

Blitzkrieg used in this invasion. Codename was Operation White. Allied aim= replace Hitler and European settlement. Little hope for Poland; French promise Poles that they would invade Germany within first 15 days of war, but had no intention of keeping the promise.

Europe at War Dear God, is there any intelligent reader who supposes it was a simple victory? But Norman Davies, the brilliant and original author of *Europe: A History* 10 years ago, seems now to have developed a weakness for truisms and teaching grandmothers to suck eggs His twin hobby-horses are tremendous, but almost knackered: There may be people still unaware of these fundamental truths about the Second World War, but I doubt many of them will be readers of this book. That said, let us consider its merits. Davies succeeds in making a historical whole of the two main elements of the European War - the war in the west, fought by Britain, America and a host of allies; the war in the east conducted by the Soviets with a multitude of ancillaries willing and unwilling. This unifying emphasis is justified, because even now historians, film-makers, authors and journalists are apt to treat as two separate conflicts. Davies treats the two campaigns more or less as one, but he has no doubts about their relative strategic importance. The battle of Kursk, the greatest tank battle in history, rightly gets far more space than El Alamein, or even D-Day. This is salutary, not because it tells us anything new, but because it does chip away at deeply ingrained national myths and stereotypes. Davies surely underplays the Anglo-American contribution to victory as a mere supporting role, but it is fair to be reminded that while , British military personnel died in the European war, the Russians lost nearly 9 million. You would hardly know from his account, if you are as simple as he evidently supposes you to be, that the Americans were simultaneously fighting their colossal campaigns in the Pacific, and the British Army slogging its way through Burma. But another plus of the book is its anthology value. This is a speciality of Davies - the assembling of vastly varied facts, anecdotes and opinions that may not fit into a historical narrative, but are illuminating in themselves. They occupy much of this volume, are arranged in quirky categories - Aristocrats, Music Lovers, Assassins, Saints, Bankers, Cartoons - and are often fascinating. Were we ever taught that 54 separate non-aggression treaties were signed in inter-war Europe? Alas, if this is perhaps an endearing sign of advancing years, not so forgivable is the slipshod nature of this book. The French fleet was certainly not sunk with all hands at Mers-el-Kebir. Geoffrey Lawrence was not the chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials and Lindbergh was not the first man to fly non-stop across the Atlantic. And how are these for a few Davies truisms, plucked from a cornucopia? But it would be unfair to end this review with a sneer. Its underlying themes are grand and terrible - the evil of totalitarianism, whether of the left or the right , and the wrong that false or biased history can do to posterity. The Good War was only good in parts, and the highest morality must be indivisible. These major premises Professor Davies nobly develops: And if I dare end upon an anachronistic note: Davies certainly does not beat the drum for Britain, or any other nation except perhaps his beloved Poland, and who could resent that? Our generals, it appears, were mediocre, our strategies too cautious, our soldiers had an easy time compared with the Red Army, our navy never fought a Trafalgar, our tanks were outclassed by the Panzers and were no good to the Russians. Yet even to an iconoclastic Welsh nationalist, reading this work seems to show that, on the whole, the impoverished British came out of the war in Europe the most honourably victorious of the lot.

Providing coverage of one of the most costly and vicious conflicts in history, this title assesses the impact of World War II on Europe. The author charts the major military campaigns of the war and analyzes its social and economic effects on the countries involved, particularly Nazi Germany and the USSR.

No Simple Victory BY Norman Davies is a compelling account of how eastern Europe swapped one oppressor for another. He was already very well-known among historians, as the leading expert on Polish history in the English-speaking world; but that book made him famous. Professional historians may have tut-tutted over the many small errors of fact which it contained; the general public, however, admired his energy, his breadth of vision, and his talent for asking important but unfamiliar questions about familiar things. For that history of Europe was nothing like a dull encyclopaedic survey in which, we assume, the facts will all be correct. It was an almost polemical book, championing the cause of the Eastern half of an artificially divided continent, and arguing that "as the Polish Pope had said" to think of Europe only from the West-European point of view was like breathing with only one lung. Again and again, he showed why we should appreciate the role played by East Europeans in our common history, and why we should celebrate their achievements. His new book, on the Second World War in Europe, is based on the same fundamental principle "though in this case celebration must be outweighed by other reactions, including pity and horror. First and foremost is the fact that they were the territories targeted by Nazi strategy for German Lebensraum, and therefore the ones in which the treatment of the inhabitants was exceptionally brutal. The second reason is that these were the areas where German and Soviet military action overlapped, originally as allies in the carve-up of Poland, when the two forces held joint Nazi-Soviet victory parades, and then as bitter enemies. As Davies repeatedly emphasises, the conflict between the Wehrmacht and the Red Army was by far the most important element in the entire land war in Europe: D-Day was a side-show in comparison, and any history of the war that fails to give a central place to the battle of Kursk the greatest tank battle of all time is just an unreliable account. But there is also a third reason. The end-result of the war was that East-Central Europe, freed from Nazi oppression, was quickly subjected to Soviet oppression, which resembled the Nazi variety in many ways. Such points are made by Davies in a punchy and compelling way. This is a self-consciously contrary book, cutting against the grain of much self-congratulatory Western writing since. It is also untypical in form, since the military and political story of the war is told only in the first two sections, while later ones deal in a variety of ways with the experiences of soldiers and civilians in the main war-waging states. These sections, which turn in places into strings of anecdotes and thumbnail-sketches, rather dissipate the impact of the first part of the book. At one point he gives the impression that the pro-Nazi Antonescu government in Romania was overthrown by the Soviets; when he later gets round to mentioning the royal coup which did in fact topple Antonescu, he implies that the Nazi Minister in Bucharest participated in it, which is the exact opposite of the truth. And much of what he says about Yugoslavia, including his figures for the war-dead, is based on Titoist claims that have long been discredited. The reason he gives for taking so little notice of these parts of Europe is that he has a duty to expend most of his words on the areas that saw most of the fighting. But such an approach risks downplaying important strategic factors that happen not to be quantifiable in such simple ways. This, he suggests, is what needlessly prolonged the war, to the point where Stalin could gobble up the whole of Eastern Europe. Would the Western Allies have agreed on the same conditions? And would Stalin have agreed to any conditions at all "or would he just have ploughed on, feeling even more free to ignore all Anglo-American requests and complaints? The feeble but true answer to all such questions is: What we do know is that the one great act of justice that did end the war "the destruction of the Nazi regime" was accompanied by huge acts of injustice, which brought death and prolonged suffering to many millions.

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The Republic of China and the Empire of Japan are involved in the early stages of the third year of armed conflict between them during the Second Sino-Japanese War. The war is in what will be known as the "Second Period", which starts in October and ends in December. Norway and Switzerland declare their neutrality. The British government declares general mobilization of the British Armed Forces and starts evacuation plans in preparation of German air attacks. The United Kingdom and France issue a joint ultimatum to Germany, requiring German troops to evacuate Polish territory; President Douglas Hyde of the Republic of Ireland declares the neutrality of his nation; the Swiss government orders a general mobilization of its forces. The National Service Armed Forces Act is enacted immediately and enforces full conscription on all males between 18 and 41 resident in the UK. The Free City of Danzig is annexed by Germany. The "Battle of the Atlantic" starts. They target the German pocket-battleship Admiral Scheer anchored off Wilhelmshaven at the western end of the Kiel Canal. Several aircraft are lost in the attack and, although the German vessel is hit three times, all of the bombs fail to explode. Japan announces its neutrality in the European situation. The British Admiralty announces the beginning of a naval blockade on Germany, one of a range of measures by which the British will wage economic warfare on the Axis powers. The United States launches the Neutrality Patrol. The United States publicly declares neutrality. Battle of Barking Creek, a friendly fire incident, results in the first RAF fighter pilot fatality of the war. The National Registration Act is passed in Britain introducing identity cards and allowing the government to control labour. The British Government announces the re-introduction of the convoy system for merchant ships and a full-scale blockade on German shipping. General Gamelin orders a halt to the French advance into Germany. The Polish Army is ordered to hold out at the Romanian border until the Allies arrive. The German Army complete the encirclement of Warsaw. The French complete their retreat from Germany, ending the Saar Offensive. The Imperial Japanese Army launches attacks on the Chinese city of Changsha, when their forces in northern Jiangxi attacked westward toward Henan. The German and Soviet armies link up near Brest Litovsk. Soviet Union blockades the harbour of Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. The Imperial Japanese Army drive the Chinese National Revolutionary Army out of the Sinchiang river area, and the 6th and 13th Divisions cross the river under artillery cover and advances further south along the Miluo River during the Battle of Changsha. Soviet air force violates Estonian airspace. The Estonians negotiate with Molotov in Moscow. German home front measures begin with food rationing. Soviet air activity in Estonia. Soviet troops along the Estonian border include tanks, aircraft and men. Following a massive artillery bombardment, the Germans launch a major infantry assault on the centre of Warsaw. Russian bombers seen in the Tallinn sky. The secret protocol specifies the details of partition of Poland originally defined in Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact August 23, and adds Lithuania to the Soviet Union sphere of interest. The remaining Polish army and militia in the centre of Warsaw capitulate to the Germans. Soviet troops mass by the Latvian border. Latvian air space violated. Estonia signs a year Mutual Assistance Pact with the Soviet Union, which allows the Soviets to have 30 men military bases in Estonia. As a gift in return Stalin promises to respect Estonian independence. The Japanese Imperial Army reaches the outskirts of Changsha. However, it is unable to conquer the city because its supply lines are cut off by the Chinese National Revolutionary Army. The German pocket-battleship Admiral Graf Spee sinks its first merchant ship, the British freighter Clement while off the coast of Pernambuco, Brazil. French forces on the French-German border fall back to the Maginot Line in anticipation of a German invasion. Latvian representatives negotiate with Stalin and Molotov. Soviets threaten an occupation by force if they do not get military bases in Latvia. Declaration of Panama is approved by American Republics. Belligerent activities should not take place within waters adjacent to the American continent. British forces move to the Belgian border, anticipating a German invasion of the West. Lithuanians meet Stalin and Molotov in Moscow. Stalin offers Lithuania the city of Vilnius in Poland in return for allowing Soviet military bases in Lithuania. The Lithuanians are reluctant.

Latvia signs a year Mutual Assistance Pact with the Soviet Union, which allows the Soviets to have 25, men in military bases in Latvia. Stalin promises to respect Latvian independence. Chinese army reportedly defeats the Japanese at the Battle of Changsha. Polish resistance in the Polish September Campaign comes to an end. Hitler speaks before the Reichstag , declaring a desire for a conference with Britain and France to restore peace. Lithuanians again meet the Soviets in Moscow. The Soviets demand military bases. The leaders of the German navy suggest to Hitler they need to occupy Norway. Lithuania signs a year Mutual Assistance Pact with the Soviet Union, which allows the Soviets to have 20, men in military bases in Lithuania. In a secret protocol, Vilnius is made Lithuanian territory. An estimated , British troops are now in France. Soviet Union demands Finland give up a military base near Helsinki and exchange some Soviet and Finnish territories to protect Leningrad against Great Britain or the eventual future threat of Germany. Finns meet Stalin again. Stalin tells that "an accident" might happen between Finnish and Soviet troops, if the negotiations last too long. First Soviet forces enter Estonia. During the Umsiedlung, 12, Baltic Germans leave Estonia. Portions of Poland are formally inducted into Germany; the first Jewish ghetto is established at Lublin. The " Phoney War ": Belgium announces that it is neutral in the present conflict. The British government releases a report on concentration camps being built in Europe for Jews and anti-Nazis. As Germany plans for an attack on France, German Lieutenant-General Erich von Manstein proposes that Germany attack through the Ardennes rather than through Belgium - the expected attack route. November [edit] 1: Parts of Poland, including the Danzig Corridor , are annexed by Germany. Soviet Union annexes the eastern parts of occupied Poland to Ukraine and Belorussia. Finland and Soviet Union again negotiate new borders. Neutrality Act is passed: American isolationists find the act an "outrage. A German physicist working at Siemens AG sends an anonymous letter to the British Embassy in Oslo offering Britain a report on present and future German weapons technologies. Hitler escapes a bomb blast in a Munich beerhall, where he was speaking on the anniversary of the Beer Hall Putsch of British bombers coincidentally bomb Munich. Negotiations between Finland and Soviet Union break down. Finns suspect that Germans and Russians have agreed to include Finland in the Soviet sphere of influence. The Polish government-in-exile moves to London. The first British civilian casualty occurs when a German bomber kills James Isbister in an air raid on Orkney in Scotland. The IRA is blamed for bombs set off in London. The Luftwaffe and German U-boats start mining the Thames estuary. Polish Jews are ordered to wear Star of David armbands. Japan announces the capture of Nanning in southern China. The Soviets stage the shelling of Mainila , Soviet artillery shells a field near the Finnish border, accusing Finns of killing Soviet troops. December [edit] 1: Russia continues its war against Finland; Helsinki is bombed. In the first two weeks of the month, the Finns retreat to the Mannerheim line , an outmoded defensive line just inside the southern border with Russia. The Red Army takes Petsamo. The Russian invaders start heavy attacks on the Mannerheim line. The Battles of Kollaa and Suomussalmi begin. Italy again declares its neutrality. Norway, Sweden, and Denmark also proclaim their neutrality in the Russo-Finnish quarrel. The Russians meet with several tactical defeats by the Finnish army. A British naval squadron attacks the Admiral Graf Spee.

Chapter 4 : Timeline of World War II () - Wikipedia

Europe at War, Graham Darby. A Hodder Education Publication. Access to History in Depth. The author charts the major military campaigns of the war, and analyses its social and economic effects on the countries involved, particularly Nazi Germany and the USSR.

The war in Europe, 1939-41 The campaign in Poland, The German conquest of Poland in September was the first demonstration in war of the new theory of high-speed armoured warfare that had been adopted by the Germans when their rearmament began. Poland was a country all too well suited for such a demonstration. It would have been wiser for the Polish Army to assemble farther back, behind the natural defense line formed by the Vistula and San rivers, but that would have entailed the abandonment of some of the most valuable western parts of the country, including the Silesian coalfields and most of the main industrial zone, which lay west of the river barrier. The economic argument for delaying the German approach to the main industrial zone was heavily reinforced by Polish national pride and military overconfidence. When war broke out the Polish Army was able to mobilize about 1,000,000 men, a fairly large number. The Polish Army was woefully outmoded, however, and was almost completely lacking in tanks, armoured personnel carriers, and antitank and anti-aircraft guns. Yet many of the Polish military leaders clung to the double belief that their preponderance of horsed cavalry was an important asset and that they could take the offensive against the German mechanized forces. In the south, facing the main avenues of a German advance, the Polish forces were thinly spread. The odd infantry divisions employed by the Germans in the invasion counted for much less than their 14 mechanized or partially mechanized divisions: The Germans attacked with about 1,000 tanks in all. It was the deep and rapid thrusts of these mechanized forces that decided the issue, in conjunction with the overhead pressure of the Luftwaffe, which wrecked the Polish railway system and destroyed most of the Polish Air Force before it could come into action. On September 1, 1939, the German attack began. Much stronger in troops and in tanks, however, was the army group in the south under General Gerd von Rundstedt, attacking from Silesia and from the Moravian and Slovakian border: At the same time, the 3rd Army tanks, led by Guderian, were across the Narew attacking the line of the Bug River, behind Warsaw. All the German armies had made progress in fulfilling their parts in the great enveloping maneuver planned by General Franz Halder, chief of the general staff, and directed by General Walther von Brauchitsch, the commander in chief. The Polish armies were splitting up into uncoordinated fragments, some of which were retreating while others were delivering disjointed attacks on the nearest German columns. German soldiers breaking down a barricade at the Polish border at the outbreak of World War II, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. The Polish defense was already reduced to random efforts by isolated bodies of troops when another blow fell: The next day, the Polish government and high command crossed the Romanian frontier on their way into exile. The Warsaw garrison held out against the Germans until September 28, undergoing terror-bombings and artillery barrages that reduced parts of the city to rubble, with no regard for the civilian population. The last considerable fragment of the Polish Army resisted until October 5; and some guerrilla fighting went on into the winter. The Germans took a total of 200,000 prisoners, and about 80,000 Polish soldiers escaped over neutral frontiers. Approximately 70,000 Polish soldiers were killed and more than 1,000,000 wounded during the battle, whereas the Germans sustained about 45,000 total casualties. Poland was conquered for partition between Germany and the U. S. S. R. On September 28 another secret German-Soviet protocol modified the arrangements of August:

Chapter 5 : Access to History in Depth: Europe at War, by Graham Darby (, Paperback) | eBay

Europe at War, (Access to History) by Graham Darby and a great selection of similar Used, New and Collectible Books available now at calendrierdelascience.com

A higher-performance fighter, the Spitfire, was just coming into production and did not enter the air war in numbers until . The value of the French Air Force in was reduced by the number of obsolescent planes in its order of battle: France was desperately trying to buy high-performance aircraft in the United States in . At sea the odds against Germany were much greater in September than in August, since the Allies in had many more large surface warships than Germany had. At sea, however, there was to be no clash between the Allied and the German massed fleets but only the individual operation of German pocket battleships and commerce raiders. Bismarck battleship The Bismarck shortly after commissioning in . Courtesy of the Marineschule Murwik, Flensburg, Ger. Technology of war, 1939 When World War I ended, the experience of it seemed to vindicate the power of the defensive over the offensive. It was widely believed that a superiority in numbers of at least three to one was required for a successful offensive. Defensive concepts underlay the construction of the Maginot Line between France and Germany and of its lesser counterpart, the Siegfried Line, in the interwar years. Yet by both of the requirements for the supremacy of the offensive were at hand: The battles of Cambrai and Amiens had proved that when tanks were used in masses, with surprise, and on firm and open terrain, it was possible to break through any trench system. Watkins V France building the Maginot Line, s. The Allies on the other hand felt that their victory confirmed their methods, weapons, and leadership, and in the interwar period the French and British armies were slow to introduce new weapons, methods, and doctrines. Consequently, in the British Army did not have a single armoured division, and the French tanks were distributed in small packets throughout the infantry divisions. The Germans, by contrast, began to develop large tank formations on an effective basis after their rearmament program began in . In the air the technology of war had also changed radically between and . Military aircraft had increased in size, speed, and range, and for operations at sea, aircraft carriers were developed that were capable of accompanying the fastest surface ships. Among the new types of planes developed was the dive bomber, a plane designed for accurate low-altitude bombing of enemy strong points as part of the tank-plane-infantry combination. Fast low-wing monoplane fighters were developed in all countries; these aircraft were essentially flying platforms for eight to 12 machine guns installed in the wings. Light and medium bombers were also developed that could be used for the strategic bombardment of cities and military strongpoints. The threat of bomber attacks on both military and civilian targets led directly to the development of radar in England. Radar made it possible to determine the location, the distance, and the height and speed of a distant aircraft no matter what the weather was. By December there were five radar stations established on the coast of England, and 15 additional stations were begun. So, when war came in September, Great Britain had a warning chain of radar stations that could tell when hostile planes were approaching.

Chapter 6 : Review: Europe at War by Norman Davies | Books | The Guardian

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Page maintained and created by Wilfried Braakhuis Completed: Americanism Award, The American Legion Post , Americanism Award is presented to an individual for outstanding contributions to Americanism principles. Simple message board, I have designed a message board for WW II enthusiasts to post messages or responding messages. Shortened address, Our war site has two registered addresses, the shortened forms of the full local address are: The text has been written using our own judgement and should be easily understood by everybody. The reader is taken back in time and feels that he was actually present when the events took place, a new and compelling way of experiencing the events of World War II. Every possible care has been taken to ensure that the facts are presented accurately, although new developments could of course shed new light on the matter. Every such work as *The World at War*, history of WW is an attempt to walk the tightrope between the fullest possible and the most accessible description of the period. Our aim has been to provide a basic source of information for these vastly important and often misrepresented years, enabling students to orient themselves rapidly or the general reader to browse through the entries following a theme by use of the cross-references. The chronologies, too, have been designed for this dual purpose. However, we are very confident that this story will make a contribution to history, a contribution which will benefit mankind in the future. We hope you will like it. The objective of our site is to provide you with a vast catalogue of interesting resources including WW II links through the WWW, you may search the whole site using keywords or names, use these resources to recreate the atmosphere of the time Once you become acquainted with the features, you will be navigating this complex and bewildering war in a clear, easy-to-understand and exciting way. We list only sites that contain a substantial amount of information. If you would like to include your favorite link or WW II site or if you know of other interesting related sites please tell us simply elite-engineer-publishing worldwar We hope you enjoy your stay. Never has there been a war that could have been avoided more easily than the one that has just destroyed - whatever was left of the world after the previous confrontation It turned WW II into global conflict and ended it with the dawning of nuclear era. Together they formed the major Axis nations , each had their strengths and weakness. But on the morning of September 1st , the world was forever changed as Germany invaded Poland and executed its first "Blitzkrieg" or "Lightning attack", quickly crushing Polish resistance. And the entry of France and Britain into the conflict on 3 September, marked not so much the beginning of a new war as opening of a more intensive phase of a war that already in progress. A possible opinion was that it had never stopped at all during the years since A more moderate view, might take the outbreak of the Spanish revolt in July as the starting point. But to any informed observer it was at least clear that the struggle had waged, bloodlessly but with growing intensity, for a considerable period before the resort to armed hostilities. In time, however, the Allies gathered strength and eventually crushed the German Army and Axis powers with a display of brute force that has remained unmatched to this day. What started out as a war based on military technical tactics and blitzkriegs, later became a war reliant on industry and mass production. The western offensive has learned the German much, though they will not remember all the lessons. They have seen the movement of heavy armoured vehicles, and the battlefield tactics they could employ, significantly reduced by unhelpful terrain and the most modest of road obstructions; columns of such machines have also often been badly delayed by human traffic, in the form of fleeing refugees. With command of the air and relatively light resistance, however, the Blitzkrieg technique has been proven; the tempo of advance has been unprecedented and, indeed, caused its own, unforeseen logistical problems. Furthermore, the rapid defeat of France has focused Allied minds. Had they been able to hold their ground for longer, old strategies might have been clung to and new equipment might not have been urgently demanded. For the French, the last weeks have been a chastening experience. Their industry has broken all manufacturing records to keep the armed forces supplied, but political foresight and military resolve have been absent. It is indicative that their air force ends the Battle of France with more aircraft than

when it started, thanks to that manufacturing spurt accompanied by the logistical failure to deploy what was available. The deeds of the Japanese extremists and of Hitler and Mussolini, which led up to martial conflict, are the positive points of the story, but they are not more of it than the negative points, the ability of democracy to understand the nature of peace and to cope with the swelling flood of aggression. Peace itself might have been preserved if men of good will who were leading the democracies had also been men of good sense. It would make a poor understanding of the world crisis if these failures were not continually borne in mind. Victory won over evil, we have still not found peace or safety and we are still in the grip of dangers which are even worse than the ones we have survived. I seriously hope that a careful consideration of the past may show us the way in the years to come, that it will enable the new generation to make up for the errors against animals and wildlife too, not only people committed in the past and that they will thus be able to rule this vast, rapidly developing world, in accordance with the needs and the dignity of mankind, with the help of all the numerous new technological developments at our disposal, such as nuclear energy and electronics, and all their benefits. Participate in our WW II Forum, The war is pure history, and a topic we should all understand and be able to discuss. This message board for WWII enthusiasts is devoted to exchange ideas about any topic dealing with the WW history. The World at War, history of WW message-board to share your experiences or seek help from others. May each of you establish and enjoy a congenial relationship with all members of the The World at War, history of WW Delphi Forum. I have designed a simple message board for WW II friends to post short messages, answer or just read messages. Join the Mailing List Enter your name and email address below:

Chapter 7 : Europe at War, - Graham Darby - Oxford University Press

Get this from a library! Europe at war, [Graham Darby] -- Graham Darby charts the major military campaigns of World War Two and analyses the war's impact on the countries involved from both a social and an economic perspective.

Chapter 8 : Access To History In Depth: Europe at War, : Graham Darby :

At the centre of Davies's 'reinterpretation' of the war are two crucial points. The first is the broad moral equivalence of the Stalinist and Nazi tyrannies and that the war in Europe began with the co-operation of these two evils and subsequently developed into a titanic clash between them.

Chapter 9 : - Europe at War, by Graham Darby

The war in Europe, The campaign in Poland, The German conquest of Poland in September was the first demonstration in war of the new theory of high-speed armoured warfare that had been adopted by the Germans when their rearmament began.