

Essential Learning

Why did World War Two Start?

- The Nazis were a political party lead by Adolf Hitler. They rose in popularity in Germany because many people were angry about the poor living conditions in the country after WW1.
- When they took control of the country, the Nazis began invading other countries to make their nation more powerful. They also believed that certain groups of people were more important than others, and they killed millions of Jewish people.
- British leaders tried to ignore the Nazis at first, but they promised to protect Poland if Germany tried to invade. When Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, Britain declared war on Germany.

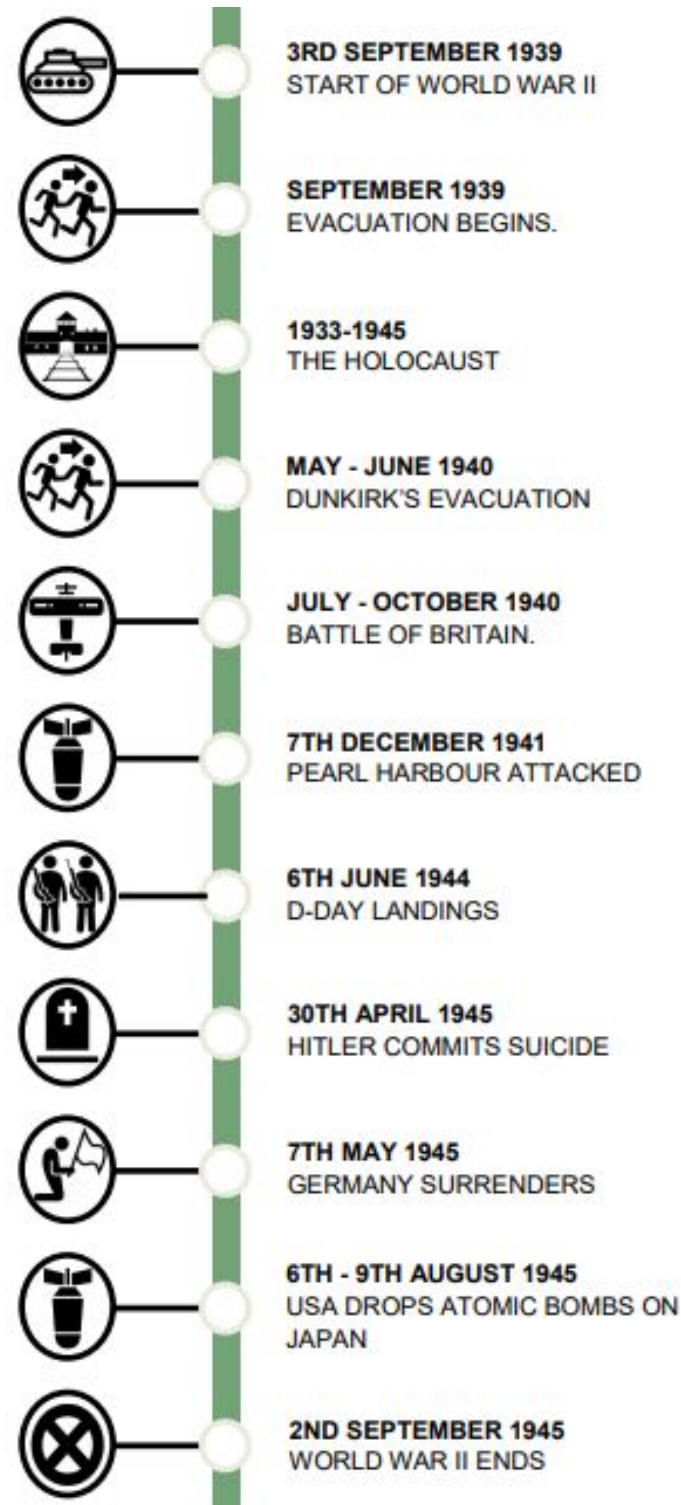
The Impact of War in Britain

- Children were evacuated out of cities to prevent them from being harmed in air raids.
- Civilians built air raid shelters, such as Anderson shelters, to protect from air raids. These were made from strong steel sheets with soil over the top. After 1941, air raids stopped as German planes were sent to fly over Russia instead.
- German submarines prevented food from being delivered to Britain, so supplies were low. As a result, food was rationed from 1940 to 1952.
- A weekly ration for one person typically included: 50g butter, 225g sugar, 50g cheese, 100g bacon or ham, 1 egg, 100g margarine, 1.8 litre of milk, 50g of tea.
- Many men were conscripted into the armed forces. This meant that all healthy men aged between 18 and 41 were required to become soldiers, unless they were doing certain jobs, such as mining or farming.
- More women started to work as a result of the war- by 1943, 90% of all single women were employed. Women took on a whole range of new roles, and some saw this as an exciting new opportunity.

How did World War Two End?

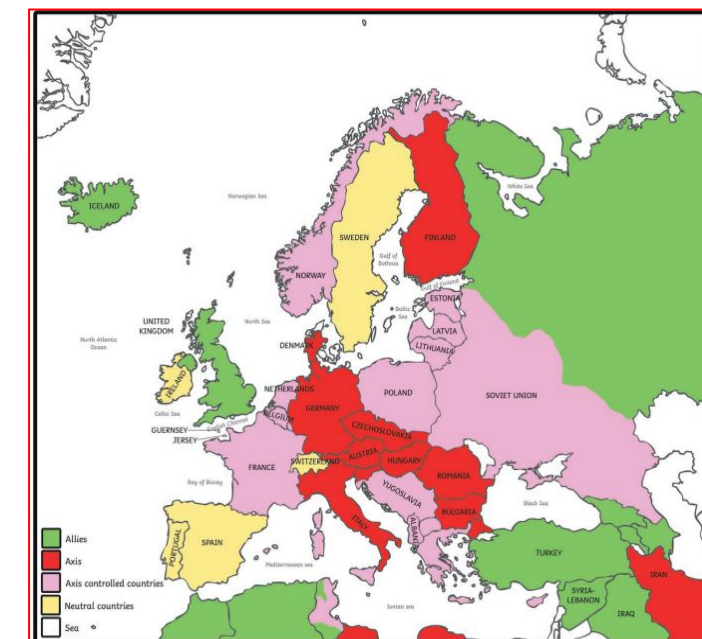
- By 1940, Germany occupied France, Belgium and the Netherlands. In 1941, Germany invaded Russia. However, after the Battle of Stalingrad (1942 - 1943), Germany was forced to retreat.
- The USA joined the war in with the Allies in 1941 after Japan bombed a Naval base named Pearl Harbour. Slowly the Allies took more and more power in the war.
- Germany surrendered on the 7th May 1945. 8th May was declared 'VE Day' or Victory day for the Allies.
- Fighting continued for some time in the Pacific. America attacked two Japanese cities, Nagasaki and Hiroshima, with powerful atomic bombs, killing tens of thousands instantly.
- It is estimated that 75-80 million people died in the war.

Timeline of Key Events



Key Vocabulary

- Rationing:** Only allowing people a certain amount of goods such as food and petrol
- Blitz:** A German bombing campaign against the United Kingdom.
- Gas masks:** A protective mask to help keep people safe against gas attacks
- Appeasement:** Giving in to the demands of an aggressive country in the hopes they will stop
- Evacuation:** The process of moving vulnerable people (mainly children) from the cities to the countryside
- Blackout:** During the war, families had to cover up all windows at night to ensure that no light escaped that could aid enemy bombers to find their targets
- Dictatorship:** A form of government where absolute power is held by a single person or small group of people
- Empire:** A group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country
- Monarchy:** a form of government that has a single person known as a monarch at its head (King, Queen etc)
- Reliability:** The probability that something can be relied upon or trusted.
- Home Front:** The people who stayed at home during the war, helping the war efforts in different ways
- Anderson shelter:** A type of air raid shelter that was half buried in earth. Many people had them in their gardens.
- Propaganda:** Messages that are biased or misleading and used to promote a political point or agenda
- Censorship:** Any attempt to suppress the expression of thought or to alter or restrict information



Key People



Historical Context

