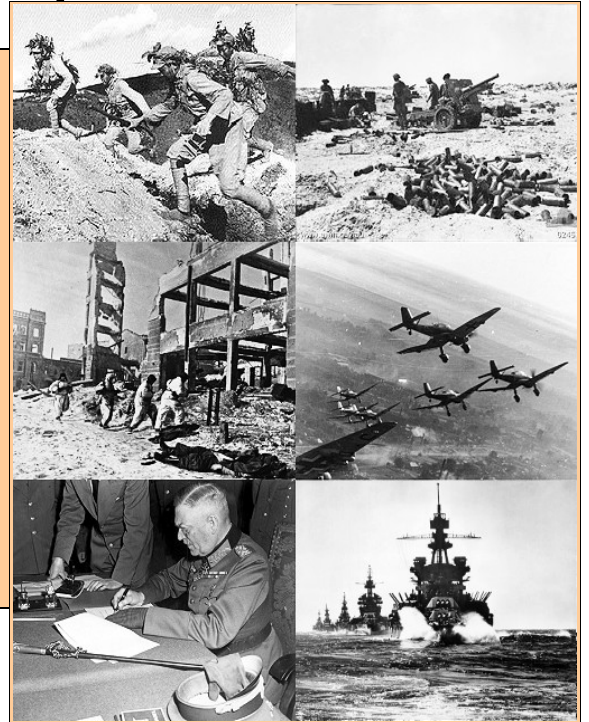


UNIT 13 – The Second World War

(1939-1945)

- Causes
- New features
- The way to the war
- The German offensive
 - The Western front
 - The Balkans and North Africa
 - The Russian front
- The end of war in Europe
 - The far East front
- Occupation and resistance
- The consequences of war
- The holocaust
- The aftermath



Causes

The defeated countries in the First World War believed that they had been treated unfairly by the terms of the **Paris Peace Treaties** and wanted to take up arms again to reorganize the balance.

The **League of Nations** was set up with the intention of solving international quarrels peacefully and preventing another war, but it was not powerful enough and failed several times.

The aims and actions of **Adolf Hitler**:

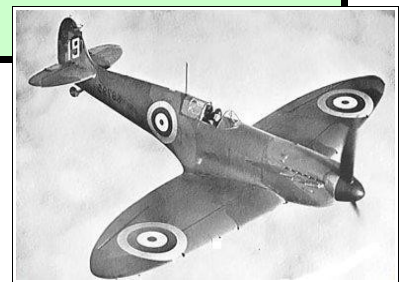
- To change the agreements reached at Versailles and regain the lost German lands.
- To create a **Greater Germany**, which would include all ethnic Germans.
- To win new territories in the east for the German population to expand into (*lebensraum*).



The policy of **appeasement** followed by Britain and France.

TASKS:

1. What is the League of Nations?
2. Why do you think Germany was not “happy” after the First World War? Explain at least three reasons.
3. Give some reasons that explain Hitler’s ambition to create a Greater Germany.
4. What was meant by the policy of appeasement.

**New features**

1. This time the war was really **worldwide**.
2. Technology advanced after the First World War and aircrafts and tanks were used a lot. This was going to be a war of rapid movement, without trenches.
3. Civilian population was even more affected.

TASKS:

5. After reading all the unit, name the countries where there were battles and their continents.
6. Explain one of the characteristics in the Second World War (WW2).

The way to the war

The 1929 crisis had big political consequences for Japan, Italy and Germany, so they began more aggressive and expansionist foreign policies. With the aim of controlling other markets, raw materials and developing a strong nationalism.

1. **Japan** invaded **Manchuria** (1931). This was against the League of Nations so they left the League in 1933.

2. Later on, because of the lack of effective league action during the Manchurian crisis, **Mussolini** planned the conquest of **Abyssinia** (now Ethiopia). The Emperor of Abyssinia, Haile Selassie, appealed to the league for help. The league imposed economic sanctions on Italy but it refused to accept them. Mussolini became closer to Hitler.
3. Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933. His aims were to unite all German-speakers in one **Greater German Empire** (*Reich*) and to take land from Eastern European countries.

He also said Germany should rearm.

He took Germany out of the League (1933) and turned his attention to Austria, but he was forced to back down because the army was not ready for a major war until 1938.

The Saar, which contained important coal mines and iron deposits, voted to rejoin Germany (1935)

4. According to the Treaty of Versailles, the Rhineland had to be a permanently de-militarised zone; but Hitler sent German **troops** into the Rhineland (1936).
5. After this successful re-occupation he continued his efforts to establish an alliance with Mussolini. In July 1936, a **Civil War** broke out in Spain between the elected Popular Front government and Nationalists backed by the army. Hitler and Mussolini decided to help the Nationalists with troops and weapons. Hitler saw this as a useful opportunity to test German military equipment in action (Guernica).



6. The Soviet Union helped to the Popular Front government. The League did nothing to stop the bombing in Spain.
7. The military cooperation in Spain brought Germany and Italy close together and, in October 1936, they signed the **Rome-Berlin Axis**; and when Japan joined this, it was known as the **Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis**.
8. In Austria (1938), the government announced a referendum on whether Austrians wanted to keep their independence. Hitler did not wait and invaded

Austria. This was forbidden by the Treaty of Versailles, but Britain and France did nothing (appeasement).

The next target was an area known as the *Sudetenland* that formed the Czech border with Austria and Germany. Many of them felt that they were discriminated against by the majority population of Czechs and Slovaks.

Hitler planned to invade Czechoslovakia to protect the *Sudeten* Germans.

Britain and France were determined to avoid war and they decided to continue with their policy of **appeasement**.

After several meetings between Hitler and Chamberlain (English P.M.), Daladier (French) and Mussolini (Italy) they signed the **Munich Agreement** and agreed that Germany should have the *Sudetenland* (October, 1938)

A few months later (March 1939) Nazi Germany invaded Czechoslovakia. France and Britain did nothing (appeasement).

9. The next places to be invaded were:

(j) the Lithuanian port of **Memel** where its German inhabitants were demanding to be returned to Germany.

(k) **Danzing**, which was run by the league of Nations as an international free city.

(l) and the building of road and rail links across the Polish Corridor to East Prussia.



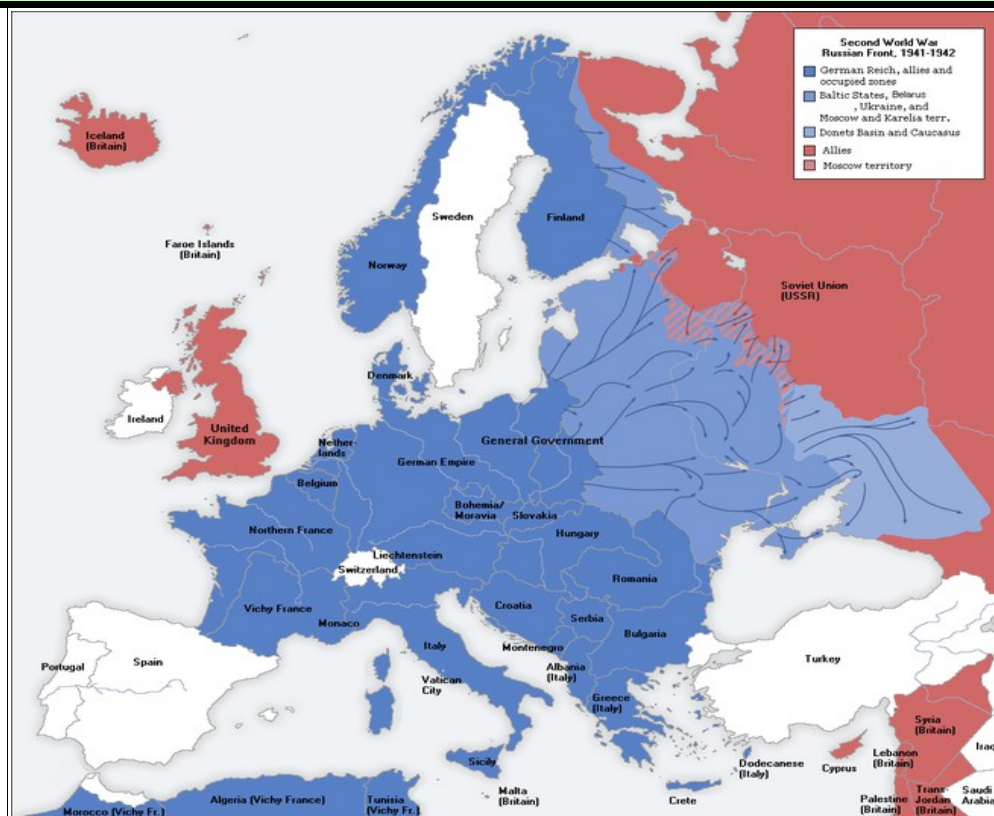
13. After this, it was clear that **Poland** was Hitler's next target. Britain and France made a policy change and guaranteed the protection of Polish independence.

Hitler signed a **secret pact of Non-Aggression** with the Soviet Union. It was supposed to last for 10 years and it included clauses for the splitting of Poland and a Soviet takeover of the Baltic States.

- 1st of September 1939 - Germany invaded Poland.
- Two days later, Britain and France declared war on Germany.

TASKS:

7. Why did Japan invade Manchuria?
8. Explain two political consequences of the 1929 crisis.
9. What happened after Mussolini planned to invade Abyssinia.
10. Name three goals Hitler intended to achieve after he became Chancellor.
11. Define *Reich* and *de-militarised zone*.
12. Which countries made up the *Axis powers*?
13. Explain the policy of appeasement.
14. Match the dates and what happened on each of them:
 - 1929 ----- German ordered troops into the Rhineland.
 - 1931 ----- Referendum in Austria about its independence.
 - 1933 ----- Nazi Germany invaded Czechoslovakia and Poland.
 - 1936 ----- Big economic crisis.
 - 1938 ----- Japan invaded Manchuria.
 - 1939 ----- Japan and Germany left the league of Nations.



The German *offensive*

a) The Western front

Poland was defeated rapidly because of the German's ***Blitzkrieg**** method of warfare.

*This term is German for ***lightning war***: It was based on the use of tanks, aircrafts and paratroops in order to achieve rapid movement and to crush the enemy in as little time as possible.

The next six months are called the **Phoney war** because nothing happened. France and Britain were waiting for Hitler's next move and he was waiting to see if they would make peace, so the Germans planned an offensive in the west.

In April Germany invaded **Denmark and Norway**.

In May Germany conquered **Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France**. German troops marched into Paris and took direct control of most of the country. The government ruled by General Petain escaped to the south (Vichy) trying to govern but under Hitler's supervision (puppet government).

After this, Britain now without an ally and it was feared that it was next on the list the Prime Minister Chamberlain was replaced by Winston Churchill (1940).



Because of the superiority of the English Navy, Germany's first plan of attack was to destroy the RAF by attacking the British Air Force before Germany could cross the English Channel.

This plan led to the **Battle of Britain** (August and September 1940) and Britain won the Battle.

Now the Germans decided to bomb British cities. They hoped to break British morale and force the government to make peace.



b) The Balkans and North Africa

Hitler needed oil supplies from **Romania** so he forced them to support Germany in the war. He also forced **Hungary** and **Bulgaria** to support him as well.

Meanwhile **Italy** had invaded **Greece** but were defeated and needed help from Germany.

Germany also invaded **Yugoslavia**.

German and Italian forces were also fighting in **North Africa** in an attempt to invade Egypt (British) to take the **Suez Canal** and cut off British oil supplies to force them to surrender.

Hitler sent German forces led by Rommel, the African Korps. Allied forces led by British General Montgomery, won the battle at El Alamein (Oct/Nov 1942). This was the first serious setback (defeat) that Hitler suffered.

Soon the Allied troops led by U.S. General Eisenhower landed in Algeria and Sicily was invaded (July 1943) and then **Mussolini was overthrown** and the new government declared war on Germany. Then German forces were sent to Italy and organized resistance until May 1945.

c) The Russian front

- Stalin had made a pact with Hitler (in 1939) to avoid war.

Hitler planned to attack the USSR for several reasons:

1. He wanted **living space** for the “natural development” of the German people (lebensraum)
2. He wanted to **destroy the Communist** system.
3. He wanted **resources** such as oil and grain.
4. He wanted to use the Slav peoples as **slave labours**.

The German invasion of the USSR, named **Operation Barbarossa**, began on 22nd June 1941. Hitler had planned three attacks on the major cities of the USSR (Leningrad, Moscow and Stalingrad), but Stalin did not believe that the Nazis could break the pact, so the USSR was not ready for the war.

The German forces made a rapid and massive advance into the USSR. Most of the soviet air force was destroyed on the ground, and over 700,000 soviet troops were captured.

The Germans had expected to defeat the USSR before winter, and they were not equipped for a winter campaign and, unfortunately for the Germans, winter (1941–1942) was very severe.

The **Red Army** kept fighting and gradually forced the Germans back but at **great cost**. Twenty million Soviets died and 75% of the German forces were lost, allowing time for Britain and the USA to build up forces and to prepare an attack in the west.

The end of the war in Europe

After 1942 German forces were retreating and Italian forces were completely defeated.

D – Day landings took place on the 6th June - 1944, with US General Eisenhower in command. One million allied troops landed on five Normandy beaches in ten days. At the same time, the Soviet Union started a massive offensive to prevent Hitler transferring German forces to the West.

Paris was liberated in August.



- In December 1944, the Battle of the Bulge, the last German offensive, slowed the allied advance but it was quickly defeated.
- In April 1945 allied advances continued and the Russians attacked Berlin from the East.
- Finally Adolf Hitler committed suicide on the 30th April 1945.
- On the 7th of May Nazi Germany surrendered to the Allies. The war against Japan lasted until the 15th of August 1945.

TASKS:

21. Why did Hitler decide to attack the USSR in 1941? Name three main battles.
22. Define operation *Barbarossa* and And the Red Army.
23. Make a simple diagram to show how the D-Day landings were made.

d) The Far East front

- It began later than in Europe.
- Japan was a major and growing industrial power.
- Japan controlled Korea (1905) and Manchuria (1931).
- Japan signed a treaty with Hitler (1936) and started the invasion of China (1937). It also signed a treaty with Stalin, so Red Army divisions began to fight the Japanese in Manchuria.
- Japan continued its expansion and by 1941 it controlled large parts of Eastern China.
- They wanted to invade the French colony of Indo-China



because the Japanese needed supplies such as coal, rubber, oil and other raw materials.

- The USA, worried by the Japanese expansion, had banned trade with Japan. This embargo deprived Japan of 80% of its oil supplies (1941). A Japanese surprise attack against the USA would allow the conquest of South East Asia and the Pacific before the USA had recovered. This was the reason for the attack on Pearl Harbour, the big US Naval Base in Hawaii (7th December 1941), ordered by the Japanese commander General Tojo. The results of this were:
 - Over 2,400 men were killed and many more were injured.
 - The battleships were sunk but the aircraft carriers were at sea so the attack missed the main fuel supplies of the base.
 - Immediately after the attack, the USA (Roosevelt) and Britain (Churchill) declared war on Japan.
 - Germany declared war on the USA in support of Japan.
 - Within months Japan occupied large areas of the Philippines, the Dutch East Indies, Singapore, Malaya and parts of Burma.
 - The main factors of these success were: surprise attacks, good equipment, well-trained pilots and a very large army and navy.
 - The turning point of the war was the Battle of Midway: the US sunk all

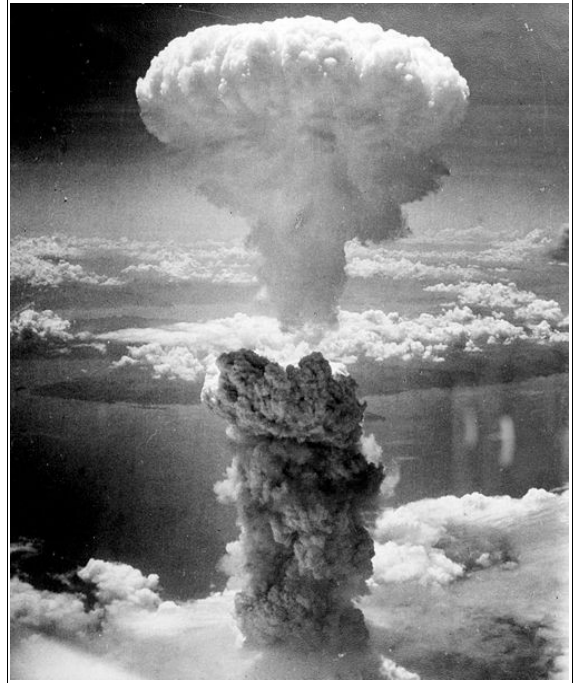


four Japanese aircraft carriers (June 1942) and shot down 300 planes. Japanese naval supremacy in the region ended. Australian forces defeated the Japanese in New Guinea.

Japanese forces defended bravely as the Allies used a tactic of *island-hopping* in the Pacific:

- During the battle of Iwo Jima the Japanese fought to the *last man*.

- Kamikaze pilots trained to die *with honour*, flew suicide missions in explosive-filled planes to destroy as many allied targets as they could.
- The new US president, Truman, had a choice between invading Japan and suffering huge losses of soldiers, or using a new secret weapon, the atomic bomb, to try to end the war.
- Two atomic bombs were dropped in August 1945: the first one on Hiroshima (6 – August) that killed 70,000 people; the second one on Nagasaki (8 – August) killed 36,000.



The radiation killed a lot of people and it continued to kill

them right through the twentieth century while many deformed babies were born.

On the 14th of August 1945 Japan surrendered unconditionally. The Second World War was over.

TASKS:

24. Why did the Japanese invade parts of the Pacific and South East Asia?
25. Why were they so successful?
26. What happened at Pearl Harbour?
27. When was the turning point of the war?
28. Explain what is island-hopping tactic? And what are Kamikaze pilots?
29. Give arguments in favour or against dropping the atomic bomb.

Occupation and resistance

- Over 750 million people lived in countries occupied by German or Japanese forces, that controlled laws, government and took the food, supplies and machinery.
- Populations were forced to collaborate with the occupying forces. Some people collaborated because they wanted better treatment or more food.
- There were active resistance movements in many areas; for example in France or the partisans in Yugoslavia.

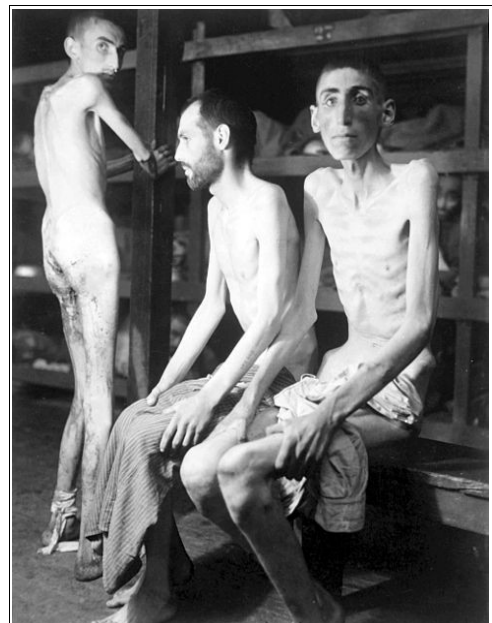
The consequences of the war

Both sides used Prison Camps:

- In Eastern Europe over 4 million soviets were tortured, frozen and starved to death.
- In Asia, many Chinese and Korean people were removed from their homes and used for slave force by the Japanese.
- In Allied countries there were internment camps for foreign nationals.

The holocaust

- Historically the Jews have been treated badly and suffered anti-semitism.
- The Nazis believed the Aryans (whites) were the master race and other races were inferior and subhuman.
- They were moved into ghettos. (* see the unit about the dictators)
- More than 60 million people died. This number does not include the people that died because of starvation and disease.
- More than 35 million people were injured and mutilated.
- Near three million people disappeared.





supplies and troops.

- There are four key reasons for the defeat of Germany:
 1. Failure to defeat Britain (1940).
 2. Poor war strategy, especially in the Russian Front.
 3. Resistance to the Nazis in the occupied countries.
 4. The US impact on the war, with
- supplies and troops.
- The turning point year was 1942: the year of the three battles:
 1. Midway in the **Pacific**.
 2. **El Alamein** in North Africa.
 3. **Stalingrad** in the USSR.

TASKS:

30. Define the following key terms and provide examples: *occupation, collaboration, resistance, labour camp*.
31. Explain why Jewish people were particularly hated and punished by the Nazis.
32. What was meant by the “final solution” and what were the results of this?
33. What part did the USA play in helping the Allied war effort before and after December 1942?

The aftermath

- **Germany was divided** into two parts: East (Communist East Germany) and West (German Democratic Republic), and the capital, Berlin was also divided.
- Europe was divided into the Communist Eastern Block and the Western Nations, with the “*iron curtain*” dividing them (a phrase coined by Winston Churchill)
- The League of Nations was replaced by the **United Nations**.

- The USA organised massive aid for Europe and Japan to rebuild (the **Marshall Plan**).
- In 1949 some Western nations formed **NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation). The USSR viewed this was a threat and formed the **Warsaw Pact** in 1955.
- European countries had **massive debts**, industry was out of date and countries like Britain lost overseas markets and colonies.
- The political leaders now would be the **USA and the USSR**. Some people (in Europe) started to see the need of a unification of Europe.
- Rationing system was established: people had **ration books** containing coupons which could be exchanged for certain amounts of food such as sugar, butter, eggs, meat...
- Relations between the USA and the USSR were tense and gave way to something called the Cold War; because there was not any fighting, instead both sides tried to be stronger forming alliances and making plans.
- The Allies agreed to legal trials at Nuremberg of Nazi leaders for war crimes.

TEXTS

Text 1

Everything that I undertake is directed against Russia; if the west is too stupid and too blind to understand this, then I will be forced to reach an understanding with the Russians, smash the west, and then turn all my concentrated strength against the Soviet Union. I need the Ukraine so that no one can starve us out again as in the last war.

Comments made by Hitler, on 11

What can you learn from the text about Hitler's motives in signing the Non-Aggression Pact with the Soviet Union in August 1939?

Text 2

Right until late afternoon, we had to fight, shot for shot, against thirty-seven enemy anti-aircraft positions, manned by tenacious fighting women, until they were all destroyed.

Extract from the report of the German 16th Panzer Division, about the fighting in Stalingrad in August 1942.

What can you learn from the text about the Russian resistance to the German attempt to capture Stalingrad?

Text 3

It was my reaction that the scientists and others wanted to make this test because of the vast sums that had been spent on the project.

The use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and were ready to surrender because of the effective sea blockade and the successful bombing with conventional weapons.

An extract from the memoirs of Admiral Leahy, the US chief of staff in 1945, concerning the American decision to drop nuclear bombs on Japan.

1. Why, according to the text, did the USA decide to drop atomic bombs on Japan in August 1945?
2. How useful is this text as evidence of American motives at this time?

Text 4

1. Our empire is determined to follow a policy that will result in the establishment of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere and will thereby contribute to world peace ...
2. Our empire will continue its efforts to effect a settlement of the China incident, and will seek to establish a solid basis for the security and preservation of the nation. This will involve steps to advance south.

Extracts from a report of a Japanese government conference held on 2 July 1941.

1. After reading the text how can you explain the foreign policy aims of the Japanese government in the early 1940s?

Find out more at...

- and these films:
 - ✓ *Band of Brothers*, 2000, directed by Phil Alden Robinson and Richard Loncraine. (The situation of a group of American soldiers fighting from Normandy and into Germany.)
 - ✓ *Battle of Britain*. 1969, directed by Guy Hamilton. (It explains the defense of Britain by the Royal Air Force in the summer of 1940.)
 - ✓ *Das Boot*, 1981, directed by Wolfgang Petersen. (A portrayal of the crew of a German submarine during its final mission.)
 - ✓ *Enemy at the Gates*, 2000, directed by Jean Jacques Annaud. (An account of the Battle of Stalingrad and what it meant to both German and Soviet troops.)
 - ✓ *La vida es bella*, 1998, directed by Roberto Benigni (a comic and moving vision of the war)
 - ✓ *Memphins Belle*, 1990, directed by Michael Caton-Jones. (It explains about the everyday tensions and dangers of the air war over Europe. It is based on a true story.)
 - ✓ *Pearl Harbor*, 2001, (The modern version of the same historical event related in the previous film.)
 - ✓ *Schindler's list*. 1993, directed by Steven Spielberg. (It tells about Oskar Schindler's attempts of saving his own Jewish workers during the period of the Holocaust.)
 - ✓ *The longest day*, 1962 directed by Ken Annakin. (A depiction of the D-day landings of June 6, 1944.)
 - ✓ *Tora!Tora! Tora!*, 1970, directed by Richard Fleischer. (It depicts the chaos of the day in which the Japanese bombed pearl Harbor as a total surprise.)

Find out more at...

- these websites:
 - ✓ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lm5SxG68KSM> (Video with a simulation of WW2)
 - ✓ <http://www.edu.xunta.es/centros/cpitinograndio/aulavirtual/mod/resource/view.php?inpopup=true&id=1040> (the eTwinning presentation from our Polish partners in *International Calendar* 2010-2011)
 - ✓ <http://www.edu.xunta.es/centros/cpitinograndio/aulavirtual/mod/resource/view.php?inpopup=true&id=1054> (the eTwinning presentation about the German invasion of Poland from our Polish partners in *International Calendar* 2010-2011)
- these books from our school library:
 - ✓ BINGHAM, Jane et al.: *The Usborne Internet-Linked Encyclopedia of World History*. Usborne
 - ✓ BINGHAM, Jane: *The Usborne internet-linked Encyclopedia of World History*. Usborne Publishing Ltd. 2000. pages 368-373. ISBN 978074605361-4.
 - ✓ BOYNE, John: *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. Rbooks. 2008. 216 pages. ISBN 978-1-862-30527-4.
 - ✓ BROOK, Henry: *D-Day. Usborne True Stories*. Usborne House. 2007. 160 pages. ISBN 9780794518400-0.
 - ✓ CHANDLER, Fiona: *The Usborne First encyclopedia of History*. Usborne House. 2003. pages 60-61. ISBN 978074604729-3.
 - ✓ DAVIDSON, Susanna: *Anne Frank. Usborne Young Reading*. Usborne House. 2006. 64 pages. ISBN 978074606818-2.
 - ✓ DAYNES, Katie: *Adolf Hitler. Usborne Young Reading*. Usborne House. 2006. 64 pages. ISBN 978079451261-3.
 - ✓ DAYNES, Katie: *Winston Churchill. Usborne Young Reading*. Usborne House. 2006. 64 pages. ISBN 9780746814-4.
 - ✓ DOWSWELL, Paul: *The World Wars*. Usborne Publishing Ltd. 2007. pages 124-230. ISBN 978074608788-6.
 - ✓ JACKSON, Oxford: *Short Oxford History of Europe. Europe 1900-1945*. Oxford University Press. 2002. 254 pages. ISBN 0-19-924428-6. Background (high level)
 - ✓ *Oxford Children's Encyclopedia*. Oxford University Press. 1991. ISBN 0-19-911244-4. Articles about: World War II, Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin.

Pictures from:

- Banco Imágenes ITE
- Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II
- http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Second_world_war



WWII








The Road to War

The Victories of the Axis

<p>Hitler Chancellor Jan. 30 1933</p> <p>Germany quits the League of Nations. Oct 1933</p> <p>Japanese invasion of Manchuria Sep 1931</p> <p>The Japs create the puppet state of Manchukuo in Manchuria 1932</p>	<p>Spanish Civil War Hitler and Mussolini support Franco 36-39</p> <p>Mussolini invades Ethiopia May 1936</p> <p>Anti-Comintern Pact 1936</p> <p>Sino-Japanese War 1937-45</p> <p>Versailles Violation#2: German troops occupy Rhineland. March 1936</p> <p>Versailles Violation#1: Military conscription. March 1935</p>	<p>Hitler invades the Sudetenland October 1938</p> <p>Hitler invades Czechoslovakia March 1939</p> <p>Pact of Steel May 22, 1939</p> <p>Versailles Violation#3: 'Anschluss' (union) with Austria. March 1938</p> <p>Munich agreement (The appeasement) Sep 1938</p> <p>Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact Aug 1939</p>	<p>Sep 1 1939 - Nazis invade Poland. UK and France declares war WWII begins</p>
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1931 - 1939

1939-1942

<p>1931 Japanese invasion of Manchuria Sep 1931</p> 	<p>1932</p>	<p>1933 Hitler Chancellor Jan. 30 1933</p> 	<p>1934</p>	<p>1935 Munich agreement (The appeasement) Sep 1938</p> 	<p>1936</p>	<p>1937 Hitler invades the Sudetenland October 1938</p> 	<p>1938</p>	<p>1938</p>  <p>Pact of Steel May 22, 1939</p>	<p>1939</p>	<p>1939</p>  <p>Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact Aug 1939</p>	<p>1940</p>  <p>Sep 1 1939 - Nazis invade Poland.</p>
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The Interwar period

Second World War



Postwar Era

The Road to War

The Victories of the Axis

The Allied Victories

Origins of the Cold War

<p>Sep 1 1939 - Nazis invade Poland. UK and France declares war WWII begins</p> <p>Sep 29 1939 Nazis and Soviets divide up Poland.</p> <p>May 1940- Nazis invade France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Churchill PM</p> <p>The Phoney War Sep 39-May 40</p> <p>Nov 30, 1939 Soviets attack Finland. Winter War 39-40</p> <p>July-Sep 1940 Battle of Britain. RAF defeats Luftwaffe.</p> <p>April 9, 1940 Nazis invade Denmark & Norway.</p> <p>June 10, 1940 Italy declares war on Britain and France.</p> <p>June 22, 1941 Operation Barbarossa. nazi invasion of USSR</p> <p>April 1941 Nazis invade Greece and Yugoslavia</p> <p>March 1941 Roosevelt signs the Lend-Lease Act.</p> <p>Sep-Oct 1940 Italians invade Egypt, Somaliland and Greece.</p> <p>Oct - Nov 1942 Decisive Allied victory in EL-ALAMEIN, Egypt</p> <p>Nov 1942 - U.S. invasion of North Africa</p> <p>July 43 Allies land in Italy</p> <p>Mussolini arrested, the Fascist government falls. Nazi occupation</p> <p>Sep 1943 - Mussolini re-establishes a Fascist government in Salo.</p> <p>July 43 Allies land in Italy</p> <p>Mussolini arrested, the Fascist government falls. Nazi occupation</p> <p>Sep 1943 - Mussolini re-establishes a Fascist government in Salo.</p> <p>July 43 Allies land in Italy</p> <p>Mussolini arrested, the Fascist government falls. Nazi occupation</p> <p>Sep 1943 - Mussolini re-establishes a Fascist government in Salo.</p>	<p>June 6, 1944 - Normandy D-Day landings</p> <p>Feb 45 - Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin meet at Yalta.</p> <p>Dec 44 Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes.</p> <p>Jan 45 - Soviet liberate Auschwitz</p> <p>July 45 - Potsdam Conference</p> <p>June 1944 - Soviet summer offensive.</p> <p>April 1945 - Mussolini is hanged by Italian partisans.</p> <p>Apr 1945 - Soviets in Berlin. Hitler commits suicide</p> <p>Nov 1943 - Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin meet at Teheran</p> <p>Jan 43 - Casablanca conference Churchill and Roosevelt.</p> <p>June 45 - Japanese unconditional surrender.</p>	<p>June 45 United Nations Charter is signed in San Francisco.</p> <p>Nov 45 Nuremberg war crimes trials</p> <p>Aug 45 First atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki</p>
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1939-1942

1942-1945

1939 May 1940- Nazis invade France



1940



1941



1942



1943



1944



1945



June 6, 1944 Normandy D-Day landings

Aug 1942 - Feb 1943 Decisive Soviet victory in STALINGRAD

December 7, 1941 Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor USA enters war

July-Sep 1940 Battle of Britain. RAF defeats Luftwaffe.

Aug 45 First atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki