

The Axis Tripartite Background Guide



Agenda: Allied Invasion of Sicily

Chair: Mridula Kumar

Vice-Chair: Avyay M Casheekar

Moderator: Sourabh H Dahale

Table of Contents

| <i>Sl.No</i> | <i>Topic Covered</i> | <i>Page no.(s)</i> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | Introduction | 1 |
| 2 | Procedure Of Cabinet Simulation | 2 |
| 3 | Major Events Before the Allied Invasion | 3 |
| 4 | Questions To Consider | 4 |
| 5 | Committee Portfolios | 5 - 10 |
| 6 | Some Important Terms | 11 |
| 7 | Bibliography | 12 |

Introduction

Operation Husky, as the Invasion of Sicily was called, was the first major Allied assault on Axis- occupied Europe. With the successful Operation Torch (in North Africa) behind them, more resources were becoming available for amphibious landings in the Mediterranean. Since the Allies were still not strong enough to invade

Normandy and take it back from the Germans, the next logical step was to force Italy out of the war. Thus, plans were prepared to invade what Churchill called the ‘soft underbelly of Europe’ via Sicily.

Though the Axis suspected such an invasion, an Allied deception plan had the Germans convinced that Greece or Sardinia Piedmont were the most likely targets. In April 1943, a month before the Allied victory in North Africa, German agents recovered the body of a British Royal Marine pilot from the waters off a Spanish beach.

Documents in an attaché case handcuffed to the officer’s wrist provided a goldmine of intelligence about the Allies’ secret plans, and German agents quickly sent the documents up the chain of command where they soon reached German leader Adolf Hitler. Hitler studied the captured plans carefully, and, taking full advantage of their top-secret details, directed his troops and ships to reinforce the islands of Sardinia and Corsica, west of Italy, against an impending Allied invasion. There was only one problem: The recovered body – which was not a Royal Marine but actually a homeless man from Wales who had committed suicide—and its documents, were an elaborate British diversion called Operation Mincemeat. By the time Hitler redirected his troops in the summer of 1943, a massive Allied invasion force was sailing to Sicily. With all their resources concentrated at

Greece and Sardinia, not a single convoy approaching Sicily was targeted by Axis planes.

The Invasion changed the course of the war. It started on 9 July 1943, and by 8 September 1943, Italy had completely capitulated, and its dictator Benito Mussolini had been displaced from his seat of power. A coup d’état lost him his position as Duce on 24 July 1943, and he was arrested the next day on 5 July 1943. He was replaced by Marshal Pietro Badoglio, who negotiated the Italian armistice.

Procedure of Cabinet Simulation:

1. Delegates have the responsibility of negotiating a unified military strategy, and also addressing the crises in the multinational war effort.
2. The committee will be very fast-paced and deal with many crises. Thus, it is important for all the delegates to stick to their portfolios' policies and alliances.
3. The delegates will constantly be updated of the date/year. That being said, time will not be consistent in the committee. While some sessions may represent months, others could represent just days.
4. Delegates are allowed to send directives and portfolio actions. But remember that the EB has the final say over all portfolio actions, and are not under any obligations to accept it.
5. The committee will be starting on 1st of July 1943, almost a week before the Allied invasion of Sicily. Many members of this committee had suspected the incoming invasion, and this small gap between the start date and the invasion date serves as an opportunity to discuss battle strategies and gauge alliances. However any events after the Sicilian Invasion will be determined by the committee. Please note that the Allied Invasion of Sicily cannot be prevented in the timeline of the committee. However, its consequences can be altered by the committee.
6. Other than the Invasion of Sicily, the committee will also be dealing with other fronts of the war.
7. Laptops, phones and any gadgets invented after 1943 are not allowed in the committee. It's 1943.

Major Events before the Allied invasion

Below is a timeline of events up to 9 July 1943. Please note that this is an extremely basic timeline; delegates are expected to research the timeline at a deeper level during their research, particularly with regards to their portfolios' nation.

1942:

January 1, 1942 - Declaration of the United Nations signed by 26 Allied nations.

April 23, 1942 - German air raids begin against cathedral cities in Britain.

May 8, 1942 - German summer offensive begins in the Crimea.

June, 1942 - Mass murder of Jews by gassing begins at Auschwitz.

July 9, 1942 - Germans begin a drive toward Stalingrad in the USSR.

July 22, 1942 - First deportations from the Warsaw Ghetto to concentration camps; Treblinka extermination camp opened.

November 8, 1942 - Operation Torch begins (U.S. invasion of North Africa).

December 17, 1942 - British Foreign Secretary Eden tells the British House of Commons of mass executions of Jews by Nazis; U.S. declares those crimes will be avenged.

1943:

January 10, 1943 - Soviets begin an offensive against the Germans in Stalingrad.

January 14-24 - Casablanca conference between Churchill and Roosevelt. During the conference, Roosevelt announces the war can end only with "unconditional German surrender."

February 18, 1943 - Nazis arrest White Rose resistance leaders in Munich.

May 13, 1943 - German and Italian troops surrender in North Africa.

May 16, 1943 - Jewish resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto ends.

June 10, 1943 - 'Pointblank' directive to improve Allied bombing strategy issued.

June 11, 1943 - Himmler orders the liquidation of all Jewish ghettos in Poland.

July 9, 1943- The Allies begin their invasion of Sicily

Questions to Consider

Questions for the committee:

1. What are the possible strategies that the Axis forces could take against the Allies? What would be more effective- military confrontations or peace talks? What are the pros and cons of each method?
2. Currently, the Allied forces are carrying out multiple invasions and confrontations on Axis territory. What are the prominent regions that the Axis forces should focus on? How can each Axis nation have the best militaristic and economic advantage?
3. Apart from militaristic problems during the war, there are countless humanitarian problems too. What humane measures can the generals take this while fighting the strategic battles?

Questions for each delegate:

1. What is the delegate's main purpose during the war? Is it your own country's glory, or to see a fascist world? Or is your role to be self-serving?
2. How will the delegates overcome each nation's differences to cooperate together? What should be done to prevent militaristic or economic dominance of one country?

Committee Portfolios

German Members:

Adolf Hitler

He was the leader of the Nazi Party and was the Führer of Germany from 1934 to 1945. He played the biggest role in World War II, by initiating it with the invasion of Poland in 1939. A seeker of lebensraum, he took aggressive measures to maintain it. Hitler realized the significance of the alliance between the three nations. He always worked for a stronger and more trusting alliance.

Albert Kesselring

He was one of the most skillful commanders of Nazi Germany. He served on both fronts during World War I - Western and Eastern. He was unflinchingly loyal to Hitler. Under his command, his troops massacred citizens in Italy. He was one of the most accomplished Axis generals of World War II. He was the commander of the Air Force during the German attacks on Poland and France.

Alfred Jodl

He was a highly decorated German general. In August of 1939, as a general major, he became Chief of Operation Staff of the High Command of the Armed Forces, essentially Hitler's liaison between the Wehrmacht, or armed forces, and the puppet Nazi Cabinet. He was one the youngest in Hitler's inner circle, and was very innovative and dynamic in his military approach.

Hermann Goering

He was a Nazi leader most famous for his contribution to the establishment of concentration camps. In 1934, Goering's Gestapo and the Nazis' parliamentary regiments, also known as "Schutzstaffel" consolidated Nazi power, quieting any further dissent. Goering's association with Hitler helped him rise to power alongside the Führer and, in 1935, he took command of the German Air Force — a position he held until the end of World War II. He was straightforward and ruthlessly pragmatic, carrying out any of Hitler's requests or wishes without the slightest hesitation.

Joseph Goebbels

He primarily served as the Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda. He was an extremely close and trusted friend of Hitler. In this capacity, Goebbels presented Hitler to the public in the most favorable light, regulating the content of all German media and fomenting anti-Semitism. After the Nazis seized power, Goebbels took control of the national propaganda machinery. He was a passionate Nazi, who believed in the supremacy of the Aryans. He wasn't involved in military operations as much as the rest of the cabinet, but he promoted the war actively through his propaganda.

Wilhelm Keitel

He was a field marshal and one of Hitler's closest and most trusted men, until he opposed Operation Barbarossa. He was an extremely good military tactician, who could predict the outcomes of major battles. He was undermined in the eyes of Hitler for opposing the Soviet Invasion, which was successful in the early stages. He never appeased Hitler, and was outspoken when he believed the German military campaigns were flawed.

Heinrich Himmler

He was the Chief of the German Police for most of World War II. In 1943, Hitler appointed Himmler as the Minister for the Interior. He oversaw the 'Final Solution' - the attempt to exterminate all the Jewish people in Europe - and administered the system of forced labor. Himmler was obsessed with racial purity in Germany.

Eleonore Baur

She was a senior Nazi Party figure, and the only woman to have participated in the Munich Beer Hall Putsch. In 1933, Heinrich Himmler made her the welfare sister for the Waffen-SS at Dachau Concentration Camp. In 1934, she founded the Order of Sisters; in 1937, she became the order's honorary chairwoman. She was made a colonel of the SS and had the liberty to visit concentration camps, particularly Dachau. In a regime which expected women to be the "baby carriers", Baur was a woman with remarkable political power.

Japanese Members:

Hideki Tōjō

He was the general of the Imperial Japanese Army and was the Prime Minister of Japan from 1941 to 1944, and ordered the attack on Pearl Harbour. He pushed for an alliance with Nazi Germany, Italy and supported the formation of a broad political front of national unity. Despite serving as both Prime Minister and Army Minister, he was unable to establish a dictatorship as strong as Hitler or Stalin, given that his country had a powerful monarchy. Tōjō was strongly for the War, and stood by the tripartite alliance during the war.

Emperor Hirohito

He was the Emperor of Japan from 1926 to 1989. He was the Head of State during their involvement in the World War II. Hirohito had strongly advised against war preparations and encouraged negotiations. He publicly disapproved the actions of the Army and Navy generals. The exact extent of his involvement in the war is not known. However, by 1940, the Emperor took a keen interest in the War and sought to boost morale.

Mamoru Shigemitsu

He was the Japanese ambassador to China, Russia, and Britain prior to the war. Towards the end of World War II, he was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan. He favored diplomacy and negotiations and many conciliatory measures over the War so as to prevent further damage. He hoped that such measures would put an early end to the War.

Osami Nagano

He was a Fleet Admiral and General Staff in the Imperial Japanese Navy. He supported the decision to wage war against Great Britain, United States and the Netherlands.

When war broke out, Nagano was put in charge of coordinating and organizing the movements and attacks of the Japanese Navy, the attack on Pearl Harbor in particular.

Tomoyuki Yamashita

He served as a Lieutenant-General from 1937 to 1944. When it was imminent that the Axis Powers were losing the war, he insisted on Japan attaining peace with China and the Allied powers. In 1941, he was put in charge of the Twenty Fifth Army.

Hajime Sugiyama

He was a Japanese field marshal who served, successively, as Chief of the Army General Staff, and Minister of War in the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II. In March 1936, he became the War Minister, and became a full general in November 1936. As war broke out between Japan and China, Sugiyama briefly commanded troops in the field.

Empress Nagako

She was the Empress of Japan and wife to Emperor Hirohito. She played more of an advisory role to the Emperor and is said to have had a major influence in his decisions. She was a staunch imperialist who followed the traditions of the monarchy without fail.

Italian Members:

Benito Mussolini

Mussolini was originally a Socialist, but he left that ideology after he supported the Italian involvement in World War I. He founded the Fascist Party (widely known as the 'Black Shirts'), and the party terrorised all their political opponents. In 1925, he presented himself to the King, and was subsequently allowed to form a government. Mussolini immediately dismantled the existing government and declared himself dictator (Duce). In his reign, he made Italy a puppet regime of Nazi Germany.

Victor Emmanuel III

Victor was the king of Italy from 29 July, 1900 to 9 May, 1946 and King of Ethiopia and Albania after they were invaded. Though he was a monarch, he was committed to constitutional laws, refusing imposition of Martial law on the suggestion of the Prime Minister. After the March of Rome in 1922, he appointed Mussolini as Prime Minister. After the Sicilian Invasion, he supported Mussolini's arrest when a Motion of No Confidence was passed by the Grand Council of Fascism, and appointed Pietro Badoglio as the Prime Minister. He keenly encouraged an armistice with the Allies.

Galeazzo Ciano

He was Mussolini's son-in-law. Ciano and his father took part in the March of Rome. During Mussolini's reign, he accumulated wealth through a lot of unethical business deals. He went against Mussolini in the end

because he didn't support the commitment of the Italian Army with Germany when they were gearing up to invade Poland.

Dino Grandi

He was with Mussolini in the March on Rome in 1925. He became the Undersecretary of the Interior in Mussolini's fascist government. He was Ambassador to the UK from 1932 to 1939, but became the Minister for Justice after, on Hitler's insistence, because he wanted to negotiate for peace with the Allies. In the course of history, Grandi was the one who paved the way to Italian resistance against Mussolini.

Mario Roatta

Roatta is known for his leading the Italian Second Army in regressions against Yugoslavia. Through Circular 3C, he ordered summary executions, hostage taking, reprisals, internments, burning of houses and whole villages, and the deportation of 25,000 people, who were placed in Italian concentration camps. It is estimated that he was chiefly responsible for the ethnic killing of over 1 million people in Yugoslavia

Piera Gatteschi Fondelli

A veteran of the March on Rome with the first female fascist groups, Piera Gatteschi Fondelli became a leader of the female fascist youth organizations and finally the Commander in Chief of the SAF, the RSI Army Female Auxiliary Service, with the rank of General of Brigade. She held the highest military rank for a woman in Italy during World War II.

Ugo Cavallero

Cavallero was a committed Fascist, who was involved in business and diplomatic enterprising throughout the late 1920s and 1930s. He became the Chief of Staff of the Italian Army in 1940, and was removed from this post after Mussolini's fall. During his tenure as Chief of Staff, he was involved in unsuccessful war campaigns- the Greco-Italian War and African Campaign.

Vittorio Ambrosio

He was the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Italian Army. After Mussolini's fall, he replaced Ugo Cavallero as Chief of Staff after Mussolini's fall. Before that, he was a commander of the Italian Second Army during the

Yugoslav Invasion. He was closer to the King than he was to Mussolini, and negotiated the Italian armistice with Eisenhower.

Rodolfo Graziani

Graziani was an important in Mussolini's inner circle. He made a reputation for himself during the interwar years in the military and political scene. Though he was defeated when Italy tried to invade Egypt, Graziani remained valued by Mussolini. When Mussolini was ousted in September 1943, he was one of the few people who remained loyal to Mussolini.

Alfredo Guzzoni

Guzzoni was the military officer who commanded the Italian 6th Army in Sicily. Guzzoni knew the invasion was coming and tried his best to prepare. Not only was Sicily short on supplies, it was also short of trained men. He relied on the Germans to equip him, and while they did reinforce one division (as they believed Greece or Sardinia were more likely to be targeted), Guzzoni was not prepared enough for the Allied landings.

Arturo Riccardi

During the war he was appointed as the Chief of Staff of the Navy. Riccardi then became de facto commander of the existing Ministries for wartime Aviation and Naval forces. Riccardi fought the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom at the Battle of Taranto during World War II. Though he had poor knowledge of Naval and Air power, and failed to adequately protect his fleet in Taranto, he was promoted and favoured. When Mussolini was removed from power, he was also replaced.

Some Important Terms

- **Lebensraum-** Living space required for the Nazi Germany to progress. It was a critical component of their policies.
- **Schutzstaffel-** More commonly known as SS, was initially a security service which rose to become one of the most powerful bodies in Nazi Germany.
- **Final Solution-** Step by step process to exterminate Jews as outlined by the Nazi party
- **Fascism-** form of radical authoritarian nationalism, characterized by dictatorial power, forcible suppression of opposition and a belief in uniting racially 'pure' people under a single genetic banner
- **Anti-Semitism-** It is the hostility towards or discrimination against Jews (religious group).
- **March on Rome-** The March on Rome, which took place in 1922, came about as part of a drive to establish Mussolini and his Fascist Party as the key political party in Italy.
- **Operation Torch-** Operation Torch was the invasion of west North Africa to prevent the Germans taking control of the territories occupied by the French. Torch was an American led operation with substantial UK support.

Bibliography

1. www.biography.com
2. www.history.com
3. www.nationalww2museum.org
4. <https://ww2db.com/event/timeline/1943>
5. <http://www.euronet.nl/users/wilfried/ww2/ww2.htm>
6. http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/wwii.asp
7. <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2>
8. Proverbs 18:13

The background guide is just a preliminary overview of your research. The topics you must know begins with this, but is not limited to it.