



MAIN EVENTS OF WORLD WAR II

DRAG AND DROP THE CORRECT HEADINGS

- 1- As a consequence of the defeat of the central powers, heavy sanctions were held upon them. Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire were dismantled and Germany had to pay a huge debt. Colonies were ceded to the victors and Poland was recreated. German felt all this as a humiliation.

German annexations
- 2- The German economy was weakened and there was hyperinflation. They printed banknotes, which brought devaluation of its currency. Measures were taken to improve the economy, but in 1929 the Wall Street crash in New York caused the worst economic crisis of the 20th century. Germany suffered massive unemployment.

Internationalization
- 3- Germany saw the rise to power of the Nazi party with Adolf Hitler. The new regime reset the economy and restored military service. They adopted an aggressive foreign policy. Their dream: to unite all German speaking people. Despite their victory with the allies, Italy was frustrated by the amount of territories they got after the war. Since 1922 the country was ruled by Benito Mussolini. Italy seized Ethiopia and prepared a future invasion to Albania.

French capitulation
- 4- 1936. In Spain began a 3-year civil war. The Republican government, supported by the USSR, was opposed by the nationalist party of Francisco Franco, aided by Italy and Germany. These two countries took the opportunity to test their armies and to get closer diplomatically. In Asia Japan continued its expansionist policy, invading new territories in China.

Financial instability
- 5- 1938. Germany was now powerful enough to launch their territorial expansion. They first annexed Austria, with the support of the local Nazi party. Next, the west of Czechoslovakia, which became a satellite state. Hungary grew closer diplomatically. After the occupation of Lithuania, Germany signed a non-aggression pact with the USSR. Then Germany attacked Poland, which forced France and the United Kingdom to declare war, marking the beginning of World War II.

End of WWI
- 6- The German forces concentrated in the east. Instead of taking action in the west, the allied forces tried to cut the iron ore route that went through Norway to supply the German industry. Germany reacted by invading Denmark and Norway. After that they captured Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Belgium. Hitler's new strategy was called Blitzkrieg. It surprised the enemy with rapid and high intensity attacks in a concentrated area. In 1940 the British forces retreated and the German forces entered Paris. The French army was defeated, and an armistice was signed.

Rise of Nazism and fascism
- 7- Germany occupied the north and west of France. Germany had indirect control of the French colonies. However, some of them and the Belgian Congo chose to stay in the camp of the allies. In London Charles De Gaulle created a "Free France", which continued to fight Nazi Germany.

German domination
- 8- USSR seized the Baltic States and part of Romania. Germany, Italy and Japan make up the "axis powers". All the British colonies enter the war. In Africa fighting began between Italian colonies and allied forces. In Europe, despite the massive bombing, Germany failed to take over Britain. Hitler changed his plans and decided to invade the USSR. The plan is delayed by Italy, which failed to invade Greece. Germany annexed Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, invaded Yugoslavia, and Greece.

Events before the war

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The resistance was organized in different forms, such as strikes, demonstrations, protection of wanted people. Some groups spied for the allies, conducted sabotage, or printed resistance newspapers. In the eastern countries, guerrilla forces undermined the axis forces. Even in Germany there were attempts to assassinate Hitler.

Crimes against humanity

10-

In 1941 Germany conducted the largest military operation in History by attacking the USSR. This country immediately passed to the enemy camp. German troops were well-equipped and motorized. To support the USSR, the allies occupied Iran and opened a supply route to the Caucasus. German armies got to Leningrad and began a siege of the city that lasted 872 days and caused more than one million civilian deaths. German troops were stopped at the gates of Moscow, where they suffered a deadly winter.

Turning point

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In Asia Japan occupied French Indochina. To stop its expansion, USA imposed an embargo on oil and steel. The Japanese response was a surprise attack on the USA at Pearl Harbor. It was a massive aerial bombing which damaged a large part of the US naval fleet. The USA entered the war on the allies' side. At first they concentrated their forces in the Pacific front. They also provided supplies to the USSR.

Retaking Europe

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In Asia Japan sent 10 million Chinese civilians to forced labor camps. In Indonesia millions of prisoners suffered the same fate. Women were recruited into prostitution for the Japanese army. In Europe, concentration and extermination camps were built to massacre Jews, resistance fighters, political opponents, gypsies, homosexuals and people with disabilities.

End of war

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For fear of a second front in Europe, Hitler built the Atlantic wall, a series of military installations protecting the coast from invasion. The allies first landed in Morocco and Algeria. The south of France was invaded by the Germans. In the East, they tried to cut the supply route of the Caucasus, but for the first time the German offensive underwent a setback. The Soviets counterattacked. Africa was now entirely controlled by allies, who organized a landing in Sicily. The new Italian government requested an armistice, which forced the Germans to invade.

Resistance

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1943. The USSR advanced rapidly westwards. In 1944 the allies landed in Normandy. Their armies quickly took over and liberated Paris. Countries were liberated or switched camps. With victory in sight, the allies announced the creation of the United Nations.

Operation Barbarossa

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On April 30 1945 Hitler committed suicide in his bunker, just before the arrival of the Soviets. The country surrendered. The USSR and USA joined forces to overcome the Empire of Japan. The Soviets invaded Manchuria and the US dropped two atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On August 15, Japan surrendered, marking the end of World War II.

Consequences

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USSR and USA emerged as superpowers. Afterwards, they engaged in indirect confrontations around the world.

The Pacific front