

World War II (1939–1945): One-Page Notes

- **Causes:** Treaty of Versailles, rise of fascism in Germany, Italy, Japan; global depression; appeasement of Hitler; failure of the League of Nations.
- **Main Powers:**
 - **Allied Powers:** Britain, France, Soviet Union (joined 1941), United States (joined 1941), China
 - **Axis Powers:** Germany, Italy, Japan
- **Major Events:**
 - 1939: Germany invades Poland; WWII begins.
 - 1940: Fall of France; Battle of Britain.
 - 1941: Operation Barbarossa (Germany invades USSR); Pearl Harbor attack brings US into war.
 - 1942–43: Turning points with battles like Stalingrad (USSR), Midway (Pacific).
 - 1944: D-Day (Allied invasion of Normandy, France).
 - 1945: Germany surrenders (May); atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Japan surrenders (August).
- **The Holocaust:** Systematic genocide of 6 million Jews and millions of other minorities by Nazi Germany.
- **Outcomes:**
 - United Nations founded (1945)
 - Cold War begins between US & USSR
 - Europe divided; Germany occupied
 - Decolonization in Asia, Africa
- **Key Leaders:**
 - Allies: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin
 - Axis: Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Emperor Hirohito
- **Significance:** Deadliest conflict in history (60M+ deaths); huge changes in technology, world politics, society.

[Sources: "World War II." *History.com Editors*,
<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/world-war-ii-history>]