

Day 5



# Starter April 20th

What was the Japanese goal in the Pacific? Why was that their goal?

# Not your father's war

World War I was a war of trenches, a strategy that was necessary because of the advancement in technology such as the maxim gun, barbed wire, mustard gas, and usage of planes as weapons.

France assumed this would be the strategy Germany would use against them so they began prepping the countryside with trenches and other fortifications.

Germany however would use a new method of attack that completely changed how the war would be fought. This strategy is known as the **Blitzkrieg**



When World War II began, Germany used a “lightning war” strategy called blitzkrieg that relied on fast, strong attacks using air raids, artillery, & tanks

# Poland

On September 1, 1939, German troops invaded Poland. Britain and France declared war two days later.

On September 17, Soviet troops invaded Poland from the east.

In less than a month, German forces captured Poland which surrendered on September 27.

For Hitler, the conquest of Poland was only the beginning. He then captured Denmark and Norway.

In May of 1940, German troops invaded Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg and marched into France.



# US response

In response to Germany's invasion of Poland, FDR persuades Congress in special session to allow the US to aid European democracies in a limited way:

The US could sell weapons to the European democracies on a “cash-and-carry” basis.

FDR was authorized to proclaim danger zones which US ships and citizens could not enter.

Results of the 1939 Neutrality Act:

- Aggressors could not send ships to buy US munitions.
- The US economy improved as European demands for war goods helped bring the country out of the

1937-38 recession.

America becomes the “Arsenal of Democracy.”



# Italy's Failed Invasion of Egypt



Mussolini had important ambitions and wanted to re-establish the Roman Empire by making the Mediterranean Sea an Italian lake. On June 10, 1940, Italy declared war on France and Britain. Perceiving British weaknesses, Mussolini set out to conquer Egypt and seize the Suez Canal.

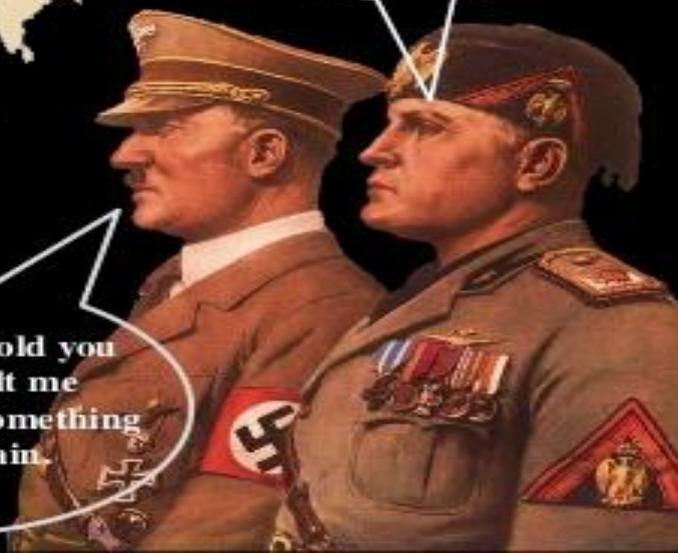


Adolph... I'm in a little trouble. Can you help me out?

**Strange... But True:** Despite the Italian army outnumbering the British 3-to-1 in North Africa, the British army easily defeated the Italian army and forced it into a frantic retreat.

By the time WWII began, the student had become the master! Despite Mussolini being an Axis partner with Hitler, Mussolini was extremely jealous of Hitler's successes and set out on his own plans to re-establish the Roman Empire. He constantly set out on disastrous campaigns only to have Hitler bail him out time and time again... much to Hitler's dismay.

What again? I told you next time consult me before you do something on your own again.



# North African Campaign 1940-1943

The North African military campaigns of World War II were waged between September 13, 1940, and May 13, 1943.

They were strategically important for both the Western Allies and the [Axis](#) powers. The Axis powers aimed to deprive the Allies of access to Middle Eastern oil supplies, to secure and increase Axis access to the oil, and to cut off Britain from the material and human resources of its empire in Asia and Africa.

In addition, after the disastrous defeat in Western Europe in spring 1940, the North African campaign offered the Allies the opportunity to open up a new front against the Axis, and, after Germany [invaded the Soviet Union](#) in June 1941, to ease German pressure on the Eastern Front.



## Rommel and the Afrika Korps



Mussolini's disastrous Egyptian campaign prompted Hitler's intervention and the creation of the infamous Afrika Korps under the command of Erwin Rommel. For the next year and a half, the British fought a seesaw battle across North Africa against Rommel's Afrika Korps.

**Strange... But True:**

The climate of North Africa was very hostile. There was nothing green and the landscape was rocky and sandy. Temperatures reached 130 F in daylight and freezing at night. The Fighting saw-sawed as each side chased the other across the desert for the several months.

Erwin Rommel (German)  
"The Desert Fox"



Recording

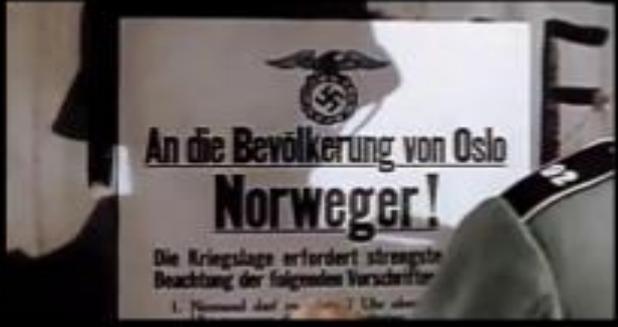
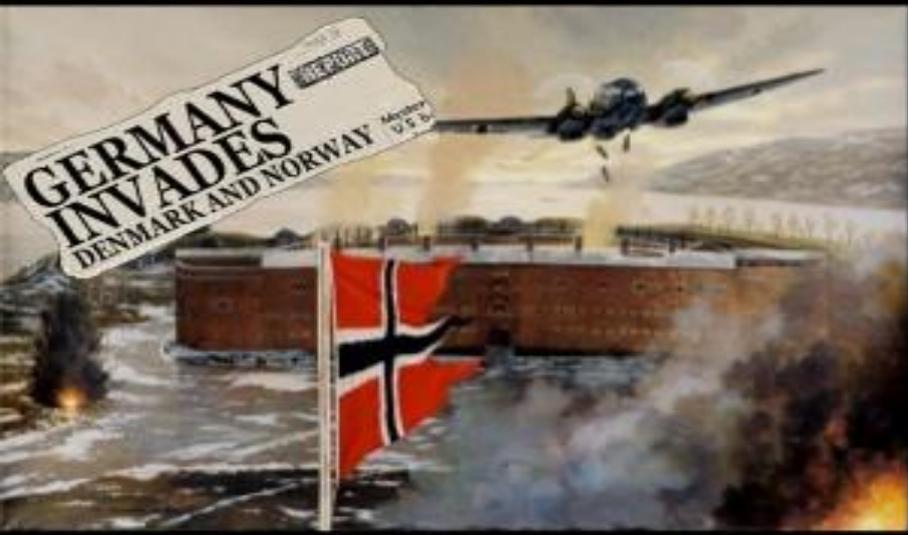


**Strange... But True:**

When Rommel arrived in Tripoli (Libya) he had his tank crews drive around the city several times to deceive British spies into believing he had more tanks than he had. The ruse worked while he awaited the arrival of his German reinforcements.

# Hitler Invades Denmark & Norway (April 1940)

Hitler used the excuse that he had to protect Denmark and Norway. In spite of a treaty Hitler had with Denmark, he rolled his tanks across its borders on April 9, 1940. Norway's government was headed by Vidkun Quisling, whose name would later become equated with "traitor."



Vidkun Quisling was a Norwegian politician who the Germans had installed as the prime minister of Norway in 1942. Throughout the war he continued to collaborate with the Nazis. Today, his last name in Norway has become synonymous with traitor. Quisling was tried and executed after the war.

### Strange... But True

In Norway there were around 10,000 children born of parents who were members of Vidkun Quisling's pro-Nazi party and of love affairs between Norwegian girls and German soldiers. After the war, these children were rejected as so-called 'German kids', maltreated and despised, treated with contempt, in fact refugees in their own country. Considered social misfits, few have received a proper education. To relieve Norway of this embarrassing problem, Sweden adopted a few hundred of these children and around 250 were sent to homes in Germany. Since the war, many have tried to get their Norwegian citizenship back but in each case their application has been refused.

# Germany's expansion





## Russo-Finland War (Winter 1939-1940)



The Soviet invasion of Finland exposed weaknesses with the Soviet Army:

- Stalin's purges of the 30's severely weakened the military.
- All battlefield decisions were supervised and made by a communist political officer.
- Soviet equipment broke down in the cold and snow.
- Finnish ski troops made the Soviet Army look weak.



VS.



Hmmm... Those  
Russians will be  
no match for my  
Aryan race

Hitler decided to invade the Soviet Union in 1941 based on the knowledge that Stalin's purges of his military in the 1930's and Russia's poor performance during the invasion of Finland in the winter of 1939-1940 proved the Soviet Army was vulnerable. Hitler believed that the Soviet Union was rotten to the core and would collapse within a matter of weeks after he launched his invasion of the Soviet Union.



# Operation Barbarossa: Hitler's Biggest Mistake



On June 22, 1941, Adolf Hitler launched his armies eastward in a massive invasion of the Soviet Union: three great army groups with over three million German soldiers, 150 divisions, and three thousand tanks smashed across the frontier into Soviet territory.

The invasion covered a front from the North Cape to the Black Sea, a distance of two thousand miles.

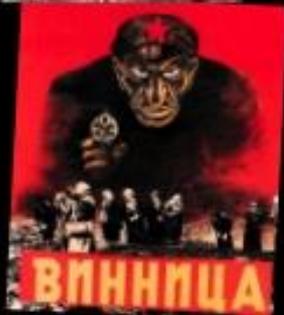
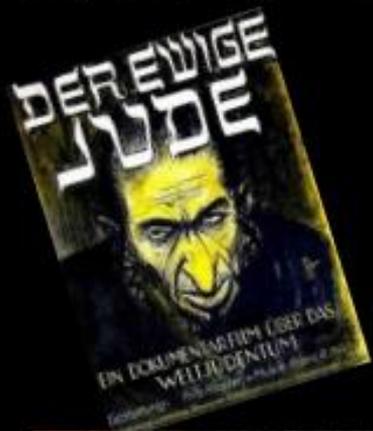
Barbarossa was *the* crucial turning point in World War II, for its failure forced Nazi Germany to fight a two-front war against a coalition possessing immensely superior resources.



# Why Did Hitler Invade the Soviet Union?



Hitler had always believed that war with the Soviet Union was inevitable. Nazi ideology held the Soviet Union to be the center of a global Judeo-Bolshevist conspiracy. Thus, war against the Soviet Union would have not only geopolitical objectives, providing the German nation with living space (*Lebensraum*) in the east, but a major ideological goal as well: the destruction of Judeo-Bolshevism.





# France's Maginot Line



The French depended on the Maginot Line to protect France from a German invasion. Named for Andre Maginot, the French Minister of War. By 1939, the Maginot Line was a militarized zone ten to fifty miles deep and considered the strongest fixed fortification system in the world.



The French military strategy was to remain defensive based on the high losses it had sustained as a consequence of their offensive posture during the First World War. Named after Andre Maginot, the Minister of War from 1928-32, the Maginot system was a line of forts that cost over \$200 million.



### The Maginot Line

Weak fortifications  
Strong fortifications  
Locations featured in this photo collection are displayed in blue.



Most of the Maginot Line was underground where it was connected by tunnels. Today, the French government rents out its dark and damp caverns to farmers for growing mushrooms.



The French made no plans to extend it past its border with Germany, because they did not consider neutral Belgium an enemy, or a threat. The Maginot Line is considered one of the greatest military failures of all-time.



# The Master Plan



**As the Germans had hoped, the British and French forces took the bait and sent their entire armies into Belgium and assumed defensive positions. Then three German Panzer corps smashed through the Ardennes behind the Allied lines and cut off the Allied armies in Belgium.**

# Fall of France



Start at 25:00 for initial invasion, skip to 47:00 for fall of France



# Miracle at Dunkirk



Once Belgium fell, the British forces were trapped. The only means of escape back to England was the port of Dunkirk on the French coast. The British called upon its civil population to donate any small ships that were available to move men and equipment from the European mainland. From May 26 to June 4, 1940, 887 ships of all sizes crossed the English Channel to rescue 338,226 men by bringing them to England.





# Operation Sea Lion



After the fall of France, England stood alone against the might of the German war machine, Italy, and Japan. Hitler was surprised that Britain did not surrender like France. He ordered his generals to invade Britain. Their invasion plan was code named (Operation Sea Lion). Hitler began planning for an invasion of England, but before he could launch an invasion he needed to neutralize the British air force.



# Battle of Britain



- Hitler crushes France in June 1940
- Hitler's *last enemy was Great Britain*, who along with France had been defeated at the battle of Dunkirk
- *Battle of Britain*, largest air battle ever fought in the history of warfare.
- July to November 1940 and was won by the *Royal Air Force (RAF or British Air Force)*.
- First major German loss in WWII and forced Hitler to change his strategy
- British people fought for their country and a possible Nazi invasion (*Operation Sea Lion*).
- Hitler wanted to gain air supremacy.

# “Their Finest Hour”





# Lend-Lease Act

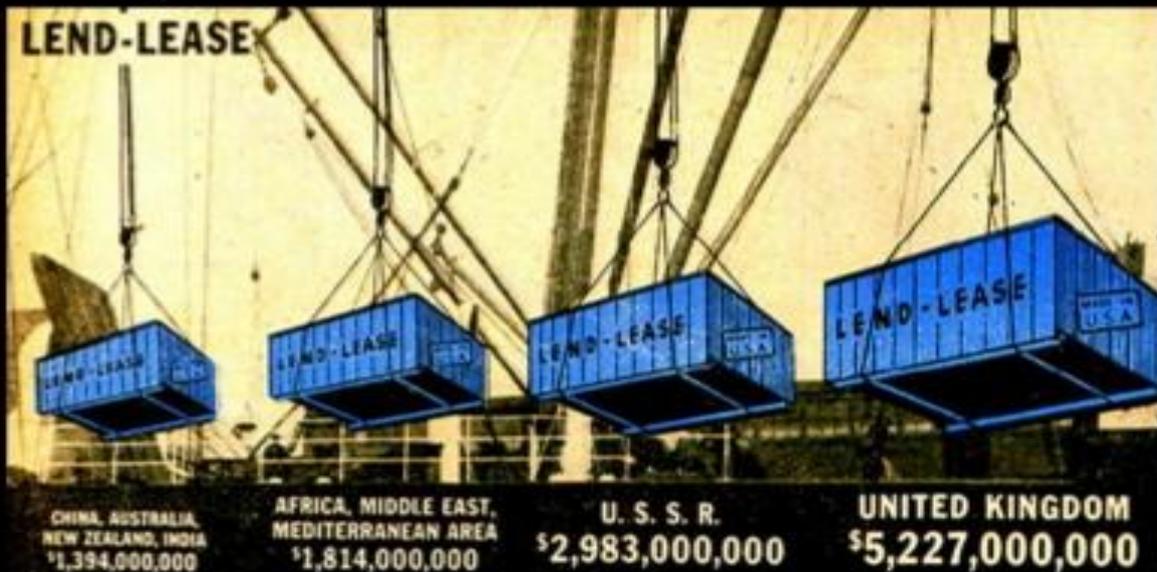


President Roosevelt proposed the Lend-Lease Act in March 1941, which stated that the United States could lend or lease arms to any country considered "vital to the defense of the United States." Congress passed the act by a wide margin.

*"Give us the tools and we will finish the job."*

Winston Churchill, Feb. 9, 1941

*"If your neighbor's house is on fire," Roosevelt reasoned, "you don't sell him a hose, you give it to him. Then, you take it back after the fire is out. This helps your neighbor and makes sure that the fire doesn't spread to your own house."*



Recording



The Lend-lease bill was approved by Congress in 1941, which originally authorized \$7 billion. Thirty-five other nations besides Great Britain, USSR, France, and China received loans from the lend lease. By August 1945, the amount totaled \$48 billion, of which the United States received \$6 billion in repayment by these nations.

## **LEND LEASE ACT**

- **RENTING, LEASING, GIVING BRITAIN AND LATER SOVIET UNION AND CHINA, MILITARY WEAPONS TO ARM THEM AGAINST THE GERMANS AND JAPANESE...**
- **FDR's FINAL ATTEMPT TO REMAIN NEUTRAL!**
- **USA BECOMES THE "ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY"**



## Siege of Leningrad [1941-1944]



After the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941, a German army began their encirclement of the city of Leningrad (modern-day St. Petersburg). The siege of Leningrad lasted almost 900 days and cost the lives of an estimated 1,000,000 city residents. In subsequent months, the city sought to establish supply lines from the Soviet interior and evacuate its citizens, often using a hazardous “ice and water road” across Lake Ladoga. A successful land corridor was created in January 1943, and the Red Army finally managed to drive off the Germans in 1944.



By November 1941, individual rations were lowered to 1/3 of the daily amount needed by an adult. The city's population of dogs, cats, horses, rats and crows disappeared as they became the main course on many dinner tables. Reports of cannibalism began to appear. Thousands died - an estimated 11,000 in November increasing to 53,000 in December. The frozen earth meant their bodies could not be buried. Corpses accumulated in the city's streets, parks and other open areas.



# “A Day That Will Live in Infamy.”



President Franklin Roosevelt declared December 7, 1941, as a "date that will live in infamy." On December 8, 1941, the United States Congress declared war on Japan.

The attack on Pearl Harbor had united a divided country as the nation developed a wholehearted commitment to victory in World War II.



### Strange... But True

There was only one “Nay” vote from Congress when Roosevelt asked for a declaration of war against Japan. That vote came from Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin. She also voted against the U.S. entry into WWI in 1917. After serving 25 years in Congress, she was voted out of office by an angry American public during the 1942 congressional election.

**President Roosevelt:**  
An angry U.S. nation declared war on Japan, Dec. 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

# D-DAY

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NORMANDY 1944



## U.S. and Allied Forces Become Aggressive...

- **1942:**

- **U.S. troops arrive in Europe**
- **Russian forces hold off Germany's attempt to capture Stalingrad.**

### **1943:**

- **U.S. and British troops defeat Germany in North Africa**
- **Allied forces capture Sicily, and parts of Southern Italy.**

- **1944:**

- **More than 600 U.S. bombers begin an assault on Berlin**
- **Allied forces capture Rome, Italy**
- **Allied forces mobilize in an attempt to capture territories in France**
- **Invasion of Normandy set for June 5, 1944; had to be delayed because of bad weather conditions.**

# D-Day Objectives

- Land on 5 beaches, stretching 50 miles along coast of Normandy, France.
- Beach codenames: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword
- Secure the coastline in order to mobilize troops to liberate France from German control



Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower briefing American troops before invading Normandy

(<http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/2561212534/in/set-72157605500980913/>)

# Taking the Beaches

- American troops storm Utah and Omaha
- Canadian troops storm Juno
- British troops storm Gold and Sword
- Utah, Juno, Gold, and Sword captured without many casualties, or much German resistance
- American forces at Omaha face strong German resistance; become pinned back against water, with increasing casualties.



US infantrymen storm Omaha beach

(<http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/2560388523/>)

