

# Origins of World War II

Class 3

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# Three Stalin Policies with Implications for WWII

- Collectivization of Agriculture
  - The imports for crash industrialization and the food to feed the workers in the new industries would be paid for by taking it out of the hide of the peasants
- Crash Industrialization
  - Stalin believed that unless the Soviet Union rapidly industrialized, it would be crushed by hostile capitalist states
- The Purges
  - About 4 million people were purged and 700,000 executed

# Collectivization of Agriculture

- As a paranoid and a Communist, Stalin felt that Capitalist powers would eventually attack Russia, taking advantage of her economic backwardness and diverting attention from the problems created by the Great Depression
  - Unless Russia caught up with the West within a decade, it would be crushed
- In order to both feed the industrial workers and have grain to export for Western technology, Russia had to either greatly increase agricultural production or decrease the rural standard of living
  - Since Soviet investment was directed toward heavy industry, this meant few consumer products so the peasants had little incentive to increase production
- Stalin chose to collectivize agriculture as a means of extorting grain from the peasants

# Industrialization

- By depressing living standards, the Soviets were able to divert a significant portion of GNP to capital investment
  - Most of the investment went into heavy industrial capital goods, such as steel, construction materials, mines, and railroads. As time went on, an increasing amount of investment went into military-related production
  - Unfortunately, a lot of investment was wasted since there was no market mechanisms to tie production to demand.
- While the Soviet economy did poorly in meeting consumer demands, it was very efficient in meeting monopsonistic demands

# The Purges

- Given Stalin's paranoia, his penchant for seeing conspiracies against his rule, and his tendency to scapegoat
  - The purges of the 1930s seem as logical consequences
- The purges involved three major public show trials
- The purges also affected large segments of the political, military, diplomatic, and intellectual leadership of Russia
  - 3 of the 5 Army Marshals (5-stars), 13 of 15 Army Commanders (4-stars), 50 of 57 Corp Commanders, and 154 out of 186 division commanders. 4% to 8% of all Red Army officers, and 8 of 9 Admirals

# Consequences of the Purges - 1

- Economic growth fell from 12% to 2% as managers, engineers, technical experts, and workers were purged and the remaining workers were demoralized
- Everyday life was disrupted
  - Street and place names kept changing
  - Libraries had to remove the books of those who had fallen out of favor
  - School textbook had to be constantly revised
  - Public posters and photos had to be changed to remove purged individuals (and this in an age before Photoshop)
  - People became guarded in what they said to others
    - You never knew who might be an OGPU informer

## Consequences of the Purges - 2

- Discredited Russia and, to some extent Communism as an ideology, in the eyes of Western elites, intellectuals, and publics
- Impoverished Soviet art, science, and intellectual life
  - Stalin's support of Lysenkoism crippled genetics and the biological sciences in the Soviet Union
- Created a pervasive climate of intellectual and personal mistrust
  - Soviet citizens learned to avoid contact with Westerners, even those fluent in Russian
- Expanded the power of the OGPU (Secret Police) and created networks of informers so that every factory, office, apartment building, and organization had its informers

## Consequences of the Purges - 3

- Isolated Stalin and the Soviet leadership from what was really going on in the country
  - Fearful sychophants told them what they thought Stalin and the leadership wanted to hear rather than what was true
- Greatly weakened for a time the Soviet Army
  - This showed up in the Soviet occupation of eastern Poland after the Nazi-Soviet Pact and Hitler's invasion of Poland
  - It showed up more egregiously in the Soviet Army's performance in the Russo-Finnish War
- Led both Hitler and the West to greatly underestimate the ability of the Soviet Union to withstand a German invasion



# The Nazi-Soviet Pact

# Hitler on Poland

- On 28 March 1939, Hitler denounced the 1934 Non-Aggression Pact with Poland and had his military begin preparations for an invasion of Poland
- Hitler had two problems with Poland
  - Situated between Germany and Russia, Poland barred the invasion route into Russia
  - Poland had a large German population and territories that Hitler felt belonged to Germany
- To ensure the quiet eastern border that Hitler desired for his attack on France, Poland had to subordinate itself to Germany

# Stalin's View of Nazism

- Stalin saw National Socialism as simply a nastier form of monopoly capitalism – more brutal than the capitalism of the Western democracies but essentially the same
  - Stalin did not realize that Hitler and the Nazis were racist ideologues committed to expansion eastward and to the replacement of Russians by Germans as the population of Western Russia
  - What Stalin did not understand was that, under Hitler, Germany's capitalist and economic elites had practically no influence on the formation and direction (as distinct from the implementation) of German policy

# Stalin's View of Western Policy

- Stalin saw British and French appeasement of Hitler as a way of bribing Hitler to attack eastward rather than westward
  - Stalin was skeptical that Chamberlain meant it when he made a commitment to Poland on 31 March 1939 that Britain would go to war with Germany if it attacked Poland
  - Stalin, like Hitler, believed that Chamberlain was bluffing – that Chamberlain was still committed to appeasement and had made the commitment only to mollify anti-Nazi sentiment at home and camouflage their policy of turning German aggression eastward
- If the Western Powers were really committed to deterring Hitler, they would act quickly to try to negotiate a military alliance with Stalin
  - This, however, was not done

# Negotiations with Britain and France

- It was not until the end of July that Chamberlain consented to the dispatch of a military mission to Moscow
  - The mission went not by airplane but by a slow steamer which took 5 days to get to Leningrad
  - The mission did not include Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax (who had urged Chamberlain to make the commitment to Poland) or a high-ranking General
  - The mission was headed by VADM Sir Reginald Drax; the French by GEN Joseph Aime Doumenc
  - While the French were instructed to come back with an agreement at all costs, Drax was instructed to proceed with caution, volunteer no military information, spin out the talks as long as possible, and not given the authority to make commitments

# Negotiations with Britain and France - 2

- The opening session began on August 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Marshal Voroshilov produced a document giving him authority to sign a military agreement and asked to see the equivalent grants of authority from the British and French
  - General Doumenc produced such a letter from Prime Minister Daladier; but Vice Admiral Drax had nothing to show.
- Things got worse when Voroshilov started asking some very awkward questions
  - What forces could Britain and France put into the field?
  - What plans did they have to fight Germany?
  - What part should Russia play if Germany invaded Poland?
  - Would Poland admit the Red Army into Poland to fight the Wehrmacht?

## Negotiations with Britain and France - 3

- The Western delegations could not answer Voroshilov's questions nor could they hide the fact that the Polish government, fearful of another partition, refused to admit the Red Army even if its purpose was to repel the Wehrmacht
  - French attempts to persuade the Poles to grant transit rights failed
- By 17 August, the talks had stalled
- The failure to reach a military agreement confirmed to Stalin his suspicions of the West - that Britain and France were not serious about stopping Hitler

# Negotiations with Germany - 1

- This now left open the possibility of deal with Hitler
  - Ever since the dismissal of Foreign Commissar Maxim Litvinov on 3 May 1939, Germany had been making secret overtures to Moscow
  - The German Ambassador to Moscow conveyed a message that the ideological barriers between Nazism and Communism could be broken down and that no issue between the Baltic and the Black Sea stood in the way of the “restoration of friendly cooperation” between them
    - This overture had a decisive impact on both Molotov and Stalin
- Stalin knew that a deal with Hitler meant that Germany would go to war, but that this would be a war between Germany and the Western powers, not a war between Germany and the Soviet Union



## Negotiations with Germany - 2

- Stalin assumed that a war between Germany and the Western powers would result in a stalemate like World War I, and that such a stalemate would exhaust all concerned, creating the possibility for a future expansion of Soviet power westward
- Thus a deal with Hitler was possible provided that Germany met three conditions
  - That Germany was serious about getting a non-aggression agreement
  - That Germany would not support the Japanese if a general war between the Soviet Union and Japan broke out over Nomonhan
  - That Germany would make the desired territorial concessions – allow Russia to annex the Baltic states, eastern Poland, and Bessarabia.
- When Germany agreed to these conditions, the Hitler-Stalin Pact was made

# Consequences

- The Pact gave Germany a green light to attack Poland
  - Hitler felt that an agreement with Stalin that divided eastern Europe would either discourage the Western powers from going to war over Poland, or, if war came, dramatically weaken their ability to blockade Germany (which it did)
- Hitler felt that the Nazi-Soviet Pact would reassure his generals by removing their fear of a two-front war (which it did)so
- The Pact isolated Poland militarily and ensured its quick defeat
- By allowing Germany to attack its enemies one front at a time, it allowed Germany to sweep the Western allies out of northern and western Europe
  - This ensured that when Germany turned and attacked the Soviet Union, she would face the Wehrmacht alone

# The Rise of a Militaristic Japan

# Notes on Japanese Culture - 1

- The dominant religion was Shinto influenced by Buddhism
- According to the Shinto creation myth, the Japanese home islands were created by gods for the Japanese people who in turn were created by greater or lesser gods (*kami* or *ujigami*)
  - The most significant goddess was *Amaterasu*, the goddess of the Sun or of the universe. From her, the Japanese emperor traced his descent and divinity
- The status of the clan or family depended upon the closeness or distance of its *kami's* relationship to *Amaterasu* which meant the clan's or family's closeness or distance to the Imperial family.
  - Each Japanese clan was descended from a god (*ujigami* or *kami*)
  - Non-Japanese were not descended from a god and thus of inferior status

# Amaterasu



## Notes on Japanese Culture - 2

- The role of the family and individual was to offer worship to the *kami* or *ujigami* at either a public or a home shrine
- The individual was of little significance in comparison with the family, the clan, or the Japanese people since individuals lived only briefly while the other entities were potentially immortal
  - Thus the focus was not on the individual but on the family and the clan
- Thus society was more important than any individual and could demand any sacrifice from that individual
- Men are by nature unequal and should serve loyally in the particular status into which they had been born
  - Thus traditional Japanese culture was hierarchical and patriarchal

## Notes on Japanese Culture - 3

- Unlike Abrahamic religions, Shinto was not linked to a code of ethical behavior.
  - Its concept of an afterlife is similar to that the Greek *Hades*.
- With the Meiji Restoration in 1868 (and especially from the late-1920s to 1945), traditional Shinto became State Shinto
- What State Shinto did was take certain aspects of traditional Shinto and place a strong emphasis upon these aspects
  - It also incorporated into Shinto other concepts as well

# Notes on Japanese Culture - 4

- State Shinto emphasized the following:
  - The divinity of the Emperor
  - The uniqueness (*kokutai*) of the Japanese people as descended from divine beings
  - The obligation of Japanese to “offer yourselves courageously to the State and thus guard and maintain the prosperity of Our Imperial Throne”
  - The concept of *Bushido* (“the way of the warrior”)
    - Strong sense of loyalty
    - Strong sense of honor
      - In the context of World War II, it led to the *kamikazes*
    - Strong sense of shame



# Hirohito



# Politics in Japan - 1

- The Meiji Restoration of 1867 transferred power to a modernizing oligarchy led by 4 clans that were linked to the Imperial Court and leading mercantile families like the Mitsui and Mitsubishi
- In 1889, they promulgated a Constitution that provided for a bicameral legislature (known as the Diet) with an elected House of Representatives and a House of Peers
  - Legislation had to be passed by the Diet and signed by a minister of state (the equivalent of our Cabinet Secretary)
- The ministers, established a Council of State, were responsible to the Emperor and not the Diet

## Politics in Japan - 2

- The Emperor, while theoretically a god and absolute ruler, was in practice expected simply to ratify and promulgate the decisions of the Council of Ministers. i.e. He reigned but did not rule
- The War Minister and the Navy Minister were selected not by the Emperor or the Premier but by the Army and Navy respectively
  - This meant that if either of the Services did not like either the composition of the Council or its policies, they could either direct the minister to resign from the Council or refuse to nominate a minister

# The Japanese Economy

- With the introduction of Western sanitation and public health measures into Japan, the rural population began to increase
  - This put pressure on the land which reduced many Japanese peasants to poverty and turned them from landowners to either full- or part-time tenants
  - It led to second and third sons to migrate to the cities where they took jobs as low-wage workers in the new industries. It also led many to emigrate and others to enlist in the Army
- Japan lacked natural resources and had neither the land nor fodder for dairy, wool, or meat production
  - Thus, Its only indigenous export goods were seafood, silk, and forest products
  - Its economy had to be based on the conversion of imported raw materials into finished products (like textiles) that could be exported

# Earlier Japanese Expansion

- Since Japan lacked essential raw materials, could be cut out of export markets by high tariffs, and faced increasing barriers to emigration, Japan was tempted to use her increasing industrial and military might to conquer new territory
  - 1894-95 – War with China which led to Japanese seizure of Taiwan and the Pescadores Islands and forced China to grant independence to Korea
  - 1904-05 – War with Russia which led to Japanese seizure of southern Sakhalin and cession of the Russian lease on Liaotung
  - 1910 – Japanese annexation of Korea
  - 1914-18 – Japan seized the German Pacific islands north of the Equator (the Marshalls, the Carolines, and the Marianas as well as the German holdings on the Shantung Peninsula

# Japan in the 1920s

- Five events in the 1920-1930 period served to alienate Japan from the United States and pave the way for the rise of the militarists
  - The Washington Naval Conference of 1921-22
  - The Asian Exclusion Act of 1924
  - The Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930
  - The Great Depression which began to hit Japan hard in 1930
  - The London Naval Conference of 1930

## Asian Exclusion Act of 1924

- Barred immigration from an Asia-Pacific triangle that included Japan, China, Korea, India, and Southeast Asia
  - Barred immigration of any persons ineligible for naturalization
    - Non-whites were not deemed eligible for naturalization
- Provoked an official diplomatic protest from Japan

# Foreign Tariffs & Japanese Economic Policy

- The Smoot-Hawley Tariff raised duties on Japanese goods by an average of 23 percent.
  - This greatly hurt the Japanese textile industry which employed a quarter of the Japanese work force and accounted for 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of Japanese exports
  - It also led American textile companies to replace Japanese silk with cotton and American-manufactured rayon, further hurting Japanese exports
- Japan's economic problems were aggravated by the policies of Prime Minister Hamaguchi Yuko.



# Japan and the Great Depression

- The Great Depression had a shattering effect on Japan
  - Led to a major slump in farm prices and serious rural poverty
  - Greatly hurt the Japanese textile industry
- The rural impact of slumping prices was magnified by a high birthrate
- The existence of rural poverty and the inability of democratically-elected politicians to effectively deal with the issue
  - Discredited Western-style democracy
  - Played into the hands of military extremists
    - Most Army officers and enlisted were second and later sons of rural landowners and tenant farmers
  - Gave strong impetus to militarism and military conquest

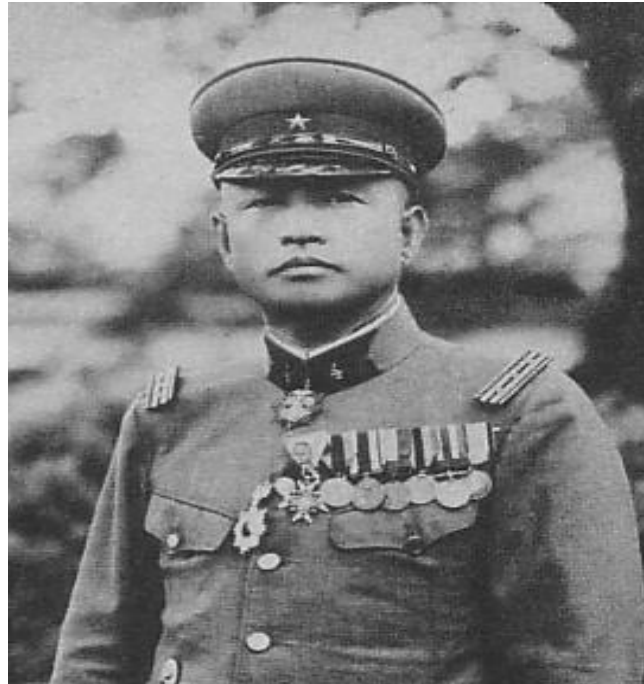
# The London Naval Conference of 1930

- Resulted in a treaty which:
  - Changed the battleship ratio from 5:5:3 to 10:10:7
  - Differentiated light cruisers (with 6.1" guns or less) from heavy cruisers (with up to 8" guns)
  - Set limits on the numbers of cruisers that Great Britain, the U.S., and Japan could have
  - Placed some restrictions on submarines
- In Japan, this led to a major political battle between the Treaty faction which supported the treaty and the Fleet faction which strongly opposed it
  - With the support of Prime Minister Hamaguchi Osachi, the treaty was ratified by the Diet
  - This led to the assassination of Hamaguchi and the purging of admirals in the Treaty faction

# The Manchurian Incident - 1931

- The event in Manchuria that set Japan on the path to World War II was set off not by a decision of the Japanese government but by the actions of a brilliant but fanatical Lieutenant Colonel named Ishiwara Kanji
  - Saw the Japanese Army as a divinely-ordained instrument of global salvation destined to bring the world under one enlightened Japanese roof
  - Prior to this utopia, there would first be a final war, with Japan's chief enemy being the United States
  - To prepare for this apocalyptic conflict, Japan needed to seize control of Manchuria
- As chief planning officer for the Kwantung Army in Manchuria, Ishiwara could make things happen

# Ishiwara Kanji



# Japanese Troops in Shenyang



# The Manchurian Incident - 2

- Discredited the League of Nations and the concept of collective security
- Worsened relations between China and Japan
- Led to Japan's diplomatic isolation
  - This gave impetus to further expansion, leading to eventual war with China
- Led to further plots and assassinations
  - 2-26 Day Plot failed but it intimidated the government and put the Army in charge
  - With it now being law that Service Ministers had to be active duty military, it gave the Services veto power over Cabinets and policy
- Placed Japan face-to-face with the Soviet Union

# Why War with China

- A China beset by civil strife and warlordism seemed like easy pickings for Japan
  - China in the 1930s was beset by warlordism so that the Government of Chiang Kai-shek controlled only a few provinces
  - Class conflict between landlords and poor peasants fostered the rise of the Chinese Communist Party and war between it and the Chinese Nationalists or Kuomintang
- Lure of Chinese rice and resources
  - Japan and Korea could supply only 80 percent of their rice
  - China had many resources that Japan needed
- The Japanese Army had a Militarist faction eager for war that the Japanese government could not control and which could intimidate the government to adopt policies it otherwise would not

# War With China

- On 7 July 1937, war between China and Japan broke out when fighting erupted between the 4,000-man Japanese garrison in Peking and Chinese forces at the Marco Polo bridge.
- Fighting soon spread and as they advanced they followed a policy of brutality towards the civilian population
  - The most infamous Japanese atrocity was the “Rape of Nanking” in which roughly 50 to 60 thousand were killed
  - Interestingly, the only Japanese leaders ever brought to account for the Rape of Nanking were the two Japanese generals most outraged about it



# The Canary that Tried to Swallow the Cat

- China had a land mass nearly the same as the U.S. with a population of over 600 million vs Japan's 73 million
- Despite its brutality (and perhaps in part because of it) Japan found itself drawn into a seemingly endless war, which it dare not lose but could not win or end.
  - Japan could and did win almost every battle but could not either withdraw lest it lose face nor achieve victory
- To achieve victory, the Japanese did two things that boomeranged
  - They tried to terrorize the Chinese population into submission which led to the bombing of civilians, the Rape of Nanking and other atrocities
  - They tried to search for allies which led them to ally with Nazi Germany

# Consequences of the “China Incident” - 1

- The war put serious strains on the Japanese economy
  - Shortages became common, leading to rationing and import substitution
  - Imported goods disappeared from store shelves
  - Civilians were urged to recycle
- American public and elite opinion turned increasingly hostile
  - Thanks to the China lobby – a group of American missionaries, Foreign Service officers, and businessmen – and extensive war reporting, American public opinion became increasingly anti-Japanese
  - Roosevelt and many elite Americans were Sinophiles

## Consequences of the “China Incident” - 2

- Japan and Russia came into conflict at Nomonhan (Khalkin Gul)
  - Led the Japanese Government to abandon the Northern Attack favored by the Army in favor of the Southern attack favored by the Navy
- It led the Japanese military to escalate the conflict – it sought to cut China off from foreign arms and supplies
  - This led the Japanese on 24 September 1940 to occupy Vietnam to cut China’s railroad links to the port of Haiphong
- It led the Roosevelt Administration to begin a series of embargoes

# Hitler's Wars – 1939-1941

# The Invasion of Poland

# Preparations for War

- Once Hitler had determined to attack Poland, several things followed
  - Poland had to be attacked by the Fall of 1939 so that there would be enough time to defeat her before the autumn rains turned the unpaved roads and runways to mud
  - Given the German people's lack of enthusiasm for war, a massive propaganda campaign centered on alleged mistreatment of Germans in Poland would be launched
  - An agreement with the Soviet Union to divide Eastern Europe between them would be sought – This led to the Nazi-Soviet Pact
  - There would be no negotiations with Poland
    - To avoid becoming entangled in diplomatic negotiations, the German Ambassadors were recalled from their posts in London and Warsaw

# British Policy Re Poland

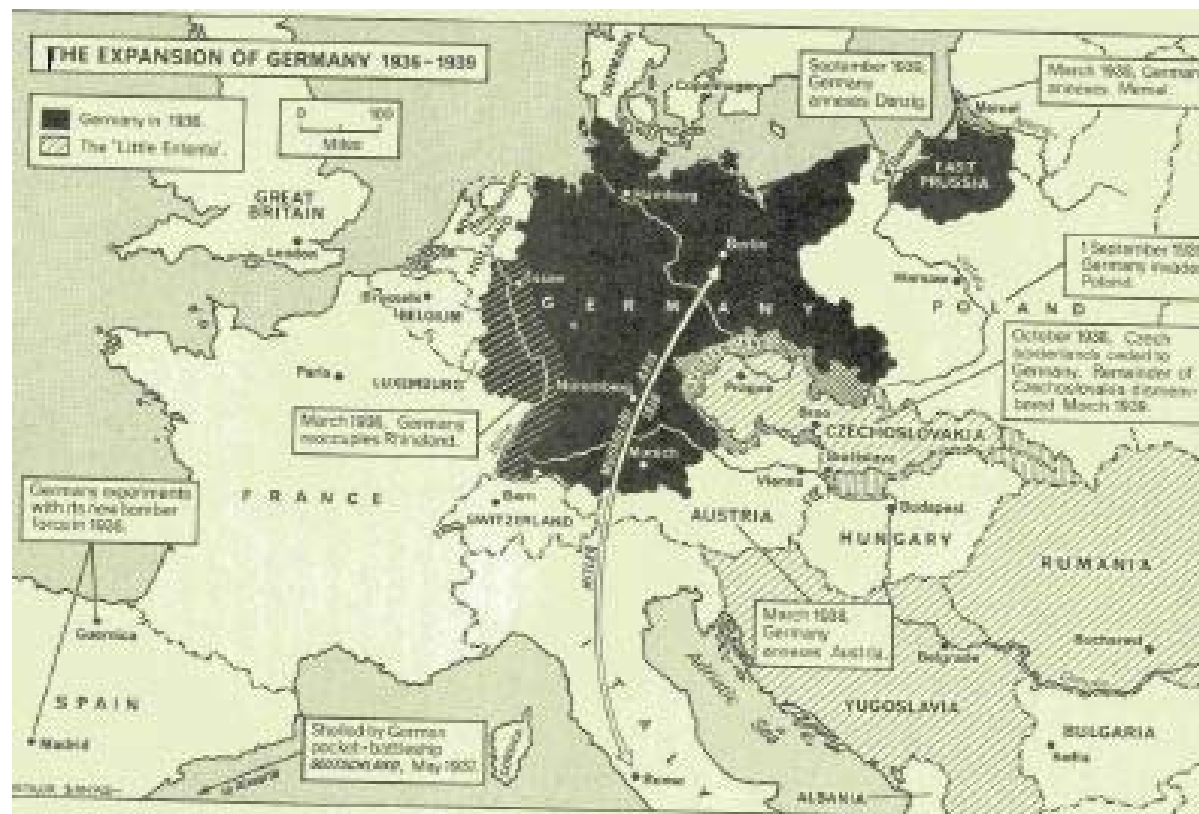
- Britain assumed that any war in Europe would, as in 1914, spread to the whole continent
  - Thus it made little difference whether Germany attacked in the East or the West
  - Thus, it made sense to announce firm support of Poland in the hope that this would deter Germany
- After the seizure of all of Czechoslovakia, Britain saw propaganda about mistreatment of Germans in Poland as simply a pretext for war
- Britain needed French support if it went to war with Germany
  - To secure it, Britain needed to assure France that there would be a large British army fighting with her against Germany
    - First British peacetime conscription law is enacted in the Spring of 1939

# Poland's Strategic Problems

- Poland lacked modern military equipment
  - Poland lacked the industrial base to produce modern tanks, planes, and artillery
  - Poland lacked the necessary cash and credit to buy them from someone else
- Given the fact that Germany could attack from the West, the North, and/or the South,
  - Where should Poland station its forces?
  - Should it concentrate them, and if so, where?
- When should Poland mobilize?
  - Too early would damage Poland's fragile economy and allow Germany to blame Poland for increasing tensions and the outbreak of war
  - Too late created the risk of being attacked before being fully mobilized



# Map – Central Europe



# Map – Partition of Poland



# War in the West

# Hitler's Initial Plan

- Hitler's initial plans to attack in the West had a target date of early November
  - Bad weather, however, forced successive postponements since the Luftwaffe needed clear weather for its operations
  - Initially the plan was to invade Holland and Belgium and then head into northern France to defeat the British and seize coastal sea and air bases
    - It differed from both the Schlieffen Plan of World War I and the von Manstein Plan that was eventually adopted
- His plans, however, provoked a lot of opposition from many of the German military leaders
  - A few opposed attacking neutral countries
  - Many believed it made more sense to await a French offensive
  - Most were not especially confident that the Wehrmacht could defeat the French

## Hitler's Initial Plan - 2

- Bad weather postponements pushed the invasion date from November 1939 to May 1940. This had a whole series of repercussions:
  - They gave the Wehrmacht additional time to assimilate the lessons of the Polish Campaign
    - This led to increasing the number of Panzer divisions from 6 to 10
  - The Allies had warnings of the German intention to attack, but the repeated successive warnings and alerts obscured the significance of the final warnings in May 1940
  - It allowed German military planners to shift the main thrust of the offensive from the Low Countries to the Ardennes followed by a drive from there to the coast
  - They turned the focus of German attacks from the Low Countries and France to Denmark and Norway

# The Invasion of Denmark & Norway

# Consequences of the Conquest of Norway

- Although the Germans conquered Norway, they lost a good chunk of their surface navy
- Control of Denmark and Norway allowed the Germans to extort from Sweden anything they wanted
- Allied defeat in Norway led to the fall of the Neville Chamberlain government in Britain and his replacement by Winston Churchill
- Control of Norway meant that German submarines and surface ships could use Norwegian ports to attack British shipping and later to attack Allied ships supplying the Soviets via the Murmansk run

# The Fall of France



# Allied Weaknesses - 1

- The combined Dutch, Belgian, French, and British armies outnumbered the Germans in manpower, tanks, and artillery BUT
  - The Germans had a much better military doctrine for employing tanks than did the Allies
    - The Germans put their tanks in Panzer divisions and gave them close air support from Stuka dive bombers
    - The Allies saw the tank as an infantry support vehicle and scattered their tanks among all of their infantry divisions
  - Allied war planning was deficient and made assumptions that proved to be false

## Allied Weaknesses - 2

- Given their commitment to neutrality, the Belgians and the Dutch had not coordinated their war plans with the British and French
  - The Dutch withdrawal plan isolated the Dutch army from any contact with, or assistance from, the other Allied forces
- British and French war plans sent the best French units and virtually the whole British force into Belgium to counter what they thought would be the main thrust of the German attack
  - With half the French army committed to the Maginot Line, the area of the Front facing the Ardennes was lightly defended with no reserve force available if the Germans broke through

# The Main German Attack

- The main German attack went through Luxembourg, southeastern Belgium, and the Ardennes forest
  - The line of French forces holding this sector was quickly pierced
  - On 13 May, the Germans crossed the Meuse River
  - BY 20-21 May, they reached the Channel coast near Abbeville
- The Allies had no substantial reserve force to either plug the gap or attack the flanks of the German spearhead
  - Efforts of the French to cut off the armored spearhead before the German infantry could catch up failed

# Map – German Invasion of France, Belgium & Holland



# The Road to Dunkirk

- With the Allied forces in Belgium cut off from those in France and unable to break through the tier of German forces separating them
  - The Allied forces in Belgium (which included most of the British Expeditionary Force) decided to retreat to the Coast where they could be evacuated by sea
  - Thanks to stubborn fighting (which kept Dunkirk in Allied hands), a German decision to halt their advance up the coast, and the Royal Air Force, the bulk of the British and some of the French armies were evacuated
- With the Allied forces in Belgium no longer in play, the Germans attacked the weakened French defensive line in the South on 5 June
  - After tough fighting, the Germans broke through, entering Paris on 14 June and attacking the Maginot Line from the rear on the same day

# The French Surrender

- With the French army now disintegrating, Italy decided to enter the war on 10 June
- 17 June, the new French premier, Marshal Henri-Philippe Petain asked for an armistice
- 22 June, an armistice was signed at Compiegne in the same railroad car in which the 11 November 1918 armistice was signed
- 23 June, Hitler visits Paris
- 3 July – the Battle of Oran

# Hitler in Paris



# Consequences

- The Fall of France alarmed the United States,
  - Led to an expansion of the Army (by means of the first peacetime draft) and
  - Authorized the building of a two-ocean Navy
- It changed the strategic equation for Japan in East Asia
  - It enabled Japan to get control of French Indo-China
    - On 24 September 1940, Japan occupied northern Vietnam to cut China's railroad links to the port of Haiphong
    - In July 1941, Japanese troops landed at Cam Ranh Bay and the Saigon airport in southern Vietnam



# Japan into Southern Vietnam

- Japanese bases in southern Vietnam and Cambodia could be used as jumping off points for the seizure of American, British, and Dutch possessions in southeast Asia
- On 26 July, Roosevelt called the Philippine Army into service and restored GEN Douglas MacArthur to active duty
- On 26 July, Roosevelt issued an Executive Order freezing Japanese assets in the U.S. and embargoing all oil sales to Japan
  - Japan produced less than 12 percent of her peacetime consumption and imported the other 88 percent – 80 percent of that came from the U.S.
  - This action made war inevitable unless a diplomatic solution to the impasse over Vietnam and China were resolved

# The Battle of Britain

# German Strategy

- After the fall of France, Hitler hoped that Britain would make peace
  - On 19 July, he made a peace feeler to Britain which Churchill rejected
- Hitler saw two possible ways for Germany to defeat Britain
  - One was a naval blockade involving submarines, mines, and surface ships
  - The other was an air offensive that would either pound Britain into submission or clear the way for invasion by destroying the Royal Air Force
- In mid-1940, however, neither way could work
  - Germany had too few submarines and while she began constructing large numbers of subs after the war began, and especially after fall of France , it would be a while before they could play a role

# Notes on the Battle of Britain

- Initially, the Luftwaffe confined its bombing operations to daylight bombing of military-related targets – especially those related to the Royal Air Force
- In June through August 1940, this involved extensive aerial combat with heavy losses of fighters on both sides and heavy losses of bombers on the German side
- At the end of August 1940, the Germans switched to night bombing of cities
  - While this caused great damage and many civilian casualties, it had virtually no effect on either British war production or on the Royal Air Force's ability to maintain air superiority over Britain

# Why Germany Lost

- The German attempt to bomb Britain into submission and destroy the Royal Air Force failed for the following reasons:
  - The Luftwaffe lacked both heavy bombers and long-range fighters
    - This meant light bomb loads and no fighter protection beyond southeast England
  - By mid-1940, British fighter production was beginning to exceed that of Germany
  - Since aerial combat took place over England, it meant that British pilots who were shot down could fight again while German pilots who were shot down became POWs
  - British radar alerted the Royal Air Force to German bombing raids so that the Germans could not catch British fighters on the ground