### ****Germany’s Critical Dates**** The Burden of Victory: Postwar Europe (OLLI, Winter 2012)

1933

January 30 – Hitler become chancellor

October 14 - Germany quits League of Nations.

1934

August 19 – Hitler become fuhrer (all-powerful leader)

1935

March 16 - Hitler violates Versailles, introduces military conscription.

1936

March 7 - German troops occupy the Rhineland.

October 1 - Franco declared head of Spanish state.

1937

November 5 – Hitler reveals plans for war andlebensraum at Hossback conference. (Hossbach Memorandum used at Nuremberg as evidence of conspiracy to wage war.)

1938

March 12/13 - [Germany announces 'Anschluss' (union) with Austria.](http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/austria.htm)

August 12 - German military mobilizes.

September 30 - Chamberlain appeases Hitler at Munich.

October 15 - [German troops occupy the Sudetenland](http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/sudet.htm); Czech government resigns.

1939

May 22 - Nazis sign 'Pact of Steel' with Italy.

August 23 - [Nazis and Soviets sign Pact.](http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/pact.htm)

September 1 - Nazis invade Poland.

September 3, Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand declare war; Canada on Sept. 10.

September 5 - United States proclaims its neutrality.

September 10 - Battle of the Atlantic begins (naval blockade of Germany).

September 17, 1939 - Soviets invade Poland.

September 29, 1939 - Nazis and Soviets divide up Poland.

November 30, 1939 - Soviets attack Finland.

1940

April 9, 1940 - Nazis invade Denmark and Norway.

May 10, 1940 - Nazis invade France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands;

May 10 - Churchill becomes British Prime Minister.

May 26, 1940 - Evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk begins.

June 10, 1940 - Italy declares war on Britain and France.

June 14, 1940 - [Germans enter Paris.](http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/enter.htm)

June 18, 1940 - Soviets begin occupation of the Baltic States.

June 22, 1940 - France signs an armistice with Nazi Germany.

June 28, 1940 - Britain recognizes de Gaulle as the Free French leader.

July 1, 1940 - German U-boats attack merchant ships in the Atlantic.

July 10, 1940 - Battle of Britain begins.

August 15, 1940 - Air battles and daylight raids over Britain.

August 23/24 - First German air raids on Central London.

August 25/26 - First British air raid on Berlin.

September 7, 1940 – Blitz begins – massive German air raids on London and other cities.

September 16, 1940 - United States military conscription bill passed.

September 27, 1940 - Tripartite (Axis) Pact signed by Germany, Italy and Japan.

October 12, 1940 - Germans postpone Operation Sea Lion (invasion of Britain) until spring. December 9/10 - British begin a western desert offensive in North Africa against the Italians.

1941

March 11, 1941 - President Roosevelt signs the Lend-Lease Act.

April 17, 1941 - Yugoslavia surrenders to the Nazis.

April 27, 1941 - Greece surrenders to the Nazis.

June 22, 1941 – Germany attacks Soviet Union (Barbarossa)

July 3, 1941 - Stalin calls for a scorched earth policy.

July 12, 1941 - Mutual assistance agreement between British and Soviets.

August 14, 1941 – FDR and Churchill announce Atlantic Charter.

December 5, 1941 - German attack on Moscow is abandoned.

December 6, 1941 - Soviet Army launches a major counter-offensive.

December 7, 1941 – Pearl Harbor

Dec 8 – US and Britain declare war on Japan

December 11, 1941 – Hitler declares war on US