

# Hitler's Lightning War

## GERMANY SPARKS A NEW WAR IN EUROPE

### What caused Britain and France to declare war?

In 1939, Adolf Hitler decided to move on Poland. He had already conquered Austria and Czechoslovakia. When Hitler signed a nonaggression pact with Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union, they agreed not to attack each other. Secretly, they also agreed to split Poland between them. This deal removed the threat of the Soviets attacking Germany from the east. So, on September 1, the German army invaded Poland in a surprise attack. Using planes, tanks, and troops, it moved suddenly in a technique called blitzkrieg, or "lightning war." Britain and France declared war, but Poland fell before they could help.

On September 17, after secret agreement with Hitler, Stalin invaded eastern Poland. Stalin then began annexing the regions covered in a second part of the agreement. Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia fell without a struggle. However, Finland fought back. In March 1940, Finland was forced to surrender. For seven months after Poland fell to the Germans, Europe was calm. France and Britain got their armies ready. They waited for Hitler's next move.

#### 1. Why did Poland fall to the Germans so quickly?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ hr: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

Group / Solo

### TERMS AND NAMES

**nonaggression pact** Agreement that says countries will not attack or invade one another

**blitzkrieg** Warfare in which surprise air attacks are followed by massive attacks on land

**Charles de Gaulle** Leader of the French government-in-exile

**Winston Churchill** Leader of Britain  
**Battle of Britain** Battle of British and German air forces fought over Britain during 1940–1941

**Erwin Rommel** German general who led troops in North Africa

**Atlantic Charter** Declaration of principles issued by Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt in August 1941

## THE FALL OF FRANCE; THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN What happened when France and Britain were attacked?

Suddenly in April 1940, Hitler's armies invaded Denmark and Norway. Within two months, they also captured Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and France. Part of the French army, led by Charles de Gaulle, escaped to Britain to remain free and continue the fight. By then, Italy's Benito Mussolini had joined Hitler's side. Great Britain—now led by Winston Churchill—stood alone. The German air force began bombing Britain. It wanted to weaken the country. Germany was getting prepared to invade Britain. But the British air force fought back. It was helped by the recently developed radar. This was an electronic tracking system that warned of coming attacks. Also, the British had broken the German army's secret code. The Battle of Britain lasted many months. Unable to break British defenses, Hitler called off the attacks in May 1941.

#### 2. Why did Germany lose the Battle of Britain?

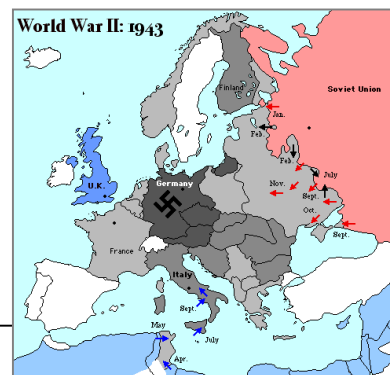


## THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE EASTERN FRONT What countries did Hitler invade?

Hitler then turned his attention to the east and to the Mediterranean. Germany sent troops under General Erwin Rommel to North Africa to help Italy fight the British. In April 1941, German armies quickly took control of Yugoslavia and Greece. In June, Hitler began a surprise invasion of the Soviet Union. The Red Army was the largest in the world. But it was not well-equipped or well-trained. The Germans quickly pushed deep into Soviet territory. The Red Army was forced to retreat.

To keep supplies out of German hands, the Red Army destroyed everything left behind. The Germans were stopped from taking Leningrad in the north. They then turned on Moscow, the Soviet capital. A strong Soviet counterattack, combined with fierce Russian winter weather, forced the Germans back. Moscow had been saved, and the battle had cost the Germans 500,000 lives.

#### 3. What happened when Germany invaded the Soviet Union?



## THE UNITED STATES AIDS ITS ALLIES How did the United States take sides?

The United States watched these events. Many Americans did not want to join in the war. President Roosevelt wanted to help the Allies, however. He asked Congress to allow Britain and France to buy American weapons. Soon, American ships were escorting British ships carrying guns bought from the United States. By the fall of 1941, U.S. ships had orders to fire on German submarines that threatened the ships. The United States and Germany were fighting an undeclared naval war.

Roosevelt met secretly with Churchill in August of 1941. Although the United States was not officially in the war, the two leaders issued a statement called the Atlantic Charter. It supported free trade and the right of people to form their own government.

#### 4. Name two ways in which the United States supported the Allies.

# Japan's Pacific Campaign

CH. 32 Sec 2

## TERMS AND NAMES

**Isoroku Yamamoto** Japanese admiral who decided that the U.S. fleet in Hawaii had to be destroyed

**Pearl Harbor** Navy base in Hawaii attacked by the Japanese

**Battle of Midway** Sea and air battle in which American forces defeated Japanese forces near Midway Island in the Pacific

**Douglas MacArthur** U.S. general who commanded Allied forces in the Pacific

**Battle of Guadalcanal** Six-month battle on the island of Guadalcanal in which American and Australian troops defeated Japanese defenders

## SURPRISE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

### How did the United States fight Japan before declaring war?

The military leaders who ran the Japanese government also had plans to build an empire. Japan was overcrowded and did not have enough raw materials or oil.

The Japanese captured part of China in 1931. In 1937, they invaded the center of China. There they met strong resistance. Needing resources for this war, they decided to move

into Southeast Asia. The United States feared that Japanese control of this area would threaten U.S. holdings in the Pacific. Roosevelt gave military aid to China. He also cut off oil shipments to Japan. Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto decided that the U.S. fleet in Hawaii had to be destroyed. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese navy began a surprise attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. In just two hours, Japanese planes sank or damaged a major part of the U.S. Pacific



U.S.S. West Virginia burning at Pearl Harbor

fleet—19 ships, including 8 battleships. The next day, Congress, at the request of President Roosevelt, declared war on Japan and its allies. **1. How did the United States respond to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor?**

## JAPANESE VICTORIES What areas of Asia did Japan conquer between Dec. 1941 and mid-1942?

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was just one of many sudden strikes. Japan also captured Guam, Wake Island, and the Philippines from the United States. It took Indonesia from the Dutch and Hong Kong, Malaya, and Singapore from the British. Japan then invaded Burma, located between India and China. Japan wanted to stop China from receiving supplies through Burma. Burma fell in May 1942. By that time, Japan had conquered more than 1 million square miles of land with about 150 million people.

Before these conquests, the Japanese had tried to win the support of Asians. They used the anti-colonial slogan "Asia for the Asians." After their victory, the Japanese made it clear that they had come as conquerors.

### 2. What countries lost territory to Japan early in the war?



Extent of the war in the Pacific.

## THE ALLIES STRIKE BACK; AN ALLIED OFFENSIVE

### How did the Allies strike back?

The Japanese seemed unbeatable after a string of victories. But the Allies wanted to strike back in the Pacific. In April 1942, the United States sent planes to drop bombs on Tokyo. The attack raised the morale of Americans. In May 1942, the Allies suffered heavy losses at the Battle of the Coral Sea. Still, they were able to stop the Japanese advance and save Australia.

The next month, the U.S. Navy scored an important victory near Midway Island in the central Pacific. In the Battle of Midway, Japan lost four aircraft carriers, the most important naval weapon in the war. The victory turned the tide of war against Japan. The United States now went on the attack. General Douglas MacArthur did not want to invade the Japanese-held islands that were most strongly defended. He wanted to attack weaker ones. The first attack came on Guadalcanal, in the Solomon Islands in August. The Japanese were building an air base there. It took six months of fighting for U.S. and Australian troops to drive the Japanese off the island in the Battle of Guadalcanal. The Japanese abandoned the island in February 1943.

### 3. Name three Allied victories against Japan

Ch. 32 Sec. 3  
Section Review:

***THE HOLOCAUST***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_ hr: \_\_\_\_\_ class #

GROUP / SOLO Due on: \_\_\_\_\_

**READ Ch. 32 sec. 3 in the text on pages:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 TERMS & NAMES.** For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.

- Aryan
  
- Holocaust
  
- *Kristallnacht*
  
- ghetto
  
- “Final Solution”
  
- genocide

**3. How did some non-Jews oppose Hitler’s “Final Solution”?**

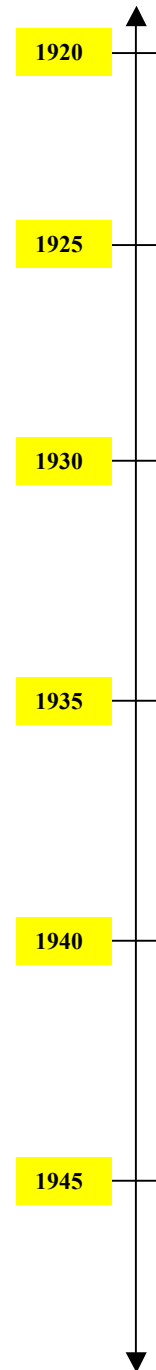
**4. Why might people want to blame a minority group for most of their country’s problems?**

**5. Why do you think the German people went along with the Nazi policy of persecution of the Jews?**

**6. What impact did the Holocaust have on the Jewish population of Europe?**

**7. What other groups besides Jews were also killed in death camps as part of the Holocaust?**

**2. Make a timeline of the lead-up to and events of the Holocaust. Start with Hitler’s rise to power—you may draw on information in other worksheets. Include at least 5 events.**



# The Allied Victory

## CHAPTER 32 Section 4

### TERMS AND NAMES

**Dwight D. Eisenhower** American general who helped drive the Germans out of Africa

**Battle of Stalingrad** Battle during which the Red Army forced the Germans out of Stalingrad

**D-Day** Huge Allied invasion mounted to retake France from the Germans

**Battle of the Bulge** Final large-scale attack by German troops that was forced back by the Allies

**kamikaze** Japanese suicide pilots

### THE TIDE TURNS ON TWO FRONTS

#### Where did the tide of war turn in favor of the Allies?

In 1942, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin planned the Allies' strategy. Stalin wanted Britain and the United States to open a second front against Germany to relieve the pressure on his armies. Stalin wanted the attack in France. Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to a second front but chose to attack German General Erwin Rommel in North Africa. In late 1942, the British army led by General Bernard Montgomery drove the Germans out of Egypt and back to the west. Meanwhile, American troops under the command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower landed behind the Germans and began moving east. The Germans were finally forced out of Africa in May 1943.

At the same time, the Soviets gained a major victory as well. German troops had invaded the Soviet city of Stalingrad in 1942. The Red Army forced the Germans to surrender in February 1943, ending the Battle of Stalingrad.

American and British soldiers next invaded Italy and captured Sicily in August 1943. Mussolini was driven from power and the new Italian government surrendered. But Hitler did not want to give up Italy. His army fought there until 1945.

#### 1. What major victories did the Allies win?

D-Day Landings

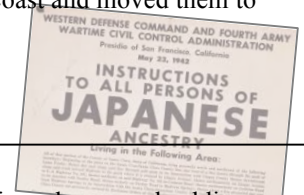


### THE ALLIED HOME FRONTS What problems did people face at home?

While the Allies continued to fight, people at home suffered. Some British and Soviet citizens died. In the United States, citizens faced shortages. Goods such as food, tires, gasoline, and clothing were in short supply. The government rationed these items. It limited how much a person could have so there would be enough for the military.

Some Americans were even imprisoned. Bitter feelings against the Japanese became widespread. As a result, mistrust of Japanese Americans grew. The U.S. government took thousands of Japanese Americans who lived on the west coast and moved them to relocation camps in the western United States. Two-thirds of these people were American citizens.

#### 2. What happened to Japanese Americans?

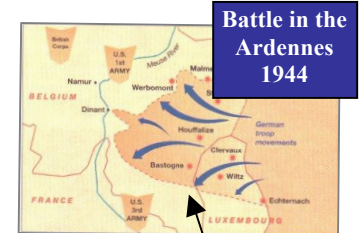


### VICTORY IN EUROPE What were the final battles in Europe?

In early 1944, the Allies built a massive force to retake France. In June, an invasion of thousands of ships, planes, and soldiers was launched. It was called **D-Day**. The invasion force suffered heavy losses but gained a foothold in northern France. A month later, Allied forces began to pour through German lines. In August, they marched in triumph into Paris. By September, they had driven the Germans out of France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and much of the Netherlands.

At the same time, the Soviets were pushing the Germans back in eastern Europe. In late 1944, Hitler ordered his army to make one final, large scale attack in the west. In the **Battle of the Bulge**, it punched through Allied lines until an Allied counterattack forced it back to Germany. By late April 1945, Soviet troops surrounded Berlin, Hitler's headquarters. Five days later, he killed himself. A week later, the Germans surrendered. Roosevelt did not live to see this victory, however. He had died in early April. Harry Truman was now president.

#### 3. Name three events that led directly to Germany's surrender.



The Bulge

### VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC What led to victory in the Pacific?

In the Pacific, the Allies began to move toward Japan in 1943. They landed troops in the Philippines in the fall of 1944. In the Battle of Leyte Gulf, in October 1944, the Japanese navy was crushed.

As American troops moved closer to Japan, they faced attacks by **kamikaze**. These Japanese suicide pilots sank Allied ships by crashing their bomb-filled planes into them. In March 1945, U.S. Marines captured the island of Iwo Jima, a strategic Japanese stronghold. By June, they had won control of Okinawa, an island just 350 miles from Japan.

Japan was the next stop. But the U.S. military feared that an invasion of Japan would cost half a million Allied lives. In August, President Truman ordered that an atomic bomb be dropped on the city of Hiroshima to try to end the war quickly. A second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki three days later. Tens of thousands of Japanese died. Japan surrendered in September.

#### 4. Name two events that led directly to Japan's surrender.



# Europe, Japan in Ruins

CHAPTER 32 Section 5

## TERMS AND NAMES

**Nuremberg Trials** Trials of Nazi leaders charged with crimes against humanity, held in Nuremberg, Germany

**demilitarization** Breaking down armed forces

**democratization** Process of creating a government elected by the people

## **DEVASTATION IN EUROPE.** How did the war change Europe?

The war had left Europe in ruins. Almost 40 million people were dead. Hundreds of cities were reduced to rubble by constant bombing and shelling. The ground war had destroyed



much of the countryside. Displaced persons from many nations were trying to get back home. Often there was no water, no electricity, and little food. Hunger was constant.

Agriculture had been disrupted. Most able-bodied men had served in the military, and the women had worked in war production. Few had remained to plant the fields. With factories destroyed or damaged, most people had no earnings to buy the food that was available. Also the small harvests did not reach the cities because the transportation system had been destroyed. Suffering continued for many years in Europe.

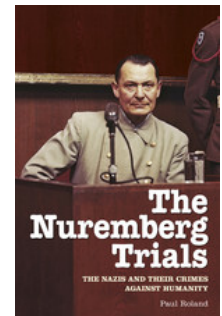
### 1. What conditions existed in Europe after World War II?

## **POSTWAR GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICS** Who did the Europeans blame for the war?

Europeans often blamed their leaders for the war and its aftermath. Once Germany was defeated, some prewar governments—like those in Belgium, Holland, Denmark, and Norway—returned quickly. In Germany, Italy, and France, the old fascist governments had disappeared. At first, the Communist parties grew strong in France and Italy. People who opposed Communism grew alarmed. They voted leaders from other parties into power. Communism lost its appeal when the economies of these lands improved.

During efforts to rebuild Europe, the Allies held the Nuremberg Trials in the German city of Nuremberg. There, captured Nazi leaders were charged with crimes against humanity. They were found guilty, and some were executed.

### 2. What were the Nuremberg Trials?



## **POSTWAR JAPAN; OCCUPATION BRINGS DEEP CHANGES** What changes were made in Japan?

The defeat suffered by Japan in World War II had devastated that country. Two million lives had been lost. The country's major cities were in ruins. The U.S. Army occupied Japan under the command of General MacArthur. He began a process of demilitarization, breaking down the Japanese armed forces. MacArthur also paid attention to democratization, or creating a government elected by the people. His first step was to write a new constitution. It gave all power to the Japanese people, who voted for members of a parliament that would rule the land. All Japanese over age 20—including women—were given the right to vote. In 1951, other nations finally signed a formal peace with Japan. A few months later, U.S. military occupation ended.

### 3. How did the government of Japan change?

4. Draw a picture here of something mentioned in this packet that you found interesting/surprising and give it a caption or title.

5. Write a follow up question about something in this packet, or about WW2 in general, in the space below.