

World War II 1939-1945

Notes # 3



The Holocaust

- Nazi proposed new racial order-
Aryan were the a “master
race.” 1933
- Nazis claimed that all non-Aryan
peoples, especially Jewish people
were inferior.
- Lead to the systematic murder of
Jews – Holocaust 11 million people
killed



Support



- Hitler spoke openly to Germans that Jews were the cause of their failures, defeat in WWI and economic problems after the war.
- Targeting Jews became government policy.
- Nuremberg Laws 1935- took away civil rights, forbade marriage b/w Jews and non-Jews, and limited work.
- Kristallnacht – “Night of Broken Glass”, Nazi storm troopers attacked Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues across Germany.

Relocation to Extermination

- 1. Refugees- tens of thousands Jews emigrate to US, GB, and France. Stopped admitting.
- 2. Isolation- Hitler ordered Jews in all countries under his control to be moved to designated cities. Nazis herded into ghettos.
- 3. Ghettos- sealed off with barbed wire and stone walls. Goal to starve or die from disease.
- 4. “Final Solution”- a program of genocide to purify the Aryan race. Included: gypsies, homosexuals, disabled, ill, and Jews.
- 5. Concentration Camps- slave-labor prisons. Worked 7 days a week, soup, bread, worked to death.
- 6. Extermination Camps- gas chambers, kill 6,000 humans a day, cyanide gas, crematoriums. Auschwitz.



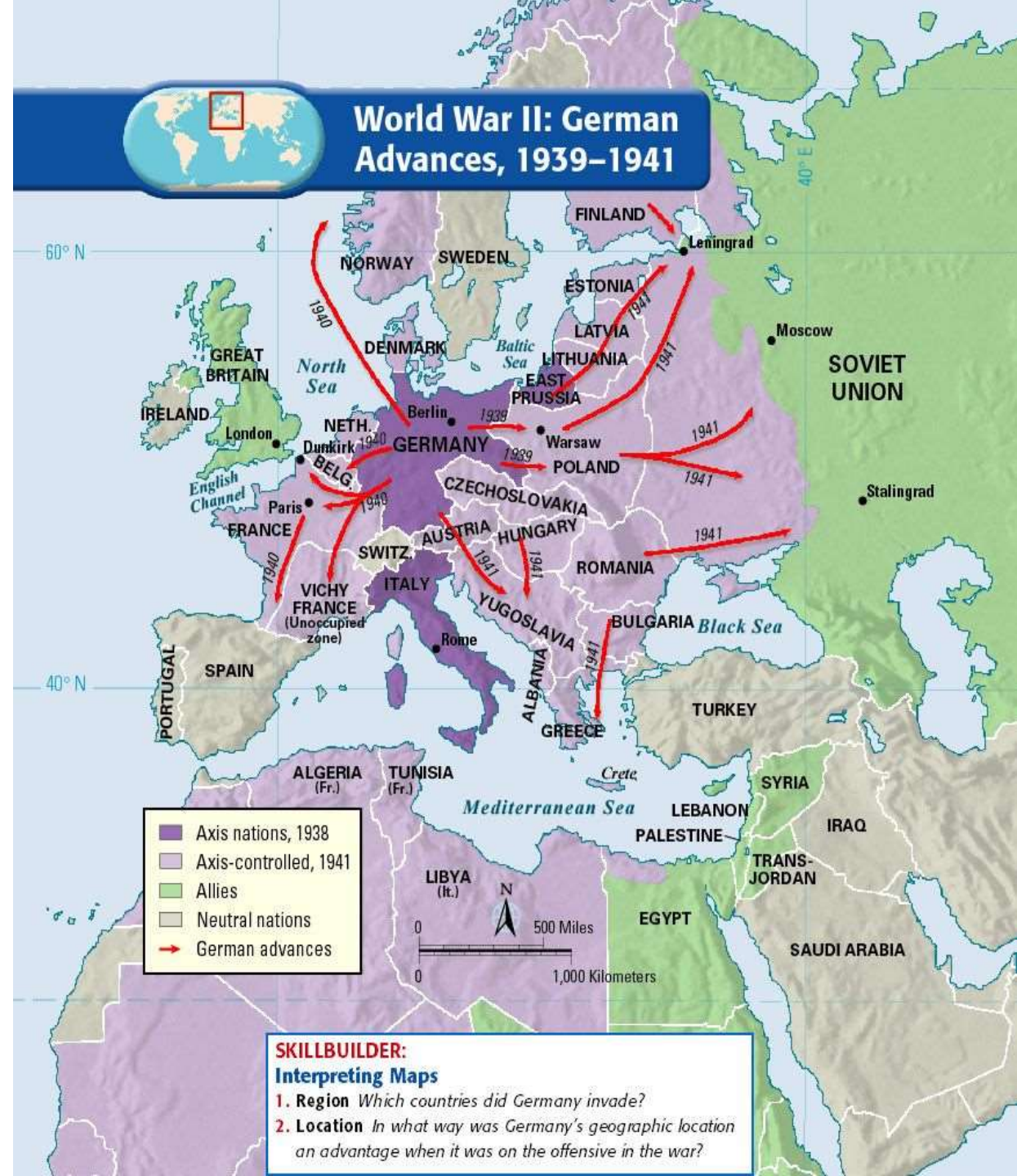


Hitler's Lightning War # 2



Germany and War

- Hitler and Stalin sign nonaggression pact
- Hitler plans a surprise attack on Poland, 1939. Tanks, troops, aircrafts, artillery began bombing.
- Blitzkrieg
- Soviet Union attacks eastern Poland.
- Poland falls to Germany. German take over.
- France and Great Britain declare war on Germany.



The Fall of France

- Hitler sent tanks and troops and swept through the countryside for 10 days.
- Rescue at Dunkirk 1940 – German troops trapped Allied forces along French coast. Allies outnumbered, outgunned, and pounded Allies retreated to the beaches of Dunkirk (trapped with their backs to the sea). Great Britain sent out a rescue army, 850 ships, and civilian crafts. May 26- June 4 the amateur armada carried 338,000 soldiers back to safety.
- France falls to Germany and France is forced to surrender. Germany occupies Northern France.



Battle of Britain

- Winston Churchill refused to surrender to Nazi Germany.
- Hitler invaded Great Britain and planned to take out the Royal Air Force Base and land 250,000 soldiers on England's shores. Night bombing. Bombed London.
- Radar – number, speed, and direction of incoming planes.
- Enigma- enabled Britain to decode German secret messages.
- Hitler called off attacks.



Hitler Invades the Soviet Union

- Operation Barbarossa – Hitler’s plan to invade the Soviet Union.
- June 1941- Surprise attack , Soviet Union was not prepared.
- Soviet Union had the largest army in the world, it troops were not well trained or equipped.
- Weeks in Germany pushed 500 miles in. Soviets burned and destroyed everything in the enemy's path.
- Leningrad- Hitler starved city till its surrender. 2.5 million people. Germans bombs – food warehouses, people ate horses, cattle, cats, dogs, and rats. 1 million people dies and Stalin DID NOT surrender.
- No German gains.



- ALLIED POWERS – United States, Great Britain, Soviet Union and France
- Axis Powers- Germany, Japan, and Italy



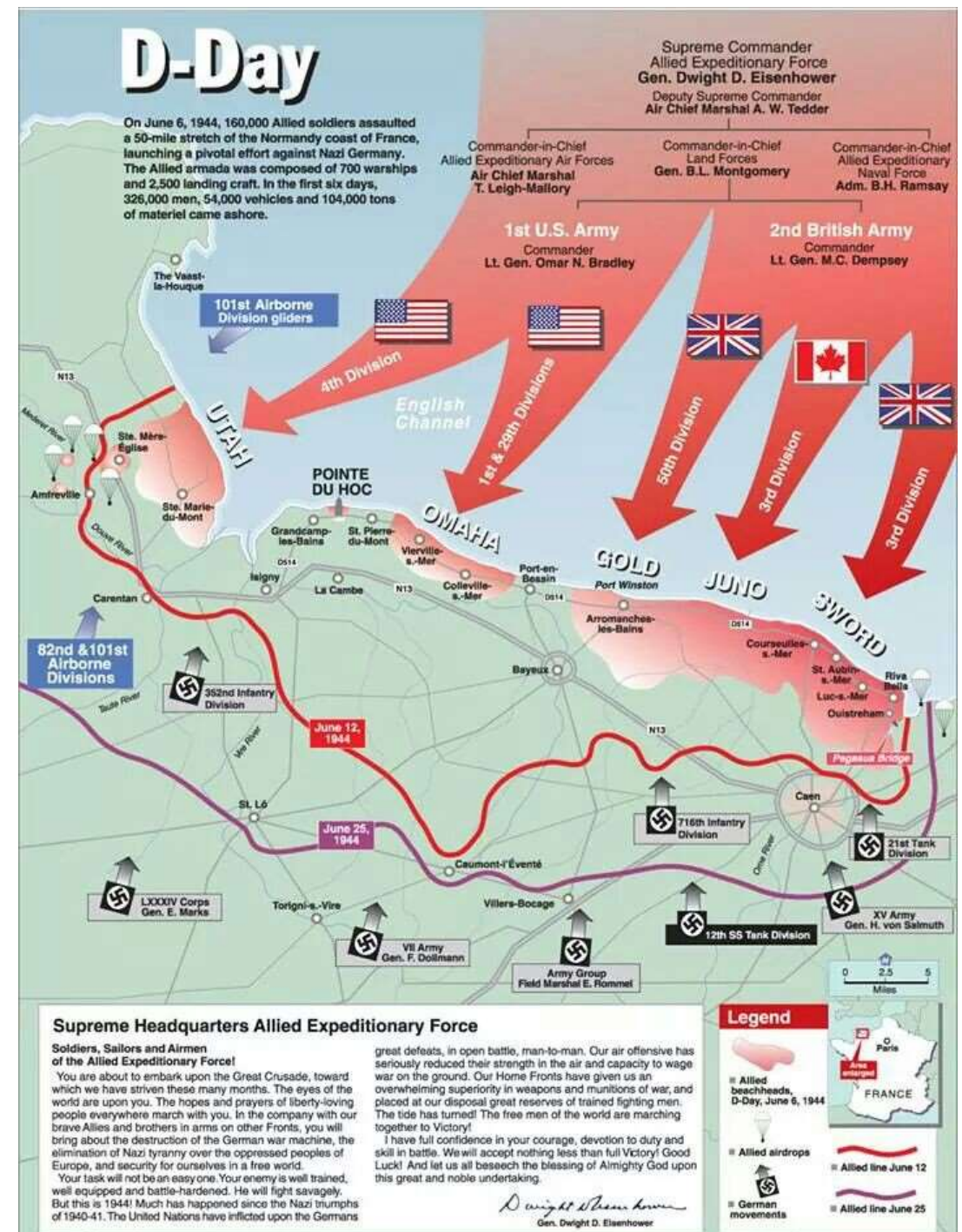
War on Two Fronts

- Soviet Union join Allies.
- Battle for Stalingrad 1942- German night bombing raids and set most of the city on fire. August.
- Stalin told the his commanders to defend the city named after him to the death.
- Germans controlled 90% of the ruined city.
- Russians used winter to their advantage. Soviet counter attack, trapped Germans inside and cut off their supplies. 90,000 frostbitten, half-starved German troops surrendered. Soviets lost 1 million soldiers.
- Germany now had to be on the defense.
- Invasion of Italy 1943- U.S. and Britain attacked Italy.
- Captured it from Italian and German troops.
- Forced Mussolini out of power and Italy surrendered.
- Mussolini tried to escape the country. Found in a truck dressed as German soldier. Shot him the next day and hung his body in downtown Milan for all to see.



Victory in Europe

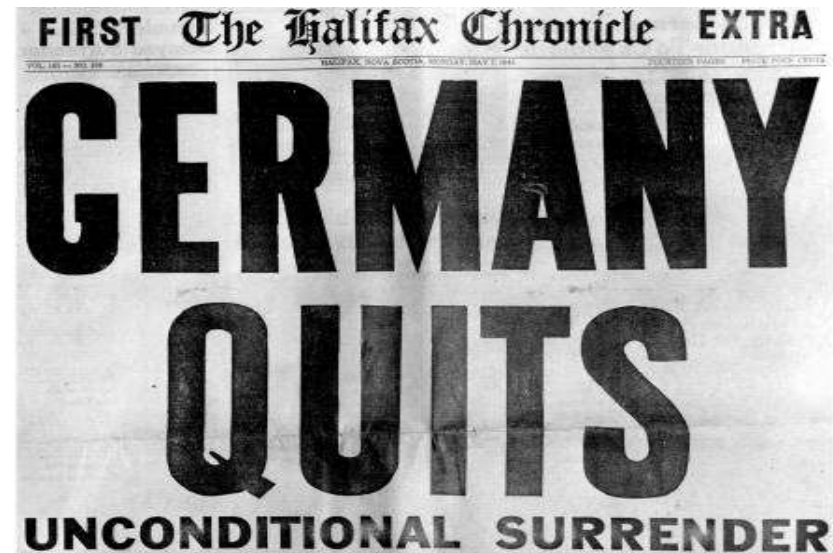
- D-Day 1944- thousands of planes, tanks, ships, landing crafts, and more than three million troops attacked German-held northern French coast. June.
- Allies fought their way onto a 60-mile stretch of beach in Normandy.
- Germans had shelter behind concrete walls, surrounded by machine guns, rocket launchers, and cannons.
- August Allies liberated France and Germany retreated.





The Battle of the Bulge

- Allied forces moved toward Germany from the west and the Soviets from the east.
- Germany facing a war on two fronts. Hitler counterattacked.
- Germans were forced to retreat.
- April - 3 million Allied and 6 million Soviet troops invade Berlin, Germany. By April 28 Allied powers took over Berlin.
- April 29, Hitler and his wife committed suicide. Bodies burned.
- May 9, Germany surrendered. V-E Day



Victory in the Pacific

- Japan advanced throughout the Pacific. Allies counterattack.
- Japan's plan: destroy the American fleet to prevent Allies from resupplying their ground troops.
- In return Japan would risk their entire fleet. Kamikaze attacks.
- March 1945 – American Marines took the island of Iwo Jima (month).
- April 1945 – U.S. troops moved to Okinawa. Bloodiest land battles of the war. Japan lost 100,000 troops and Americans 12,000

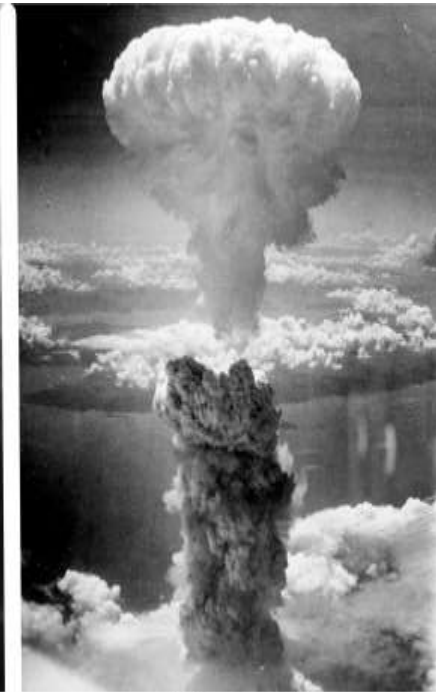


Japan Surrenders

- After the island invasions advisers informed Truman that a land invasion of Japan would cost Allies half a million lives.
- Atomic Bomb or No Atomic Bomb?
- Manhattan Project – Tested July 1945
- Truman warned the Japanese to surrender or “expect rain from the air.”
- August 6, 1945 – U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. City of 350,000 people. 70-80,000 people died. No surrender.
- August 9, 1945- U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki. City of 270,000. 70,000 killed.
- Japan surrendered September 2.
- War is over!



Hiroshima
August 6, 1945



Nagasaki
August 9, 1945

Impact of the Bombing

- Ground temperature – 7,000 degrees
- Hurricane wind force – 980 miles an hour
- Energy released – 20,000 tons of TNT
- Buildings Destroyed – 62,000
- Killed Immediately – 70,000
- Dead by the end of 1945 – 140,000 people
- Total deaths related to A-bomb – 210,00 people

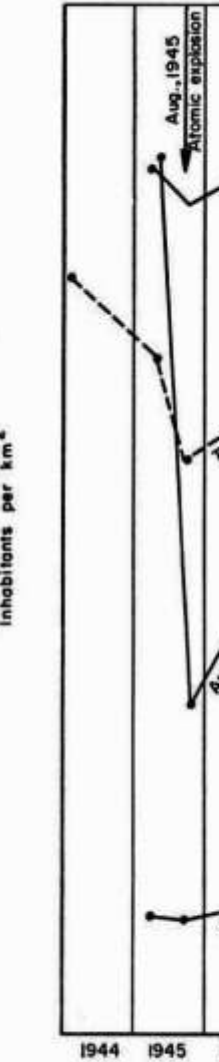


Hiroshima in October, 1945, two months after the atomic bombing. Main streets were cleared of rubble, but there was only pedestrian traffic.

Hiroshima, ten years later. The area is completely rebuilt.



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