

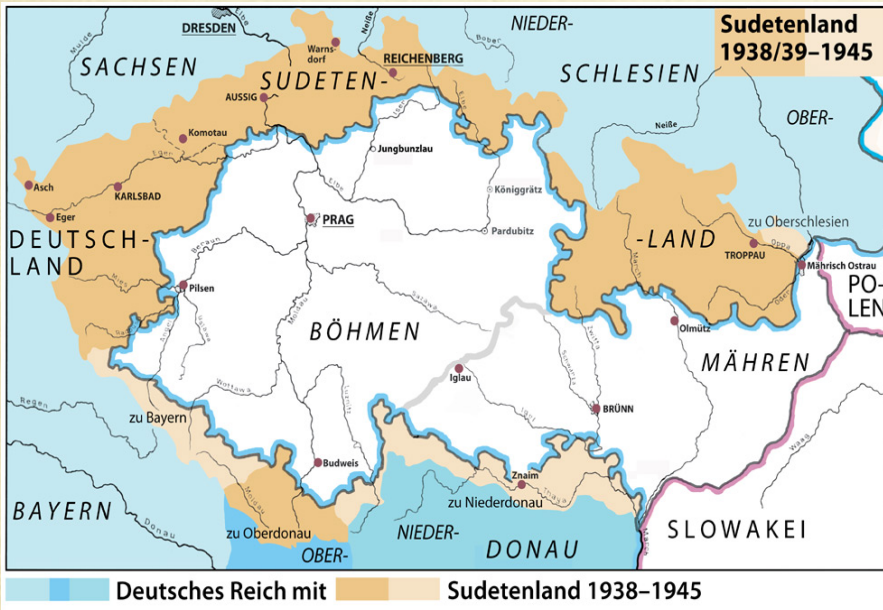
WWII in Europe

Hitler on the Offensive

- March 1936 = Hitler sent troops into the Rhineland
 - Allies did nothing
- October 1936 = Hitler & Mussolini signed the Rome-Berlin Axis = an alliance
 - Later joined by Japan = became the Axis Powers
 - No counter-alliance from the Allies
- March 1938 = German “Anschluss” with Austria
 - Anschluss = means union
 - Hitler invaded Austria and united it with Germany
 - Allies did nothing



Hitler on the Offensive



- September 1938 = Hitler demanded that Germans in the Sudetenland join Germany
 - 3 million Germans there
 - Sudetenland = in northwestern region of Czechoslovakia
- Czechoslovakian leaders declare martial law

Hitler on the Offensive

- September 15, 1938 = Neville Chamberlain (leader of England) and Hitler meet
- Hitler wants the Sudetenland to join Germany
- Chamberlain goes with policy of appeasement = granting concessions to maintain peace



Munich Conference



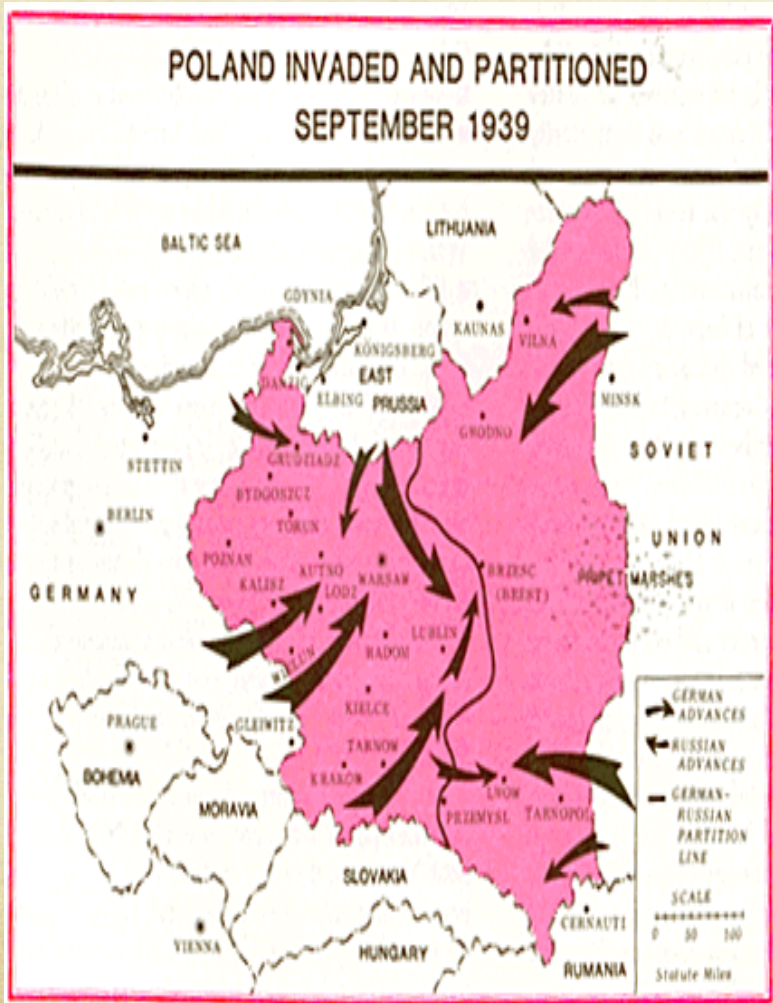
- September 29, 1938 = Chamberlain, Hitler, Mussolini, and Daladier (from France) meet
- Hitler says if he can have the Sudetenland then he won't touch the rest of Czechoslovakia or take any other European territories
- Great Britain and France agree to this

Hitler on the Offensive

- March 1939 = Hitler sent troops into Czechoslovakia and took it over
- August 1939 = Hitler and Stalin signed the Nazi-Soviet Nonaggression Pact
 - They agreed to not invade each other
 - They agreed to stay neutral if the other went to war
 - Both sides knew that this pact wouldn't last long



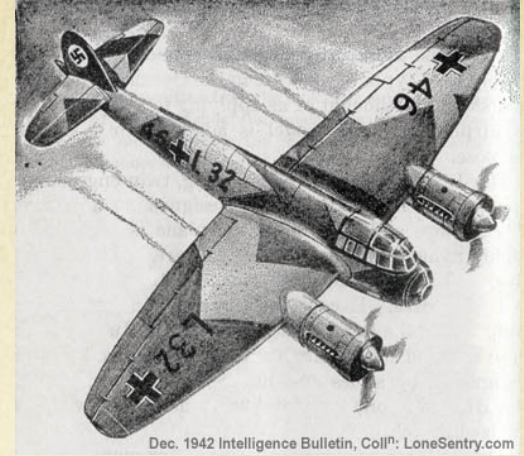
Hitler on the Offensive



- Now Hitler didn't have to worry about Soviets attacking from the east
- He could do whatever he wanted in the west
- September 1, 1939 = Hitler invaded Poland
 - 2 days later = Poland, Great Britain, and France declared war on Germany
 - WWII had begun

Attack on Poland

- Germans used military tactic called **blitzkrieg** = “lightning war” = aimed at taking the enemy by surprise
 - Luftwaffe = German air force: swept in dropping bombs
 - Panzers = armored tanks: crossed the Polish border
 - Infantry = more than 1.5 million men poured in
 - Quick and efficient – Poland fell in a few weeks



Hitler on the Offensive

- Winter 1939 - Spring 1940 = nothing happened
 - This period = called the “sit-down war”
 - Germans called it: *Sitzkrieg*
 - Allies called it: the “phony war”
- April 1940 = Hitler invaded and conquered Denmark and Norway
- England failed to stop these invasions
 - Neville Chamberlain stepped down as Prime Minister
 - Winston Churchill becomes new Prime Minister



Hitler on the Offensive

- May 1940 = Hitler conquered and invaded Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Belgium



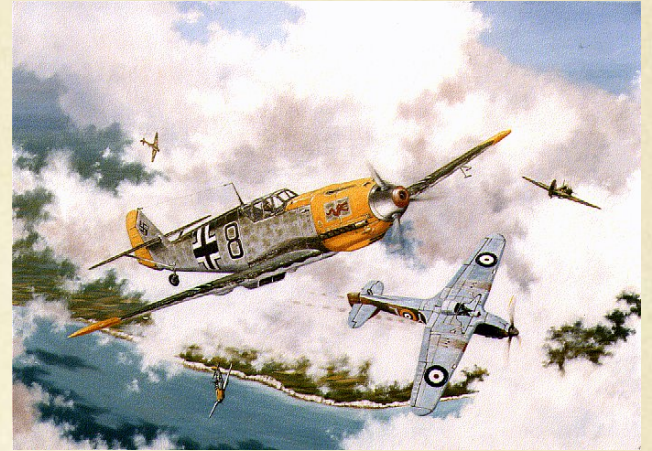
Fall of France

- June 1940 = Hitler invaded France
- June 14, 1940 = entered Paris
- 1 week later = France surrendered to Germany
- Germans controlled northern France
- In southern France = Nazis set up a “puppet government” in Vichy, France
- Run by French officials, but they collaborated with the Germans



Battle of Britain

- Hitler's next target = Great Britain
- Hitler thought he'd take over Britain by winning "air supremacy" and destroying Britain's Royal Air Force
- August 1940 = Luftwaffe began bombing Great Britain
 - Destroyed 4 aircraft factories and 5 RAF fields
 - 75 German planes shot down in the process



Battle of Britain



- August 24 - September 6, 1940 = Nazis sent over 1,000 planes a day
 - RAF lost 466 planes & 103 pilots
 - Even heavier losses for the Germans
- September 7 - November 3, 1940 = German bombers hit London with a blitz = series of air raids
 - In 1 night alone = 70,000 bombs fell on London

Battle of Britain

- Great Britain never backed down
 - Hitler never gained “air supremacy”
 - More than 1700 Nazi aircrafts shot down in the Battle of Britain
 - Hitler’s invasion was blocked

Cooperation from the U.S.

- U.S. wanted to remain neutral
 - Neutrality Acts (1937) = banned arms, shipments, loans, and credit to warring nations
- As Hitler got more aggressive, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt felt the need to aid the Allies
- Cash-and-Carry Policy = Great Britain could trade cash for supplies from the U.S.



Cooperation from the U.S.

- Cost of WWII started to drain Britain's treasury --> couldn't pay cash anymore
- U.S. approved "lend-lease policy" = President could lend war equipment to any country whose defense was vital to the U.S.

Invasion of the Soviet Union



- Having failed in Great Britain = Hitler turned his sights on the Soviet Union
- June 22, 1941 = Hitler broke the Non-Aggression Pact and invaded the Soviet Union



- Within a few days = Nazis destroyed most of the Soviet air force, disabled thousands of their tanks, and captured 1/2 a million Soviet soldiers

Invasion of the Soviet Union

- Stalin issued his scorched-earth policy = if Soviets had to retreat, they would destroy/burn everything that could be of use to the invaders
- Germans ended up getting as far as Moscow = about 600 miles into the Soviet Union
 - December 1941 = Soviets able to launch a successful counterattack to save Moscow and force the Nazis to retreat from the city



The Holocaust

- Hitler's goal = complete extermination of all Jews in Europe
- 1941 - 1944 = the Holocaust = more than 6 million Jews were mass murdered
- Another 6 million non-Jews were also killed = gypsies, Slavic people, mentally and physically disabled, homosexuals, political opponents, etc.



The Holocaust

- Before being sent to concentration camps, many Jews were placed in ghettos
- Largest ghetto = in Warsaw, Poland
- Unsanitary housing
- Contagious diseases
- No food
- Tens of thousands died in the ghettos



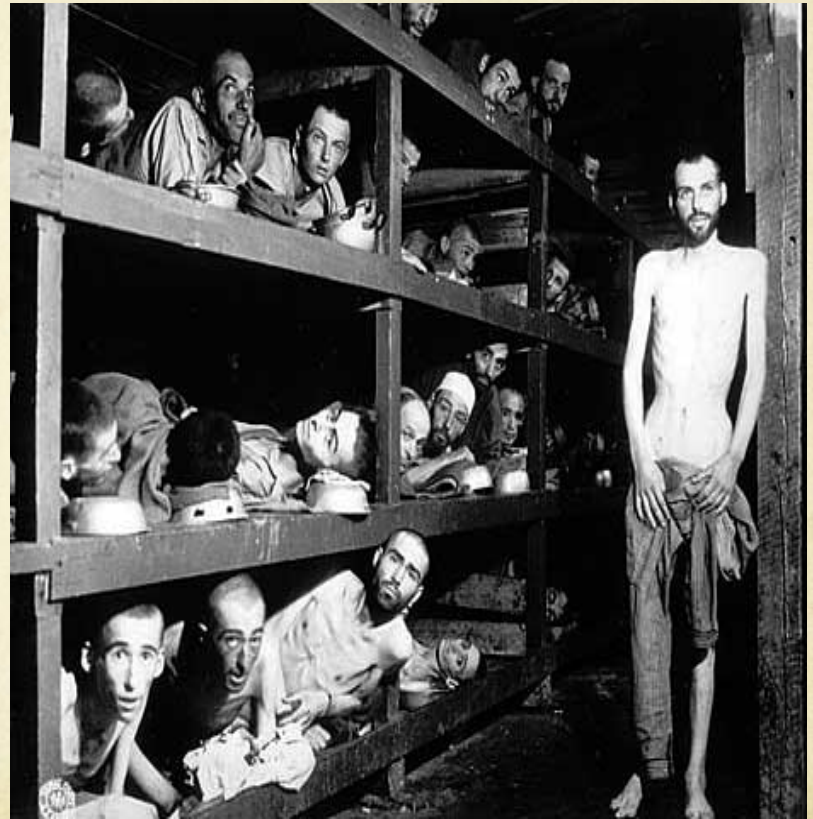
The Holocaust



- Killing squads used to murder many Jews in the Soviet Union
- SS soldiers took their valuables, marched them to the outskirts of town, and shot them
- Bodies were dumped in mass graves
- Killing squads killed more than 1 million Jews this way

The Holocaust

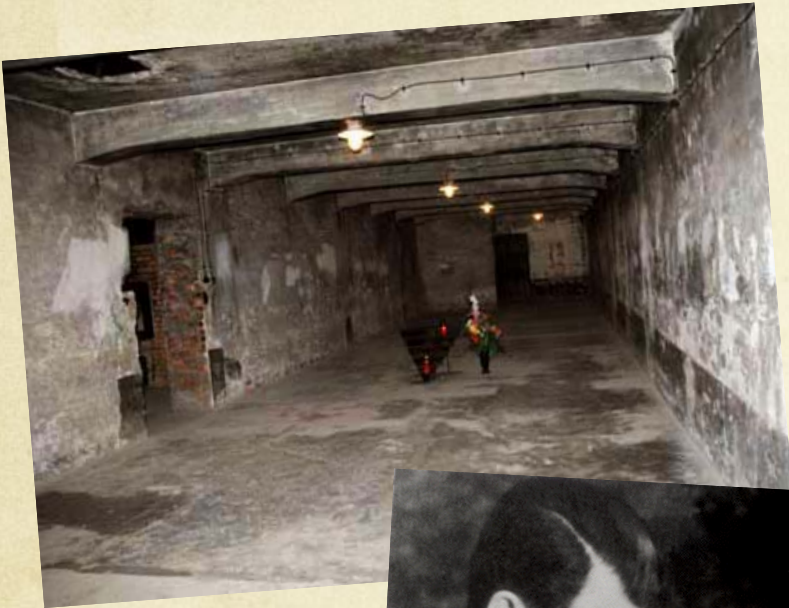
- “The Final Solution” = Nazi code term for the extermination of all European Jews
- Genocide = the carefully planned killing of an entire group of people based on their race or culture
- Nazis began rounding up hundreds of thousands of Jews and shipping them on trains or trucks to concentration camps and death camps



The Holocaust

- Largest death camp = Auschwitz in Poland
- Many people in the death camps were killed by the gas chambers
- Others died of starvation and exhaustion
- Others were the victims of cruel experiments done by Nazi doctors

Josef Mengele
“The Angel of
Death”



Turning Points in WWII

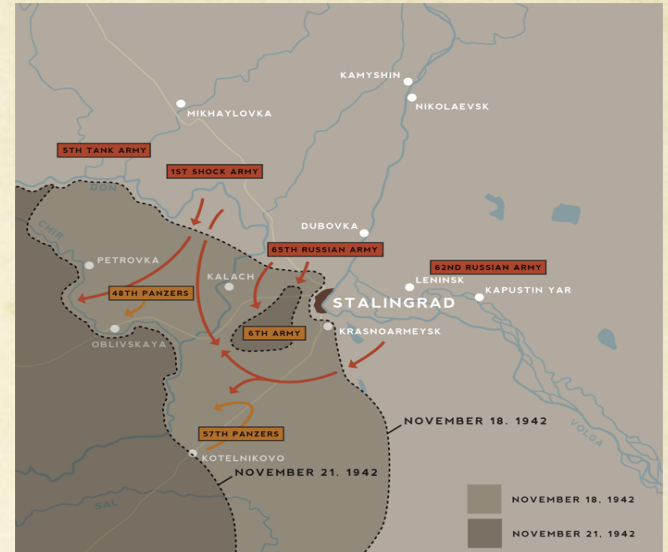
- Battle of Stalingrad in the Soviet Union
- Allies reclaim North Africa
- Allies reclaim Italy
- D-Day



Map 21.5 World War II in Europe
 Chapter 21, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, First Edition
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 Page 1000

The Battle of Stalingrad

- August 1942 = Germans attacked the major Soviet city of Stalingrad = a major industrial center
- The Soviets mustered together everything they had and launched a massive counterattack
 - Encircled the German troops and cut off their supply lines
 - Hitler refused to allow his troops to retreat, even though the Soviet troops and harsh winter were closing in on them



The Battle of Stalingrad



Germany's entire 6th Army lost

- February 1943 = German officers surrendered
- 100,000 German soldiers killed
- 80,000 Germans = POWs
- Large quantities of German military equipment seized
- The Soviets began to slowly but surely continue westward towards Germany

War in the Desert: The Reclaiming of North Africa

- Early 1942 = Allied forces (under Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower) were struggling in North Africa



- Up against a very good commander for the Axis Powers = German Commander Erwin Rommel



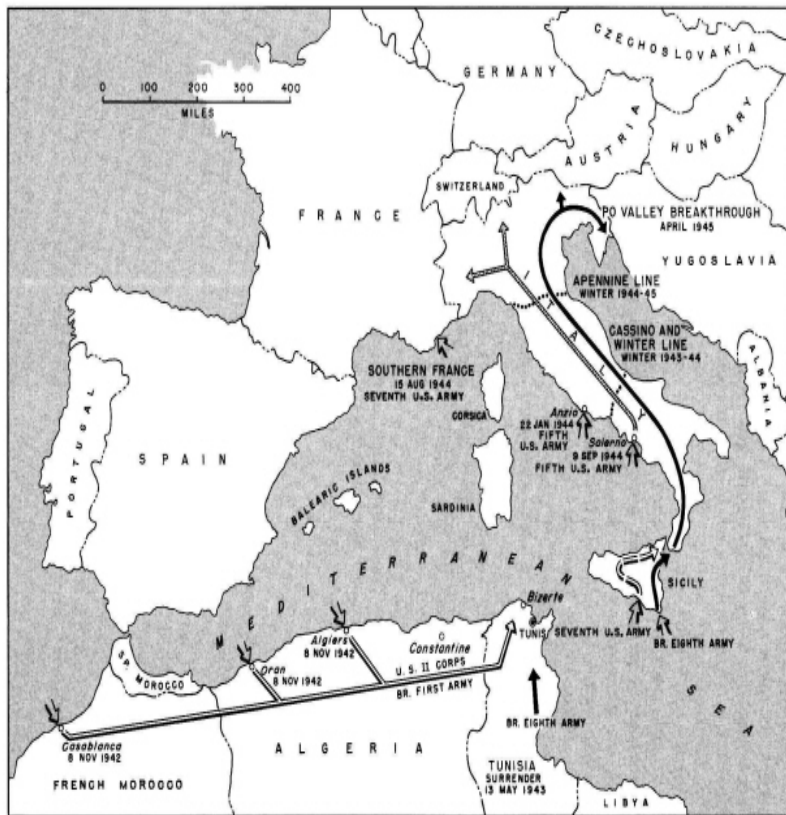
- May 1942 = Battle at El Alamein = British able to stop the Germans' advances into Egypt

- October 1942 = Germans forced back across the Egyptian-Libyan border

- January 1943 = British troops had regained Libya



War in the Desert: The Reclaiming of North Africa



MAP 6.—Campaigns in the North African and Mediterranean Theaters of Operations, U.S. Army, 1942-45.

- As British troops advanced westward, Allies landed more troops in Morocco and Algeria
- Goal = to “squeeze out” the Germans in the middle
- May 1943 = the Germans surrendered
- Allies now controlled all of North Africa

Reclaiming Italy

- July 1943 = Allies attack island of Sicily
 - Conquered it in 6 days → then continued to mainland Italy
 - King Victor Emmanuel III fired Mussolini
 - New Prime Minister of Italy signed a secret act of surrender to the Allies
- But: there are still German troops in Italy and they aren't giving up
 - Allies continue north through Italy
 - June 4, 1944 = Allied forces entered Rome and Germany surrendered



D-Day



- Operation Overlord = Allied code name for the invasion of France
- June 6, 1944 = D-Day = the day of the attack
- Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy and fought their way forward amid German machine-gun fire
- Heavy German resistance → but it was a success
- August 25, 1944 = Allied troops had regained Paris

D-Day - June 6, 1944

Omaha Beach Landing

A Clip from *Saving Private Ryan*

The Battle of the Bulge: Germany's Last Stand

- December 1944 → Germans cut through the center of American forces, creating a “bulge” in the Allied line of troops
- March 1945 = advances of German troops were stopped
- Meanwhile → Soviet troops are starting to invade Germany from the east
- May 7, 1945 = Germany surrenders
- May 8, 1945 = V-E Day = Victory in Europe Day



The Fate of the Fascists: Benito Mussolini

- April 27, 1945 = he and his mistress were caught trying to escape Italy
- The next day = both were executed (shot)
- Their bodies were brought to Milan and dumped in a piazza there
- After being shot, spat, and kicked upon – the bodies were hung upside down on meat hooks from the roof of a gas station
- Civilians continued to stone the bodies from below



The dead bodies of Mussolini (2nd from left) and his mistress (in the middle). The others are also the bodies of executed Fascists.

The Fate of the Fascists: Adolf Hitler



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-104744
Foto: o. Ang. | Juli 1947

*1947 photograph of the rear entrance
of Hitler's bunker*

- April 30, 1945 = Hitler and his wife, Eva Braun, committed suicide in the study of his “Führerbunker” in Berlin
- Hitler = by gunshot
- Eva = by cyanide poisoning
- Per earlier instructions, their bodies were brought out to the garden, doused with gasoline, and burned



Effects of World War II

- More than 70 million people fought in WWII
- About 55 million died because of the war
 - About 40% = Soviet troops = country that lost the most lives in WWII
- Millions more died in campaigns of genocide in Europe and Asia
- As many as 12 million people left homeless
- Many areas of Europe and Asia = completely destroyed and devastated