

# Class 9

# Who was responsible for the World War II?

- **Necessary but insufficient factors**

- Versailles Treaties
- failed LoN
- Great Depression

- **Sufficient Factors**

- **Hitler**

- Attacked **Poland** on all fronts r/t Polish Corridor & Danzig
    - Real aim was conquering Russia & Poland was just a part of puzzle. Thus Appeasement or Germans cant be blamed.
    - Some experts say Hitler only wanted a local war & he thought Russia & Poland can be easily destroyed via Blitzkrieg and hence attacked them
    - Was just an opportunist eg captured Czechoslovakia due to separatism of Slovaks.

- **Policy of Appeasement**

- increased H's prestige at home. Was convinced of inaction by Br Fr due to Munich 1938. Br justification that it needed time to rearm thus allowed Munich 1938 is difficult to digest.

- **ToV & Germans**

- DoPropaganda, Hitlers propaganda <> ToV, School Curriculum, Hitler stoked public phobia <> Communism, Weak Politicians who didn't stand up <> Hitler, Businesses & ppl supported Nazis due to LnO

- **Non Aggression Pact USSR-Germany**

- Russo defence: to buy time

- **Disunity among West and USSR**

- Conservatives in Fr <> military pact @ USSR-Fr 1935 pact

## Summary of Events during the World War II:

- Phase I: Opening Moves: (September 1939- December 1940)
  - Germany and Russia occupied **Poland**.
  - Russia invades **Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania** and **Finland**.
  - Period of **inactivity** Sep 1939- April 1940
    - Americans called it **Phoney War**/Sitzkrieg (Gr)/**Twilight War** (Br)

# Russian Aggression



- Germany occupies **Norway** and **Denmark**.
- **Holland (Netherlands), Belgium** and **France** invaded by Germany (1940)
- **Battle of Britain** fought between the German and British Air Force.
- Mussolini invaded **Egypt** and **Greece** (1940-41)

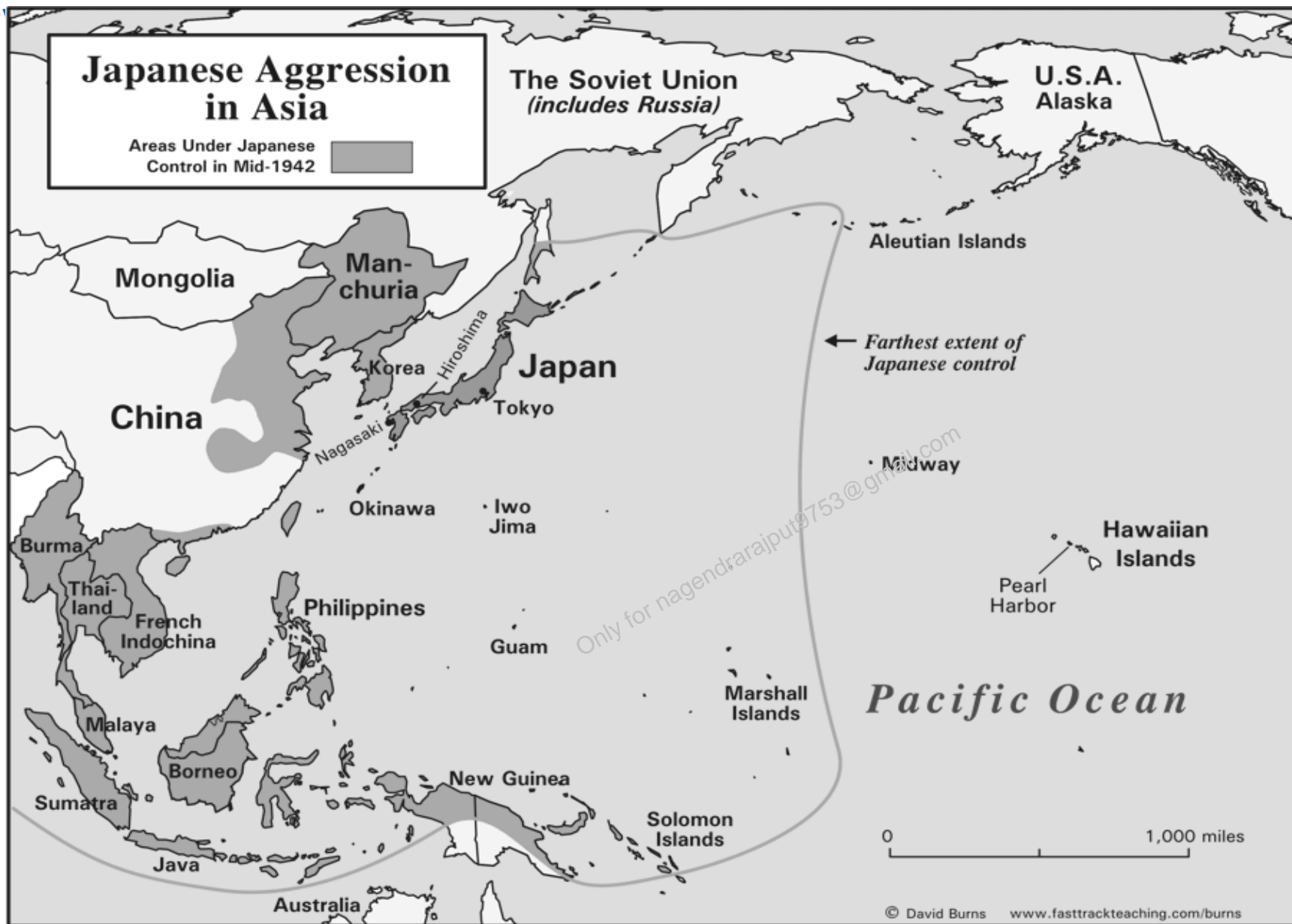


# FRANCE OCCUPIED BY AXIS POWERS 1940-1944



# Phase II: Increased Axis Offensive:

- **Russia invaded** by Germany @Operation Barbarossa (June 1941).
- **Pearl Harbor** bombed by Japanese Air Force leading to the entry of USA into the WW II (Dec 1941)
- Japan had under its control-**Philippines, Burma, Malaya and Singapore** (1942)
- Germany and Japan seemed **unstoppable** while Italy was less successful





## Phase III: 3 major **defeats** of the Axis Powers:

- USA defeats Japan in **Battle of Midway Island (1942)**
- Germany attacks **Egypt** to help a struggling Italy. Soon Germany is driven out of North Africa by Britain and New Zealand.
- In Russia, the German forces had reached Stalingrad by 1942 but struggling against the harsh winters, they lost in the **Battle of Stalingrad (1942)**
- In the **Air**- the two sides were bombing each other.
- On the **Sea**- USA and Britain had been able to curb the German **submarine menace**.

# Phase IV: Final Axis Defeat

- » **Italy** was first to be defeated (1943)
- Britain and USA invaded **Normandy**.
  - **D-Day** (06 June 1944) & **Operation Overlord** (1944) led to liberation of **France**. Soon **Belgium** and **Holland** were also liberated from German control.
- Allies **crossed the Rhine river** in Germany.
- Russia drove out Germany after victory in **Battle of Stalingrad** (1942) and thereafter **invaded Germany** via Poland. It was able to reach Berlin before US and Britain.
- By **1945, Germany** had **lost** the war.
- 1945- To force Japan to surrender, USA dropped **nuclear bomb** on Hiroshima. When Japan still did not surrender, Nagasaki was also nuked.

## Important Events and Analysis:

- Why was Germany very successful?
  - Fr:
    - Psychologically unprepared
    - **Disunity among Left & Right** but both against a war
      - Left due to USSR-Gr NAP1939
      - Right wingers admired Hitler & wanted truce. Why to fight a war when Poles already defeated.
    - **Slow Troop Mobilisation:** Mechanized divisions slowed down by infantry that moved along.
    - Fr **neglect of air** support to troops.
    - Only **one front**.

- **Why Axis Powers lost the World War II:**

- » **Raw Material shortage:** Italy & Japan were dependent on imports while Gr was short of rubber, cotton & oil.
- » Dependence on **quick victories** which did not come. **Blitz failed later** due to Br Air Power
- » Allied focussed on Air power & production of **Aircraft Carriers**
- » **Huge resources** of US, USSR & Br Colonies. Russians had moved factories to east of Ural.
- » Axis opened **too many fronts** at same time
- » **Mussolini**
- » **Tactical mistakes**
  - » **Japs** contd producing battleships instead of Aircraft Carriers
  - » **Hitler** didnt plan for Russian winters & neither retreated from Stalingrad at right time.

# Impact of the World War II:

- **Destruction**

- >40 mn died of which half were Russians. Infra destroyed. Ppl uprooted. H's Holocaust <> Jews. Hiroshima Nagasaki.

- **Peace Settlement:**

- Italy lost all colonies.
- USSR took East Czech, parts of Finland & didnt free Baltic states captured during WW2
- Jap surrendered all territories captured in last 90 yrs.
- USSR refused settlement in **Gr & Austria** except that they would remain under Allied occupation while **East Prussia would be divided b/w Poland & USSR**

- **Migration of Germans**

- **Nuclearization**

- **Balance of Power:**

- Lend Lease Act 1941—>to Br debt + another US debt post WW2.
- EU exports declined
- USSR-US emerged as super powers as former had largest army & latter has largest resources.

- 1973 Third World Concept emerged:
- Decolonization
  - Loss of Prestige for colonial powers + Now economically & Militarily weak
  - War aim was fight oppression & fascism
  - Soldiers from colonies exposed to Liberty Democracy Prosperity of West
  - War witnessed Nationalist struggles under Communist leaders
- United Nations 1945