future war with Germany would be fought under very similar conditions as those of 1914–1918. Both invested in thickly armoured, heavily armed vehicles designed to cross shell-damaged ground and trenches under fire. At the same time the British also developed faster but lightly armoured **Cruiser tanks** to range behind the enemy lines.

In contrast, the Wehrmacht invested in fast, light tanks designed to overtake **infantry**. These vehicles would vastly outperform British and French tanks in mechanized battles. German tanks followed the design of France's 1918 Renault versions—a moderately armoured hull with a rotating turret on top mounting a **cannon**. This gave every German tank the potential to engage other armoured vehicles. In contrast, around 35% of French tanks were simply equipped with machine guns (again designed for trench warfare), meaning that when French and German met in battle, a third of the French assault vehicles would not be able to engage enemy tanks, their machine-gun fire only ricocheting off German armour plates. Only a handful of French tanks had radios, and these often broke as the tank lurched over uneven ground. German tanks were, on the contrary, all equipped with radios, allowing them to communicate with one another throughout battles, whilst French tank commanders could rarely contact other vehicles.

The **Matilda Mk I** tanks of the British Army were also designed for infantry support and were protected by thick armour. This was ideal for trench warfare, but made the tanks painfully slow in open battles. Their light cannons and machine-guns were usually unable to inflict serious damage on German vehicles. The exposed caterpillar tracks were easily broken by gunfire, and the Matilda tanks had a tendency to incinerate their crews if hit, as the petrol tanks were located on the top of the hull. By contrast the **Infantry tank Matilda II** fielded in lesser numbers was largely invulnerable to German gunfire and its gun was able to punch through the German tanks. However French and British tanks were at a disadvantage compared to the air supported German armoured assaults, and a lack of armoured support contributed significantly to the rapid Allied collapse in 1940.

World War II marked the first full-scale war where **mechanization** played a significant role. Most nations did not begin the war equipped for this. Even the vaunted **German Panzer** forces relied heavily on non-motorised support and flank units in large operations. While Germany recognized and demonstrated the value of concentrated use of mechanized forces, they never had these units in enough quantity to supplant traditional units. However, the British also saw the value in mechanization. For them it was a way to enhance an otherwise limited manpower reserve. America as well sought to create a mechanized army. For the United States, it was not so

much a matter of limited troops, but instead a strong industrial base that could afford such equipment on a great scale.

The most visible vehicles of the war were the tanks, forming the armored spearhead of mechanized warfare. Their impressive firepower and armor made them the premier fighting machine of ground warfare. However, the large number of trucks and lighter vehicles that kept the infantry, artillery, and others moving were massive undertakings also.

Ships

Naval warfare changed dramatically during World War II, with the ascent of the **aircraft carrier** to the premier vessel of the fleet, and the impact of increasingly capable **submarines** on the course of the war. The development of new ships during the war was somewhat limited due to the protracted time period needed for production, but important developments were often retrofitted to older vessels. Advanced German submarine types came into service too late and after nearly all the experienced crews had been lost.

In addition to aircraft carriers, its assisting counterpart of **destroyers** were advanced as well. From the **Imperial Japanese Navy**, the **Fubuki-class** destroyer was introduced. The Fubuki class set a new standard not only for Japanese vessels, but for destroyers around the world. At a time when British and American destroyers had changed little from their un-turreted, single-gun mounts and light weaponry, the Japanese destroyers were bigger, more powerfully armed, and faster than any similar class of vessel in the other fleets. The Japanese destroyers of World War II are said to be the world's first modern destroyer.* [8]

The German **U-boats** were used primarily for stopping/destroying the resources from the United States and **Canada** coming across the Atlantic. Submarines were critical in the **Pacific Ocean** as well as in the **Atlantic Ocean**. Advances in submarine technology included the **snorkel**. Japanese defenses against Allied submarines were ineffective. Much of the merchant fleet of the **Empire of Japan**, needed to supply its scattered forces and bring supplies such as petroleum and food back to the **Japanese Archipelago**, was sunk. Among the warships sunk by submarines was the war's largest aircraft carrier, the *Shinano*.

The **Kriegsmarine** introduced the **pocket battleship** to get around constraints imposed by the Treaty of Versailles. Innovations included the use of diesel engines, and welded rather than riveted hulls.

The most important shipboard advances were in the field of anti-submarine warfare. Driven by the desperate necessity of keeping Britain supplied, technologies for the detection and destruction of submarines was advanced

at high priority. The use of **ASDIC (SONAR)** became widespread and so did the installation of shipboard and airborne radar. The Allies **Ultra** code breaking allowed convoys to be steered around German U-Boat wolfpacks.

5.9.4 Weapons

The actual weapons; the guns, mortars, artillery, bombs, and other devices, were as diverse as the participants and objectives. A large array were developed during the war to meet specific needs that arose, but many traced their early development to prior to World War II. Torpedoes began to use magnetic detonators; compass-directed, programmed and even acoustic guidance systems; and improved propulsion. Fire-control systems continued to develop for ships' guns and came into use for torpedoes and anti-aircraft fire. Human torpedoes and the Hedgehog were also developed.

- The first generation of nerve agents was invented and produced in Germany, but wasn't used as a weapon
- Napalm was developed, but did not see wide use until the Korean War
- Plastic explosives like Nobel 808, Hexoplast 75, Compositions C and C2

Small arms development

New production methods for weapons such as stamping, riveting, and welding came into being to produce the number of arms needed. Design and production methods had advanced enough to manufacture weapons of reasonable reliability such as the PPSH-41, PPS-42, Sten, Beretta Model 38, MP 40, M3 *Grease Gun*, Gewehr 43, Thompson submachine gun and the M1 Garand rifle. Other Weapons commonly found During World War II include the American, Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR), M1 Carbine Rifle, as well as the Colt M1911 A-1; The Japanese Type 11 the Type 96 machine gun, and the Arisaka bolt-action rifles all were significant weapons used during the war.

World War II saw the establishment of the reliable semi-automatic rifle, such as the American M1 Garand and, more importantly, of the first widely used assault rifles, named after the German *sturmgewehrs* of the late war. Earlier renditions that hinted at this idea were that of the employment of the Browning Automatic Rifle and 1916 Fedorov Avtomat in a *walking fire* tactic in which men would advance on the enemy position showering it with a hail of lead. The Germans first developed the FG 42 for its paratroopers in the assault and later the Sturmgewehr 44 (StG 44), the world's first assault rifle, firing an intermediate cartridge; the FG 42's use of a full-powered rifle cartridge made it difficult to control.

Developments in machine gun technology culminated in the Maschinengewehr 42 (MG42) which was of an advanced design unmatched at the time. It spurred post-war development on both sides of the upcoming Cold War and is still used by some armies to this day including the German Bundeswehr's MG 3. The Heckler & Koch G3, and many other Heckler & Koch designs, came from its system of operation. The United States military meshed the operating system of the FG 42 with the belt feed system of the MG42 to create the M60 machine gun used in the Vietnam War.

Despite being overshadowed by self-loading/automatic rifles and sub-machine guns, bolt-action rifles remained the mainstay infantry weapon of many nations during World War II. When the United States entered World War II, there were not enough M1 Garand rifles available to American forces which forced the US to start producing more M1903 rifles in order to act as a "stop gap" measure until sufficient quantities of M1 Garands were produced.

- Armour weapons: The Tank destroyer, Specialist Tanks for Combat engineering including mine clearing Flail tanks, Flame tank, and amphibious designs
- Aircraft: Glide bombs - the first "smart bombs", such as the Fritz X anti-shiping missile, had wire or radio remote control; the world's first jet fighter (Messerschmitt 262) and jet bomber (Arado 234), the world's first operational military helicopters (Flettner Fl 282), the world's first rocket-powered fighter (Messerschmitt 163)
- Missiles: The Pulse jet-powered V-1 flying bomb was the world's first cruise missile, Rockets progressed enormously: V-2 rocket, Katyusha rocket artillery and air-launched rockets.
- Specialised bombs: cluster bombs, blockbuster bombs, drum bombs and bunker busters.
- HEAT, and HESH anti-armour warheads.
- Proximity fuze for shells, bombs and rockets. This fuze is designed to detonate an explosive automatically when close enough to the target to destroy it, so a direct hit is not required and time/place of closest approach does not need to be estimated. Magnetic torpedoes and mines also had a sort of proximity fuse.
- Guided weapons (by radio or trailing wires): glide bombs, crawling bombs, rockets.
- Self-guiding weapons: torpedoes (sound-seeking, compass-guided and looping), V1 missile (compass- and timer-guided)
- Aiming devices for bombs, torpedoes, artillery and machine guns, using special purpose mechanical and electronic analog and (perhaps) digital "computers". The mechanical analog Norden bomb sight is a well-known example.

During the conflict, many new models of bolt-action rifles were produced as a result of lessons learned from the First World War with the designs of a number of bolt-action infantry rifles being modified in order to speed up production as well as to make the rifles more compact and easier to handle. Examples of bolt-action rifles that were used during World War II include the German *Mausers Kar98k*, the British *Lee–Enfield No.4*, and the *Springfield M1903A3*. During the course of World War II, bolt-action rifles and carbines were modified even further to meet new forms of warfare the armies of certain nations faced e.g. urban warfare and jungle warfare. Examples include the Soviet *Mosin–Nagant M1944* carbine, which were developed by the Soviets as a result of the Red Army's experiences with urban warfare e.g. the *Battle of Stalingrad*, and the British *Lee–Enfield No.5* carbine, that were developed for British and Commonwealth forces fighting the Japanese in South-East Asia and the Pacific.

When World War II ended in 1945, the small arms that were used in the conflict still saw action in the hands of the armed forces of various nations and guerrilla movements during and after the Cold War era. Nations like the Soviet Union and the United States provided many surplus, World War II-era small arms to a number of nations and political movements during the Cold War era as a pretext to providing more modern infantry weapons.

The atomic bomb

Main article: [Manhattan Project](#)

The massive research and development demands of the war included the Manhattan Project, the effort to quickly develop an atomic bomb, or nuclear fission warhead. It was perhaps the most profound military development of the war, and had a great impact on the scientific community, among other things creating a network of national laboratories in the United States.

In 1942, and with the threat of invasion by Germany still apparent, the United Kingdom dispatched around 20 British scientists and technical staff to America, along with their work, which had been carried out under the codename *Tube Alloys*, to prevent the potential for vital information falling into enemy hands. The scientists formed the British contribution to the Manhattan Project, where their work on uranium enrichment was instrumental in jump-starting the project.

The invention an atomic bomb meant that a single aircraft could carry a weapon sufficiently powerful to devastate entire cities, making conventional warfare against a nation with an arsenal of them suicidal. Following the conclusion of the European Theater in May 1945, two atomic bombs were then employed against the Empire of Japan in August during the Pacific Theater, effectively terminating the war, which averted the need for invading

mainland Japan.

The strategic importance of the bomb, and its even more powerful fusion-based successors, did not become fully apparent until the United States lost its monopoly on the weapon in the post-war era. The Soviet Union developed and tested their first nuclear weapon in 1949, based partially on information obtained from Soviet espionage in the United States. Nuclear competition between the two superpowers played a large part in the development of the Cold War. The strategic implications of such a massively destructive weapon still reverberate in the 21st century.

There was also a German nuclear energy project, including talk of an atomic weapon. This failed for a variety of reasons, most notably German Antisemitism. Half of continental theoretical physicists including (Einstein, Bohr, Enrico Fermi, and Oppenheimer) who did much of their early study and research in Germany, were either Jewish or, in the case of Enrico Fermi, married to a Jew. Erwin Schrödinger had also left Germany for political reasons. When they left Germany, the only leading nuclear physicist left in Germany was Heisenberg, who apparently dragged his feet on the project, or at best lacked the high morale that characterized the Los Alamos work. He made some faulty calculations suggesting that the Germans would need significantly more heavy water than was necessary. Otto Hahn, the physical chemist who had the central part in the original discovery of fission, was another key figure in the project. The project was doomed due to insufficient resources.

The Empire of Japan was also developing an atomic Bomb, however, it floundered due to lack of resources despite gaining interest from the government.

The collaboration between the British and the Americans led to the 1958 US-UK Mutual Defence Agreement between the two nations, whereby American nuclear weapons technology was adapted for British use.

5.9.5 Electronics, communications and intelligence

Electronics rose to prominence quickly in World War II. The British developed and progressed electronic computers which were primarily used for breaking the “Enigma” codes, which were Nazi secret codes. These codes for radio messages were indecipherable to the Allies. However, the meticulous work of code breakers based at Britain’s Bletchley Park cracked the secrets of German wartime communication, and played a crucial role in the final defeat of Germany. Americans also used electronic computers for equations, such as battlefield equations, ballistics, and more. Numerous small digital computers were also used. From calculating tables, to mechanical trajectory calculators, to some of the most advanced electronic computers. Soldiers would usually carry most of the electronic devices in their pockets, but since technology has developed, digital computers started to increase in size,



German Enigma encryption machine.

which spacious command and control centres would have. Initial control centers that were embarked on ships and aircraft that established the networked computing, is so essential to our daily lives. While prior to the war few electronic devices were seen as important pieces of equipment, by the middle of the war instruments such as radar and ASDIC (sonar) had become invaluable. Germany started the war ahead in some aspects of radar, but lost ground to work in England and to physicists and engineers at the "Radiation Laboratory" of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Half of the German theoretical physicists were Jewish and had emigrated or otherwise been lost to Germany long before WW II started.

Equipment designed for communications and the interception of those communications became critical. The Germans widely relied on the Enigma coding machine for encrypting communications. The British developed a new method for decoding Enigma benefiting from information given to Britain by the Polish Cipher Bureau, which had been decoding early versions of Enigma before the war.* [9]

5.9.6 Rocketry

Rocketry was used greatly in World War II. There were many different inventions and advances in rocketry, such as:

The **V-1**, which is also known as the buzz bomb. This automatic aircraft is today known as a "cruise missile". The V-1 was developed at Peenemünde Army Research

Center by the Nazi German *Luftwaffe* during the Second World War. During initial development it was known by the codename "Cherry Stone". The first of the so-called *Vergeltungswaffen* series designed for terror bombing of London, the V-1 was fired from launch facilities along the French (Pas-de-Calais) and Dutch coasts. The first V-1 was launched at London on 13 June 1944), one week after (and prompted by) the successful Allied landings in Europe. At its peak, more than one hundred V-1s a day were fired at south-east England, 9,521 in total, decreasing in number as sites were overrun until October 1944, when the last V-1 site in range of Britain was overrun by Allied forces. After this, the V-1s were directed at the port of Antwerp and other targets in Belgium, with 2,448 V-1s being launched. The attacks stopped when the last launch site was overrun on 29 March 1945.

The **V-2** (German: *Vergeltungswaffe 2*, "Retribution Weapon 2"), technical name *Aggregat-4* (A-4), was the world's first long-range guided ballistic missile. The missile with liquid-propellant rocket engine was developed during the Second World War in Germany as a "vengeance weapon", designed to attack Allied cities as retaliation for the Allied bombings against German cities. The V-2 rocket was also the first artificial object to cross the boundary of space.

These two rocketry advances took the lives of many civilians in London during the years 1944 and 1945.

5.9.7 Consumer Goods

After the war, many of the inventions created during World War II that were invented for the troops were later sold to the civilian population.

M&M's

During 1932, the creator of M&M's, Forrest Mars Sr. moved to England, after clashing enough times with his father, and began manufacturing Mars Bars for troops in the UK. It wasn't until the Spanish War where Forrest purportedly encountered troops eating small beads of chocolate that were encased in hard sugar shells, as Forrest was thrilled to share this new treat as most chocolate treats sold poorly during the summer. When he returned to the US, he approached Bernie Murrie, the son of a Hersey's executive, to join him in his business venture as he anticipated a demand of chocolate and sugar during the war. In March 1945, Forrest was granted a patent for the manufacturing process and production in Newark, New Jersey. The candies were sold exclusively to the military when the US joined the war and were used as an easy way to provide the troops with chocolate on the battlefield without it melting so easily. After the war, many troops were hooked on the candies provided and soon the candies were mass-produced for the civilian population.

5.9.8 See also

- Military invention
- Military funding of science
- Military production during World War II
- Technology during World War I
- List of equipment used in World War II
- Secret and special weapons in Showa Japan

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Chapter 6

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Aldis90, Hohohowa, King konger, Edps~enwiki, Russell Abbott, Kolny, Snort Master, FrancoGG, Seicer, Malleus Fatuorum, Thegoodson, Thijs!bot, Wandalstouring, Epr123, Barticus88, TFX, Chacufc, Biruitorul, Colin4C, Edman274, NewInn, Pharring, Explodinglam, Ultimimus, Faigl.ladislav, Pacus~enwiki, Kablammo, Ucanlookitup, 23prootie, Sagaciousuk, Vidor, Keraunos, PerfectStorm, Guitarplayer001, Minutiaman, Staberinde, Nonagonal Spider, Gxam, Modruce, Louis Waweru, Mechanical Gecko, Dyllholio, Thegreattrainer, RevolverOcelotX, Marek69, Bones13X, Jofishtrick, Qwarto, John254, WillMak050389, Tapir Terrific, Neil916, SGGH, Woody, Esemono, Malarious, Sabator, Symrvrm, Itsmejudgeth, Mhzfutbol5, Merbabu, Jack Bethune, JX3MOFO, X201, Tellyaddict, Ryneweir, Fiddlehead, Grahamdubya, Plantago, Yomamabob1, Amitprabhakar, Scottmsg, Kaaveh Ahangar~enwiki, Nirvana77, Philippe, Bethpage89, CharlotteWebb, Tcatts, Dezidor, Signaleer, Swimg43, Sikkema, The Great Liberator, Pkpat2011, Uncle J, Deipnosophista, Mdriver1981, Dawnseeker2000, Natalie Erin, Afabbro, Escarbot, CamperStrike, I already forgot, Dantheman531, Porqin, Jimmuldrow, 3D Design, KrakatoaKatie, AntiVandalBot, Konman72, Milton Stanley, ORDER, Majorly, LEACHIE, Brentstump, Fedayee, Martyn Smith, Luna Santin, Chubbles, Seaphoto, Alexandre Koriakine, MonkeytheJedi, MetaManFromTomorrow, Fujikko, Scholl, Skies, Fru1tbat, Devilboy1015, Lonewalker84, Kbthompson, Smith2006, AaronY, Uturnaroun, NithinBekal, Jj137, Kryhavoc, Aldabomb91, Dane 1981, Dominicus Cerberus, Vanjagenije, Haber, JimDunning, Commander Zorg, Yarovit, MECU, C. M. Harris, Blu3d, Desant, Cdaylin, DAB316, Vendettax, Johnny Sumner, Depp Jones, Gefraser, Borgarde, Killerman2, James Fargher, Storkk, Jaredroberts, H.Chinaski, Jace1, Wahabijaz, Lklundin, Jzulli, Ecr200, Canadian-Bacon, BenC7, Darrenhusted, Castor100, Swamilive, Traolach, Roger111, DagosNavy, JAnDbot, Milonica, Husond, Kigali1, GSTQ, Mvannier, Thefuturedavinci, Vandaliza, MER-C, Kedi the tramp, The Transhumanist, Jaymano, Blze010, ZZninepluralZalpha, Ericoides, Matthew Fennell, Arch dude, Boomshockalocka, JeltLuthor, Nwe, Bsbabat, Mrtinkles, Pman24, Tonyrocks922, Redking7, Andreanrc, Hello32020, Db099221, Charles01, Montano336, Ipoellet, Realismadder, Nathanjp, Andonic, Dozer5274, IamMattGrandi, 100110100, Belzy--, Yill577, Greensburger, Justinmmitchell, Flying tiger, Riddick51PB, Dricherby, Bzuk, Gavia immer, Matthew Husdon, JEMASCOLA, FishHeadAbcd, Ironplay, Hku04, Jespley, Kerotan, TheftByEating, Dmacw6, LittleOldMe, WHYJIMMYBEGAY, Yahel Guhan, Bencherlite, Fineshot2000, Dror91, Daborhe, Penubag, Corban321, Captainpancreas, Magioladitis, GomiTaroGeorge42, A0928527112, Grepnork, Blacksabbath1, Chengyuan, Pedro, Parsecboy, Bongwarrior, LawrenceTrevallion, Khan singh, Mrund, MartinDK, Jeff Dahl, Dekimasu, DCTT, Undefined hatred, Xmarchtotheseax, Trnj2000, Carom, Touchmystastic, JamesBWatson, Antientropic, Alexander Domanda, Jason97m, Atlantian, Dpd esq, Kawlsky, BTNH Fan, USAIR, Blu~enwiki, Ling.Nut, Thorht, Bucksshot06, Sheepmaster, SineWave, Rami R, Cretanpride, Singularity, Bill j, Roosurn, Jpg23, Bzero, ThoHug, Becksguy, Dbackes, Dulciana, Nyttend, Sac222, Majorarcanum, Brettid, Zephyr2k~enwiki, Avicennasis, Bubba hotep, KConWiki, Bleh999, Forgang, Lonewolf BC, Drawngfrk, Thevoid00, Cgingold, Johnbibby, Biglegoman, Bardwell, Shame On You, Cliché Online, ArchStanton69, MetsBot, Mikolik, Mionicburrito, Abednigo, Brian the Fat, Adrian J. Hunter, Sesesq, Hamiltonstone, Coughinink, Paris By Night, Theleaderofmany12, Brian Fenton, Xargon666x6, Heathhiggins, Seckelberry1, Somearemoreequal, Penguin King, Sickofishead, Vssun, Bvv, Damuna, Dell2boy, Just James, Peachsncream, Brunodam, Glen, Kelstonian, Chris G, DerHexer, Saburny, 12mollydog, Lijnema, Stuyhigh77, Tinmanic, Yeah-soo~enwiki, Johnbrownsbody, Daemonic Kangaroo, Arnold Reisman, Lukewalsh1234, Jab03, Caranorn, Pazzaj, Bobblehead81, Coniosis, Halibott, White Guard, TLinden, Bellemare, Jpo51, IvoShandor, SwedishPsycho, Wikianon, BigRicky, PureME, Bigsprinta, Januszewicz, Bertho, SquidSK, Jfrenchy, NatureA16, Rickterp, Stephenchou722, Sparkface, Myszkin, Raoullduke47, Goober223, Marvicat, Hdt83, MartinBot, Opiner, FlieGerFaUstMe262, PAK Man, Grandia01, EyeSerene, Big Iron, Sam2031, Roger Mexico, M Van Houten, Filipore, Mpkng52, Theredbanana, Bluechipsr, Greekorangere, Pinkbluty, 5618, Ellibob, Dinogamer04, Rettetast, Assassin06, Ultraviolet scissor flame, Meatwad12, Sm8900, Dorvaq, Stealthzombie007, Wyrdlight, Rskellner, Samjamran, R'n'B, Soccerpro, Purcto, CommonsDelinker, 123456abcd, Hipvcar, Steve98052, KTo288, Retoi, Surowiak~enwiki, Jfournier, Snozzer, Lifeisagame247, Feigenbaum13, Panda lover001, Paulmcdonald, LittleOldMe old, PrestonH, Staijk, Puddywuddy1192, Lokqs, Mbhiiii, MnM2324, Vhhs, Wiki Raja, Sportsnut1350, Cubfan2522, Wikipediausernumber1, RaccoonFox, Riogkol, Ahier, RockMFR, Periklis*, Slash, Sam Golden, Zzmaj, Etaicq, J.delanoy, Ninja fan, MITBeaverRocks, CBS13, Karstedt d, Funny4life, Rrostrom, Bogey97, UBeR, Numbo3, Theinternetsoify, Chuck 444, BillWSmithJr, Hans Dunkelberg, Stankleberry, Lucky Phil, Andyputerkid, Tikiwont, Cthia, Isaac is da bomb, Uncle Dick, Ajonsey, Nigholith, Kmcd151, Colincbn, Spaininrain, Bunkerpictures, Ms408, Rickydavis0012, TrueCRaysball, Eraye1, A Nobody, Shucks999, Amzon, Merlot70, Hodja Nasreddin, England999, Wabba506, George415, Icseaturtles, Flubber555, Pstoric, Jpjsqma, Mockingbird83, WikiBone, Froggyjumpoverlog, Nick683, Bot-Schafter, Homer slips., Chaser676, Bad Night, Sexymanbearpig, Dreko, DarkFalls, Buxley Hall, Gman124, Tron175, Bastardpoo shoot, DarkGhost08, McSly, Adrian M. H., Enter the chicken, Gipornm, ASDFGYUIOP, Wdemers, Ryan Postlethwaite, Trumpet marietta 45750, Bandeapart, Skier Dude, Redflagflying, Tony360X, Pyrohair, Jackglerum, Mafia godfather, Ash sul, Ancient Land of Bosoni, Tommy Nakashima, Mrg3105, AntiSpamBot, MrBungle79, Theknightofdarkness, Ediesgueremann, Spinach Dip, Beenhj, RenniePet, Floaterfluss, Warrior on Terrorism, Jetsnake, Wiki1609, Alexb102072, Walrusboy91, NewEnglandYankee, Assassin3577, Aar, Some enraged farm animal, Lman1987, Ko Soi IX, Pb12, Xgmx, Karl2025, Rowenji, Theodoret, T3hllama, Pirateogta, Intermissin, Mufka, Tascha96, Christopher Kraus, Joemale-malesign, Olegwiki, Mikeonatrike, Aka-miki~enwiki, 2812, Smitty, Jrcla2, Tstarnes, Sidnokid, Jpm9880, KylieTastic, Juliancolton, Vamsilly, MahiMahi, Bogdan~enwiki, The slave to reality, Bu2m5dgw, DeathOfBlades, Tyzwain, Phelix06, Angel Uriel, DH85868993, Andrewmcardle, Jjhc99, Socialismo01, Rohitht, Potaatos, Vassosman, Tiwonk, King Toadsworth, Murphyg001, Eliteagents, Trip Johnson, Dpesikan, WinterSpw, Julianhayda, Andy Marchbanks, Inwind, Henstep1313, Alex:D, Kimdime, Jeremiahburt, ThatGUY33, Xiahou, Dj Luca, Idioma-bot, Nintendo316, Warshark, Omegacc, Xnuala, Bobsmithbob1, Armorhead, TNTfan101, Dagedude, Histo ed, ACSE, Chromancer, Zazzer, Eater of tin, Caribbean H.Q., Carlsbadder, G2bambino, Sam Blacketer, ChaosNil, Mike Fields, Kenckar, PeaceNT, Chinnee, Mwskuil, UnicornTapestry, Denwatts, Nanosoldier, VolkovBot, Lostlove, Drakonice, Aledevries, Hadigonzalez25, Abcdefghayden, Jbill007, Drakheim, Harveyqs, Dragoonkain, Roger M.E. Lightly, Pan Wikipedia, Kommodorekerz, Factual80man, Nug, Bry9000, Butwhatdoiknow, Lord Collettus, AlnoktaBOT, TobyTheRobot, Powered, Majoreditor, HJ32, Embokias, Ilya1166, Sleeper chevelle, Stagyar Zil Doggo, WED Imagineer, Godefroy, Vulgarkid, Taraborn, RPlunk2853, Hollerbackgril, Martinevans123, Director, ESommers, Kenny04, TXiKiBoT, FleeingHomework, XavierGreen, Jakedaniel, Deadfish820, Genyusz, Jjanczy, Huang7776, Dereksanders, Minger125, Cnajer, Herb45, Stupid1991, Tatertot37, Colton123g, Pellande12, Mahal11, Gmialtft, Asarlaif, Jeremy221, SilentOne17, Comrade Graham, Chuddy32, Nxavar, Rei-bot, A23259789, BlkRvr702, Anonymous Dissident, Stevesmith1789, ElinorD, Detroit4, Gerrish, 18Fox, Ray-Ginsay, Qxz, Lincolnshp, WikiReaderer, Vanished user iki-jeirw34iuaeolaseriffic, Kcblu, Cobosvictor, Sauronthegreat, Ultrabeater, Adityakistampally, John Carter, Nazgul02, Revizionist, KTFCDan, Mjs072, Beyond silence, Cream10152, Aaron Bowen, Jman2213, Anset, TedColes, Robo man 1, Hburg, Triplesb, Zhalycon29, Ddot01, Andy swann, Manchurchian candidate, Mazzelino, Mkpumphrey, MercuryBot, Seb az86556, Domitius, Casting shadows, AuthorDionysos, Smchase, Robust45, Shadowlapis, StillTrill, Lunest, Jack Naven Rulez, Wokelly, Luuva, Oblivion801, PaladinWhite, Brianna11, Jimblack, Themat21111, Lumbering Buffalo, Micha851, Tom MacPherson, Mr.NorCal55, Thomasmclennan, TheCoachZ11, Tomer.benv, Tode353, Jonnyf88, Dave00327, NachtLink, Flaw600, Tectonic042, Usergreatpower, Tribulation725, BobTheTomato, Happyyme22, Eternauta3k, Sturfryking, Eskovan, Billybobjr, Wassamatta, Synthebot, Peace237, Zumbunny, Zach higgins, Jason Leach, Fleurstigter, El Hobo24, Gatkino, Panadude, Hughstew, Ghost321, AjitPD, Paulthewhale, Cuntexploder, Lotrtdkchic, Eurocopter, Lotrtdkchic, Jublimontoto, ThirdCross, Razgriz 10000, Mohamad hossary, Miamiu11, Frenty456, Kjun1 3, Vchimpanzee, Grahamboat, Lmessenger, Person777, Spinningspark, Karlrobbo, Justmeherenow, Master of the Orichalcos, Xxhellmanxx, Melyn, Doeric96, Entirelybs, July4th, K10wnsta, SaltyseabASS,

John6712, Wikipedian64, Thidr0, AlleborgoBot, Camthetoaster93, ColDLP1anet, Littledarknite, Dchance, Carrothippy, Billymadison21, 12 Centuries, Jim Furtado, Pyro4122, Redmrkt, Kewlkyle64, Dominicwhiteman, Roland zh, Chipsmcgee36, Benoit Rochon, Ma familia, Signsolid, EmxBot, Uncle Scrooge, Carharttjimmy, Hokie92, Camsc0123, Matt Gerber, D. Recorder, Lorangriel, Demmy, Smarty-pants2013, Garrison628, Методиде, Putmalk, Rolltide3738, Darkieboy236, Romuald Wróblewski, Enkyo2, DionysiusThrax, Jerseycam, M.V.E.i., Warnerr, SieBot, Asddxz, Cvbeor, Tom.fenton7, Redbonefootball42, Kfc1864, ShiftFn, Politics rule, Calliopejen1, Fallinboy, Ajw18, SpencerCS, Giladbr, YonaBot, Tiddly Tom, Dreamafter, Porky149, Xenus, Invmog, LtWinters, BonesBrigade, Marvelfett2, Bachcell, Oldag07, MosesMaster, VVVBot, Avargasm, Hiens, Pengyanan, Parhamr, Broopster, SE7, Nick124020, Homerofwar2007, Hcijesse, This, that and the other, Whittcal, Alex visa, Pkqx, Murlock, BossAdam552, Michfg, Albanman, Rickjames69er, Wedune1, Whichtrial, Barliner, Brandonrock, Andersmusician, Dadrker, Hakutou, Purbo T, PangkatKawayan, Jimmip, Digwuren, Un4v4114813, Radon210, The Evil Spartan, CheeseyPuff, Arbor to SJ, Ventur, Thesaam, Kellsj, Gherkinmad, Bbboy657, Jenx54, G-H-7-28-07, SurfingMaui540, Jc-SOCO, Mimihitam, Redmarkviolinist, Ss11311086, DD101, Dominik92, Mattmeskill, Fuk0005, Randomwiki, Pika ten10, AceMagic5, Baseball Bugs, Lourakis, Gangsterls, Pretty Green, Lightmouse, Happyguy49, Johnnyrobison, Skinny87, RSStockdale, Tiger-tank18, Amcwis, Int21h, Ntkarr, Rupert Horn, BenoniBot-enwiki, Jakobako, Musse-kloge, Kumioko (renamed), Onopearl, Gorran, Bweg2, Dravecky, Belliger, Aumnamahashiva, Presidentman, Vanished user ewfisn2348tui2f8n2fio2u2tjfeoi210r39jf, Bcdm, David30th, Behtis, Jaan, Hamiltondaniel, Basand, Kieraf-enwiki, Faulknerfan, Geoff Plourde, Moffitma, Sterlingmelcher, Ak3786, Redwingfan04, Code Monkey2976, Finetooth, Randy Kryn, Jimmy Slade, Staylor71, Cngoulimis, Miyokan, Hadseys, Hibsche, Explicit, TSRL, Mistykasumi, Benkenobi18, Gosciu555, Michel Tavor, WikipedianMarlith, Janus8463, Martarius, MBK004, ClueBot, JurSchagen, Pixel2metal, Bwfrank, Andriy155, Brokenarch, Ilyusha V. Novikov, Deviator13, Chrisbreseman, Binksternet, Jordc1991, Hutter, Bloodlesthecat, PipepBot, DePury, Amritpaul.singh, WikiSkeptic, Whazzup17, Team Poland, Lizhia, BlueFlame78504, The Thing That Should Not Be, Vengeance900, Xav71176, Brendan44, Plastikspork, Slowthy, Adyfroggatt, Meesis, Shaskouri, Draken36, Hult041956, Repolho-enwiki, Nnemo, Supertouch, Unbuttered Parsnip, Grawp-enwiki, Grawp the Giant-enwiki, HAGGER?, Gregaletta, Saddhiyama, Dingiswayo, Senzangakhona, Drmies, AlasdairGreen27, Skatedave711, Jacurek, Mild Bill Hiccup, Ranger Steve, Heartagram3200, Mlazenby, James-sully, JTBX, Yeoldirishman, Niceguyedc, Ahmad.ibn.as.Sayyid, Peanut4, Harland1, Redhead911, Shovon76, Shannon bohle, Yaki-gaijin, Bob bobato, Grandgrawper-enwiki, Giantgrawp, Giantcalledgrawp, Trivialist, RenamedUser jaskldjlsak903, Piepiepie2, Cannonade, Masterpiece2000, DragonBot, Duck of Luke, EnigmaMcmxc, *TPC* Clan, Ktr101, Tribe12, RainMan002, Electrobe, Charliebsmith, Ironman0392, Suni1060902, Jack.Hartford, EeepEeep, Sushix1, Tylerdmace, Dertwev, Bayard123, Nercromancy?, Jesse.kelly, Fallabrine1995, Pikachuthesquirtle, Bartandrews, Kingdaveidek, Lewa226, Masonbrownplayer, Readin, Sun Creator, Daner0six, NuclearWarfare, Lipsatom, Arjayay, AndyFielding, Jotterbot, Qampunen, MrWhich, Unbanned, HiEverybodyHiDoctorNick, Hellman4710, Dim386, M.O.X, CowboySpartan, Kevoreilly, ChrisWerner, Wikimaster10117, Royalmate1, Redthoreau, Amrafi264, History13, Chrispy5, Teutonic Tamer, Doprendek, Polly Hedra, Joao 11 1996, Werson, Audaciter, Cybershore, Frank Geerlings, JasonAQuest, BOTarate, Kakofonous, Mlaffs, EgraS, Antigraviteece, Boowah59, Thingg, Lindberg, Aitias, Dank, Jonamatt, Rjbesquire, Followship, Simply sammie, Versus22, XTildax, Lx 121, Hwalee76, IJA, Berean Hunter, JarTa-enwiki, Justiel1220, MaxSem on AWB wheels, Ostinato2, Sockpuppet872, Jaaches, Erick808, DumZiBoT, Doopdoop, Innes & Stephen Pictures, Iggy Ax, YXN, InternetMeme, Gamewizard546, Burningwind, BodhisattvaBot, GordonUS, Winston2-enwiki, Ningnangong, Bigshotje, GuitarHeroTom, Laser brain, Brettstout, PaulEeNjInkSon, Hackser, SilvononBot, Mitchell n beard, 68Kustom, Ricebowl09, Petrescu3, Scruffy4903, Tbug44, Jhawker417, Mm40, JinJian, Sleptrip, Japanandchinaoftheeast, Feierabend, Fabrigo, Mlsguy0037, Belfunk, Econnor2, JAHL14, Cbrown285, Dave1185, Palindrome, Draconius14, AppleofWiki, Spartan15DEMO, Kajabla, Drlight11, Prowikipedians, Veru.Verite, Mortense, WWII21, Caden, Beijing goalie, Ljr180, 2k6168, Latevardanig, Youngla0450, Bambaab, Jokerdude42, Hi237, Bleekis88, Beamathan, Nortonius, Fultzsie11, Lithoderam, B-radical 1522, Magus732, Qweqwewe, Trasman, Sadda45, Xxferrarisxx, Powercurvefor, Tanhabot, One cookie, DARKDOOM9999, Laurinavi-cius, Yelizandpaul, Chris who reads books for a living, Fothergill Volkenstiff IV, CanadianLinuxUser, Leszek Jańczuk, Ace Mendi-ola, Cityvalyu, Mishadeon, MrOllie, Alexbritcher, CarsracBot, Zhabeiqu, 37ophiuchi, Scottyferguson, DFS454, Secretdude97, Bahamut Star, Mosesdschurte, Jgrosay-enwiki, ChenzwBot, Xoffie, Aunva6, LinkFA-Bot, Realmofintrigue, Blaylockjam10, Patton123, Setanta747, Brian Laishes, Megaribi, Numbo3-bot, Tide rolls, Canationalist, 71755, Asokanvr, RenegadeSniper7, Dwarfboyhopkins, Dreaming11, Jarble, Greyhood, Stuttgartkiwi, CARLDIGITAL, Williajm, Andre Toulon, Occamsrazorsky, 07ed01, Drpickem, Luckas-bot, Yobot, Granpuff, OrgasGirl, Oilpanhands, Dede2008, MTWEmperor, II MusLiM HyBRiD II, Clíodhna-2, Cimicifugia, SuperFlash101, Borvan53, Mr T (Based), Paul Siebert, Intercalate, KamikazeBot, Ayrton Prost, 家, Sachin91, Palamabron, BeBoldInEdits, Bbb23, SiberianPrincess, AnomieBOT, Momoricks, John Holmes I, FeliSunny, Metalhead94, Floquenbeam, JEdgarFreeman, Ixex1, Yeshua-David, Grey Fox-9589, Gnomeselby, Jim1138, Tavrian, Abstruce, Galoubet, Innab, StevenWT, Blackknight12, 13seb, Phyrros, Roessel-sprung, MtBell, Krause01, Stroganoff, Tlrmq, Materialsscientist, Bukubku, Lukee1234, Phoenix of9, Citation bot, Mkustel, Digitaldomain, Kasaalan, Barriodude, HistoricWarrior007, ArthurBot, DirliBot, DannyAsher, Andyso, Aidan Jennings, Quebec99, Cliftonian, Potočník, Sole Flounder, Madalibi, Xqbot, Kleiner, Therofman, Capricorn42, Poetaris, Wüstenfuchs, TechBot, Jaltcoh, ITSENJOYABLE, Child-of-Midnight, GenQuest, Ulf Heinsohn, Krishanpatel, Nate5446, 毎日家, Locos epaix, Skiboarder6730, Loveless, Mlpearc, Isheden, Robbieboulton1234, Srich32977, Barelitido, Fishmandgb, Hz7qnf, Filyo79, J04n, Nasa-verve, GrouchoBot, Mr. Military, Miesianiacal, Bizso, Fitgolfpro, Anotherclown, RibotBOT, MatthPeder, Luther Hull, Auréola, Brutal deluxe, Samuel1120, Renwick99, GhalyBot, Moxy, Cod1337, Chongkian, Richard BB, ASOTMKX, Davido488, Fredy.00, Bluehotel, Thehelpfulbot, Haldraper, Spongefrog, Alexey Golubev, Kelsievans, Dead Mary, BSATwinTowers, JayLeno175, Hyperbereer, Egerm-enwiki, FrescoBot, CaptainFugu, Chcoc, Ryan1266, Lucien-BOT, Paine Ellsworth, Toby72, Taiwanrox8, KSWarrior8, Wetterfree, StaticVision, FkpCascais, Alarics, Grey Furb, Doomei, A Wewolf, Ben76266, Noventamilcientoveinticinco, Bambuway, AndresHerutJaim, Filipão, SF88, Grandiose, Gutierrezg0710, Dhtwiki, Rgvis, Citation bot 1, AdmiralKolchak, AstaBOTH15, Mimzy1990, SexyBlondeGuy, Bobmack89x, I dream of horses, Boulaur, Stargnoc, 家俊, HRoestBot, YouReadMyMind, StNicksRocks, Kmundy, Alonso de Mendoza, Chumchum7, Codwiki, SockofSpongefrog, Kenloyds, RedBot, Mediatech492, Jaguar, NarSakSasLee, Knole Jonathan, Matu94, Lissajous, Bedivere.cs, Gasta220, December21st2012Freak, White Shadows, Cnwilliams, VOAconstrictor, CrowzRSA, Lightlowemon, Willdasmiffking, FoxBot, TobeBot, VxOx, Trappist the monk, Clickpop, Retired user 0001, Jade Harley, Fama Clamosa, Communicat, Lotje, PawkaLukas, Dgthegoel, ManfromButtonwillow, Quang-minhc, Vanished user lkdofiqw39ru239jwionwcihu8wt4ihjsf, Dinamik-bot, Gulbenk, James0702me, Begoon, Anthony Winward, Bertyreux, Katerenka, Ktlynch, Diannaa, Kayuki16, Suffusion of Yellow, MyMoloboaccount, Ferntipr, Innotata, Tbhotch, Jesse V., Spursnik, Ul-brichdj, Oddrobb, Between My Ken, Willdow, Bento00, DexDor, Ripchik, Bhawani Gautam, Bossanoven, Gwen Novak, RemTar, Myownworst, Buggie111, DragonShiryu2, NerdyScienceDude, Hgcai3456, Nascarking, Salvio giuliano, Billare, Samdacruel, Glen1995, Steve03Mills, Bernd Schwabe in Hannover, EmausBot, John of Reading, Orphan Wiki, WikitanvirBot, HTBrooks, Carlotm, Uberggeekpi, Manga28, Never give in, Knothefacts, Distal24, Rail88, Abby 92, Dewritech, Wollont, GoingBatty, RA0808, Blablaua, Namnguyenvn, Bull Market, 89funtime, Huckamike, ZxxZxxZ, Wikiturrican, Passionless, NorthernKnightNo1, Ledfrog, MrGRA, ChoraPete, Chiton magnificus, Addyman11, Ecko1o1, Kunetskiy, HenryXVII, Werieth, ZéroBot, Cogiati, Illegitimate Barrister, ALi55te, Josve05a, Tulandro, Jenks24, Natalia O., Michael Essmeyer, Wojgniew, Space25689, NinjaFishy, Saint Lucy, SkinnedAardvark093, Wurzeln und Flügel, AvicAWB, Pan Brerus, Zloyvolshab, Illraute, Mcvicyc, AutoGeek, Vanished user fois8fhow3iqf9hsrlgkjjw4tus, Lorde Chainsaw, Broke-

- nAnchorBot, Kill me when i die, Brandmeister, Hb9323, Jarjarbinks10, Dannydavey123, Iamapotohead, Shrigley, Philafrenzy, Irrypride, Laika1097, \$ILENCE D00600D, ChuispastonBot, Dreamcatcher25, ClamDip, Leidseplein, GregRustFan, Мрад 97, Jordibuma, Jasonli42, MeganHernandez (WMF), Divebomb, Whoop whoop pull up, TitaniumCarbide, Woolfy123, LUXlii, Gmt2001, Prof,Mammal, Slickmoves, ClueBot NG, Lhimec, Gilderien, LittleJerry, JC Bills, DTParker1000, Labranewf, Iritakamas, Carbon editor, ColdWarCharlie, Cmckain, Frietjes, Delusion23, Alphasinus, Braincricket, Neljack, Rezabot, Dalekcan, CaroleHenson, DontClickMeName, Chitt66, Crohall, Ryan Vesey, MarcusBritish, Godwhale, Neogeolegend, Shelleyesque, Sassiesam, Crazymonkey1123, Pluma, Miracle dream, Helpful Pixie Bot, Popcornduff, Brovary, Gkxyz, Aquario, Calidum, Gob Lofa, Andrey Rublyov, BG19bot, Mohamed CJ, WendyPage777, JoJaEpp, Sambian kitten, Jay8g, Northamerica1000, Navhus, Laurence0001, PhnomPencil, HIDECCHI001, Dzlinker, Uhlan, AvocatoBot, Konullu, User1961914, J991, Marcocapelle, উদীপগাবুকদাৰ, Cold Season, Eep07, DAREALKKROX, FutureTrillionaire, StickyWikis, TrebleSeven, TClapton, Soerfin, Jeancey, Pakon111, Ernio48, Zedshort, Hamish59, Gaylencrufts, Edthed, Jmccormick927, Gillette.ben, Sprutt, Abootmoose, Matthew David González, Loriendrew, Findblogging, Mumbai0618, Jason from nyc, Wheeke, Rwenonah, Aqua Regia72, Boeing720, Bakkedal, HueSatLum, Kata89, Cyberbot II, The Elixir Of Life, ChrisGualtieri, Archchينوok, Liamcop, Nick.mon, Adnan bogi, Khazar2, Esszet, 23 editor, Stumink, JYBot, AsadUK200, DylanLacey, Fun & helpful, Dexbot, Dissident93, Irontome, Einstein2, Rothbardanswer, ASA1234, Br'er Rabbit, LightandDark2000, Mogism, Mannat (Mannot), AJWpreposter, Mxheil, XXzoomamiXX, Acoma Magic, Afrasclient, Pokajanje, Bluebasket, NAKFANS, NightShadow23, Buuhai, Srourourke, Tonimicho, MarsBarLover, Buddy777, Roberthistoria, Blaue Max, HarveyHenkelmann, Faizan, Epicgenius, FallingGravity, General1962, Oreotoast, BreakfastJr, Kiwi228, Michipedian, Kazim5294, Melonkelon, Govgovgov, Inglok, Hardcoreromancatholic, Alex Khan93, Dustin V. S., Supersaiyen312, Lindenhurst Liberty, LudicrousTripe, ElHef, AcidSnow, Robert4565, Rocknrollman123, Jerryntcjc, Varixai, Sam Sailor, W. P. Uzer, Whizz40, FirdausGupte, Muhammad Pasha Chohan, UnbiasedVictory, Montehurd, Owain Knight, Geitthegreat, Hogwild13, Kinglycitrus, Barjimoa, Factor01, Lorda12, Apleat6326, Globetrotter1918, Nahnah4, Argovian, Doctor Papa Jones, CatcherStorm, Empire of War, Monkbot, JarodDT, Fishnagles, Lwp2004, Matiec2014, Lucasjohansson, COD T 3, Gdeblois19, Int0002, Steverci, Trackteur, ♥Golf, Militaryhistory341, Monopoly31121993, Keiiri, Biblioworm, Gog the Mild, Picapicacuckoo, Vanisheduser00348374562342, Joseph Prasad, JuanRiley, Sterndmitri, Garfield Garfield, Colonialmarine9, Mitzi.humphrey, MRD2014, Aethyta, Krishnachaitan, E-960, SA 13 Bro, K.e.coffman, Embu wiki, Skm989898, Joshuaowen1, Wolfffss, HoustonJackson, Илья Драконов, Kimdan014, SS Aduka, Jason.nlw, Subeer rtz, Vivexdino, FilBox101, Hashi0707, FunPie, Julen.ibarrondo, Denniscabrams, KasparBot, Berserker276, T-Bends, Fisch1234, Kiwifist, Sweepy, Aardwolf A380, Dallas S12345, AmeriJuanican, CAPTAIN RAJU, LelouchEdward, Lexi sioz, Versus001, Matterington, South Nashua, Mahia Zatrung, GizzyCatBella, Huritisho, Maxaxax, Aaaagh, FDHLWP, Romanian-and-proud, Kirk Leonard, Colonel Wilhelm Klink and Anonymous: 3508
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- **Consequences of Nazism** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consequences_of_Nazism?oldid=719146105 *Contributors:* The Anome, Berek, BL~enwiki, KF, Edward, Kchishol1970, Isomorphic, IZAK, Paul Benjamin Austin, G-Man, GCarty, John K, Hauser, Audin, Fuzheado, WhisperToMe, Itai, Kluwer, Joy, Optim, Jason M, Jeffq, PBS, Fifelfoo, Altenmann, Sam Spade, Enceladus, Mervyn, Gianfranco2, Cautious, TPK, Lysy, Move~enwiki, Fabiform, Aratuk, Jahaza, Matthead, Sedan, Bobblewik, Neile, Merritcat, PeterC, Troll Silent, Troll Deep, Catdude, Emax, IYY, Wikimol, Balcer, Sam Hocevar, Soman, Aramgutang, Jayjg, Discospinster, Guanabot, Martpol, Bender235, Sgeo, SpaceMonkey, Martg76, Freako, Lectoran, KapilTagore, Scuirinae, Woohookitty, CyrilleDunant, Onlymarie, Kilter, Robert K S, Jeff3000, Kelisi, Graham87, Elvey, Grammarbot, Rjwilmsi, Amire80, Boccobrock, The wub, Bhadani, TheIncredibleEdibleOompaLoompa, Sango123, Yamamoto Ichiro, Naraht, Ian Pitchford, Colonel Mustard, Atrix20, Russavia, Gareth E. Kegg, YurikBot, Josio00, NawlinWiki, Msoos, Molobo, Tony1, DGJM, AmandaHansen, Yodacows, Che829, Resolute, Crystallina, SmackBot, Mangoe, Flamarande, ITOD, Hmains, Chris the speller, Cplakidas, SuperDeng, Hippo43, Savidan, Stor stark7, Ohconfucius, RandomCritic, Ryu-long, Nehrms2020, Joseph Solis in Australia, Geeman, FairuseBot, Woogie10w, CmdrObot, Wafuz, BeenAroundAWhile, Neelix, Cydebot, R-41, StillWalking, Ebyabe, Mailerdaemon, Barticus88, Gajjin42, Bobblehead, Majorly, Darklilac, Milasicj, Puddhe, Keith D, CommonsDelinker, Ahuskay, Brancron, KylieTastic, Ejército Rojo 1950, DH85868993, Zara1709, Rpeh, ABF, Revizionist, Martin451, JhsBot, Justmeherenow, Solicitr, Burstbreak~enwiki, Granet, WereSpielChequers, Parhamr, Flyer22 Reborn, Pika ten10, Belligero, Verdadero, Denisarona, TEAKAY-C II R, Miyokan, ImageRemovalBot, Plastikspork, Senzangakhona, Jacurek, Rockfang, Aieff, Bow~cnat, Excirial, Lindut, Ranjihutsutari, DumZiBoT, Dthomsen8, Atoric, Addbot, Susan Grace Bellerby, Plantchair55, Doubtused, Eivindbot, LaaknorBot, Ferroequus, Brufnus, JIM19999, Kurtis, Aadaams, Yobot, Paul Siebert, AnomieBOT, Quebec99, Poetaris, Haselbrunner278, J04n, Nlj7b2, FrescoBot, Factomancer, Trust Is All You Need, Meaghan, Tim1357, Lotje, Pbrower2a, Bluefist, RjwilmsiBot, Bongoramsey, Wojgniew, Rolemodeld, A, ClueBot NG, Satellizer, NellieBlyMobile, Strike Eagle, Gob Lofa, The Almighty Drill, Ernio48, Citing, W.D., Cyberbot II, 23 editor, ADA - DÄP, The Fat Banana, Mogism, AldezD, Ana Radic, Tentinator, Tiramede, Biblioworm, K.e.coffman, Rubbish computer, Bkirchner99, Hexfire0708 and Anonymous: 169
- **Japanese war crimes** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_war_crimes?oldid=719188059 *Contributors:* Shii, Edward, Takuya-Murata, Nanshu, Jpatokal, Hermeneus, Bueller 007, Jengod, Fuzheado, Silvonen, TpbBradbury, Bloodshedder, Francs2000, Branddobbbe, Pigsonthewing, PBS, Rholton, Texture, DHN, JamesMLane, DocWatson42, Haeleth, Risk one, Michael Devore, Ratwod, RScheiber, Grant65, Bobblewik, Btphelps, Andycjp, Quadell, Ran, Antandrus, J3ff, Piotrus, Kusunose, Sam Hocevar, Tkh, Poo-T~enwiki, Trilobite, Jayjg, Freakofnurture, Miborovsky, Discospinster, Rich Farmbrough, FWBOarticle, Smyth, Ivan Bajlo, Pavel Vozenilek, Stereotek, Bender235, Rubicon, FriedBunny, Violetriga, Zscout370, El C, Aude, Bendono, TomStar81, Rhysn, Ypacarai, Viriditas, ZayZayEM, Kevin Myers, Geocachernemesis~enwiki, Fallingwithstyle, Tachitsuteto, Yuje, Sasquatch, SecretAgentMan00, Gary, Tyler111, Davenbelle, T-1000, Sligocki, Hohum, Hunter1084, Djlayton4, Stephane mot, Tony Sidaway, Dominic, RyanGerbil10, Mahanga, Hijiri88, Lkinkade, Lincspoacher, Woohookitty, Zealander, Before My Ken, Lincher, Grika, GregorB, とある白い猫, Fxer, Stevey7788, Ashmoo, Graham87, Sikandarji, BD2412, Sydneyphoenix, Rjwilmsi, Phileas, Feydey, Himasaram, MChew, Pinko1977, Yamamoto Ichiro, Gsp, Caligvla, AED, RexNL, Jay-W, Jrtayloriv, EronMain, Chobot, Surge79uwf, Robthebob, Vess, Pip2andahalf, RussBot, Manicsleeper, John Smith's, Akamad, Gaius Cornelius, Ksyrie, CambridgeBayWeather, Varnav, Daveswagon, Spot87, Welsh, CharlesZ, FFLaguna, Dogcow, CaliforniaAlibaba, Moe Epsilon, Jfdunphy, Mkill, Gadget850, Rwalker, Morgan Leigh, Qrfqr, Nescio, Jpeob, Zelikazi, User27091, Intershark, Nikkimaria, Theda, Pb30, Rms125a@hotmail.com, Natgoo, Curpsbot-unicodify, Garion96, Appleby, Nick-D, NiTenIchiRyu, SmackBot, Nihonjoe, InverseHypercube, Deiaemeth, Cla68, Kintetsubuffalo, Scott Paeth, Jtwang, Flamarande, Ian Rose, Hola79, Bison augustus, Gilliam, Callaghan772, Hmains, Chris the speller, Galathrax, Kaliz, Kamosuke, RomaC, Neil Bowes, Rlvese, Blueshirts, Eusebeus, Butterboy, Audriusa, Rianne~enwiki, WSaindon, Jwillbur, Aartie, Ahudson, Parent5446, Dali, Yoji Hajime, Khukri, Bowlhover, Mister Jinx, The PIPE, Stor stark7, Roger.lee, Curly Turkey, Deiz, Ceoil, Rklawton, John, JohnI, Kilimanjaronum, Green Giant, XinJeisan, Balladeer222, Luokehao, Mr Stephen, David A, Optakeover, Rylong, Iwazaki, Ahering@cogeco.ca, Dowolf, Iridescent, Spartian, JoeBot, TokyoJapan, HongQiGong, CapitalR, DavidOaks, Adambiswanger1, LittleTree, Tawkerbot2, Cheeselot2, Makeemlighter, Pseudo-Richard, Moreschi, Loft3, Penbat, Myasuda, MaxEnt, Incady, Cydebot, Yangiskan, Goldfritha, Gogo Dodo, Jayen466, Srajan01, Trystero11, Dynaflow, Doug Weller, EmperorOfSevenSeas, Nabokov, Good friend100, TAIWAN, Thijs!bot, Komdori, LeeNapier, RevolverOcelotX, Objectman, Remort, Mtastudent, Urahypo, Krakatoa332, Thomas Paine1776, Skinfan13, AntiVandalBot, Seaphoto, FruItbat, Tjmayerinsf, Zedla, Gzli888, Gcfraser, Qwerty Binary, STSC, MER-C, Planetary, Robina Fox, JeltLuthor, Objectiveve, Flying tiger, HSL, Savant13, Repku, Warrenpe, Lalacool, Parsecbot, Bongwarrior, Watermint, DB13, Bigdan201, AmyJade, KConWiki, Tropicaljet, Jmdoman, Baristarim, Skilled sniper~enwiki, SPD, Paul Gard, MartinBot, CommonsDelinker, KTo288, WelshMatt, Gw2005, FourTildes, J.delanoy, Svetovid, DarKnEs5 WaRr0r, Ayecee, Crimson stranger, NekoNekoTeacher, TBE1965, Just a suggestion, Northwind12, Katalaveno, 14thArmored, Jhype86, Jeepday, Loggingin, TomorrowTime, Plasticup, Alexb102072, C1010, Ko Soi IX, Color222, Folger~enwiki, Sigmundur, KylieTastic, Juliancolton, DanKim, Lebob, RB972, Xyl 54, Wolcott, KoreanShoriSenyow, Xiahou, Funandtrvl, Apocalyptic Destroyer, Caspian blue, VolkovBot, Firstorm, Guljato, Guardian Tiger, Philip Trueman, Zakisan5, Sir Joestar, Erik the Red 2, Flyte35, Canberrajim, Pojanji, GOD ACRONYM, Itaewon, GcSwRhc, Rourin bushi, Crohnie, LeaveSleaves, Room429, 4kinnel, Billinghamurst, StuartLaJoi, Dragonwish, Falcon8765, Akg1212, Art8641, Ruffypuppie, Mcwarre, Master of the Orichalcos, Necmate, Azukimonaka, Demize, DrDHMenke, Nstott, Enkyo2, Endzen, Noveltyghost, Merxa, Flyer22 Reborn, Oda Mari, Jc3schmi, MartinJoh00, IdreamofJeanie, Onopearls, Belligero, Maelgnwbot, Richard David Ramsey, Canglesea, IAC-62, Martarius, ClueBot, Sennen goroshi, Binksternof, Trfasulo, Akhil Bakshi, Keraunoscopia, Niceguyedc, Yuckhil, Atlantistv2, Auntof6, Rockfang, Mondor, Ktr101, Kanguole, Checkorder2, Nableezy, Ngebendi, Hadooooookin, JimBobUSA, Takabeg, Maine12329, Xoxxon, Zappa711, Acabashi, Juice8093, Johnunig, Somekindofusername, DumZiBoT, Bridies, XLinkBot, Cheeseheadburger, WikHead, Mifter, Johnkatz1972, SelfQ, EEng, Sweeper tamonten, Addbot, Syntax Max, Douglas the Comeback Kid, Damiens.rf, CactusWriter, Ferroequus, AnnaFrance, LinkFA-Bot, Tassede-the, Tide rolls, Captain Obvious and his crime-fighting dog, Lightbot, Bossyboots221, Logitech95, Jarble, Mps, The Bushranger, Marc87,

- Ben Ben, Luckas-bot, Yobot, Andreaemperu, Ptbotgourou, Amble, Melonbarmonster2, Benteckbye, AnomieBOT, IRP, Royote, Yotcmr, Dicttrshp, Wahtsay, Bukubku, Citation bot, Kasaalan, LilHelpa, Xqbot, Poetaris, 4twenty42o, Memoryboy520, Haydn259, Srich32977, Anotherclown, Jean-Jacques Georges, BLJOU, AustralianRupert, Mjasfca, A.amitkumar, FrescoBot, Surv1v411st, Kierzek, LucienBOT, Tobby72, みや東亞, Ishiai, Haein45, Cannolis, Citation bot 1, AjoDanielle, Abductive, 10metreh, PiT (The Physicist), Michitaro, Emnorman, RedBot, Phoenix7777, Fuijin19, Carolina cotton, Arbero, Sandman888, RjwilmsiBot, International Common Editor, Yaush, Polylepsis, Letdemsay, EmausBot, Ghostofnemo, Hirohito, GoingBatty, Winner 42, Wikipelli, Dcirovic, K6ka, Illegitimate Barrister, Raubfreundschaft, Charley sf, Glemmens1940-enwiki, Git2010, Wayne Slam, Piantanida31, Kitarr, Winstonlighter, \$ILENCE D00600D, Graeme374, Ihardlythinkso, Forever Dusk, Graylandertagger, ClueBot NG, Jack Greenmaven, Satellizer, Iritakamas, VioletSeraphim, Widr, Syss9, Scanhead25, Oddbodz, Helpful Pixie Bot, 2pem, ISTB351, Cold Season, YouCute, Op47, CitationCleanerBot, MisterC-Sharp, Harizotoh9, Quigley, BattyBot, Haymouse, Cyberbot II, JapHater, EuroCarGT, IceBrotherhood, 23 editor, Phuttimate, Alázhlis, XXzoonamiXX, Valpito, Joshtaco, Juzumaru, 93, Miunouta, Rajmaan, Epicgenius, MelissaLond, Darkness walks, Zmflavius, Tksk262, DavidLeighEllis, Konjakupoet, Jayme1234, Monochrome Monitor, Automaton wiki, LahmacunKebab, RemyMCMXI, Finnusertop, Quenhitran, Mevagiss, Monkbot, MarblePlinth, Greg723, JonurWiki, ICPGSGWU, JPNEX, Stanislawlemllem, Pace2Pace, Vivexdino, GeneralizationsAreBad, Hellobellobello, Kdeerjeon, Kiwifist, BFG, Fortunatestars, Hqueue, The Quixotic Potato, Sarangball, Steveishere25, Sk19977, Singaporean9919, Tkaehfdl1234, LittleKid1949, Otomowiki, Akari Asaka's Arisaka and Anonymous: 506
- Military production during World War II** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_production_during_World_War_II?oldid=714538274 *Contributors:* Ixfd64, Bogdangiusca, Gentgeen, Cautious, DocWatson42, Oberiko, Bobblewik, Abu badali, Mzajac, Rich Farmbrough, Pavel Vozenilek, Bender235, LtNOWIS, Joshbaumgartner, TenOfAllTrades, Drbreznjev, Mfields1, GraemeLeggett, Oblivious, Ligulem, Naraht, Alassius, Cornellrockey, RussBot, Rsrikanth05, Rjensen, Davidsteinberg, Dna-webmaster, Open2universe, Petri Krohn, Whobot, Nick-D, TravisTX, SmackBot, Alex earlier account, Hmains, Chris the speller, Hibernian, Trekphiler, SuperDeng, OrphanBot, Georgeccampbell, Simmyymis, Microchip08, Buckboard, Hierakares, Laddiebuck, Geeman, The ed17, Cydebot, HawkShark, Tec15, Jameboy, Ggbroad, Jj137, Magioladitis, Parsecboy, Engineman, Trusilver, Darrel UofA, Jeepday, WinterSpw, Thismightbezach, Funandrvi, Nug, Toddy1, Alex1709, David Condrey, Mugs2109, UnneededAplomb, RJaguar3, Miniapolis, Ashtheman, JL-Bot, ClueBot, Scarfbot, Excirial, 7&6=thirteen, Dthomsen8, Addbot, Favonian, Baffle gab1978, Damwiki1, Luckas-bot, Yobot, AnomieBOT, Materialscientist, Anotherclown, AustralianRupert, Factuarius, FrescoBot, Marksspite2, Slivicon, I dream of horses, Serols, Lotje, Cowlibob, Wilytilt, Caominhthang, 12345gorillamaster, Ain92, DASHBotAV, ClueBot NG, DTParker1000, Theopolisme, Abraxas42, BG19bot, Brukner, MusikAnimal, Choy4311, Mogism, Ugog Nizdast, Manul, Whizz40, IseeEwe, Jordanrolsen, AABBI12233321, Perapin, Knife-in-the-drawer, PigeonOfTheNight, Robert Brukner and Anonymous: 152
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