World war II.

**World War II** (often abbreviated to **WWII** or **WW2**), also known as the **Second World War**, was a [global war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_war) that lasted from 1939 to 1945. [The vast majority of the world's countries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II_by_country)—including all the [great powers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_power)—eventually formed two opposing [military alliances](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_alliance): the [Allies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_II) and the [Axis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Axis_powers). A state of [total war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Total_war) emerged, directly involving more

Kane signed away ownership in the character in exchange for, among other compensation, a mandatory byline on all Batman comics. This byline did not originally say "Batman created by Bob Kane"; his name was simply written on the title page of each story. The name disappeared from the comic book in the mid-1960s, replaced by credits for each story's actual writer and artists. In the late 1970s, when [Jerry Siegel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerry_Siegel) and [Joe Shuster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Shuster) began receiving a "created by" credit on the Superman titles, along with [William Moulton Marston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Moulton_Marston) being given the byline for creating [Wonder Woman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wonder_Woman), Batman stories began saying "Created by Bob Kane" in addition to the other credits.

than 100 million people from over 30 countries. The major participants threw their entire economic, industrial, and scientific capabilities behind the [war effort](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_effort), blurring the distinction between civilian and military resources. World War II was the [deadliest conflict](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_by_death_toll) in human history, marked by 50 to 85 million fatalities, most of whom were civilians in the [Soviet Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union) and [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_China_(1912%E2%80%931949)). It included [massacres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massacre), the [genocide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genocide)of [the Holocaust](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Holocaust), [strategic bombing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategic_bombing_during_World_War_II), premeditated death from [starvation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starvation) and disease, and the only use of [nuclear weapons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_weapon) in war.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II#cite_note-FOOTNOTEGilbert2001291-2)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II#cite_note-3)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II#cite_note-FOOTNOTESommerville2008p._5_(2011_ed.)-4)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II#cite_note-5)

The start of the war in Europe is generally held to be 1 September 1939,[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II#cite_note-FOOTNOTEWeinberg20056-11)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II#cite_note-12) beginning with the [German invasion of Poland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invasion_of_Poland); the United Kingdom and France declared war on Germany two days later. The dates for the beginning of war in the Pacific include the start

 number of features make this [protected intersection](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protected_intersection). A corner refuge island, a setback crossing of the pedestrians and cyclists, generally between 1.5–7 metres of setback, a forward stop bar, which allows cyclists to stop for a [traffic light](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traffic_light) well ahead of motor traffic who must stop behind the crosswalk. Separate signal staging or at least an advance green for cyclists and pedestrians is used to give cyclists and pedestrians no conflicts or a head start over traffic. The design makes a right turn on red, and sometimes left on red depending on the geometry of the intersection in question, possible in many cases, often without

This will usually mean that turning traffic must stop and wait for a breach to turn, and this might cause inconvenience for drivers that follow them but do not want to turn. This is why dedicated lanes and protected traffic signals for turning are sometimes provided. On busier intersections where a protected lane would be ineffective or cannot be built, turning may be entirely prohibited, and drivers will be required to "drive around the block" in order to accomplish the turn. Many cities employ this tactic quite often; in San Francisco, due to its common practice, making three right turns is known colloquially as a "San Francisco left turn". Likewise, as many intersections in [Taipei City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taipei_City) are too busy to allow direct left turns, signs often direct drivers to drive around the block to turn.

Turning rules are by no means universal. For example, in New Zealand (a drive-on-the-left country) between 1977 and 2012, left turning traffic had to give way to opposing right-turning traffic wishing to take the same road (unless there were multiple lanes, but then one must take care in case a vehicle jumped lanes). New Zealand abolished this particular rule on 25 March 2012, except at [roundabouts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roundabout)or when denoted by a Give Way or Stop sign.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traffic#cite_note-example_web_reference-6) Although the rule caused initial driver confusion, and many intersections required or still require modification,[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traffic#cite_note-7) the change is predicted to eventually prevent one death and 13 serious injuries annually.

of the [Second Sino-Japanese War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Sino-Japanese_War) on 7 July 1937,[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II#cite_note-13)[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II#cite_note-FOOTNOTEF%C3%B6rsterGessler200564-14) or even the [Japanese invasion of Manchuria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_invasion_of_Manchuria) on 19 September 1931.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II#cite_note-15)[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II#cite_note-16)

Hitler was born in Austria—then part of [Austria-Hungary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria-Hungary)—and was raised near [Linz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linz). He moved to Germany in 1913 and was decorated during his [service in the German Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_career_of_Adolf_Hitler) in [World War I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I). In 1919, he joined the [German Workers' Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Workers%27_Party) (DAP), the precursor of the NSDAP, and was appointed leader of the NSDAP in 1921. In 1923, he attempted to seize power in [a failed coup in Munich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beer_Hall_Putsch)and was imprisoned. In jail, he dictated the first volume of his autobiography and political manifesto [*Mein Kampf*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mein_Kampf) ("My Struggle"). After his release in 1924, Hitler gained popular support by attacking the [Treaty of Versailles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Versailles) and promoting [Pan-Germanism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pan-Germanism), [anti-semitism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-semitism) and [anti-communism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-communism) with [charismatic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charismatic_authority) oratory and [Nazi propaganda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi_propaganda). He frequently denounced international capitalism and communism as part of a [Jewish conspiracy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antisemitic_canard).

Hitler's father [Alois Hitler Sr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alois_Hitler) (1837–1903) was the [illegitimate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegitimate) child of [Maria Anna Schicklgruber](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_Anna_Schicklgruber).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf_Hitler#cite_note-FOOTNOTEBullock199924-7) The baptismal register did not show the name of his father, and Alois initially bore his mother's surname *Schicklgruber*.

The first Batman story, "[The Case of the Chemical Syndicate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Case_of_the_Chemical_Syndicate)", was published in *Detective Comics* #27 (May 1939). Finger said, "Batman was originally written in the style of the pulps",[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batman#cite_note-26) and this influence was evident with Batman showing little remorse over killing or maiming criminals. Batman proved a hit character, and he received his own solo title in 1940 while continuing to star in *Detective Comics*. By that time, Detective Comics was the top-selling and most influential publisher in the industry; Batman and the company's other major hero, Superman, were the cornerstones of the company's success.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batman#cite_note-27) The two characters were featured side-by-side as the stars of [*World's Finest Comics*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World%27s_Finest_Comics), which was originally titled *World's Best Comics* when it debuted in fall 1940. Creators including [Jerry Robinson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerry_Robinson) and [Dick Sprang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick_Sprang) also worked on the strips during this period.

***Four Lions*** is a 2010 British [satirical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satire) [dark comedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark_comedy) film, directed by [Chris Morris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris_Morris_(satirist)) in his directorial debut, and written by Morris, [Sam Bain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam_Bain) and [Jesse Armstrong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesse_Armstrong).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Lions#cite_note-3) The film, a [jihad satire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jihad_satire) following a group of [homegrown terrorist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homegrown_terrorism) [jihadis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jihadi) from [Sheffield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheffield), [South Yorkshire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Yorkshire), England, stars [Riz Ahmed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riz_Ahmed), [Kayvan Novak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kayvan_Novak), [Nigel Lindsay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigel_Lindsay), [Arsher Ali](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arsher_Ali), and [Adeel Akhtar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adeel_Akhtar).

The **Ministry for State Security** ([German](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_language): *Ministerium für Staatssicherheit*, MfS) or **State Security Service** (*Staatssicherheitsdienst*, SSD), commonly known as the **Stasi** (IPA: [[ˈʃtaːziː]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Standard_German)),[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stasi#cite_note-3) was the official state security service of the [German Democratic Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Germany) (East Germany). It has been described as one of the most effective and repressive [intelligence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligence_agency) and [secret police](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secret_police) agencies ever to have existed.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stasi#cite_note-4)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stasi#cite_note-5)[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stasi#cite_note-6)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stasi#cite_note-7)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stasi#cite_note-8)[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stasi#cite_note-9) The Stasi was headquartered in [East Berlin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Berlin), with an extensive complex in [Berlin-Lichtenberg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lichtenberg) and several smaller facilities throughout the city. The Stasi motto was "*Schild und Schwert der Partei*" (Shield and Sword of the Party), referring to the ruling [Socialist Unity Party of Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_Unity_Party_of_Germany) (German: *Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands*, SED) and also echoing a theme of the [KGB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KGB), the Soviet counterpart and close partner, with respect to its own ruling party, the [CPSU](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CPSU). [Erich Mielke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erich_Mielke) was the Stasi's longest-serving chief, in power for thirty-two of the GDR's forty years of existence.

Although Mielke's Stasi was superficially granted independence in 1957, until 1990 the [KGB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KGB) continued to maintain liaison officers in all eight main Stasi directorates, each with his own office inside the Stasi's Berlin compound, and in each of the fifteen Stasi district headquarters around East Germany.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stasi#cite_note-koehler74-12) Collaboration was so close that the KGB invited the Stasi to establish operational bases in [Moscow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow) and [Leningrad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leningrad) to monitor visiting East German tourists and Mielke referred to the Stasi officers as "[Chekists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheka) of the Soviet Union".[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stasi#cite_note-koehler74-12) In 1978, Mielke formally granted KGB officers in East Germany the same

1. that use four-way stops, pedestrians always have priority at crosswalks – even at unmarked ones, which exist as the logical continuations of the sidewalks at every intersection with approximately right angles – unless signed or painted otherwise.
2. Whichever vehicle first stops at the stop line – or

rights and powers that they enjoyed in the Soviet Union.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stasi#cite_note-koehler74-12)

The Stasi's ranks swelled considerably after [Eastern Bloc](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Bloc) countries signed the 1975 [Helsinki accords](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helsinki_accords), which GDR leader [Erich Honecker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erich_Honecker) viewed as a grave threat to his regime because they contained language binding signatories to respect "human and basic rights, including freedom of thought, conscience, religion, and conviction".[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stasi#cite_note-koehler142-24) The number of IMs peaked at around 180,000 in that year, having slowly risen from 20,000–30,000 in the early 1950s, and reaching 100,000 for the first time in 1968, in response to [*Ostpolitik*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ostpolitik) and [protests worldwide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protests_of_1968).[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stasi#cite_note-25) The Stasi also acted as a proxy for KGB to conduct activities in other Eastern Bloc countries, such as [Poland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_Poland), where the Soviets were despised.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stasi#cite_note-koehler76-26)