

WWII: Europe and North Africa Guided Lecture Notes

Hitler and Stalin: Invasion of Poland

- Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin sign _____ Pact
 - Agree to invade and split Poland
- _____: Germany, Italy, and Japan
- _____: Great Britain, France, USA, USSR (after Hitler breaks the deal with Stalin via Operation Barbarossa).

Poland: Invasion

- September 1, 1939
 - Official beginning of WWII.
- Hitler used the “_____” to defeat Poland in about 4 weeks.
- Blitzkrieg: “_____” fast moving attack involving tanks and _____. Ground troops would move in behind them to secure the newly acquired region.

Blitzkrieg

- German _____ “Dive bomber” (picture)
- Dive bombers and tanks would move rapidly to attack the enemy in the rear.
- The _____ and army will encircle (surround) the enemy
 - The enemy's morale drops– fight and die; or surrender?

First practiced in the _____ Civil War

Soviet Union invades Finland

- _____ defends
 - Trenches
 - Guerilla warfare
 - _____
 - Winter soldiers on ski's (picture on right side)
- _____
 - Invaded with 500,000 troops
 - Invaded with many tanks

- BOTH the troops and tanks were stalled against the Finnish defenses.
- Embarrassment for Stalin
- Becomes known as the “_____”. Began November 1939. Lasts about 3 months.

Winter War concluded

- Finland's Defeat
 - About 65,000 casualties
 - Cede about 11% of land to the USSR
- USSR
 - About 300,000 casualties
 - Gain land from _____
 - Resources
 - “Buffer” between them and Leningrad (St. Petersburg)
 - Build more military and _____
- Consequences: The world (including Hitler) views the Russians ability to fight as weak. Hitler begins to think that he can defeat _____.

Germany Invades Denmark

- April 9, 1940
- Began at 4:00 am with tanks and armored cars pushing north towards the capital (_____).
- Germany threatens to bomb the capital IF Denmark does not _____.
- 6:00 am: Denmark Surrenders (after only 2 hours of the invasion).
- Shortest _____ campaign in WWII.

Germany Invades Norway

- April 9, 1940
- First _____ assault (in history) on airfields near Oslo.
- Britain, France, and Norway had a meeting during the invasion (distracted from the main attack).
 - Britain and France wanted to place mines between Denmark and Norway.
 - Norway protested the use of mines in their waterways.
- Norway is defeated in about _____.

Germany invades

- Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg.
- _____ was believed to have the largest army in Europe (about 800,000 troops).
 - Half were defending the Maginot Line.
- Hitler invades through the Northern European Plain and the _____.

Hitler Invades France, 1940

- _____ replaces Neville Chamberlain (Britain).
- _____—Massive evacuations to bring troops to Britain and off mainland Europe.
- British troops abandon _____ of weapons and military vehicles.
- Hitler invades France through _____.
- Hitler goes around the _____.

Dunkirk

- About 198,000 _____ troops saved
- About 140,000 Belgian and French troops saved

France Overrun, 1940

- _____ leads the Free France (resistance) movement from London.
- Many French evacuate to Britain via boat.
- Creates _____ France (puppet government loyal to Germany).

Winston Churchill

- Gave the famous "We shall never surrender speech" to parliament.
- June 4, 1940

Battle for Britain (July-September 1940)

- German _____ (bombers) attack London
- Hitler plans a land invasion of Britain.
- RAF (_____) defends London and Britain from the Luftwaffe
- British use new technology to prevent attacks: _____

Battle of Britain

- 2500 _____ Killed
- 544 RAF Pilots killed
- 40,000 _____ Civilians killed

Bismarck

- German Battleship
 - Signifies the _____ of surface ships for Germany
 - Very large, state of the art combat vessel
 - On a mission: Break past the British fleet, and sail into the Atlantic
 - Goal: Sink _____ boats going from America to Britain.
- Great Britain
 - Chased the Bismarck to _____ and hit the ship hard
 - One British boat (HMS Hood) sank with only 3 survivors

Bismarck continued

- Bismarck
 - Injured, heads to _____ France
 - Hopes to repair the damage
- British catch up to the _____
 - Attack it with many boats and planes
- Bismarck
 - Heavily damaged, the boat begins to sink.
 - Order goes out: _____

Balkan Front

- April 6, 1941: invasion of _____ and _____
- Allied Axis help from: Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria.
- Goal: Secure the _____ region in order to prepare for an attack on Russia.
- Resistance _____ continued to fight in the mountains and rural regions until their liberation.

Italian Front

- Italy invades _____
 - September 13, 1940
- Mussolini afraid of being Hitler's "junior".
 - Desire to create a Mediterranean empire (new _____).

Italian Front: Fails

20,000 Italian Casualties; 130,000 Italians' surrender

Germany: Afrika Korps

- General Irwin _____
 - Takes control of the North Africa Campaign (both German and Italian forces)
 - " _____ "
 - Likes to flank enemy forces
 - Very successful
- 1941
 - Makes advances to take North Africa
 - Succeeds

Attack on Pearl Harbor

North Africa

- General _____ (USA)
- Battle of El-Alamein
 - Most important battle in North Africa
 - Oct. 23, 1942
 - USA Wins, forcing Rommel to withdraw to _____
 - Turns the tide on _____ who was more focused on the Battle of Stalingrad.

American Forces take over Tunisia.

Over 275,000 soldiers surrendered

Eastern Front

- Operation _____
 - Three-pronged attack targeting _____ (St. Petersburg), _____, and _____.

- Creates about 2,000-mile new front line.
- 1941-1942
- Sends in:
 - 3 million soldiers
 - 3,000 tanks
 - 2,500 aircraft

Wilhelm Keitel

- German General
- Ordered _____ Officers to be shot on site
- Ordered _____ to be rounded up and sent to camps.

Battle of Stalingrad

- Battle of Egos
- _____ wants to keep the city
 - Named after him
- Hitler wants to take the city
 - Named after his _____—great victory to take and keep the city
 - Stops sending supplies to _____ in Africa in order to send more supplies to take and hold Stalingrad.
 - Loses _____ because of this decision.

Germany loses Stalingrad

- Russians surround the city and cut off _____ supply lines.
- 91,000 Germans' surrender
 - Only 5% will survive POW camps under the Russians.
- Total (between Russia and Germany) about _____ casualties from this single battle.

Italian liberation, 1943

- Operation Husky
 - Remove _____ from WWII
- Attack Sicily first.

Allies Invade Mainland Europe

- Allies invade mainland _____
 - September 3rd, 1943
 - Italian government secretly _____ to the allies on the same day.
 - Did not announce surrender until September 8, 1943.
- Mussolini fails at recreating a new _____
- Over time, Mussolini and Italy became a puppet state of Germany due to their failed military campaigns in Africa

Taking Italy

- _____ forces are still in Italy.
- Terms for leniency means Italians must help purge Italy of _____.
- Mussolini is aided—he escapes _____ with the help of German Commandos
- Mussolini installed as a _____ leader of Northern Italy.

Taking Italy

- Allies take _____ in June 1944.
 - Becomes stalled due to allied invasion at Normandy, France.
- Battles in Italy after June 1944 become slow and at times a stalemate as allies push into liberating _____ from Germany.

Italy is freed from the Germans

- New offensive
 - April 1945
 - Allies push north and start taking a lot of territory in _____ Italy
- Mussolini captured
 - April 28th, 1945
 - _____
- German forces in Italy _____

- May 1, 1945
- Six days later, all of Germany surrendered.

D-Day: Operation Overlord

- Initial Invasion of Normandy
 - June 6, 1944
- Lasts from June-August 1944
- 156,000 US, British, and Canadian troops
- Operation _____: Deception mission to trick the Germans.
 - Germans do not know where the allies actually plan to invade

Operation Fortitude

- Blow up _____ and planes. Fake army.
- _____ used to convince the Germans that this army is real.
- Fake army located near _____.
- Hitler believes that the allied invasion will be near _____.

Jeeps help America win battles!

- Jeeps can be used
 - Transport _____ and supplies
 - As Combat
 - As an Ambulance
- Jeeps
 - Easy to _____
 - Easy to get out of the mud (compared to tanks)
 - Versatile

Americans liberate Paris

August 1944

Operation Market Garden: Summer 1944

- Attack into the _____ and northern Germany.
 - _____ convinced Eisenhower of this plan
 - Focus on 3 bridges in the towns of Eindhoven, Nijmegen, and Arnhem.
 - 3 allied _____ divisions would drop in Holland
 - British XXX Corps would advance down main corridors to take each town.

Airborne Reconnaissance, September 18, 1944

- Things started to go wrong.
 - Lines stretched too thin.
 - Heavy _____ resistance.
 - Slow _____ advance.
 - _____ communications failed.
 - Many paratroopers dropped too far from their initial target drop zones.
 -

Allies defeated

- Germans surrounded allied troopers.
 - Allies could not advance any further.
 - Arnhem was “ _____ ”.

Battle of the Ardennes Forest

- Hitler’s last major _____ against the western front.
- Known as the “ _____ ”
 - The German advance looked like a “Bulge” in the allied front line.
- Known as “the greatest American battle in the war” by Winston Churchill.
- Lasted 6 weeks
 - December 16, 1944-January 25, 1945.

U.S. had over 100,000 casualties from this battle

The tide turns!

Germans are on the retreat!

Race to Berlin

Whoever gets to Berlin first can capture German scientist that are working on the _____.

Russians reach Berlin first

- Breach into the city April 24, 1945
- Fierce fighting
- Hitler made _____ a fortress.

Adolf Hitler commits suicide in his bunker.

- April 30, 1945.
- Some suburbs of Berlin still continue to fight the Russians.

- _____ falls May 2, 1945.

Germany Surrenders

- Field Marshall Wilhelm _____ signs the surrender.

- May 7, 1945

May 8, 1945

- Known as Victory in Europe Day

- _____