



# History

a cultural approach

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# Time and Geography

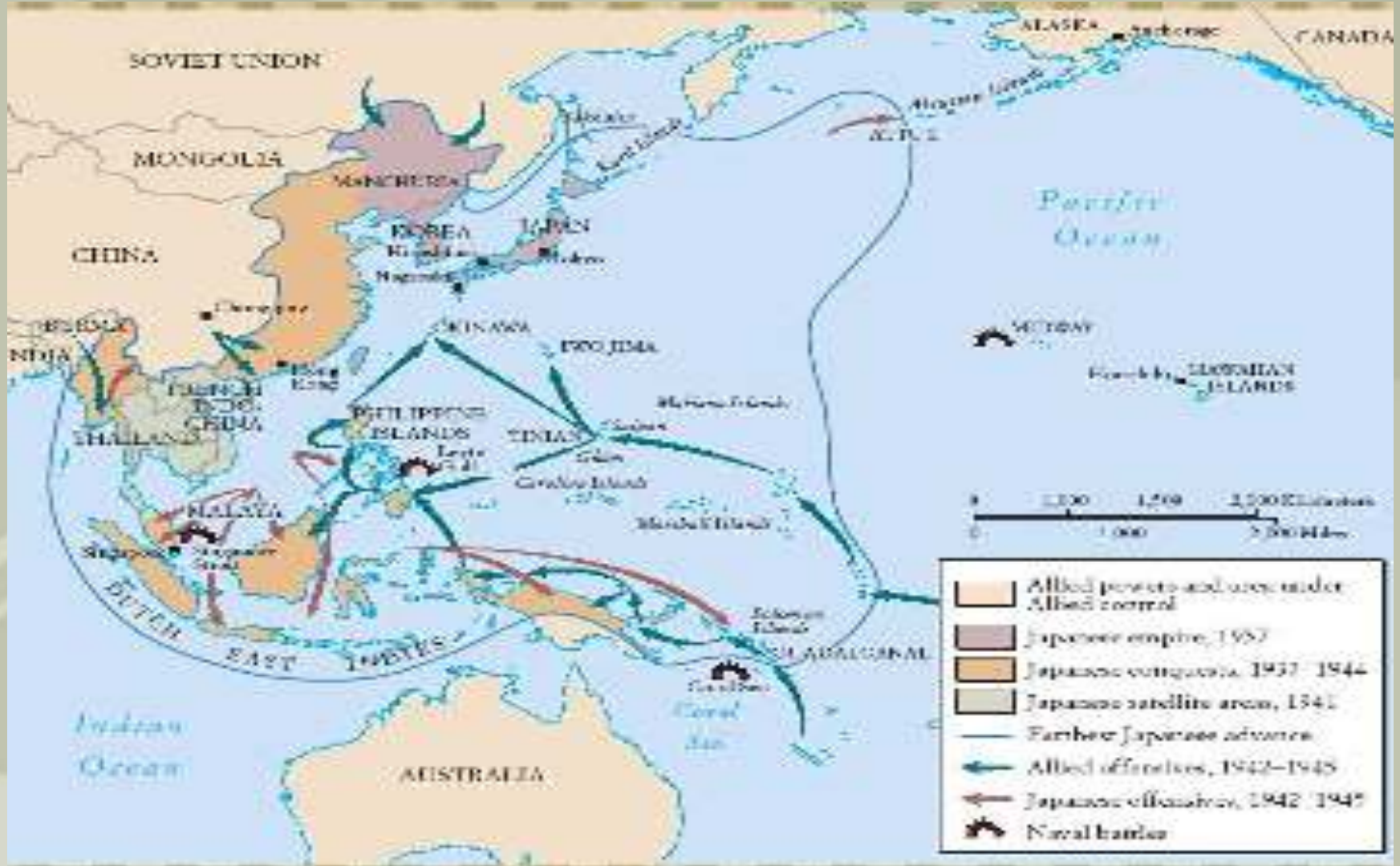


# MAP of Europe WWII





# MAP of Pacific World War II



# POLITICAL



# Rise and Fall of Collective Security

- France determined to protect itself from Germany
  - Little Entente: military alliance with Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania
  - Stayed on good terms with fascist Italy



Little Entente

# Rise and Fall of Collective Security

- “Collective security” was under severe strain
  - Soviet Russia was outcast
  - Japan ignored League of Nations’ disapproval of its invasion of Manchuria
  - Mussolini’s Italy invaded Ethiopia
  - League of Nations was shown to be ineffective



League of Nations propaganda poster

Political



# Spanish Civil War

- Public was severely divided politically
- Military revolt, supported by Church, peasants, most of middle class
- Western democracies did not take sides; Hitler and Mussolini supported rebels under General Franco
- USSR supported Popular Front, sent military aid to Loyalists
- Loyalists surrendered 1939, Franco took over



Soldiers in World War II

Political



# Hitler's March to War, 1935-1939

- Germany was greatest danger to Paris treaties
  - Hitler took Germany out of League of Nations
  - Hitler's plans could only become reality through war
  - But no concrete plans for war until about 1936
    - Started conscription
    - Created large air force



World War II Nazi plane

# Reoccupation of the Rhineland, 1936

- Was supposed to be a permanent demilitarized zone
- French, British did nothing to stop him
- Was major diplomatic victory
- France, Britain paralyzed by defeatism, pacifism
  - Leaned toward appeasement
  - French put hopes on Maginot Line
- Rome-Berlin Axis Pact signed 1936



Map of Maginot Line

# March to War Continues

- Anschluss in Austria
  - Anschluss (joining together of Germany, Austria) was forbidden by Versailles Treaty
  - Completed bloodlessly
  - Czechoslovakia
    - 3.5 million Germans in country
    - Began agitating for inclusion in Germany

Anschluss



Political

# March to War Continues



The Munich Agreements

- Munich, 1938
  - Hitler, Chamberlain (Brit.), Daladier (Fr.), Mussolini attended
  - Munich Agreements sacrificed Czechoslovakia to Germany
  - Began pressure on Poland
    - Britain guaranteed aid if Germany invaded Poland
    - Hitler was not worried – more concerned about USSR



# Nazi-Soviet Non-aggression Pact

- Only threat to Hitler was possible two-front war
- Pact signed in 1939 by Stalin, Hitler
  - USSR would remain neutral in war involving Germany
  - Russians allowed to occupy Baltic states, eastern Poland
  - Unpopular worldwide among communists



Molotov signs the Nazi–Soviet non-aggression pact. Behind him are Ribbentrop and Stalin.

# World War II

## Chronological Phases

- Phase 1:
  - German, Japanese victories, expansion, 1939-1942
- Phase 2:
  - Allied counterattack, 1942-43
- Phase 3:
  - Allied advance 1944, 1945, victory in 1945



German soldiers on advance

# European Theater

## Phase 1: Axis Blitzkrieg

- Britain, France declared war when Hitler marched through Poland
- USSR remained neutral, occupied promised territory
- Spring 1940, France, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Norway fell; only Britain survived.



The Axis Powers

# European Theater

## Phase 1: Axis Blitzkrieg

- Battle of Britain
  - Germans tried to bomb Britain into submission
  - Total victory for defenders, plans for invasion had to be abandoned
  - Winston Churchill became popular leader in England



Winston Churchill



# European Theater

## Phase 1: Axis Blitzkrieg

- Yugoslavia, Greece, USSR campaigns all successful
- Operation Barbarossa – attack on Russia
  - Caught Stalin completely by surprise
  - Germans caught by winter, lost chance for quick victory



Operation Barbarossa

# European Theater

## Phase 2: Allied Counterattack

- 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor brought U.S. into war
- Allied victory not at all certain
- Defense of Stalingrad was turning point – Nazis lost whole army
- After that, Germans were on defensive, driven from Africa
- Italy was captured



Pearl Harbor

Political

# European Theater

## Phase 2: Allied Counterattack

- Montgomery's Battle of el-Alamein and Rommel's retreat, 1942–43
- While Churchill was still in London
- Montgomery waited for seven weeks after 'Alam al-Halfa' in order to be sure of success.
- He finally chose to begin his attack in the night of Oct. 23–24, 1942, when there would be moonlight for the clearing of gaps in the German minefields.



Deployment of forces on the eve of battle

Political

# European Theater

## Phase 2: Allied Counterattack



Generalfeldmarschall Erwin Rommel



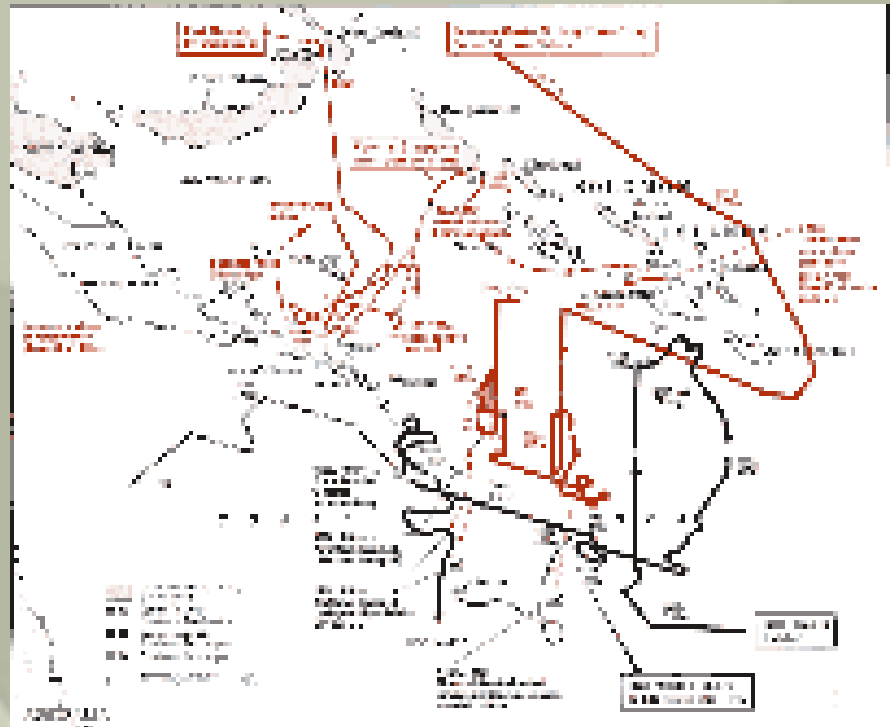
Bernard Montgomery.

Political



# Pacific Theater

- Japanese took all of southeast Asia, many Pacific islands by 1942
- Battle of Coral Sea prevented threat to Australia
- Japanese did not have materials or manpower for prolonged war



Battle of the Coral Sea

# Pacific Theater

- 1943-44, U.S. began taking back islands, including Philippines
- “Island Hopping” strategy employed by the United States to gain military bases and secure the many small islands in the Pacific.
- The attack was lead by General Douglas MacArthur, Commander of the Allied forces in the South west Pacific, and Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in-chief of the Pacific fleet.

Political

# Pacific Theater

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General Douglas MacArthur

Political

# Pacific Theater

- The US troops targeted the islands that were not as strongly defended by the Japanese.
- Slowly the US army moved closer to Japan, taking control of many of the surrounding islands.
- On April 26th, 1942, they laid out the plan; a two-pronged offensive codenamed “Cartwheel”. They aimed to corner Japanese troops on Rabaul Island



# Pacific Theater

- 1944-45, Japanese forced out of southeast Asia and China
- August 1945, atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Japan surrendered

# Pacific Theater

- **Battle of Guadalcanal**, (August 1942–February 1943)
- Land and sea clashes between Allied and Japanese forces on and around **Guadalcanal**, one of the southern Solomon Islands, in the South Pacific.
- Japanese troops had landed on **Guadalcanal** on July 6, 1942, and had begun constructing an airfield there.
- On August 7, in the Allies' first major offensive in the Pacific, 6,000 U.S. Marines landed on **Guadalcanal** and seized the airfield.
- Both sides then began landing reinforcements by sea, and bitter fighting ensued in the island's jungles

# Pacific Theater



U.S. Marines landing on Guadalcanal, August 1942.

Political

# Onset of the Cold War

## Wartime Alliance and Mistrust

- Three Allied conferences held during war: Tehran, Yalta, Potsdam; results:
  - Assured Soviets of domination of eastern Europe
  - Assigned parts of Germany to Allied armies
  - Moved German eastern border back to west



FDR at Yalta



# Onset of the Cold War

## Wartime Alliance and Mistrust

- Issue of free elections
  - Yalta Conference: agreement that free elections would be held as soon as possible
  - Stalin regarded that idea as presumptuous, was worried that neighboring countries would be hostile
  - Only freedom allowed was to choose type of Soviet organization to be used in each country

# Yalta Conference



- (From left) Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, and Joseph Stalin at the Yalta Conference, 1945.

Political

# Potsdam Conference



Winston Churchill, Harry Truman, and Joseph Stalin during the Potsdam Conference.

Political

# Wartime Alliances Continued Mistrust

- Western viewpoint
  - Stalin violated all the promises made earlier
  - Communist parties were falsely portrayed as popular choice
  - Rigged elections, political terrorism



Collage of war time pictures



The Cold War

Political



# Wartime Alliances

## Continued Mistrust

- Basic reason for Cold War was U.S./U.S.S.R. rivalry for leadership
  - Soviets were expanding control over Europe
  - U.S. military, politicians were paranoid over communist threat
  - Nobody could imagine world where communism and capitalism could co-exist peacefully



Gorbachev vs. Kennedy

# SOCIAL



# Women's role in WWII

In the UK, women did jobs at home that were generally done by men (who were off fighting in WWII).

The Women's Land Army (WLA) recruited 80,000 women to work abandoned farms.



Women's Land Army in the UK



Women in the workforce

Social

# Women's role in WWII

- In the United States they developed “Rosie the Riveter” to encourage women to join the workforce.
- In Canada, they developed 3 military compartments strictly for women:  
CWAAF: Canadian Women's Auxiliary Air force  
CWAC: Canadian Women's Army Force  
WRCNS: Women's Royal Canadian Naval Services



“Rosie the Riveter”



Canadian World War II propaganda

Social



# Women's role in WWII

- In Japan women were expected, as in the rest of the world, to contribute to the war effort.
- Women began factory work and rationed as other women had, sacrificing their part for the war effort



Photos from the popular Japanese pictorial weekly Shashin Shuho issued by the Japanese Cabinet Bureau of Information during the war, reveal the late war propaganda encouraging women to work in factory positions.

# ECONOMIC



# War time Economy

- Shift in many world economies toward wartime production which included manufacturing of planes, tanks, weapons, ammunition, uniforms and the like.



Panzer Mk IIIs move off the factory grounds, 1942.

# Ship Building

Allies were better supplied than the Axis powers because of American ship production.

In 1943, the United States produced 369 warships.

- Japan: 122
- Germany: 3

The United States reduced the build time of a Liberty or Victory ship from 105 to 56 days.

They were also more efficient in building because of the new technological advances in ship building.



HMS Prince of Wales

Economic



# War Bonds

- Governments issued War Bonds to have citizens support the war to help with manufacturing.



**Keep this Horror From Your Home.  
Invest 10 Percent in War Bonds Back  
Up our Battles**

Economic



# Rationing

- Throughout the world during world war II all citizens had to ration their goods in order to supply the troops overseas and to make what supplies they had last.

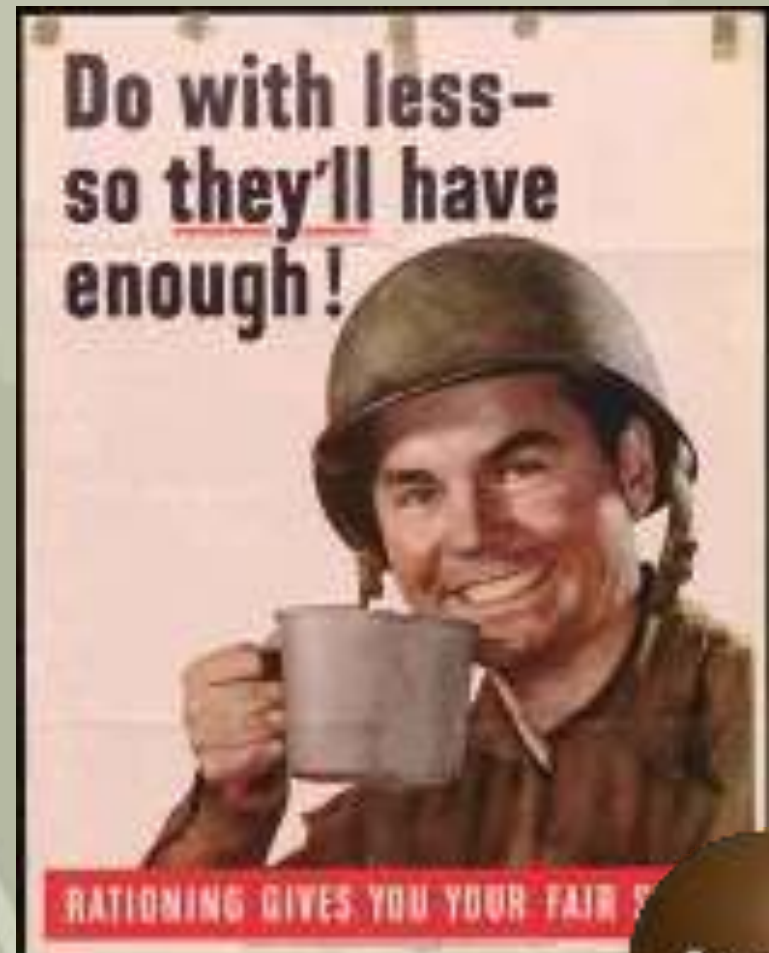


British Ration Book

Economic

# Rationing

- Government's asked people to conserve so that there was enough for the war effort.



Economic

The U.S. Office of War Information created this poster in 1943 to encourage American citizens to conserve their personal resources so that troops overseas would have enough. Photo: Washington State University

# INTELLECTUAL



# Weapons Technology

Weapons technology improved a great deal in WWII.

Many types of technology were used for the first time such as:

- Nuclear
- Radar
- Jet Engines
- Electronic Computers

New types of aircraft were also created and utilized.

Also, research and development demands during the war lead to new scientific fields of study such as:

- Cybernetics
- Computer Science

Example of  
Radar



# RELIGIOUS





# Confessing Church

- Many in Germany during this period believed God spoke through Hitler almost as a ‘messiah’ of sorts.
- The Confessing Church, lead by Martin Niemoeller, opposed Hitler.
- Their opinion was a minority.
- The Confessing Church did not like the idea of “Hitler worship” or Hitler’s Jewish policies of anti-semitism.
- However, they did not speak out against his “final solution” plan.



Martin Niemoeller placquard

Religious

# Catholicism

- **Vatican City** pursued a policy of neutrality during World War II
- Pope Pius XII
- Although the city of Rome was occupied by Germany from 1943 and the Allies from 1944, Vatican City itself was not occupied. The Vatican organized extensive humanitarian aid throughout the duration of the conflict.



Members of the Canadian Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Regiment in audience with Pope Pius XII, following the 1944 Liberation of Rome.

Religious

# AESTHETIC



# 20<sup>th</sup> Century Music

- The radio gained a great deal of popularity during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, all over the world.
- Music was now, no longer only in clubs and concerts.
- Music artists were able to gain attention more quickly from a broader audience than ever before.



Radio news bulletin

# 20<sup>th</sup> Century Music

- People listening to the radio were now able to hear music from all over the world.
- Also, new media and technology were invented to record and distribute music.



Family listening to a speech by Winston Churchill, 19 May 1945.

Credit: Science and Society /

Aesthetic



# 20<sup>th</sup> Century Music

- Some of the Great 20<sup>th</sup> Century Classical Composers included:
- Rachmaninoff
- Aaron Copland
- They produce nationalist works to support their country.



Aaron Copland as subject of a *Young People's Concert*, 1970

# INTELLECTUAL/SOCIAL



# Losses of World War II

- Debate: Should bombs have been dropped?
  - They were aimed at civilian, not military targets
  - Justified as preventing greater losses if U.S. had taken Japan by conventional methods
  - Now, humans had capacity to entirely destroy themselves
- Casualties
  - More people died in World War II than any other event in recorded history, about 30 million
  - Compounded by starvation, cold, epidemics, disorientation

# POLITICAL/SOCIAL



# European Theater

## Phase 3: Allied Victory

- Tide turned decisively in 1943
- Greece, southeast Europe taken from Axis
- Germans forced out of Russia
- Huge civilian losses in eastern Europe:
  - Jews exterminated in concentration camps and slave labor
- Stalin's calls for Second Front answered by
  - D-Day invasion
- May 1945, Hitler committed suicide; Germany surrendered



D-Day invasion

Social

Political



# POLITICAL/ECONOMIC



# Cold War – Original Issues

- Reparations in Germany
- “Denazification” of German government, industry
- Creation of new currency for Allied sectors of Germany
- Berlin government and Berlin blockade, 1948-49
- Country-by-country Soviet takeover of eastern Europe
- Wartime alliance was temporary
  - Bound to collapse as soon as common enemy was defeated
  - Neither side willing to cooperate



Berlin airdrop

Economic

Political

# REVIEW



# Discussion Questions

1. How would you vote in the debate over the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki? List the reasons why you would vote for or against the action. Now, list the same number of reasons supporting the opposite opinion. Which side presents the stronger argument? Why?
2. Consider how the history of World War II might have been different if Hitler had been successful in any one of these battles: Stalingrad, Battle of Britain, D-Day. What do you think would have happened differently? Would the eventual outcome have been the same? Explain.



# History

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