

A tropical beach scene at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and purple. In the foreground, there's a wooden pier extending into the water. In the background, a large, bright yellow and orange explosion or fire is visible, with smoke rising into the sky. The overall mood is dramatic and intense.

ROAD TO WAR

WORLD WAR II

THE RISE OF DICTATORS

- By the mid-1930s, dictators, or absolute rulers, had seized control in several countries
- Italy, Germany, Japan, and the Soviet Union.



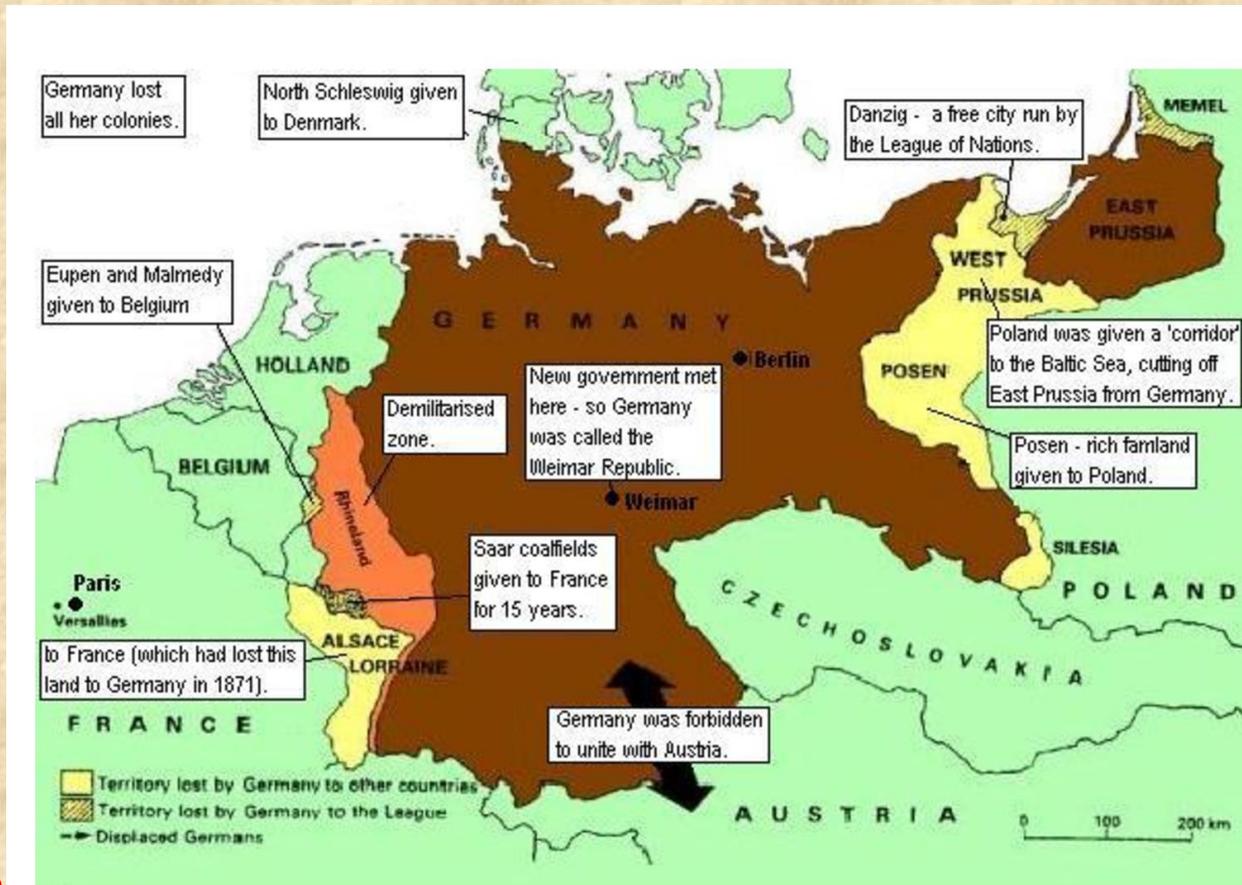
TREATY FALLOUT

- The treaties that had ended World War I had left many nations feeling betrayed.
- Italy gained less territory than it wanted.
- Japan felt ignored by the European powers.
- Germany was treated the most severely.



THE VERSAILLES TREATY

- Germany lost more than 10 percent of its territory and all of its overseas colonies.
- Germany was forced to disarm and reduce its armed forces.
- Germany had to pay reparations for the cost of World War I to France (which had lost this land to Germany in 1871).
- Germany had to take full responsibility for WWI.



[Video Clip about the Treaty](#) (2 min)

A WORLD CRISIS

- WWI had left Europe a mess. Countries were in debt and economies in ruins.
- The Great Depression led to hyperinflation and unemployment world wide.
- Germany, trying to pay reparations, was hit exceptionally hard,
- Civilians turned to new leaders to solve the problems.



MUSSOLINI OF ITALY

- Mussolini began a movement known as fascism .
- Fascists preached an extreme form of patriotism and nationalism that was often linked to racism, oppressing people who did not share their views.
- In 1922, Mussolini became prime minister of Italy.
- In 1925, he established a dictatorship and took the title // *Duce* or “the Leader.”



ADOLF HITLER OF GERMANY

- Led the fascist National Socialist German Workers' Party, or Nazi Party.
- The Nazis gained power by preaching German racial superiority.
- They also promised to avenge the nation's defeat in World War I.
- In 1933, the Nazis won control of the government. Hitler overthrew the constitution.
- He called himself *der Führer*, or "the Leader."



JOSEF STALIN OF THE SOVIET UNION

- Stalin means “Man of Steel.”
- The government tried to control every aspect of life in the nation.
- Farms were taken from individuals. Millions in the Ukraine starved to death.
- Any who resisted or opposed the government were killed or sent to a “Gulag”, the Soviet equivalent of a concentration camp.
- [Propaganda](#) video about the plans of the dictators. (5 min)



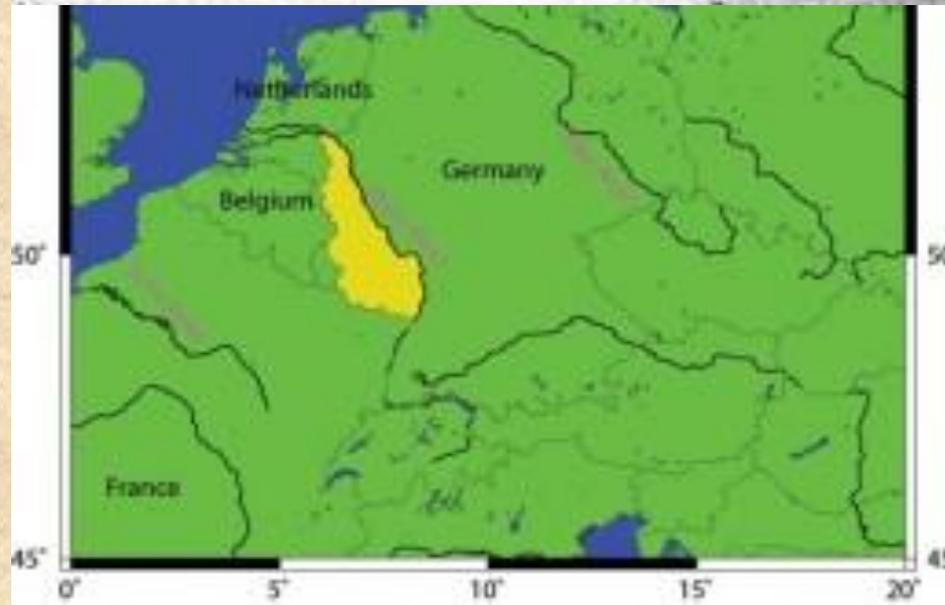
THE MILITARY IN JAPAN

- More land and resources.
- The Japanese attacked Manchuria, a province in northern China rich in natural resources.
- In Japanese propaganda, the invasion of China became a "holy war"
- Brutality of Japanese soldiers towards Chinese civilians resulted in events like the Nanking Massacre where approximately 300,000 civilians were killed.
- They conquered the region within months.



INVASION AND CONQUEST

- In 1935, Italy attacked Ethiopia (Abyssinia), one of the few independent African nations.
- That same year, Hitler moved troops into the Rhineland, a region of Germany along the French border.
- Under the Treaty of Versailles, the Rhineland was to remain free of German forces.
- The French government was outraged by the treaty violation.
- However, it took no action.
- Nor did the League of Nations.



AXIS POWERS AND SPANISH CIVIL WAR

- In 1936, Hitler and Mussolini formed an alliance known as the Rome-Berlin Axis.
- They, and their allies, would be called the Axis Powers.
- That year, a civil war erupted in Spain between the fascist-style military and the elected government.
- The Axis supplied the fascist forces with troops, weapons, and aircraft.
- In 1939, Spain's army declared victory over the government and established a dictatorship.



Video Clip of [Axis Powers](#) (2 min)

AUSTRIAN ANSCHLUSS

- In 1938, Hitler invaded Austria, home to mostly German-speaking peoples.
- He insisted that the Austrians wanted to be part of Germany.
- Many residents of Austria and Germany welcomed the unification.
- After taking over Austria, Hitler set his sights on the Sudetenland.

Video Clip of [Anschluss](#) (4 min)



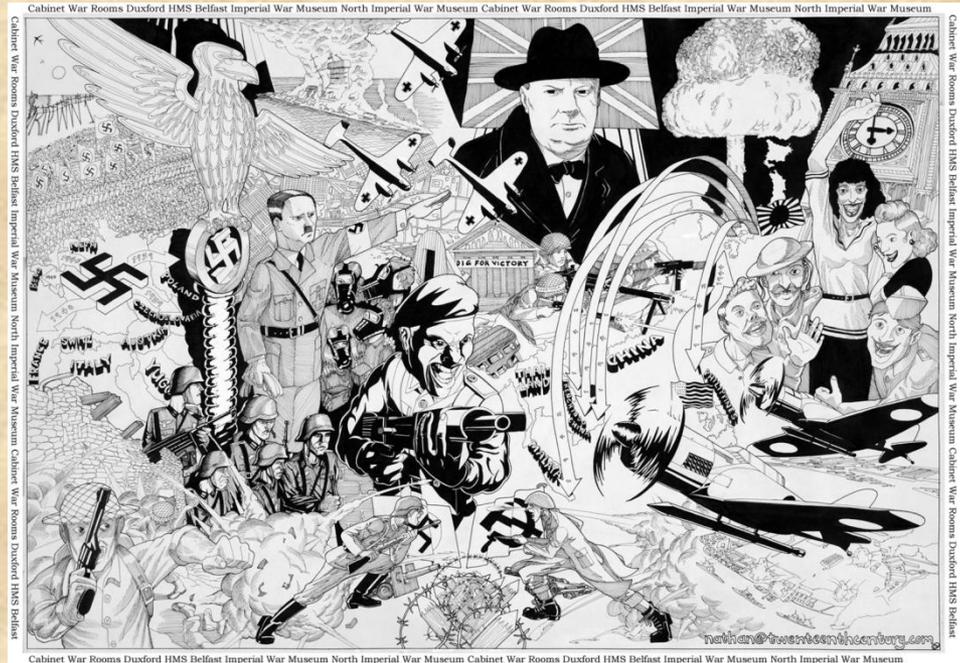
THE SUDETENLAND

- A region of Czechoslovakia where many people of German descent lived.
- France and Russia promised to support Czechoslovakia if Germany attacked.
- Britain's prime minister, **Neville Chamberlain, met with Hitler in Munich, Germany.**
- **They signed the Munich Agreement. Germany would get the Sudetenland if Hitler promised to stop seeking new territory.**



APPEASEMENT

- The Munich Agreement was an example of the British and French policy known as **appeasement**.
 - Under this policy, they met Germany's demands in order to avoid war.
- Chamberlain returned home from Munich and triumphantly announced that he had achieved “peace in our time.”



[Video of Appeasement \(8 min\)](#)

'Remember . . . One More Lollypop, and Then You All Go Home!'



TROUBLE ON THE HORIZON

- Winston Churchill reportedly wrote of the agreement: “[Britain and France] had to choose between war and shame. They chose shame. They will get war, too.”



“LIAR, LIAR. PANTS ON FIRE!”

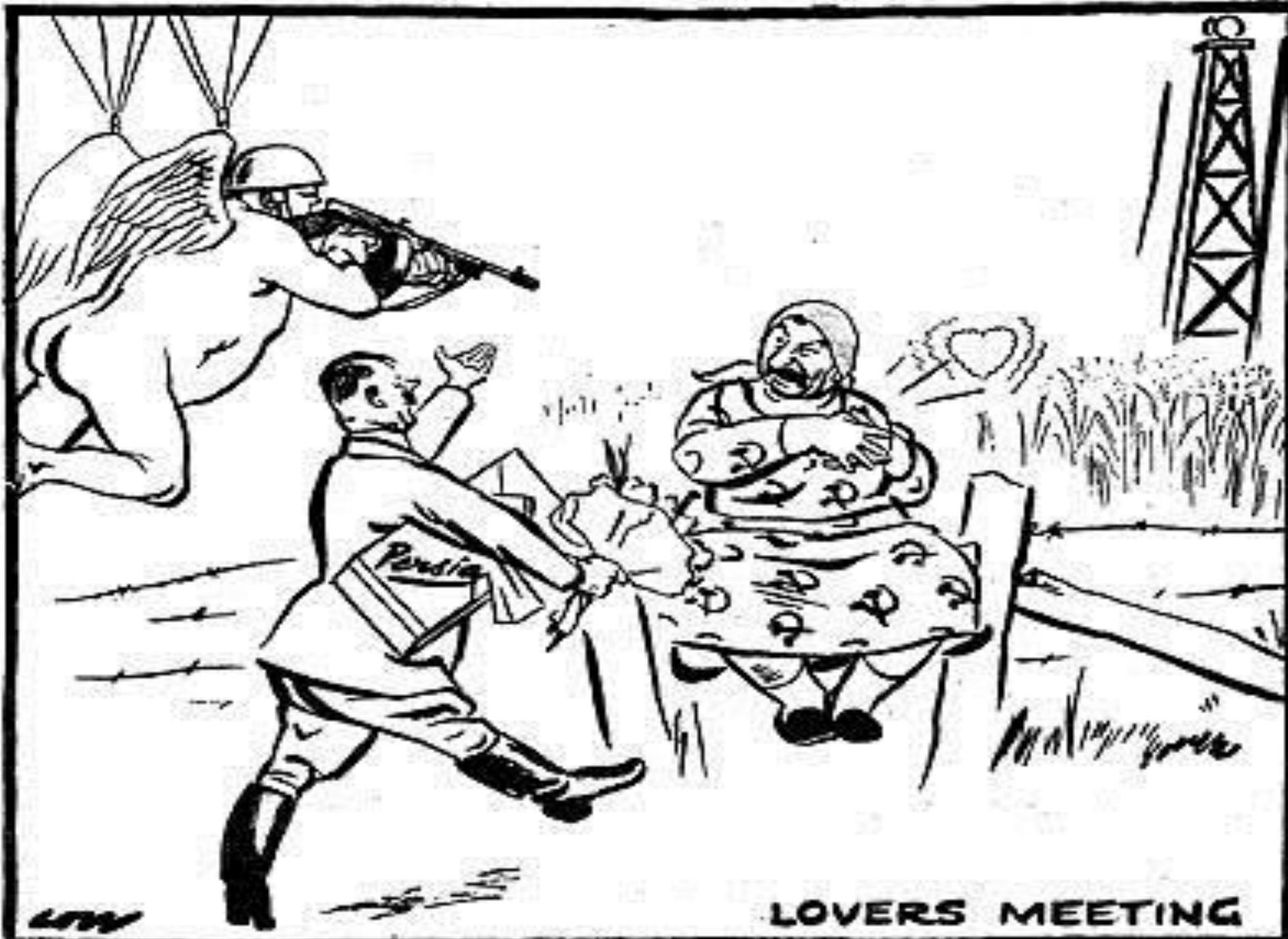
- Hitler soon broke the promise he had made in Munich.
- In March 1939, his troops moved in and conquered the rest of Czechoslovakia.
- The Führer then declared his intent to seize territory from Poland.
- Britain and France warned that an attack on Poland would mean war.



THE NAZI-SOVIET PACT OF NON-AGGRESSION

- August 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union signed a nonaggression pact.
- They agreed not to declare war on each other and to split Poland. Stalin would get the eastern half as well as the Baltic States.





LOVERS MEETING

WORLD WAR II BEGINS!

- On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland.
- Great Britain and France declared war on Germany two days after the invasion of Poland.
- World War II had begun.



Video of the [German invasion of Poland](#) (2 min)

2 CENTS
PER COPY

Chicago Daily Tribune
THE WORLD'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

FINAL

WAR! BOMB WARSAW!

NAZI ARMY ORDER

BERLIN, Sept. 1 (Friday) (A.P.)—Adolf Hitler today ordered the German army to meet force with force. His order of the day to the army read:

"The Polish state has rejected my efforts to establish neighborly relations, and instead has appealed to weapons. Germans in Poland are victims of a bloody terror, driven from house and home. A series of border violations unbearable for a great power show that the Poles no longer are willing to respect the German border.

"To put an end to these insane incitations, nothing remains but for me to meet force with force from now on. The German army will conduct a fight for honor and the right to the life of the resurrected German people with firm determination. I expect that every soldier, mindful of the great traditions of the eternal German military, will do his duty to the last.

"Remember always that you are representatives of the National Socialist great Germany. Long live our people and our reich!"

BLITZKRIEG

- The Germans introduced a new method of warfare known as *blitzkrieg* (“lightning war”).
- It stressed speed and surprise in the use of tanks, troops, and planes.
- As Germany conquered western Poland, the Soviet Union invaded from the east.
- Most of the Polish military fought on horseback with antiquated weaponry...no match for the German *wehrmacht* (“war machine”).
- In less than a month, Poland fell to the invading armies.



HEADING FOR FRANCE

- In April 1940, Hitler conquered Denmark and overran Norway.
- A month later, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.
- As each nation surrendered, British soldiers retreated to the French seaport of Dunkirk on the English Channel. Newsreel of [Dunkirk](#) (5 min.)
- Under heavy German bombardment, British fishing boats, yachts, ferries and other vessels evacuated nearly 340,000 British, French, and Belgian troops.

BLACK-OUTS 9.37 p.m. to 4.19 a.m. DAILY SKETCH, MONDAY, JUNE 3, 1940

Sun rises 4.49 a.m. sets 8.7 a.m.
Moon rises 3.37 a.m. sets 6.29 p.m.

BOMBS ON NORFOLK: PAGE THREE

BOURNVILLE COCOA
FOOD AT PRE WAR PRICE
Still 6d per 4 lb

Daily Sketch

BIRD'S CUSTARD & JELLIES

No. 9,695 (E**) MONDAY, JUNE 3, 1940 ONE PENNY

DUNKIRK DEFENCE DEFIES 300,000

FOUR-FIFTHS OF B.E.F. SAVED: STORY ON PAGE THREE

'THE NAVY'S HERE'—WITH THE ARMY



© John Frost Newspapers

"We have been able to embark and save more than four-fifths of the British Expeditionary Force, which the Germans claim to have encircled," said Mr. Anthony Eden, our War Minister, last night. Here is a crowded British port at which some of them arrived. Vessels of all kinds have come alongside. Every ship is packed with men. More pictures of the homecoming of British and French troops from Flanders are on pages 8 and 9.

BRITAIN'S LAST WORD TO ITALY: BACK PAGE

RETURN TO VERSAILLES

- In June 1940, the Germans launched a major offensive against France.
- In less than two weeks, they reached Paris.
- Days later, France surrendered.
- Hitler believed that Great Britain would seek peace after France fell.



THE LUFTWAFFE AND THE RAF

- The British had no intention of quitting.
- Churchill, the new British prime minister, declared, “[We shall defend every village, every town, and every city.](#)” (Video clip 2 min)
- Hitler soon made plans to invade Britain. To do so, however, he needed to destroy Britain’s Royal Air Force, often called the RAF.
- In the summer of 1940, the German air force, or Luftwaffe and the RAF fought in the skies over Britain.



THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN (THE BLITZ)

- German planes also unleashed massive bombing attacks on London and other civilian targets.
- By September, however, the Battle of Britain had left Hitler frustrated.
- The RAF was holding off the Luftwaffe.
- Hitler was losing too many planes.
- And despite constant bombing, the British people did not surrender.



[Battle of Britain](#) Paintings and Music (2.5 min)



IN THE MEANTIME...

- While Hitler was busy in the west, Stalin's forces moved to take Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Baltic Sea.

- Despite their non-aggression pact, Hitler and Stalin distrusted each other.

- Hitler feared Soviet expansion in Europe and wanted Soviet resources.



OPERATION BARBAROSSA

HITLER'S FATAL ERROR

- Turning from Britain, Hitler invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941.
- German forces moved easily through the giant country inflicting heavy casualties on Soviet troops.
- Then Hitler made a major mistake.
- He decided not to concentrate all his forces against Moscow. Instead, he reinforced his armies heading north toward Leningrad and south toward Stalingrad.
- The Germans tried to capture Leningrad for 900 days. About one million citizens died, many from starvation. But the city never fell to the Germans.



SOVIET WINTER

- As German troops advanced farther into Soviet territory, they ran into the harshest Russian winter in decades.

- Many German soldiers suffered frostbite. They were ill-equipped for the weather and their supply lines had gotten too long to be of use.

- German tanks and weapons broke down in the cold.



[Operation Barbarossa](#) in color (15 min)

STALINGRAD

- The Battle of Stalingrad is believed by many historians to be the turning point on the Eastern Front.
- Hitler refused to back off of the city that bore the name of his rival. Stalin refused to surrender the city named after him.
- From 1942 into 1943, the battle for the city descended into one of the most brutal in World War Two. Individual streets were fought over using hand-to-hand combat. Snipers were utilized heavily. The entire city was destroyed





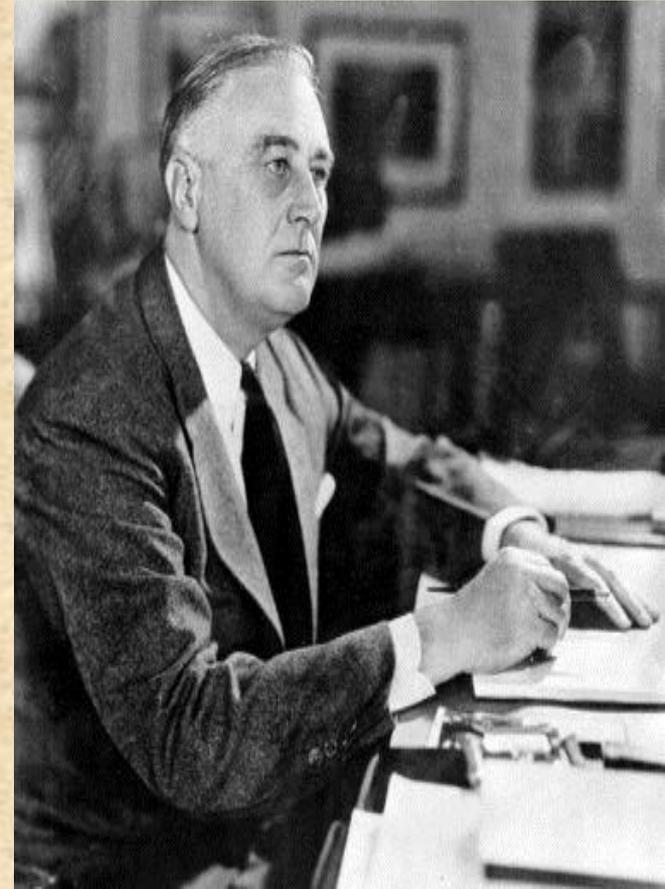
TURNING POINT ON THE EASTERN FRONT

- The German loss at Stalingrad crippled the Nazi war machine.
 - A complete army group was lost and more than 91,000 Germans were taken prisoner.
 - This loss of equipment and fighting force left Germany unable to advance any more.
- They now began to retreat as the Soviet's pushed them back towards Germany.



THE LEND – LEASE ACT

- While most Americans did not want to get involved in another foreign war and America, technically, followed a policy of isolationism, President Roosevelt knew that our help was needed.
- “We must be the great arsenal of democracy,” he declared.
- The Lend- Lease Act allowed the United States to lend or lease raw materials, equipment, and weapons to the Allied nations.
- Under Lend-Lease, the United States sent about \$50 billion worth of war goods to the Allies.



[Lend Lease Act \(1.5 min\)](#)

It's truly encouraging how much
of this stuff drifts into British ports!"



JAPANESE EXPANSION PLANS

- In 1940, Japan joined the alliance with Germany and Italy.
- In 1941, an even more warlike government came to power in Japan. Its leader was **Hideki Tojo**, an army general.
- The Tojo government made plans to invade the Dutch East Indies—a source of oil—and Asian territories.



PEARL HARBOR

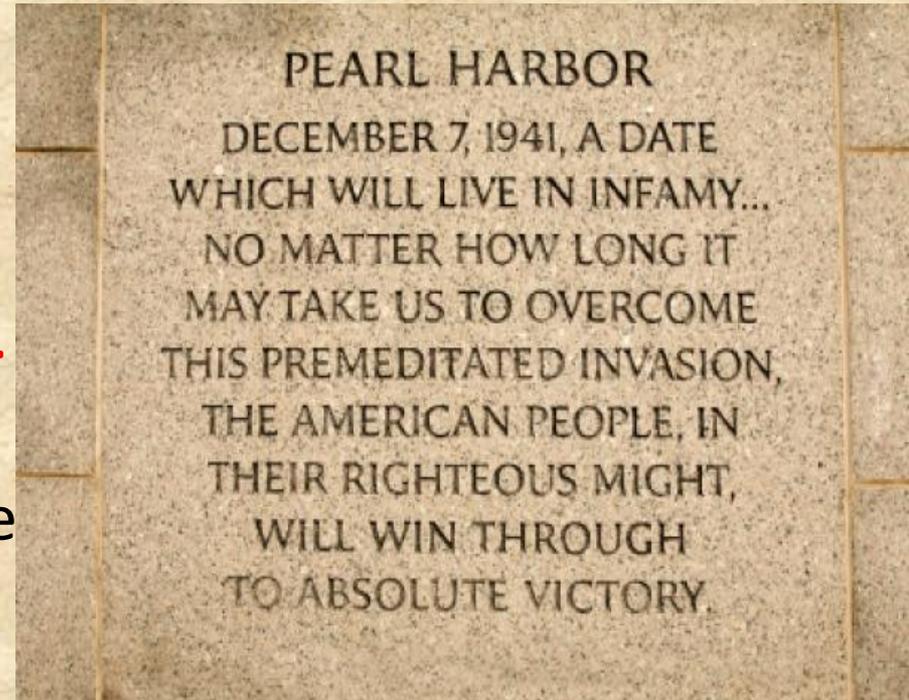
- Only one thing stood in Japan's way—the United States Navy.
- On December 7, 1941, Japanese warplanes bombed the huge American naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.
- Before the day was over, about 2,400 Americans—both servicemen and civilians—died.
- Many of the American warplanes and ships were destroyed or damaged.





AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT

- Immediately following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan attacked many islands and island chains in the Pacific.
- President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan.
- He called December 7, 1941, “a date which will live in infamy.” The nation quickly united behind him.
- On December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.



[Pearl Harbor Footage](#) (9 min)

