

What was the impact of World War II?

Key Vocabulary:

Allies

The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.

Axis

The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.

Nazi party

A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.

Atomic bomb

A very high-energy bomb made of radioactive material.

Annex

To take another country's land and make it part of your country.

Czechoslovakia

A European country. Now two countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Propaganda

Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.

Active service

Taking part in a military operation as part of the armed forces.

Key People

Winston Churchill - British Prime Minister 1940 - 1945 (and 1951 - 1955)

Neville Chamberlain - British Prime Minister 1937 - 1940

King George VI - British Monarch 1936 - 1952

Princess Elizabeth - British Princess during WWII - Later became Queen Elizabeth II

Adolf Hitler - Chancellor (Dictator) of Germany 1933 - 1945

Josef Stalin - General Secretary of the Communist Party of The Soviet Union 1922 - 1952

Franklin Roosevelt - US President 1933 - 1945

General D. Eisenhower - Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force during WWII (later became US President from 1953 - 1961)

Wladyslaw Sikorski - Prime Minister of Poland in Exile and Commander of Polish Armed Forces from 1939. Killed in 1943

Benito Mussolini - Prime Minister (Dictator) of Italy 1922 - 1943. Duce of the Italian Social Republic 1943 - 1945. Killed by The Italian Resistance Movement in 1945.

How did WWII start?

The leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, had plans to take over other countries. In March 1938, Germany invaded and annexed Austria, which made other countries worried. On 29th September 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty called the Munich Agreement. This allowed Hitler to annex the Sudetenland (an area of Czechoslovakia) if he agreed not to invade anywhere else. However, in August 1939, Hitler broke the agreement and invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia, followed by Poland on 1st September. Britain, France and Poland had made a pact to support each other, so Britain and France declared war on Germany

Invasion

Germany defeated and occupied Poland (attacked in September 1939), Denmark (April 1940), Norway (April 1940), Belgium (May 1940), the Netherlands (May 1940), Luxembourg (May 1940), France (May 1940), Yugoslavia (April 1941), and Greece (April 1941).

Trench warfare

Trade

Rationing and Weapons

Power

Power of Significant individuals - Churchill, Chamberlain, King George VI, Princess Elizabeth, Hitler, Stalin, Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Sikorski, Mussolini

Political parties - Fascist Party, Nazi Party, Communist Party

Legacy

Empowerment of Working Women

Technological developments. Eg. Radar

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The Holocaust

The Holocaust is the term for the killing of over six million Jewish people before and during World War II, organised by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party. Even before the war, they wanted to blame the Jews for the problems in Germany and used propaganda to promote widespread public hatred of them. Jewish people were openly bullied, persecuted, abused and discriminated against. Many Jews were sent to concentration camps where they were forced to work like slaves. Many died through infection, starvation or exhaustion.

Others were sent to death camps where they were killed in gas chambers. This form of mass killing is called genocide.

What was the Battle of Britain?

The Battle of Britain was the attempt by the Germans to destroy Great Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) so that they could then invade by sea. This was an important battle in the Second World War because, after Hitler and the German army had invaded most of Europe (including France), one of the few countries left to fight them was Great Britain. The Battle of Britain started on 10th July 1940 when British ships in the English Channel were bombed by the German Luftwaffe. It lasted many months as the Germans continued to bomb Britain. On 15th September 1940, the Germans launched one of their biggest attacks but the British fighters hit back hard and gained the advantage. Hitler became frustrated as it became clear he could not defeat the RAF. Although the Germans continued to bomb large cities for months afterwards (which became known as the Blitz), 15th September 1940 is officially regarded as the end of the Battle of Britain and this day is commemorated each year.

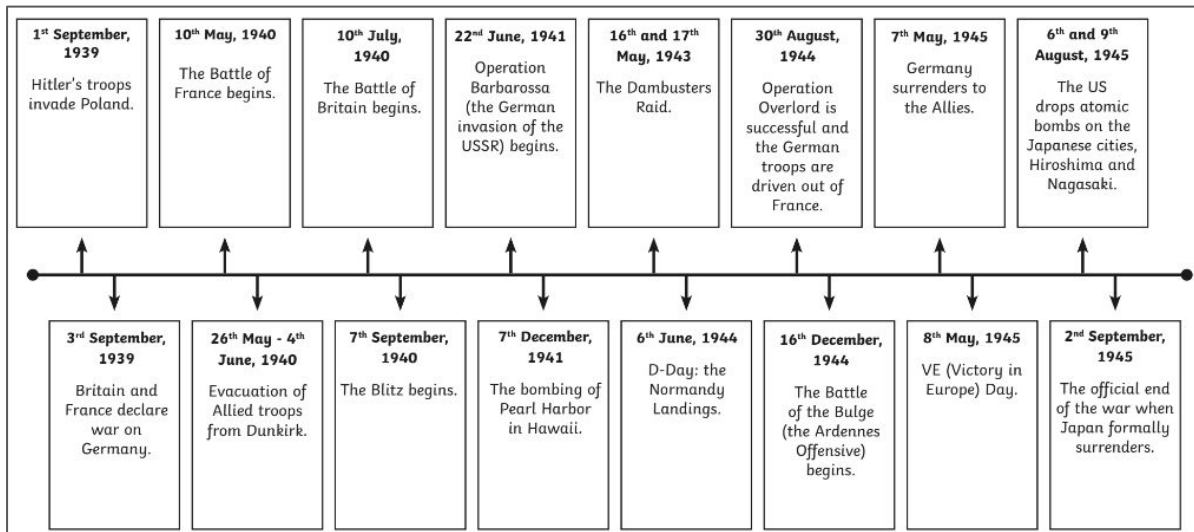
The Role of Women

Before the war, most women stayed at home and didn't go out to work. Those who did work were paid less than men and were generally restricted to 'women's jobs', such as nursing or working as a shop assistant. However, when men were called up for active service, women were needed to do jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or shipbuilding. Some joined the armed forces themselves. After the war, many women lost their jobs. However, their experiences led them to campaign for equal working rights and pay so that they could carry on leading more independent lives.

Evacuation

During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities, were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. All evacuees had to take their gas mask, ration book and identity card. When they reached their destination, a billeting officer would arrange a host family for them. Evacuation happened in waves, beginning on 1st September 1939. Other waves occurred at the start of the Battle of Britain and at the start of the Blitz.

**Timeline of Events
1939 - 1945**



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