

## Chapter 1 : World War II - Wikipedia

*The war spread throughout Europe, Africa and Asia similar to the events of the First World War. During the years , it is estimated that over 60 million people died worldwide as a direct result of war.*

Visit Website Did you know? As early as , in his memoir and propaganda tract "Mein Kampf" My Struggle , Adolf Hitler had predicted a general European war that would result in "the extermination of the Jewish race in Germany. In the mids, he began the rearmament of Germany, secretly and in violation of the Versailles Treaty. After signing alliances with Italy and Japan against the Soviet Union , Hitler sent troops to occupy Austria in and the following year annexed Czechoslovakia. Hitler had long planned an invasion of Poland, a nation to which Great Britain and France had guaranteed military support if it was attacked by Germany. The pact with Stalin meant that Hitler would not face a war on two fronts once he invaded Poland, and would have Soviet assistance in conquering and dividing the nation itself. On September 17, Soviet troops invaded Poland from the east. Under attack from both sides, Poland fell quickly, and by early Germany and the Soviet Union had divided control over the nation, according to a secret protocol appended to the Nonaggression Pact. In fact, the Germans broke through the line with their tanks and planes and continued to the rear, rendering it useless. Hitler now turned his attention to Britain, which had the defensive advantage of being separated from the Continent by the English Channel. To pave the way for an amphibious invasion dubbed Operation Sea Lion , German planes bombed Britain extensively throughout the summer of , including night raids on London and other industrial centers that caused heavy civilian casualties and damage. Arguments between Hitler and his commanders delayed the next German advance until October, when it was stalled by a Soviet counteroffensive and the onset of harsh winter weather. World War II in the Pacific With Britain facing Germany in Europe, the United States was the only nation capable of combating Japanese aggression, which by late included an expansion of its ongoing war with China and the seizure of European colonial holdings in the Far East. On December 7, , Japanese aircraft attacked the major U. Germany and the other Axis Powers promptly declared war on the United States. After a long string of Japanese victories, the U. Pacific Fleet won the Battle of Midway in June , which proved to be a turning point in the war. On Guadalcanal, one of the southern Solomon Islands, the Allies also had success against Japanese forces in a series of battles from August to February , helping turn the tide further in the Pacific. In mid, Allied naval forces began an aggressive counterattack against Japan, involving a series of amphibious assaults on key Japanese-held islands in the Pacific. The approach of winter, along with dwindling food and medical supplies, spelled the end for German troops there, and the last of them surrendered on January 31, Soviet troops soon advanced into Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Romania, while Hitler gathered his forces to drive the Americans and British back from Germany in the Battle of the Bulge December January , the last major German offensive of the war. An intensive aerial bombardment in February preceded the Allied land invasion of Germany, and by the time Germany formally surrendered on May 8, Soviet forces had occupied much of the country. Hitler was already dead, having committed suicide on April 30 in his Berlin bunker. Post-war Germany would be divided into four occupation zones, to be controlled by the Soviet Union, Britain, the United States and France. Heavy casualties sustained in the campaigns at Iwo Jima February and Okinawa April-June , and fears of the even costlier land invasion of Japan led Truman to authorize the use of a new and devastating weapon—the atomic bomb—on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in early August. On August 10, the Japanese government issued a statement declaring they would accept the terms of the Potsdam Declaration, and on September 2, U. World War II proved to be the most devastating international conflict in history, taking the lives of some 35 to 60 million people, including 6 million Jews who died at the hands of the Nazis. Millions more were injured, and still more lost their homes and property. The legacy of the war would include the spread of communism from the Soviet Union into eastern Europe as well as its eventual triumph in China, and the global shift in power from Europe to two rival superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—that would soon face off against each other in the Cold War. Start your free trial today.

## Chapter 2 : A brief history of the First and Second World Wars

*World War II was the biggest and deadliest war in history, involving more than 30 countries. Sparked by the Nazi invasion of Poland, the war dragged on for six bloody years until the Allies.*

They could not help Poland much and only sent a small French attack on Germany from the West. Germany then signed an agreement to work together with the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union forced the Baltic countries to allow it to keep Soviet soldiers in their countries. While British soldiers were sent to the Continent, there were no big battles fought between two sides. The British and French sent an army to disrupt the German occupation, but had to leave when Germany invaded France. On 10 May, Germany invaded France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg and quickly defeated them by using blitzkrieg tactics. Soon after that, France was divided into occupation zones. One was directly controlled by Germany and Italy, [38] and the other was unoccupied Vichy France. By June, the Soviet Union moved its soldiers into the Baltic states and took them, [39] followed by Bessarabia in Romania. Although there had been some collaboration between the Soviet Union and Germany earlier, this event made it serious. The German Navy destroyed many British ships transporting goods in the Atlantic. The United States remained neutral but started to help the Allies. By helping to protect British ships in the Atlantic, the United States found itself fighting German ships by October but this was not officially war. Germany soon helped Italy. During the summer, the Axis quickly captured Ukraine and the Baltic regions, which caused huge damage to the Soviets. Britain and the Soviet Union formed a military alliance between them in July. This marked the end of the blitzkrieg stage of the war. It began a counter-attack that pushed the German army to the west. By April, many South East Asian countries: The Japanese navy had many quick victories. But in June, Japan was defeated at Midway. Japan could not take more land after this because a large part of its navy was destroyed during the battle. Allies are advancing[ change change source ] Japan then began its plan to take over Papua New Guinea again, [67] while the United States planned to attack the Solomon Islands. The fight on Guadalcanal began in September and involved a lot of troops and ships from both sides. It ended with the Japanese defeat in early Stalingrad was in the path of the Axis army, and the Soviets decided to defend the city. By November the Germans had nearly taken Stalingrad, however the Soviets were able to surround the Germans during winter [69] After heavy losses, the German army was forced to surrender the city in February A new Allied offensive, drove the Axis west across Libya a few months later, [72] just after the Anglo-American invasion of French North Africa forced it to join the Allies. After this, the Soviets became the attacking force on the Eastern Front, instead of the Germans. This resulted in the arrest of Mussolini in the same month. The Army of India and other forces expelled them in early In early, the Soviet army drove off the German army from Leningrad, [85] ending the longest and deadliest siege in history. After that, the Soviets began a big counter-attack. By May, the Soviets had retaken Crimea. With the attacks in Italy from September, the Allies succeeded in capturing Rome on 4 June, and made the German forces fall back. The code name for the invasion was Operation Overlord. The invasion was successful, and led to the defeat of the German forces in France. Paris was liberated on August and the Allies continued eastward while the German front collapsed. Operation Market-Garden was the combined aerial invasion of the Netherlands launched on 17 September The purpose of the invasion was to seize a series of bridges that included a bridge in Arnhem, which spanned the Rhine river. Market was the name for the airborne invasion. The ground invasion, named Garden, reached the Rhine river, but could not take the Arnhem bridge. Arriving Soviet troops caused uprisings against the German government in Eastern European countries, but these failed to succeed unless helped by the Soviets. By early, the Soviets attacked many German-occupied countries: Greece, Albania, Yugoslavia and Hungary. Finland switched to the side of the Soviets and Allies. American and Soviet soldiers met east of Elbe river, April On 16 December, the Germans tried one last time to take the Western Front by attacking the Allies in Ardennes, Belgium, in a battle is known as the Battle of the Bulge. This was the last major German attack of the war, and the Germans were not successful in their attack. In Italy, the Allies pushed forward, while the Soviets attacked Berlin. The allied western forces would eventually meet up with the Soviets at the Elbe river on 25 April German forces

in Italy surrendered on 29 April. The final battle in Europe was ended in Italy on 11 May. And by April, American and Philippine forces had cleared much of the Japanese forces, but the fighting continued in some parts of the Philippines until the end of the war. The Allies wanted Japan to surrender with no terms, but Japan refused. The surrender documents were formally signed on board the USS Missouri on 2 September, ending the war. Germany was divided in half. The Allies began denazification, removing Nazi ideas from history, [source?]. Germany lost a quarter of the land it had in, with the land given to Poland and the Soviet Union. The Soviets also took some parts of Poland [99] [] [] and Finland, [] as well as three Baltic countries. In, Korea was divided into North and South Korea, each claiming to be the legal representative of the Koreans, which led to the Korean War in. Colonies around the world in. However, many countries in Asia and Africa would become free later. After the war, decolonization took place in many European colonies. In most cases, it happened peacefully, except in some countries, such as Indochina and Algeria. In general, it was quite positive. German, [] Italian, [] [] and French economies recovered. Many studies said that more than 60 million people died in the war, mostly civilians. The Soviet Union lost around 27 million people, [] almost half of the recorded number. Mostly, people died because they were sick, hungry to death, bombed, or killed because of their ethnicity. The Nazis killed many groups of people they selected, known as The Holocaust. They exterminated Jews, and killed the Roma, Poles, Russians, homosexuals and other groups. There were reports that the Germans and Japanese tested biological weapons against civilians [] and prisoners of war. Concentration camps and slave work [change change source] Polish civilians that would be sent to Germany for forced labor. Other than the Holocaust, about 12 million people, mostly Eastern Europeans, were forced to work for the German economy. Both treated prisoners of war badly. This was even the case for Soviet soldiers who survived and returned home. Japanese prisoner-of-war camps, many of which were used as labour camps, also caused a lot of deaths. The death rate of Western prisoners was. Some Germans and Italians were included too. The Allies agreed that the Soviet Union could use prisoners of war and civilians for forced labor. However, this was no longer the case after the United States and Soviet Union joined the Allies in. The Allies were able to have a higher production level compared with the Axis because the Allies had more natural resources. Also, Germany and Japan did not plan for a long war and had no ability to do so. At factories, women were employed to make bombs, guns, aircraft, and other equipment. In Britain, thousands of women were sent to work on farms as part of the Land Army. By some weapons were made almost entirely by women. In the beginning, women were rarely used in the labour forces in Germany and Japan. The mass evacuation of children also had a major impact on the lives of mothers during the war years. Occupation [change change source] Germany had two different ideas of how it would occupy countries. The Nazis used their racial policy and murdered a lot of people they thought non-human. The Resistance, the group of people who fought Germany secretly, could not harm the Nazis much until. By, it was able to produce up to 50 million barrels of oil in the Dutch East Indies. The war brought new methods for future wars. The air forces improved greatly in fields such as air transport, [] strategic bombing to use bombs to destroy industry and morale, [] as well as radar, and weapons for destroying aircraft. Jet aircraft were developed and would be used in worldwide air forces. Aircraft carriers soon replaced battleships. The British improved weapons for destroying submarines, such as sonar, while the Germans improved submarine tactics.

## Chapter 3 : World War II - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*US General, Douglas MacArthur, accepted Japan's surrender thus formally ending the second world war. If you are interested in more information like this World War 2 timeline, we recommend our comprehensive resource on D-Day and the Allied Invasion of Normandy.*

The large allied air forces had taken the combat fight to the air, thus reducing the casualties on the ground. There were 55, airmen whose graves are unknown as their remains were never found. Their names appear on the memorial at Runnymede, England. A brief history of the First and Second World Wars TOP The challenges of air flight have intrigued inventors for centuries with attempts being made in hot air balloons, glider wings and by imitation of birds. February 23, marked the 75th anniversary when a Canadian, John A. Numerous attempts had been made for many years and finally, with a gasoline engine mounted on the fuselage of a bi-plane - the Kitty Hawk - was first successfully flown December 17, by Orville Wright when it was launched from a foot 18 meter rail on a sand flat in North Carolina, U. Germany tried to prevent the war from spreading but on July 30th, Russia announced it would mobilize. The German army en route to France marched through Belgium which then caused Britain to declare war on Germany August 4th, In May, Italy entered the war on the side of the Allies with the hope that the Italian front would help Russia on the Eastern Front. The Dardanelles was pulled into the war when the sea route between the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea was closed. Romania joined the Allied forces in August, Following the battles at Verdun, Ypres and Passchendaele; Britain and France saw hopes of victory shattered. On April 6th, , the U. Weapons of aggression are developed quickly during wartime and the First World War introduced the aero plane, submarine, tank and automatic machine gun as well as poison gas first used by the Germans in April, during the Second Battle of Ypres. Britain ruled the seas with a very large, efficient Navy which caused supply problems for Germany. War in the air was in its infancy but some Canadian Army personnel who volunteered for air pilot training found that preferable to the ground fighting. Warfare in the wet and cold trenches resulted in much disease. Machine guns and large artillery guns Big Bertha caused death by the hundreds of thousands and much disfigurement of the wounded. Early air service was most dangerous not only because attempts with mounted machine guns shooting off propellers but also because the wings of planes might fall off in a steep dive. The aerodynamics of the early models was not perfected. The parachute development was initially non-existent until early and survivors who had to ditch were very lucky. The British flew Nieuports and Sopwith Dolphins. In , Germany built the Junkers J 1, which was the first all-metal body and cantilever wings and then built the Fokker D V11 in It was known for its climbing ability; then there was the red Albatros and Jagdstaffel In fact, pilots simply carried guns or had a second airman operating a machine gun to shoot at other planes. Kaiser Wilhelm gave up his throne on November 9th, and fled the Netherlands. On November 11th, , the German Army accepted the armistice terms demanded by the Allies. Nearly 10 million soldiers killed and nearly 21 million were wounded. No one knows how many civilians died. Property damage was greater in France and Belgium than anywhere else as armies destroyed farms and villages when they passed through. Economies were in shambles. Governments borrowed heavily by selling War Bonds. Allies borrowed from the U. That caused wild inflation and shook the foundations of several governments. The Peace Settlement demanded that Germany be responsible for the war debts, particularly for the debts of major European Allies. F fliers, had now come home from overseas to Canada. In twos and threes and fives and tens they slipped quietly into town; unhonoured, no, but unsung. From ships and Pullmans, young men in uniform, wings on their breasts, wings underlaid on hundreds, if not thousands, of tunics with the ribbon-strips which bespeak dauntless courage. These were pioneer adventurers; airmen. Now, as civilians looking for jobs, they often found that too many men were seeking the same job, and unemployment was growing in leaps and bounds. The worldwide spread of Influenza of killed more people than did the war. The air force in Canada was non-existent, at least for a few years, until April 1st, when the Royal Canadian Air Force came into being. Government attitudes varied from apathy with little operational money to downright disapproval in when world economic conditions struck a new low level and the force was more than decimated. But like so many

other nations with enormous expenses for unemployment relief and other urgent needs, Canada had chosen to ignore the rumblings war until It was only through extreme enthusiasm in that the Canadian Air Force was revived. The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan agreement was signed by the Canadian government on December 17th, with Great Britain to build 60 airfields and 70 schools for pilot and aircrew training men from Australia, New Zealand Britain as well as Canada 25, per annum ground-crew and others for the war effort. Soon, many young men and women volunteered to join the air force to free the world of tyranny and these plans had to be revised upwards. During the years , it is estimated that over 60 million people died worldwide as a direct result of war. It is often said that the Second World War was simply a continuation of the First World War as the early conflict was not concluded properly giving rise to Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini. Again, it can be considered that these young airmen numbering in the tens of thousands were pioneers in the field of aviation. Similar to the planes of the First World War, the Hurricanes and Spitfires were equipped with machine guns and bombs; new radio and radar equipment and the briefly trained pilots stepped from their training planes in Canada into the fighter planes in England, ready to meet the foe. Halifax and Lancaster Bomber pilots were trained to fly the two and four engine bombers with a payload to drop over Germany factories in bomber waves of or planes. Some fighter pilots had volunteered as part of the Royal Air Force for the Battle of Britain and took their training in Britain. Others, of the BCATP were trained here in Canada and then sent overseas making a significant contribution to the war effort. Jet engine airplanes were being developed in both England and Germany. When peace in Europe VE was finally declared on 6th May, , many pilots and aircrew returned home. Neither Russia nor the U. Of course, we all hope that there will be peace in our time.

*RIP all those who lost their lives fighting for the future generations, it is our obligation to respect them and make this world a better place.*

Enjoy the Famous Daily The diplomatic drift towards war: The cast list is unchanged since the early 18th century except that Prussia is now Germany, and the players are well used to the game of diplomacy in which alliances formed for defensive purposes turn into aggressive partnerships as soon as a new war develops a circumstance considered almost inevitable sooner or later in the atmosphere of national rivalry. However the 19th century has introduced one new element in the form of very much shorter wars. And the German nation is both more hungry for immediate success on the international stage than its rivals, and more nervous about succumbing to hostile alliances. The reasons are numerous. Germany has recently been transformed by Bismarck from a relatively minor player to potentially the most powerful nation in continental Europe. But as a late arrival on the world stage, it has no empire to match those of Britain, France and Russia. Nor, unlike them, has it a great navy - the most tangible symbol, perhaps, of international power. German nervousness is increased during the s when alliances among the European powers seem to be slipping beyond German control. Bismarck worked on the assumption of hostility from France eager to avenge the loss of Alsace and Lorraine and a neutral stance from Britain historically the great rival of France. He therefore concentrated his efforts on creating alliances with his eastern neighbours, Russia and Austria-Hungary. To these he added Italy, a new nation on the verge of great power status within Europe. As a result, while Austria-Hungary and Italy remain constant allies the three nations become known from as the Central Powers of Europe, Bismarck is constantly having to patch up or renew the alliance with Russia under the pressure of international events. The new Kaiser, recognizing the incompatibility of Russia and Austria-Hungary as allies, breaks off the alliance with Russia. As a result Russia and France, both equally alarmed by Germany, begin secret negotiations - which result in the Franco-Russian alliance of Then, even more surprisingly, in France and Britain agree an unprecedented Entente Cordiale. And by this time many, particularly in Germany, feel that such a conflict cannot be far in the future. All the major nations have been preparing for such an eventuality, but Germany has done so in the most deliberate fashion. The strategic drift towards war: To this end much pride is placed in the plan devised by Admiral von Tirpitz to provide the nation with a High Seas Fleet to match the naval forces of Britain. In he persuades the politicians to pass a Navy Law providing for a fleet of 16 battleships. Two years later a new Navy Law revises the figure to 38 battleships, with a completion date of for the full fleet. Germany follows suit, upgrading its production line to the new standard. Meanwhile the German strategy for the army in the event of war is both more secret and more illicit. It is the work of Alfred von Schlieffen, chief of the general staff from to During the second half of the s, when France and Russia are in alliance and it is accepted that a war must be fought on both fronts, Schlieffen devises a two-stage plan. France will then be defeated in time to redirect the full German might against Russia. Tirpitz argues for delay to give him more time to build up the fleet. His view prevails, but it is agreed that it will be essential to wait for not much more than two years. The other four players in this dangerous game are also now following suit. There is no evident reason for war. But policy, as if by stealth, seems to be making it inevitable. Five weeks to war: This is a highly dramatic event, though less unusual than now since the turn of the century assassins have claimed the lives of a president of the USA, a king of Portugal and a king of Greece. But it is certainly not due cause for a world war. The first reaction to the outrage at Sarajevo is from Vienna. To the Austrian emperor and his advisers the immediate requirement is to destroy the influence of Serbia, the mainstay of Slav resistance to Austria-Hungary in the Balkans. But the danger is that an invasion of Serbia may provoke Slav solidarity and thus war with Russia. So an urgent question is sent on July 4 to Berlin. Within two days an answer comes back in the affirmative. The Austrian emperor should deal with Serbia as he thinks fit. Germany nevertheless hopes that Russia will hold back, leaving the Serbian crisis as a local affair between Vienna and Belgrade. Subsequently the Kaiser even sends telegrams to the Tsar urging this course of action. But if Russia does intervene, there will be one advantage to Germany. The subsequent war can be presented to the world as the

result of Russian aggression. For three weeks there is a deceptive lull, partly owing to disagreements in Vienna and partly because Serbia makes conciliatory efforts to defuse the situation. Then suddenly, on July 28, Austria-Hungary declares war on its small neighbour. The following day, removing all chance of further diplomacy, an Austrian flotilla on the Danube bombards Belgrade. In response Russia mobilizes her army, thus inevitably triggering the urgent launch by Germany of the Schlieffen Plan - for if Russia gains the advantage of amassing troops in the east, there will be no time for the preliminary defeat of France in the west. With her options thus seemingly reduced by strategic demands to only one, Germany impetuously declares war on Russia on August 1. Two days later she also declares war on France. During the night of the same day, August 3, German armies cross the border into Belgium, to begin the flanking movement which is intended to bring them rapidly down into northern France and so once again echoes of to Paris. This action brings in the fifth of the European powers. But the violation of the neutrality of Belgium introduces an element which the Germans have either overlooked or have considered insignificant. Under this obligation Britain declares war on Germany on August 4. For the first time in years all the major powers of Europe are at war. A mere five weeks and three days have passed since the unexpected event at Sarajevo.

### Chapter 5 : World War II | HistoryNet

*On September 1st, , Hitler's Army crossed into Poland to mark the start of World War 2. The event forced the British, French and others into war.*

### Chapter 6 : History of the Second World War - Wikipedia

*The History of the Second World War is the official history of the British contribution to the Second World War and was published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO).). The immense project was sub-divided into areas to ease publication, United Kingdom Military Series, the United Kingdom Civil Series for the civilian war effort; the Foreign Policy series, the Intelligence series and the.*

### Chapter 7 : Balkan Wars | European history | calendrierdelascience.com

*In the years leading to World War I there are five major powers within Europe - Austria-Hungary, Germany, Russia, France and Britain. The cast list is unchanged since the early 18th century (except that Prussia is now Germany), and the players are well used to the game of diplomacy in which.*

### Chapter 8 : HISTORY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

*British Prisoners of War in Europe in the Second World War (runner-up in the Society for Army Historical Research Templer Best First Book Prize) and I'm an Honorary Research Fellow at Birkbeck, University of London.*

### Chapter 9 : The Second World War (book series) - Wikipedia

*World War II (often abbreviated to WWII or WW2), also known as the Second World War, was a global war that lasted from to The vast majority of the world's countries "including all the great powers "eventually formed two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis.*