

## Chapter Twelve World War Two 1939-1945

### Conflict and War: Europe, 1939

- Treaty of Versailles did little to restore prosperity and stability in Euro; WW2 just a continuation

#### **The Politics of Appeasement**

- Brit and France let some violations of Treaty slide, Hitler began conscription 1935 and rearmed
- Rome-Berlin Axis 1935 b/w Hitler and Mussolini, signed Anti-Comintern Pact with Japan
- 1936 Hitler re-occupied Rhineland; determined to seize land for growing population
- Hitler met with chancellor of Austria, Austrian Nazi into cabinet, chancellor resigns; March 14, 1938 Austria declared union with Germany → the “Annexation”

#### **Maintaining International Order**

- United States was very isolationist, Brit and France had little pub support for war against Germ
- 1930s France built Maginot Line length of French-Germ boarder to withstand bombardment

#### **The Spanish Civil War: 1936-1939**

- 1936 General Francisco Franco lead fascist party and met resistance from republicans gov'n't
- Three year civil was in Spain “Last Great Cause”; support from Hitler/Mussolini
- Spain became testing ground for Nazi weaponry/tactics – April 26, 1937 first strategic bombing raid by the German Air Force on civilian town in Spain

#### **Peaceful Co-existence? The Munich Agreement**

- Policy of appeasement by Brit climaxed with Munich Agreement Sept 29, 1938

#### **Hitler and the Sudetenland**

- Munich Conference on Sept 29, 1938 Chamberlain, Daladier, Mussolini, Hitler agreed to transfer Sudetenland to Germ by Oct 10 and deal with Pol/Hung claims later
- A month later after assassination of Nazi diplomat in Paris, “night of broken glass”
- A few months later Third Reich claimed the rest of Czechoslovakia

#### **Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact**

- Spring 1939 Hitler demanded territorial concessions in Poland; Brit and France abandoned appeasement and guaranteed Polish borders
- August 23, 1939 Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact laid basis for division of Poland; SU free hand in Finland/Estonia/Latvia/Lithuania in return for no opposition to Germs aggression in West
- Sept 1, 1939 ultimatum sent to Germany: agree to withdrawal from Poland by 9am Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> or face consequences – no reply
- Brit declared war Sept 1<sup>st</sup> joined by: France, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada

### War Again

#### **Total War Through Technology**

- Terror bombing, long-range bombers, incendiary bombs, targeting civilians

#### **The Invasion of Poland**

- New mechanized warfare called *Blitzkrieg* – armoured tanks supported by ground troops and air support
- Sept 25 Soviets/Nazis signed agreement to divide/dismantle the Polish state
- Hitler turned Poland into a worker state to supply the needs of the Third Reich

#### **The Phony War**

- 1939-1940 phony war because it was prep for war and no one was actually fighting
- In this period Soviet Union and Germany aggressively seized more territory; March 12 Finland, fall of 1940 Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania became absorbed by Soviet Union
- April 9, 1940 planned invasion of Denmark and Norway

- Winston Churchill was handed power of Brit May 10, 1940
- May 15<sup>th</sup>, Germany smashed Netherlands and Belgium and was poised to invade France

### The Fall of France

- June 1940 France fell to Nazis and Allied armies pushed to English Channel
- France didn't adapt to new realities of war and there was little support from French people
- French signed terms of surrender June 22
- By June 1940 Hitler/fascist allies controlled all of Western Euro and Soviets dominated East

### **The Miracle of Dunkirk**

- Admiral Bertram Ramsey and Captain Day planned evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force in Operation Dynamo
- 338 226 troops rescued from the French coast – gave Allies a boost

### The Battle of Britain

- A month after the battle of Britain, Hitler clung to illusion of Third Reich co-existing with B.E.
- Operation Sea Lion was code for German invasion of Britain July 10, 1940– done through the air
- By July 1940 Brits producing more aircrafts and developed radar
- Early Sept Hitler gave order to bomb London, then Churchill ordered bombing of Berlin
- Hitler postponed Operation Sea Lion, continued night raids, turned attention to East

### Widening Aggression

#### **The Tripartite Pact**

- Fascist Germany and Italy, plus Japan signed Tripartite Pact Sept 1940 for mutual support in event of an attack from a new enemy

#### **Operation Barbarossa**

- Operation Barbarossa code name given to Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union
- Barbarossa had aim of exterminating “undesirables” (coms, Jews, others with Asiatic features)
- Marked: high point, end of interest warfare, beginning of warfare involving govns/armies/partisan organizations
- June 22, 1941; 3 million troops spanned German-Russian border
- Hitler decided to attack Moscow for eco reasons – the German army came to halt b/c it was not prepared for the harsh winters
- Stalin ordered massive counterattack and stopped Nazi advance

### War in the Pacific

#### **The Sino-Japanese War**

- Japanese determined to defeat Western nations and establish Jap sphere of influence in Pacific
- 1937 skirmish b/w Chinese and Japanese- Japanese broke through Chinese defense and captured capital of Nanking – followed by 4 months of bloody massacre

#### **The Rape of Nanking**

- Japanese entered Nanking and started campaign of rape, murder, looting
- Dec. 1937-March 1938 – 250 000 to 300 000 people killed

#### **The Attack on Pearl Harbor**

- 1941 US imposed trade ban due to Japan's occupation of Into-China
- By 1944 US navy outnumbered Japanese 10:3
- Japan struck Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941
- Brit in support of US declared war on Japan, Germany/Italy declared war on the US
- 1942 Japan conquered western Pacific and southeast Asia: Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore

## Diplomacy and Coalition Warfare

### **The United States Enters the War**

- Allied powers, Brit/Soviet Union/United States, referred to themselves as the United Nations
- United states committed to Euro First Policy – defeating Nazi Germ & securing democracy

### **Strategic Disputes**

- Brits favoured indirect approach, America wanted direct approach with massive invasion through northwestern France
- At Arcadia Conference in Washington decision for Brit-Am counteroffensive in Mediterranean in 1942

### **The Critical Juncture**

- May 1942 Hitler diverted army south to Crimea and oil fields – severing SU lifeline for forced surrender
- SU got stronger with more nationalism and better trained soldiers
- End of Jan 1943 German Sixth Army forced to surrender

### **The Raid at Dieppe**

- Assault launched August 19, 1942 – biggest hit to CDN military – most shot before off beach
- Why here? – to move Germ troops from Russia, trail for full invasion, best trained CDN troops, CDNs training in England eager to see active duty

### **1942: A Turning Point**

- Allies successfully counter attacked on 3 fronts: Egypt, North Africa, Russia

### **The Casablanca Conference**

- 1943 Churchill and Roosevelt met here to map out future of their combined war efforts
- Achieved joint declaration that Western Allies would only accept unconditional surrender from Axis powers
- Brits plan was to fight Germans in North Africa, Sicily, Italian mainland
- June 1940 Italian invasion of Egypt – Italian defeats in Africa and Balkans brought Germs to Mediterranean

### **Operation Husky: The Invasion of Sicily**

- American, Brit, CDN troops launch Operation Husky
- After 6 weeks the island of Sicily fell and Allies began prep for invasion of mainland Italy
- Fascist Grand Council withdrew support for Mussolini – July 25 asked to resign as PM
- Mussolini imprisoned and King Victor Emmanuel 3<sup>rd</sup> took command of armed forces; Marshal Pietro Badoglio became PM
- Germans landed in Italy and planned cross channel invasion called Operation Overlord – long/costly and didn't end until collapse of the Germ army

### **Canada's Role in Italy**

- CDNs became spearhead for Allies drive towards Rome – opened June 5, 1944

### **Total War and Strategic Bombing**

- Total war- civilians became legitimate targets for both sides

### **The Teheran Conference**

- Meeting of Allies: Stalin, Roosevelt, Churchill – November 1943
- Agreed on invasion from West in summer of 1944

## Operation Overlord: The Normandy Invasion

- Invasion of France across English channel and naval and air support from American/Brit aircraft
- Landed on beaches of Normandy June 6<sup>th</sup> 1944 – 156 000 troops traveled to beaches of Juno, Sword, Gold, Omaha, Utah under heavy air bombardment – beached consolidated June 10
- By July Allies secured Caen and moved to Paris

### **Hitler's Last Stand**

- Hoping to negotiate peace before Germ was crushed army officers tried to assassinate Hitler
- Stauffenberg placed a briefcase with a bomb it in beside Hitler, Hitler moved it, bomb went off, he survived and killed 5 000 suspected conspirators
- By late fall Paris, Belgium, Netherlands liberated
- Hitler launched final attack on German-Belgium border December 16, 1944

### Reorganizing Europe

#### **The Yalta Conference**

- Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin met once more from Feb 4-11, 1945 to decide fate of Germ
- Germany would be demilitarized and the Nazis routed – Germany divided into four zones of occupation (one for each of the Big Three and one for France)

#### **The United Nations is Born**

- Meeting in San Francisco in April 1945 to replace the League of Nations
- General Assembly, Security Council with 5 perm members
- 1944 Americans and British set up the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund

#### **Hitler is Destroyed**

- April 22 Hitler realized his defeat
- April 30 Hitler and mistress Eva Braun withdrew into air-raid shelter of Reich Chancellory in Berlin
- Hitler nominated Admiral Karl Donitz as his successor and then him and Braun committed suicide
- May 8, 1945 VE Day and German forces surrendered unconditionally

### The Holocaust: A War Within The War

- Only 10% of Jewish children living in occupied Euro survived
- Holocaust had three stages: deportation, “ghettoization”, and extermination

#### **The Final Solution**

- Refers to the Nazi plan to exterminate all the Jews – meeting in January 1942 to work out details

#### **The Death Toll**

- 14 mil Russians, 6 mil Poles, 1.7 mil Yugos, 600 000 French, 357 000 Brits, 405 000 Americans, 109 000 Brit Commonwealth = 40 million people

### Planning the Postwar Era

#### **The Potsdam Conference**

- Soviet Union emerge as great power – set stage for the Cold War rhetoric
- Three Allies, Stalin, Churchill, Truman met near Berlin July 17, 1945

#### **An Iron Curtain Descends**

- Euro divided b/w communist-controlled East and democracies of the West – Cold War

### The Impact of War on Society

- Rations on food, War Economy Decree in Germ,

#### **Changes in the North American Family**

- One million more families formed, ↑ birth rate, ↑ marriages, ↓ marriage age

### Victory in the Pacific

- Truman called for Japan’s surrender July 26 – leader: “kill it with silence”

#### **The Nuclear Age is Born**

- August 6, 1945 Hiroshima target of nuclear attack, second on Nagasaki – Hirohito accepted surrender August 14, 1945 VJ Day