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Describe the key events that led to World War II.

❖ Key events that led to World War II include:

- The rise of fascism in Europe and increasing tensions following World War I contributed to the outbreak of the war. ([http://dbpedia.org/resource/World\\_War\\_II](http://dbpedia.org/resource/World_War_II))
- The invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany on 1 September 1939 is generally considered the start of World War II. ([http://dbpedia.org/resource/World\\_War\\_II](http://dbpedia.org/resource/World_War_II))
- The Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact of August 1939 between Germany and the Soviet Union, which included the partition of Poland and spheres of influence in Eastern Europe, set the stage for conflict. ([http://dbpedia.org/resource/World\\_War\\_II](http://dbpedia.org/resource/World_War_II))
- Germany's subsequent conquests and control over much of continental Europe, along with the formation of the Axis alliance with Italy and Japan, escalated the conflict. ([http://dbpedia.org/resource/World\\_War\\_II](http://dbpedia.org/resource/World_War_II))
- Japan's war with China since 1937 and its attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 brought the United States into the war, expanding the conflict globally. ([http://dbpedia.org/resource/World\\_War\\_II](http://dbpedia.org/resource/World_War_II))

These events, combined with the failure of diplomatic efforts and the aggressive expansionist policies of the Axis powers, led to the global conflict known as World War II. ([http://dbpedia.org/resource/World\\_War\\_II](http://dbpedia.org/resource/World_War_II))

Additional links:

- World War II ([http://dbpedia.org/resource/World\\_War\\_II](http://dbpedia.org/resource/World_War_II))
- Eastern Front (World War II) ([http://dbpedia.org/resource/Eastern\\_Front\\_\(World\\_War\\_II\)](http://dbpedia.org/resource/Eastern_Front_(World_War_II)))

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Who were the warring parties and what were their motives for

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Who were the warring parties and what were their motives for entering the war?

The warring parties in World War II were primarily divided into two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis powers. The Allies included countries such as the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, the United States, and China, among others. The Axis powers mainly consisted of Germany, Italy, and Japan.

The motives for entering the war varied among the parties:

- Germany, under Adolf Hitler, sought territorial expansion and the overturning of the Treaty of Versailles, aiming to establish dominance in Europe.
- Italy, led by Benito Mussolini, pursued the creation of a new Roman Empire.
- Japan aimed to dominate Asia and the Pacific, seeking resources and regional control.
- The United Kingdom and France declared war on Germany following its invasion of Poland, motivated by the defense of sovereignty and opposition to aggression.
- The Soviet Union initially signed a non-aggression pact with Germany but joined the Allies after Germany invaded in 1941, aiming to defend its territory.
- The United States entered the war after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, motivated by defense of its interests and support for democratic nations.

World War II was a total war involving more than 100 million personnel from over 30 countries, with the major participants mobilizing their entire economic, industrial, and scientific capabilities for the war effort. The conflict resulted in 70 to 85 million fatalities, mostly civilians, and included significant events such as the Holocaust and the use of nuclear weapons. The war ended with the defeat of the Axis powers and significant geopolitical changes worldwide. ([http://dbpedia.org/resource/World\\_War\\_II](http://dbpedia.org/resource/World_War_II))

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□ Explain to me in more detail the role of the Axis powers—why are they called the Axis powers?

❖ The Axis powers, originally called the Rome–Berlin Axis, was a military coalition that initiated World War II and fought against the Allies. Its principal members were Nazi Germany, the Kingdom of Italy, and the Empire of Japan. The term "Axis" originated from a protocol signed by Germany and Italy in October 1936, after which Italian leader Benito Mussolini declared that all other European countries would thereafter rotate on the Rome–Berlin axis, thus creating the term "Axis" [[http://dbpedia.org/resource/Axis\\_powers](http://dbpedia.org/resource/Axis_powers)].

The Axis powers were united in their opposition to the Allies but lacked comparable coordination and ideological cohesion. The alliance grew out of diplomatic efforts by Germany, Italy, and Japan to secure their specific expansionist interests in the mid-1930s. The Rome–Berlin Axis became a military alliance in 1939 under the "Pact of Steel,"

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Additional links:

- Axis powers ([http://dbpedia.org/resource/Axis\\_powers](http://dbpedia.org/resource/Axis_powers))
- Collaboration with the Axis powers ([http://dbpedia.org/resource/Collaboration\\_with\\_the\\_Axis\\_powers](http://dbpedia.org/resource/Collaboration_with_the_Axis_powers))
- Hetalia: Axis Powers ([http://dbpedia.org/resource/Hetalia:\\_Axis\\_Powers](http://dbpedia.org/resource/Hetalia:_Axis_Powers))

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Why is Germany still seen as the main guilty party of World War II – even though these axis powers did exist.

Germany, specifically Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler's rule from 1933 to 1945, is often seen as the main guilty party of World War II because it was the instigator of the conflict and responsible for widespread atrocities. Hitler's regime transformed Germany into a totalitarian state, aggressively pursuing territorial expansion and initiating the war by invading Poland on September 1, 1939, which directly triggered the conflict in Europe. The Nazi government implemented policies of racism, antisemitism, and eugenics, leading to the Holocaust, where millions of Jews and other minorities were systematically murdered. Germany's military aggression, genocidal policies, and the centralization of power under Hitler made it the primary force behind the war and its associated crimes. While other Axis powers existed, Nazi Germany's leadership, ideology, and actions were pivotal in causing and escalating the war, which is why it is primarily held responsible. The defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945 ended the regime and led to trials for war crimes, further cementing its role as the main guilty party. ([http://dbpedia.org/resource/Nazi\\_Germany](http://dbpedia.org/resource/Nazi_Germany))

Additional links:

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