**Key Moments leading up to and during The Invasion of Poland.**

* Early 1939 Poland rejects offer to become a German client state.
* Germany renounces existing non-aggression pact with Poland.
* Polish leaders reject alliance with Soviet Union because they feared Communist regime.
  + Commander in Chief of Poland Edward Rydz-Smigly response “ With the Germans we run the risk of losing our liberty. With the Russians we will lose our soul.”
  + Poland believed they had full support and security from British and French alliance.
  + Poland wasn’t allowed to fully mobilize its army due to conditions in the British French alliance agreement.
* Germany and Soviet Union sign a non- aggression pact on August 23, 1939.
* September 1, 1939 Germany invades Poland without a formal declaration of war.
  + Germans claim the polish troops attacked first.
  + Initial assault was quick and decisive.
* Poland’s forces are spread very thin because they are guarding 3 of their 4 boarders.
  + Polish propaganda comforted its citizens assured that the battle was not serious and the British and French were coming to their aid.
* Germans attacked undefended polish towns with dive bombers far away from the front line.
* Estimated Military strength
  + German military = 1.5 million men.
  + Polish military = 1.2 million men.(Poland’s army was less modern as well)
* September 3, 1939 UK and France declare war on Germany but stay home.
* Polish army is controlled by one man (Edward Rydz-Smigly).
* All young men polish reservists ordered to evacuate Warsaw in order to preserve them for when the French and British arrive.
* September 3 Polish boarder defenses completely broken.
  + Most major cities are taken by September 6.
  + Polish government evacuates including Edward Rydz-Smigly.
* September 9, Germans begin siege of Warsaw.
  + City president Stefan Starzynski refuses to evacuate and creates order with remaining citizens.
  + Starzynski gave daily broadcasts to increase civilian moral.
  + He also instructed the common people to construct barricades and to prepare to defend Warsaw.
  + He later becomes the leader of the polish underground.
* Soviet Union invades Poland September 17. No longer recognizes Poland as an independent state.
* Warsaw is conquered September 28, 1939
* Estimated death toll of 5.7 million polish citizens died as a result of German occupation.