

# WWII in Europe

AP World History  
Chapter 21  
“The Collapse and Recovery of  
Europe”  
1914 - 1970s



# Path to WWII



- Italy's Conquests
- Wanted more land
- 1935-1936 = invaded and conquered Ethiopia
- 1939 = invaded and conquered Albania





# Path to WWII

- Spanish Civil War
  - Between Communists and Fascists in Spain
  - Soviet Union backed the Communists
  - Mussolini and Hitler backed the Fascists
    - Sent supplies and troops to help the Fascists win
  - New fascist dictator in Spain = Francisco Franco





# Hitler on the Offensive

- March 1936 = Hitler sent troops into the Rhineland
  - Allies did nothing
- October 1936 = Hitler & Mussolini signed the Rome-Berlin Axis = an alliance
  - Later joined by Japan = became the Axis Powers
  - No counter-alliance from the Allies
- March 1938 = German “Anschluss” with Austria
  - Anschluss = means union
  - Hitler invaded Austria and united it with Germany
  - Allies did nothing





# Hitler on the Offensive



- September 1938 = Hitler demanded that Germans in the Sudetenland join Germany
- 3 million Germans there
- Sudetenland = in northwestern region of Czechoslovakia
- Czechoslovakian leaders declare martial law



# Hitler on the Offensive

- September 15, 1938 = Neville Chamberlain (leader of England) and Hitler meet
- Hitler wants the Sudetenland to join Germany
- Chamberlain goes with policy of appeasement = granting concessions to maintain peace





# Munich Conference



- September 29, 1938 = Chamberlain, Hitler, Mussolini, and Daladier (from France) meet
- Hitler says if he can have the Sudetenland then he won't touch the rest of Czechoslovakia or take any other European territories
- Great Britain and France agree to this



# Hitler on the Offensive

- March 1939 = Hitler sent troops into Czechoslovakia and took it over
- August 1939 = Hitler and Stalin signed the Nazi-Soviet Nonaggression Pact
  - They agreed to not invade each other
  - They agreed to stay neutral if the other went to war
  - Both sides knew that this pact wouldn't last long





# Hitler on the Offensive

○ Now Hitler didn't have to worry about Soviets attacking from the east

○ He could do whatever he wanted in the west

○ September 1, 1939 = Hitler invaded Poland

○ 2 days later = Poland, Great Britain, and France declared war on Germany

○ WWII had begun





# Attack on Poland

- Germans used military tactic called blitzkrieg = “lightning war” = aimed at taking the enemy by surprise
  - Luftwaffe = German air force: swept in dropping bombs
  - Panzers = armored tanks: crossed the Polish border
  - Infantry = more than 1.5 million men poured in
  - Quick and efficient – Poland fell in a few weeks





# Hitler on the Offensive

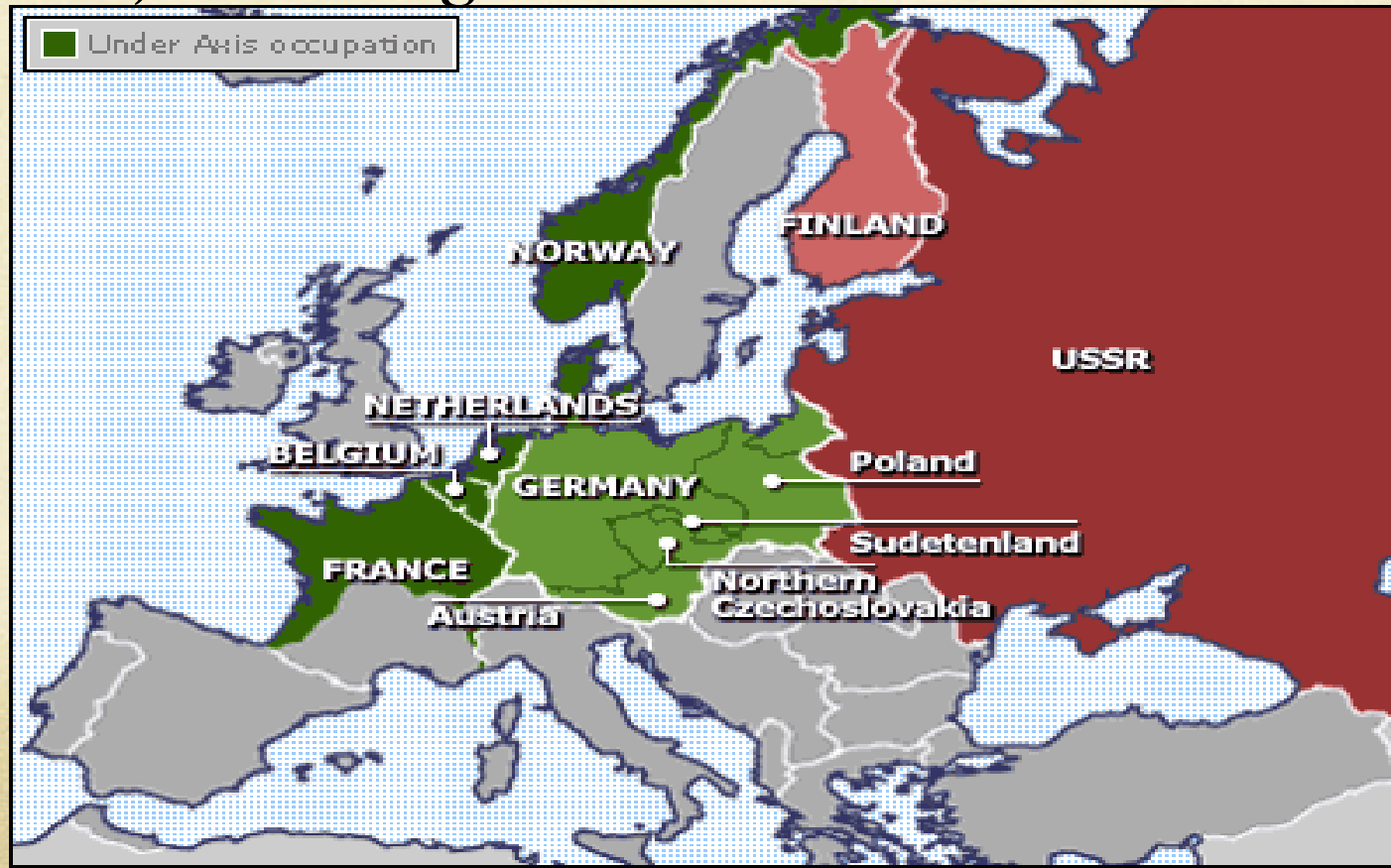
- Winter 1939 - Spring 1940 = nothing happened
  - This period = called the “sit-down war”
  - Germans called it: *Sitzkrieg*
  - Allies called it: the “phony war”
- April 1940 = Hitler invaded and conquered Denmark and Norway
- England failed to stop these invasions
  - Neville Chamberlain stepped down as Prime Minister
  - Winston Churchill becomes new Prime Minister





# Hitler on the Offensive

- May 1940 = Hitler conquered and invaded Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Belgium





# Fall of France

- June 1940 = Hitler invaded France
- June 14, 1940 = entered Paris
- 1 week later = France surrendered to Germany
- Germans controlled northern France
- In southern France = Nazis set up a “puppet government” in Vichy, France
- Run by French officials, but they collaborated with the Germans





# Battle of Britain

- Hitler's next target = Great Britain
- Hitler thought he'd take over Britain by winning "air supremacy" and destroying Britain's Royal Air Force
- August 1940 = Luftwaffe began bombing Great Britain
  - Destroyed 4 aircraft factories and 5 RAF fields
  - 75 German planes shot down in the process





# Battle of Britain



- August 24 - September 6, 1940 = Nazis sent over 1,000 planes a day
  - RAF lost 466 planes & 103 pilots
  - Even heavier losses for the Germans
- September 7 - November 3, 1940 = German bombers hit London with a blitz = series of air raids
  - In 1 night alone = 70,000 bombs fell on London



# Battle of Britain

- Great Britain never backed down
- Hitler never gained “air supremacy”
- More than 1700 Nazi aircrafts shot down in the Battle of Britain
- Hitler’s invasion was blocked



# Cooperation from the U.S.

- U.S. wanted to remain neutral
  - Neutrality Acts (1937) = banned arms, shipments, loans, and credit to warring nations
- As Hitler got more aggressive, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt felt the need to aid the Allies
- Cash-and-Carry Policy = Great Britain could trade cash for supplies from the U.S.





# Cooperation from the U.S.

- Cost of WWII started to drain Britain's treasury -  
-> couldn't pay cash anymore
- U.S. approved "lend-lease policy" = President could lend war equipment to any country whose defense was vital to the U.S.



# Invasion of the Soviet Union



- Having failed in Great Britain = Hitler turned his sights on the Soviet Union
- June 22, 1941 = Hitler broke the Non-Aggression Pact and invaded the Soviet Union
- Within a few days = Nazis destroyed most of the Soviet air force, disabled thousands of their tanks, and captured 1/2 a million Soviet soldiers





# Invasion of the Soviet Union

- Stalin issued his scorched-earth policy = if Soviets had to retreat, they would destroy/burn everything that could be of use to the invaders
- Germans ended up getting as far as Moscow = about 600 miles into the Soviet Union
  - December 1941 = Soviets able to launch a successful counterattack to save Moscow and force the Nazis to retreat from the city









# The Holocaust

- Hitler's goal = complete extermination of all Jews in Europe
- 1941 - 1944 = the Holocaust = more than 6 million Jews were mass murdered
- Another 6 million non-Jews were also killed = gypsies, Slavic people, mentally and physically disabled, homosexuals, political opponents, etc.





# The Holocaust

- Before being sent to concentration camps, many Jews were placed in ghettos
- Largest ghetto = in Warsaw, Poland
- Unsanitary housing
- Contagious diseases
- No food
- Tens of thousands died in the ghettos





# The Holocaust

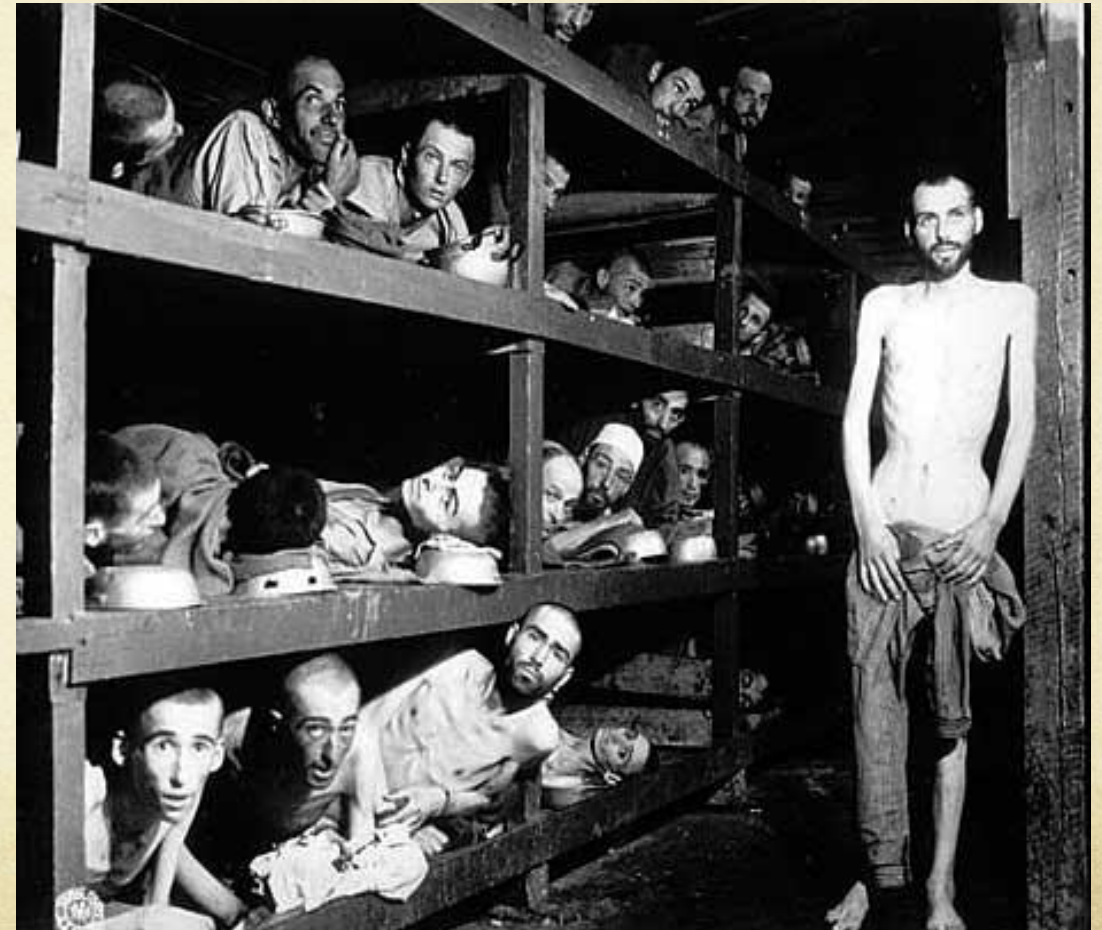


- Killing squads used to murder many Jews in the Soviet Union
- SS soldiers took their valuables, marched them to the outskirts of town, and shot them
- Bodies were dumped in mass graves
- Killing squads killed more than 1 million Jews this way



# The Holocaust

- “The Final Solution” = Nazi code term for the extermination of all European Jews
- Genocide = the carefully planned killing of an entire group of people based on their race or culture
- Nazis began rounding up hundreds of thousands of Jews and shipping them on trains or trucks to concentration camps and death camps





# The Holocaust

- Largest death camp = Auschwitz in Poland
- Many people in the death camps were killed by the gas chambers
- Others died of starvation and exhaustion
- Others were the victims of cruel experiments done by Nazi doctors

Josef Mengele  
“The Angel of  
Death”





# Turning Points in WWII

- Battle of Stalingrad in the Soviet Union
- Allies reclaim North Africa
- Allies reclaim Italy
- D-Day



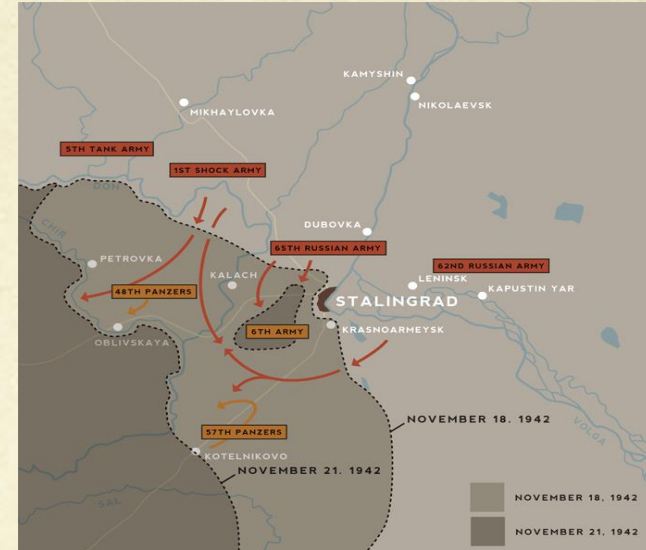


Map 21.5 World War II in Europe  
 Chapter 21, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, First Edition  
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# The Battle of Stalingrad

- August 1942 = Germans attacked the major Soviet city of Stalingrad = a major industrial center
- The Soviets mustered together everything they had and launched a massive counterattack
  - Encircled the German troops and cut off their supply lines
  - Hitler refused to allow his troops to retreat, even though the Soviet troops and harsh winter were closing in on them





# The Battle of Stalingrad

- February 1943 = German officers surrendered
- 100,000 German soldiers killed
- 80,000 Germans = POWs
- Large quantities of German military equipment seized
- The Soviets began to slowly but surely continue westward towards Germany

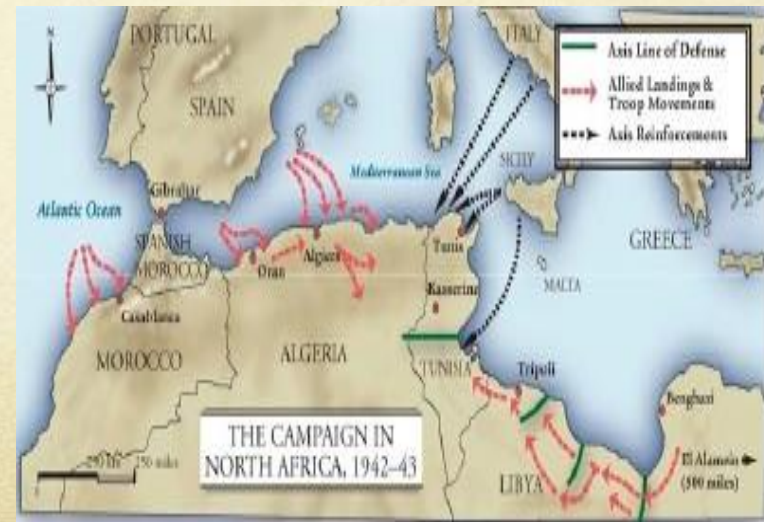
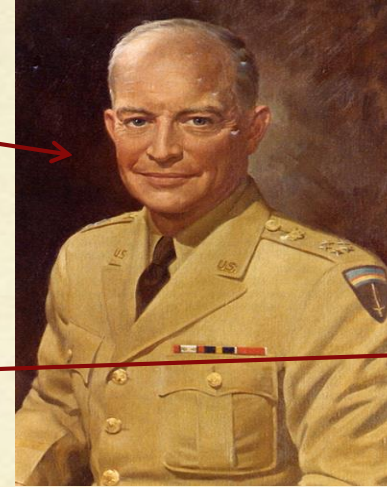


*Germany's entire 6<sup>th</sup> Army lost*



# War in the Desert: The Reclaiming of North Africa

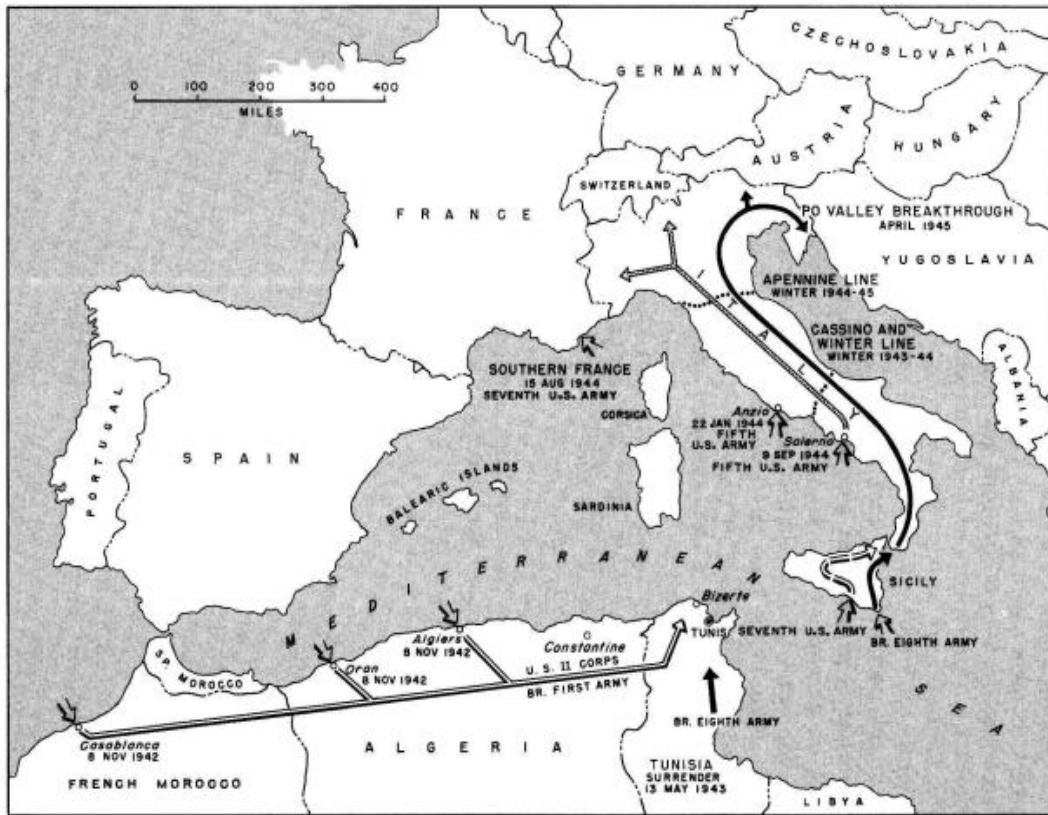
- Early 1942 = Allied forces (under Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower) were struggling in North Africa
- Up against a very good commander for the Axis Powers = German Commander Erwin Rommel
- May 1942 = Battle at El Alamein = British able to stop the Germans' advances into Egypt
- October 1942 = Germans forced back across the Egyptian-Libyan border
- January 1943 = British troops had regained Libya





# War in the Desert: The Reclaiming of North Africa

- As British troops advanced westward, Allies landed more troops in Morocco and Algeria
- Goal = to “squeeze out” the Germans in the middle
- May 1943 = the Germans surrendered
- Allies now controlled all of North Africa

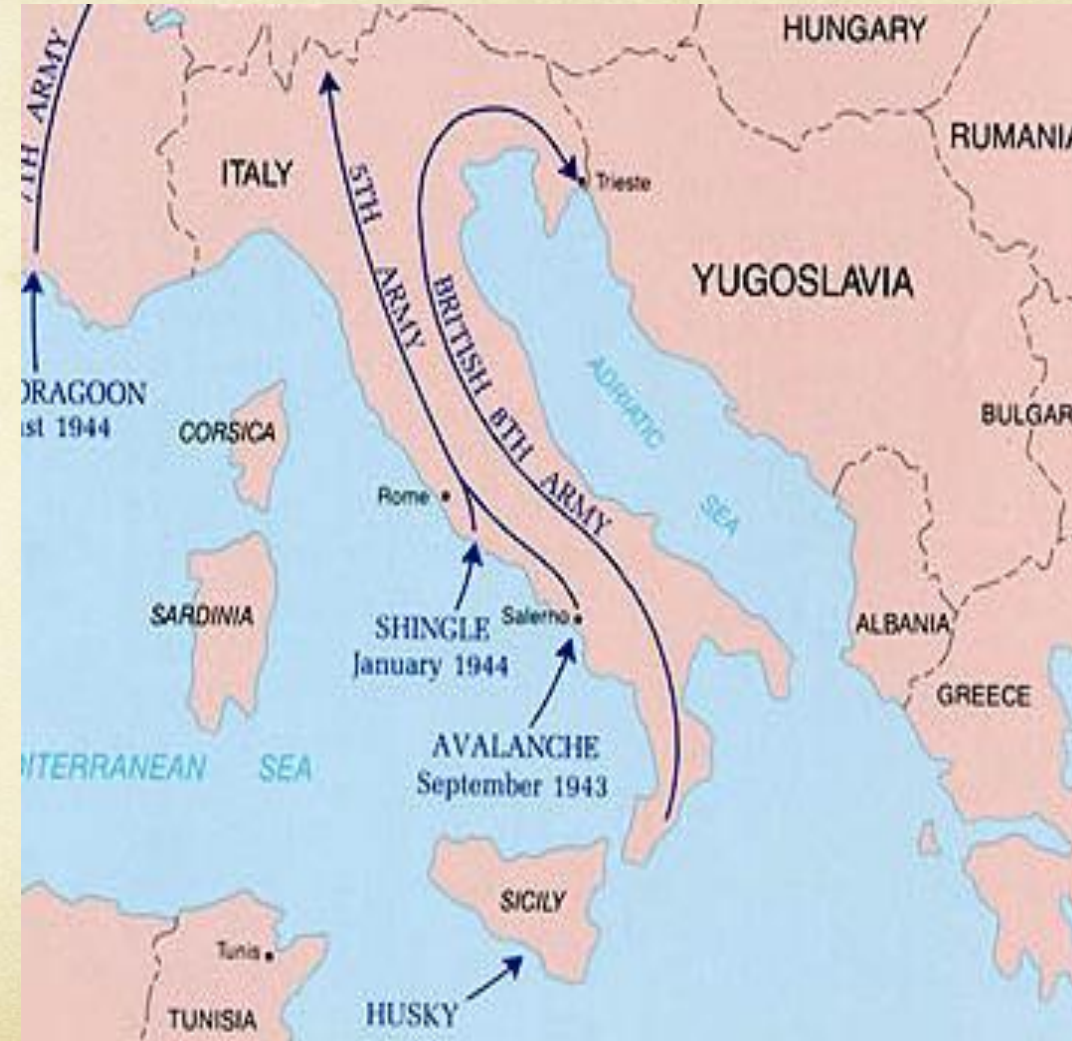


MAP 6.—Campaigns in the North African and Mediterranean Theaters of Operations, U.S. Army, 1942-45.

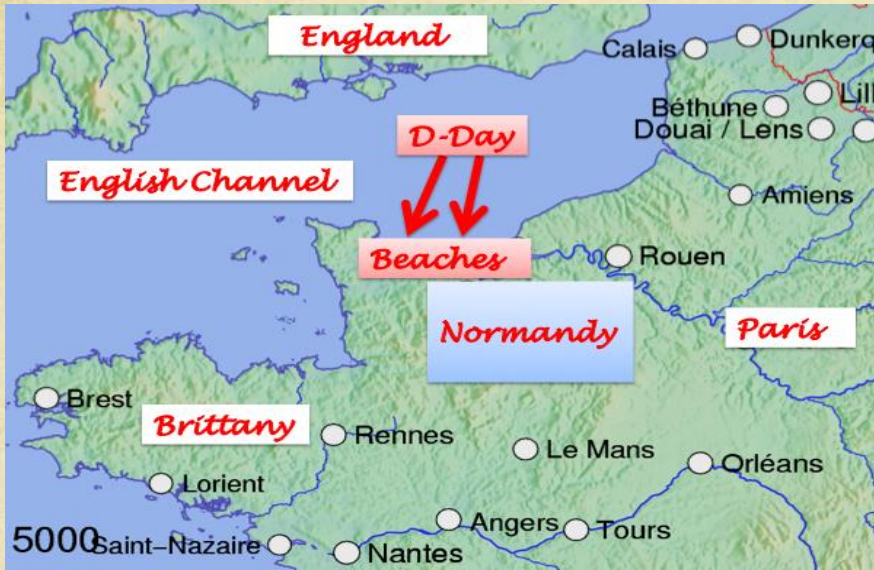


# Reclaiming Italy

- July 1943 = Allies attack island of Sicily
  - Conquered it in 6 days → then continued to mainland Italy
  - King Victor Emmanuel III fired Mussolini
  - New Prime Minister of Italy signed a secret act of surrender to the Allies
- But: there are still German troops in Italy and they aren't giving up
  - Allies continue north through Italy
  - June 4, 1944 = Allied forces entered Rome and Germany surrendered







# D-Day

- Operation Overlord = Allied code name for the invasion of France
- June 6, 1944 = D-Day = the day of the attack
- Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy and fought their way forward amid German machine-gun fire
- Heavy German resistance → but it was a success
- August 25, 1944 = Allied troops had regained Paris





D-Day – June 6, 1944  
Omaha Beach Landing  
A Clip from *Saving Private Ryan*

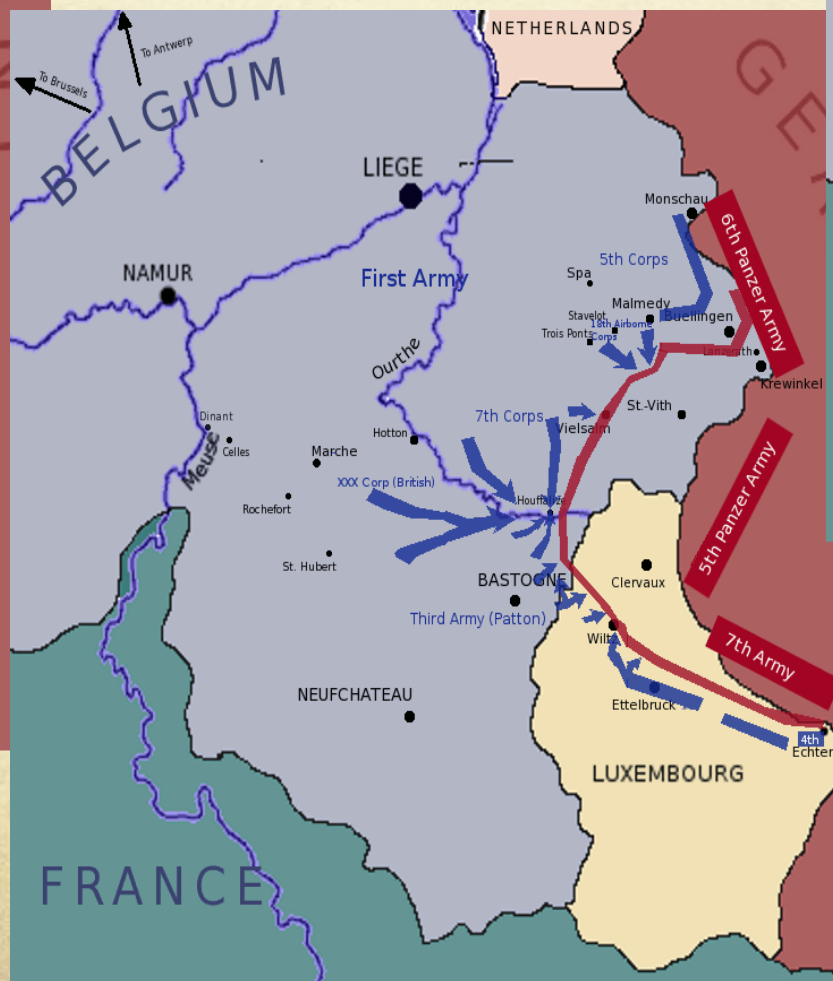


# The Battle of the Bulge: Germany's Last Stand

- December 1944 → Germans cut through the center of American forces, creating a “bulge” in the Allied line of troops
- March 1945 = advances of German troops were stopped
- Meanwhile → Soviet troops are starting to invade Germany from the east
- May 7, 1945 = Germany surrenders
- May 8, 1945 = V-E Day = Victory in Europe Day









# The Fate of the Fascists: Benito Mussolini

- April 27, 1945 = he and his mistress were caught trying to escape Italy
- The next day = both were executed (shot)
- Their bodies were brought to Milan and dumped in a piazza there
- After being shot, spat, and kicked upon – the bodies were hung upside down on meat hooks from the roof of a gas station
- Civilians continued to stone the bodies from below





*The dead bodies of Mussolini (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and his mistress (in the middle). The others are also the bodies of executed Fascists.*



# The Fate of the Fascists: Adolf Hitler

- April 30, 1945 = Hitler and his wife, Eva Braun, committed suicide in the study of his “Führerbunker” in Berlin
- Hitler = by gunshot
- Eva = by cyanide poisoning
- Per earlier instructions, their bodies were brought out to the garden, doused with gasoline, and burned



*1947 photograph of the rear entrance  
of Hitler's bunker*







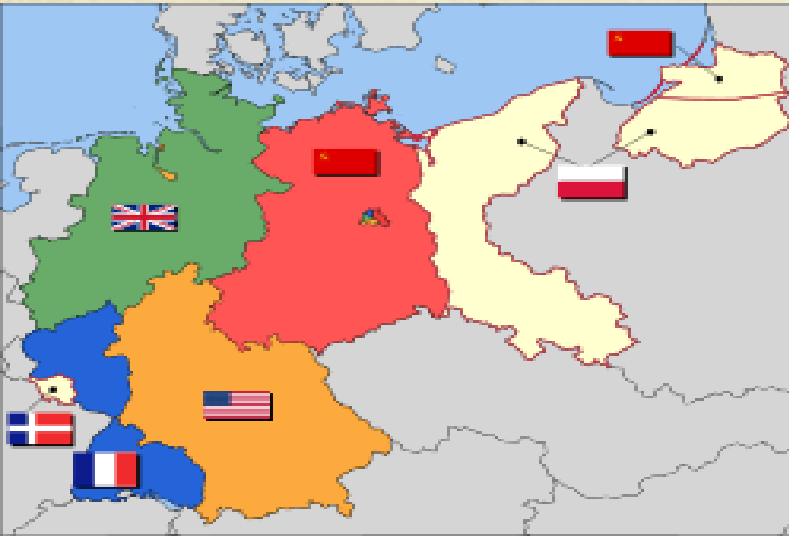
# Effects of World War II

- More than 70 million people fought in WWII
- About 55 million died because of the war
  - About 40% = Soviet troops = country that lost the most lives in WWII
- Millions more died in campaigns of genocide in Europe and Asia
- As many as 12 million people left homeless
- Many areas of Europe and Asia = completely destroyed and devastated



# The Division of Germany

- February 1945 = Yalta Conference
  - Germany, as well as the city of Berlin = divided into 4 zones
  - Controlled by Great Britain, France, the United States, and the Soviet Union
- By 1949 = uniform administration emerged in the western zones and Germany split into two halves
  - Western half = democratic = Federal Republic of Germany
  - Eastern half = communist = German Democratic Republic





# The United Nations

- Created in 1945
- International organization aimed at resolving disputes and maintaining peace after war
  - Most powerful nations = the United States, Great Britain, France, Russia, and China
  - All hold the 5 permanent seats on the UN Security Council – all have veto power
- Also created in 1945 = the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund
  - Designed to regulate the global economy and prevent another world-wide depression





# The Marshall Plan

- Designed to rebuild shattered European economies
- About \$12 billion funneled into Europe from the United States
- Why?
  - Genuine humanitarian concern
  - Desire to prevent another world-wide depression
  - Wanted overseas customers for American products
  - Wanted to undermine the appeal of communism in Europe
- Very successful → European economies grew rapidly between 1948 and the 1970s



**MARSHALL-PLAN**



# NATO

- Created in 1949 – North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- Military and political alliance led by the United States
- Created because of the communist threat, as well as the possibility of future German aggression

