

World War II: Global Conflict (1939–1945)

I. Causes of World War II

- **A. Treaty of Versailles (1919)**
 - Harsh reparations on Germany
 - Territorial losses
 - War guilt clause (Article 231)
- **B. Rise of Totalitarian Regimes**
 - **Germany:** Adolf Hitler, Nazi ideology, Lebensraum
 - **Italy:** Benito Mussolini, Fascism
 - **Japan:** Militarism, Emperor Hirohito, expansionism in Asia
- **C. Failure of Appeasement**
 - Munich Agreement (1938)
 - Policy of Neville Chamberlain
- **D. Weakness of the League of Nations**
 - No enforcement power
 - U.S. non-participation
- **E. Economic Instability**
 - Great Depression impact globally
 - Rise in nationalism and extremism

II. Major Theaters of War

- **A. European Theater**

- German invasion of Poland (1939)
- Blitzkrieg in Western Europe (1940)
- Battle of Britain (1940)
- Operation Barbarossa (1941)
- D-Day / Normandy Invasion (1944)
- Fall of Berlin and German surrender (May 1945)

- **B. Pacific Theater**

- Attack on Pearl Harbor (Dec 7, 1941)
- Battle of Midway (1942)
- Island-hopping campaign
- Battle of Iwo Jima and Okinawa
- Atomic bombs on Hiroshima & Nagasaki (Aug 1945)

- **C. North African Theater**

- Operation Torch
- Battle of El Alamein

- **D. Eastern Front**

- Siege of Leningrad
- Battle of Stalingrad (turning point)

- **E. Home Fronts**

- Mobilization of economies
- Rationing and propaganda

- War bonds and industrial output
-

III. Key Players

- **A. Allied Powers**

- United States (FDR, Truman)
- United Kingdom (Churchill)
- Soviet Union (Stalin)
- France (Charles de Gaulle)
- China (Chiang Kai-shek)

- **B. Axis Powers**

- Germany (Hitler)
- Italy (Mussolini)
- Japan (Hirohito, Tojo)

- **C. Resistance Movements**

- French Resistance
 - Polish Underground
 - Yugoslav Partisans
-

IV. Major Events & Turning Points

- **A. 1939**

- Invasion of Poland

- Britain and France declare war
- **B. 1940**
 - Fall of France
 - Dunkirk evacuation
 - Battle of Britain
- **C. 1941**
 - Germany invades USSR
 - Pearl Harbor attack
- **D. 1942**
 - Battle of Midway (Pacific turning point)
 - El Alamein (North Africa turning point)
- **E. 1943**
 - Italy surrenders
 - Tehran Conference
- **F. 1944**
 - D-Day (June 6)
 - Liberation of Paris
- **G. 1945**
 - Yalta & Potsdam Conferences
 - Hitler's suicide
 - V-E Day (May 8)
 - Atomic bombings

- V-J Day (Sept 2)

V. Aftermath & Legacy

- **A. Human Cost**

- 70–85 million dead
- Holocaust: 6 million Jews killed

- **B. Political Impact**

- United Nations founded (1945)
- Start of the Cold War
- Division of Germany

- **C. War Crimes & Trials**

- Nuremberg Trials
- Tokyo Trials

- **D. Decolonization**

- India, Africa, Southeast Asia push for independence

- **E. Economic Recovery**

- Marshall Plan
- Bretton Woods system