

World War II

I. The War Begins

- On September 1, 1939, Hitler invaded Poland
- German attack called “blitzkrieg”, or lightning war.
- Britain and France declare war on Germany
- The United States declared its neutrality
- Soviets and Nazis split Poland
- Russians attacked Finland and are expelled from the League of Nations.

II. 1940

- In early 1940 the Nazis invaded:
- Denmark
- Belgium
- France
- And other countries
- All of the nations above surrender to the Germans.
- Great Britain was the next target

III. The Battle for Britain

- In July 1940 the Battle of Britain began.
- The German Luftwaffe began mass bomber attacks on radar stations and airfields.
- Hitler then switched the attack to civilian targets.
- This decision cost the Germans the Battle for Britain.

IV. Pact of Steel

- The Italians and Germans signed the Pact of Steel
- The Italians finally joined WWII in 1940 and attack Greece and North Africa
- Italy was being defeated in both areas
- The Germans had to help and defeated the Greeks, the Balkans and North Africa
- The Germans cancelled the Nazi-Soviet Pact
- German attacked Russia: Operation Barbarossa

V. Operation Barbarossa

Germany:

- Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941.
- The Soviets retreated and used the scorched earth plan, burning everything to keep them from the Germans
- This forced the Russians to side with the Allies and Germany was fighting a two-front war

VI. The Pacific

- Japan continued its expansion
- Tripartite Pact was signed between Tokyo, Rome and Berlin.
- Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.
- The United States and Britain declare war on Japan
- Germany and Italy Declare war on the U.S
- After attacking Pearl Harbor, the Japanese seized Guam, Wake Island, Hong Kong, Malaya, Burma and the Dutch East Indies.
- The Japanese continued to fight, oftentimes using **kamikaze** attacks against U.S. ships.

Bataan Death March

- The Japanese forced U.S. and Filipino soldiers to march after Japan defeated the Philippines in 1942.
- About 10,000 people died or were killed during the march.

Relocation of Japanese Americans

- After Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans were targeted and thrown in internment camps

VII. The U.S

- Italy surrendered in 1943
- June 1944 the Allies stormed Normandy (D-Day).
- On April 30, 1945 Adolf Hitler committed suicide
- May 7, 1945 the German Army authorized an unconditional surrender.

VIII. War in the Pacific

- Japan refused to surrender.
- The U.S dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima
- The U.S dropped a second bomb on Nagasaki,
- The Japanese surrendered and World War II was over.
-