

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 and lebensraum at Hossbach conference. (Hossbach Memorandum used at Nuremberg as evidence of conspiracy to wage war.)
- 1938
March 12/13 - Germany announces 'Anschluss' (union) with Austria.
August 12 - German military mobilizes.
September 30 - Chamberlain appeases Hitler at Munich.
October 15 - German troops occupy the Sudetenland; Czech government resigns.
- 1939
May 22 - Nazis sign 'Pact of Steel' with Italy.
August 23 - Nazis and Soviets sign Pact.
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.
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