

A GUIDE
TO
WORLD WAR TWO

THE ROAD TO WAR

- 1922 Mussolini seizes power (Fascism).
- 1923 Hitler's Beer Hall Putsch fails.
- 1925 Mein Kampf (written in jail).
- 1931 Japan invades Manchuria/Stimson Doctrine.
- 1933 Hitler becomes the Fuhrer.
- 1934 "The Night of the Long Knives" (Brownshirt leaders are assassinated).
- 1935 "Nuremberg Laws" (600,000 Jews are stripped of their rights).
Italy invades Ethiopia (East Africa).
Neutrality Act of 1935 (United States).
- 1936 Germany invades the Rhineland.
Spanish Civil War (dress rehearsal for WW II) Francisco Franco.
Rome-Berlin Axis is formed.
- 1937 Japan invades China (Chiang Kai-Shek leads resistance).
Japan strafes U.S. gunboat, The Panay.
Neutrality Act of 1937 (United States).
"Quarantine Speech" (unpopular).
- 1938 Hitler annexes Austria (violation of Versailles Treaty).
Hitler and Chamberlain at Munich (appeasement).
Hitler annexation of Sudetenland ("Peace in our time").
- 1939 Hitler annexation of the rest of Czechoslovakia.
Non-Aggression Pact (Nazis and Soviets). "Strange Bedfellows."
Hitler invades Poland (September 1, 1939). WW II begins.
- 1940 Fall of France (July). Vichy French/Free French. (DeGaulle).
Battle of Britain (August-October).
Peacetime conscription in United States.
"Destroyers for Bases" (Aid to Britain).
- 1941 "Lend-Lease Act" (Aid to Allies).
Hitler invades Russia.
Atlantic Charter (F.D.R. committed to an Allied victory).
Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941).
- 1942 Guadalcanal (Solomons); El Alamein (North Africa); Stalingrad (Russia)
- 1943 Allied victory in North Africa (Patton and Montgomery v. Rommel)
Invasion of Sicily.
Invasion of Italy.
- 1944 "Operation Overlord" (D-Day landing at Normandy) JUNE 6, 1944.
Battle of the Bulge (December. German counter-offensive).
- 1945 Mussolini executed and hung upside down for public viewing.
Yalta Conference (Feb.) need for Russian aid to defeat Japan.
Death of Franklin Roosevelt (April).
Hitler commits suicide.
V-E Day (May 8, 1945).
Alamoqordo test (July 16, 1945).
Potsdam Conference (July 17, 1945). Ultimatum given to Japan.
Hiroshima (August 6, 1945).
Russian entry into Pacific War (August 8, 1945).
Nagasaki (August 9, 1945).
V-J Day (August 14, 1945)
Tokyo Bay (September 2, 1945) MacArthur accepts surrender of Japan
- 1948 Hideki Tojo is hanged for War Crimes.

WORLD WAR TWO

WORLD WAR TWO(1939-1945)

Casualties: 60 million dead

Major Opponent: Germany, Austria, Italy, and Japan

Major Allied Powers: Soviet Union, England, Free-France, U.S.

Major Turning Point of the War: Battle of Stalingrad(1942-43)

Suffered the most: Soviet Union(25 million)

Worst Atrocity: Nazi genocide against the Jews(6million)

Post War: Red Scare(McCarthyism) JOE M' CARTHY, 1950-1954

United States Participation: Late entry(27 months late)

Unknown War: Bloody struggle on the Eastern Front against Soviets

United States Advantage: U.S. became the #1 economic and trading power in the world(replaced Britain)

High-minded Purpose: Democracies versus Autocracies(Soviet exception)

Major Weapon of destruction: Aerial bombardment

Post War International Organization: United Nations(1946)

N.A.T.O.(1949)

New World Order: Beginning of the end of overseas empire

Britain will lose India(1948)

France will lose Indochina(1954)

Division of Europe(East versus West)1945-1989

Cold War(1945-1989)

World War Two(1939-1945)

AS OPPOSED TO WWI

Air Power during WWII: Aerial bombardment of cities became a crucial element for achieving victory.

Economic Aid to Europe: The Marshall Plan - The United States spent 13 billion dollars towards the rebuilding of Europe.

*International Cooperation: The United States joined the United Nations(1946) and N.A.T.O.(1949).

War Crimes Trials: Nuremberg Trials in Germany(1946)

Japanese War Crimes Trials(1946)

*United States Policy: Internationalist

*Military-Industrial Complex: The United States decided to maintain military-industrial complex at top strength with the Cold War as the new "bogey man."

Homefront Intolerance: Did not repeat discrimination against German or Austrian Americans. However, there was discrimination against Japanese-Americans(110,000).

Idealistic Crusade: Not this war. This war was more action than propaganda. The majority of Americans never did have a clear idea what the war was about.

DISARMED
WWI

WORLD WAR TWO HIGHLIGHTS

HITLER'S FOUR MISTAKES OF 1941

1. Operation Barbarosa (JUNE, 1941).
Three million Germans awaken a "sleeping giant."
2. The "Final Solution."
More than just a "moral mistake."
3. The failure to mount a land invasion of England.
"Miracle of Dunkirk (1940).
Hitler goes after London rather than R.A.F. (1941). *ABANDONED IN FAVOR OF ATTACKING THE SOVIET UNION*
4. Condoning the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.
Hitler declares war on the United States (Dec. 11, 1941).
Another "sleeping giant" is awakened.

TURNING POINTS OF 1942-43

- JUNE 1942 Battle of Midway (turning point in Pacific).
Greatest naval battle, but ships never come in contact.
- Nov. 1942 Battle of El Alamein (turning point in North Africa).
Defeat of Rommel.
- Winter 1942-43 Battle of Stalingrad (turning point on the Eastern Front.)

THE SECOND FRONT

- 1942 Stalin versus Churchill and Roosevelt.
- 1942-44 Allies go through "soft underbelly" of the Third Reich (the Mediterranean).
North Africa-Sicily-Italy
- June 1944 "Operation Overload"
"D-Day June 6, 1944"
Normandy Invasion
Second Front on the west coast of France

CONFERENCES

- 1943 Casablanca (demand for "unconditional surrender").
- 1945 (Feb) Yalta (plot the future of Europe on the eve of German surrender):
- 1945 (July) Potsdam (demand for the unconditional surrender of Japan).

CASABLANCA → UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER
CONTRAVERSIAL DECISION

WORLD WAR TWO POST-MORTEM

Missing in Action (M.I.A.s)

The U.S.A. had a total of 80,000 M.I.A.s during World War Two.

World War Two: 80,000 or 20% of the 400,000 lost.
Korean War: 8,000 or 15% of the 54,000 lost.
Vietnam: 2,200 or 4% of the 58,000 lost.

Concentration Camps

Dachau: First concentration camp set up by the Nazis(1935).

Auschwitz: The most lethal death camp, up to 5,000 gassed per day.

Bergen-Belsen The Beast of Belsen and her "lamp shades" from tattooed skin.

There were many other camps such as Theresenstadt, Sobibor, and Buchenwald throughout Europe. In all, over 12 million people who didn't fit into Hitler's Aryan Super Race were exterminated. Besides six million Jews there were Political opponents, Slavs, Gypsies, Homosexuals, the Mentally ill, the physically handicapped, etc.

RAVENSBRUK

At no time did the United States bomb the camps or the railroad lines leading to the camps.

Prior to the gas chambers, the Nazis often marched thousands of victims into the forest for mass execution in mass graves as in the Babi Yar Massacre.

Not all of the mass executions in Eastern Europe were perpetrated by the Nazis. The massacre at Katyn Forest (11,000 bodies), although blamed on the Nazis for almost 50 years, was eventually blamed on the Soviets.

War Criminals

Adolf Hitler: Ten days before V-E Day, Hitler and his new bride Eva Braun committed dual suicide in their Bunker. Hitler was afraid that if captured he would be put in a cage, and then put on display around the world.

Dr. Josef Goebbels: Hitler's Minister of Propaganda Josef Goebbels and his wife Magda Goebbels poisoned their seven children, then committed joint suicide.

Heinrich Himmler: The man in charge of the Final Solution committed suicide rather than submit to capture. *IN CHARGE OF THE S.S.*

THE S.S. (REPLACED THE BROWNSHIRTS)

GESTAPO (SECRET POLICE)

WAFFEN SS (ELITE SOLDIERS)

CONCENTRATION CAMPS

WORLD WAR TWO POST-MORTEM (continued page 2)

HERMANN

- Goering: Air Marshall Goering was in charge of the Luftwaffe. He committed suicide while in captivity, thus eluding the hangman's rope.
- Adolf Eichmann: S.S. Officer Eichmann found sanctuary in South America until Israeli Nazi hunters kidnapped him in 1960. After having bragged about his efficiency in helping to exterminate 5 million people, he was hanged (1962).
- Dr. Josef Mengele The "Doctor of Death" found sanctuary in South America until his death of natural causes in the late 1980s. Mengele was notorious for the medical experimentation he performed on Jews during the War.
- Klaus Barbie: Known as the "Butcher of Lyon" for sending thousands of French Jews to their death, Barbie eluded arrest for 40 years. His post-war freedom was made possible by the United States which felt that Barbie was more valuable as an anti-Communist agent than as a convicted war criminal.
- Benito Mussolini: In 1945, Mussolini was captured by Italian partisans and strung up by his heels alongside his mistress. Both of their bodies were defiled by angry partisans. This display firmed up Hitler's resolve not to be captured alive.
- Hideki Tojo: At the Japanese War Tribunal, Tojo was charged with war crimes for having ordered an illegal attack on the U.S. Fleet at Pearl Harbor. He was hanged in 1948.
- Hirohito: The Emperor Hirohito was more valuable alive than dead. Therefore, his image was restructured to justify allowing him to stay alive and on the throne until 1989, instead of being hanged as a war criminal in 1948.

WAR HEROES

- Dwight Eisenhower: Commander of the Allied Forces during the invasion of Normandy (D-Day).
- Douglas Mac Arthur: In command of Military operations in the Pacific Campaign against the Japanese Empire.
- Erwin Rommel: German Field Marshall Rommel, "The Desert Fox," was admired and respected by Germans and the Allies alike. In 1944, having taken part in an assassination attempt on Hitler, he was forced to commit suicide.

"JULY 20th PLOT"

WORLD WAR TWO POST-MORTEM (continued page 3)

Yamamoto: Admiral Yamamoto was the naval genius of the Japanese Empire. Fortunately he carried most of the naval plans in his head. Therefore, when an air-assassination team was sent to murder him over the Solomon Islands in 1943, it was a major blow to the Japanese navy. Yamamoto, like Rommel, was highly respected by the Allies.

United States begins the Cold War

The United States became the number one economic and trading power in the world, replacing Britain.

The United States became Internationalist rather than isolationist, joining the United Nations(1945) and NATO(1949).

The United States launched the Cold War(1945-1991).

The **Military-Industrial-Complex** would be maintained

The secret intelligence agency, the OSS, would be restructured into the CIA(1947).

De-colonization

World War Two marked the beginning of the end of overseas empire.

The British would be kicked out of India

The Dutch would be kicked out of Indonesia

The French would be kicked out of Indo-china (Southeast Asia)

The Britain, France, Belgium would be kicked out of Africa

IRON CURTAIN

Dr. Goebbels tried to get a separate peace with the United States and Britain in 1945 with the idea that they could join forces and attack the Soviet Union. He warned that an Iron Curtain would descend over Europe if we did not heed his advice.

Winston Churchill in a speech given at Fulton, Missouri in 1946 warned the Free World that an Iron Curtain had descended across Europe from the Baltics to the Balkans.

THE POLISH IRONY

World War Two began when Britain and France declared war on Germany due to its invasion of Poland.

With the conclusion of World War Two, Poland would not be much better off as it fell behind the Iron Curtain and would be subjugated by the Soviets until 1989.