

Attempts to Make and Keep Peace - The Paris Peace Conference and The League of Nations

World War 1

Why did World War 1 Occur?

- Alliances
- Arms and naval race
- Clash over **Austro-Hungarian annexation of Bosnia in 1908**
- Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary

Impacts of the War

| Country | Impact of the Country | Mindset of People |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Germany | The Kaiser's government lost control of the country. The Kaiser was overthrown in a revolution. | Did not believe their army lost the war |
| Austria-Hungary | Austria-Hungary collapsed and broke up into many different countries. | People in their new countries developed a new sense of nationalism |
| Britain | WW1 had been costly in terms of lives and money | Wanted to focus on rebuilding its economy and strengthening its empire. |
| France | Most was affected by the war. Lost many lives. Large parts of its industrial regions were devastated. | Wanted revenge on Germany. Ensure Germany could not threaten France again. |

| Country | Impact of the Country | Mindset of People |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Russia | Tsar was overthrown in March 1917 and replaced by a Provincial Government. In November 1917, Provincial Government was overthrown by the Communist, Bolshevik Party, as led by Vladimir Lenin. Civil war breaks out between the Bolsheviks and its opposition, collectively known as the Whites. In 1922, the USSR wins the Civil War. | Sought increased equality, hence the revolutions. Tired of war. Desire to spread communism. |
| United States of America | Became the world's greatest power due to the sale of weapons during the war. Lost many lives. | Did not believe the lost American lives were worth it. Developed isolationist mindset. |
| Japan | Did not take part in the major fighting. Did not suffer damage from the war and was able to focus on allowing it to increase its wealth and power | Increasing power made them feel that Japan was the equal of the European powers. Felt Japan deserved an empire just like the European powers. |

Paris Peace Conference

Context for the Paris Peace Conference

- Public Sentiment of Allies in 1919
- The Treaty of **Brest-Litovsk**

Aims of the Big Three

Woodrow Wilson

- 14 Points
- Germany
- Self-Determination

Lloyd George

- Protect Britain
- Rebuild the British economy
- Maintain the British Empire

Clemenceau

- Ensure Germany could not wage war against France again
 - Wanted to break up Germany

Compromises

- No German breakup, reparations instead
- Self-determination

Key Terms of the Treaty of Versailles

- War Guilt Clause
- Reparations
- Territory Changes
- Limit on armed forces/Disarmament
- Formation of League of Nations

Germany's Reaction

- Saw it as a diktat
- Sources of resentment
 - War Guilt Clause
 - Reparations
 - Territory Changes
 - Limit on armed forces/Disarmament
 - Formation of League of Nations

Impact of the Treaty of Versailles

Short Term

- Fostered the *Dolchstoß*"stabbed in the back" theory
- Bitterness against the new democratic system

Medium Term

- Political crisis
- Economic Crisis
 - Hyperinflation in the early 1920s

Long Term

- Became a lingering source of resentment

Impact of other treaties

- Four other treaties were signed at the Paris Peace Conference
 - The Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye reinforced the Treaty of Versailles prohibition on *Anschluss*

Judgments on the Paris Peace Conference

and the Treaty of Versailles

Was the Treaty of Versailles Too Harsh on Germany?

Yes

- Disarmament
 - Left it unable to protect itself
- Territorial
 - Brest-Litvosk was harsher to Russia than the TOV was on Germany → The Big 3 was kinder to Germany than it was to Russia
- War Guilt Clause
 - Unfair because Germany was only responding to Russian mobilisation when it did so at the start of WW1
- Reparations
 - Leads to hyperinflation in 1920s
 - Leads to greater suffering during the Great Depression
- Built resentment towards the Big 3
 - Rise of Hitler

No

- Leadership
 - Leadership was not removed/executed/tried → Experience (especially of military leaders) was retained
- Territorial
 - It is relatively characteristic of treaties of that time
 - But times had changed thanks to ideas like the 14 points and nationalism
 - Germans believed that it was too harsh
 - Germany was not split apart

League of Nations

Aims of the League

Collective Security

- "An attack against one is an attack against all"
- To achieve world peace through **international cooperation**
- League members would bind themselves to the League's Covenant and would...
 - Disarm
 - Bring disputes to the League and accept its decisions
- If a member broke the Covenant
 - Economic sanctions
 - Military action

Disarmament

- Aim: to **reduce the ability of countries to wage war**
- To be achieved through international agreements
- E.g. TOV required Germany and her allies to disarm; Allied Powers also required to disarm.

Other Aims

- Promote open, fair and honourable relations between nations (prevent alliance systems / secret treaties)
- Lay out system of international law
- Maintain, modify treaties between nations

Structure of the League

- General Assembly
 - Parliament
 - Met once annually
- The Council
 - 4 Permanent Members (Britain, France, Italy and Japan)
 - 4 (later 9) temporary members elected by GA
- Agencies and Commissions
 - Means through which the League tackled medical, economic and humanitarian issues.
- The Secretariat
 - Handled day-to-day operations
 - Prepared agendas and published meeting minutes
- Permanent Court of Justice
 - 15 Judges in the Hague, Netherlands
 - Settled international disputes

The End of WW2 in Europe and the Asia-Pacific

Key Developments: WWII in Europe, 1939-1945

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 - **Fall of France**
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Introduction

World War 2 began...

- **Europe:** in **September 1939** with the German invasion of Poland
- **Asia-Pacific:** Japan began its expansion in China in **1937**
- By the time the United States joined the war in the Asia-Pacific in **1941**, it had become a **total war** with fighting on land, at sea and in the air.
 - Total war:
 - War with no limits on weapons used and resources mobilised
 - No differentiation between military and civilian targets
 - Historians estimate that around **75 million people**, mostly civilians, died during the war. Thus, it is considered the most devastating conflict in history.

Overview

September 1939: Invasion of Poland

- Germany invades Poland was divided between Germany and the USSR by the end of the month

May and June 1940

- Germany began a six-week “Lightning War” or Blitzkrieg. This results in the **conquest of Belgium, France and the Netherlands.**

July 1940

- Germany began intensive bombing, known as the Blitz, in the **Battle of Britain.**

July 1941

- German troops invaded the USSR in **Operation Barbarossa**
 - This used up the main German forces and drew aircraft away from the Battle of the Atlantic.
 - It also drew land forces away from other theatres of war.

Operation Barbarossa

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- It also drew land forces away from other theatres of war.

August 1942–February 1943: The USSR counterattacked German forces at Stalingrad.

- The Siege of Stalingrad was one of the deadliest battles in history.
- This battle, where the German forces were defeated by the USSR, is regarded as a turning point in WWII.

July–August 1943: Battle of Kursk

- Germany launched an attack on the Soviet city of Kursk
- Resulted in one of the largest tank battles in history. Soviet forces were able to halt and counter German attacks.

June 1944:

- The Allies launched **Operation Overlord**, also known as D-Day. Allied troops landed in Normandy (in France) and began a slow advance across France and towards Germany.

April 1945:

- **The Allies enters Berlin** and Hitler committed suicide thereafter.

May 1945:

- **Germany surrenders**

Key Developments: WWII in Europe, 1939-1945 - Blitzkrieg

- Germany quickly extended its control into Europe in the early phases of the war
 - E.g. Shortly after occupying Poland, Germany invaded and occupied Norway, Finland, Belgium, the Netherlands and France by 1940.
- This was largely due to its successful use of blitzkrieg, which means “lightning war”.
 - Blitzkrieg was a swift and focused attack using mobile forces, such as armoured tanks and air support, to overwhelm the enemies
- Germany used blitzkrieg tactics because its economy lacked important resources such as copper, rubber and oil, and could not support long drawn-out campaigns, military stalemates and trench warfare.
 - In trench warfare, troops attack and defend from trenches that are dug into the ground. This type of warfare often resulted in stalemates between both sides, which would prolong the war and lead to a high number of deaths.
- While blitzkrieg brought Germany a lot of initial success, the situation would change.

Key Developments: WWII in Europe, 1939-1945 - Changing fortunes for Germany

- In June 1941, Germany declared war on the USSR.
 - The USSR proved to be a formidable foe, pressuring the Germans from the Eastern Front
 - In military terms, a front refers to the area of conflict between opposing armies engaged in battle.
- To make matters worse, the United States entered the war in late 1941 and bolstered the Allied forces from the Western Front.
- In June 1944, the Allies landed in Normandy (in France) and invaded Germany on March 1945.

Fall of France, 1940

Fall of France

- In May 1940, the Germans attacked France.
 - The French had a larger army and air force
 - They were further supported by the British Expeditionary Force and Royal Air Force (RAF).
 - Despite this, the French were unable to resist German attack.
- By late May, the British and French were surrounded and facing total defeat.
 - They retreated to the Channel coast in the region around the port of Dunkirk. The Allied armies were highly vulnerable and could have been destroyed.
 - However, some of Hitler’s generals felt that there was a need to slow down to consolidate the German forces to not leave themselves vulnerable to attacks. Thus, Hitler ordered the German forces to stop.
- France surrendered and fell into the hands of Germany in June. It was a massive

victory for Germany and revenge for its defeat in 1918.

- Hitler was delighted when he heard the news of the victory as he had previously fought in the German army against the French during WWI.

Battle of Britain, 1940

Battle of Britain

- Having defeated France, Hitler turned his attention to Britain.
- The German air force (Luftwaffe) carried out large-scale attacks against Britain's RAF to achieve air superiority.
- This lasted from September 1940 to May 1941, although bombing continued throughout the war.
 - The Germans later turned to British cities, bombing them in a campaign known as the Blitz.
- The Blitz caused huge losses of life and great damage to houses, docks, warehouses and factories.
 - Despite the losses, the British kept a grim willingness to carry on with the war effort and did not surrender to the Germans.

Operation Barbarossa, 1941

- Hitler and Stalin had signed the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact in August 1939, agreeing not to go to war and to split Poland between the two of them.
 - However, this agreement would not last.
 - Hitler had always wanted to destroy communism and expand Germany's territory into Eastern Europe and the USSR.
 - Occupying the USSR would also give Germany access to the USSR's vast resources such as oil.
- In June 1941, Germany launched Operation Barbarossa.
- Initially, Germany seemed successful. Stalin was on the verge of abandoning Moscow in September 1941.
- However, the Germans were not able to overwhelm the USSR fast enough, and the harsh winter halted the German advance.
 - Stalin used that time to reorganise the Soviet war effort.
 - Coupled with the extensive resources provided by the US Lend-Lease scheme, the reorganisation enabled the USSR to turn around and put up a strong resistance against the Germans on the Eastern Front.
 - E.g. Around 90 percent of German casualties in WWII were on the Eastern Front against the USSR.

Operation Overlord: D-Day, 1944

- As the Germans and the Soviets were engaged in various major battles, the Allies sought to liberate France.
 - However, the Germans had been in France since 1940 and had strong fortifications. i.e. [the Atlantic Wall](#)

- It was a high-risk undertaking, but the start of Operation Overlord, also known as D-Day, was nonetheless fixed for 6 June 1944.
 - On this day, the combined Allied forces landed on the heavily fortified coasts of France's Normandy region.

Key Developments: WWII in the Asia-Pacific

Strengths of the Allies

Victory in Europe

- By 1944, it was clear that Germany was on verge of losing the war in Europe.
 - The Soviets were able to stop the German advance, and they also reversed their fortunes with a huge victory in Stalingrad in early 1943.
 - Operation Overlord had opened a second front that Germany could ill afford
- Although Germany fought back hard
 - E.g. They carried out a counterattack in December 1944 through the Ardennes Forest (located in the southeast of Belgium), they were steadily driven back.
 - E.g. They put some remarkable new equipment into action, including guided missiles and jet aircraft, but none of them could stop the Allies' advance.
- The Germans were forced to retreat, and by January 1945, the Soviet troops had encircled Berlin.
 - Hitler withdrew to his underground bunker, where he continued meeting his military generals and close subordinates such as Goering, Himmler and Goebbels to give orders to them.
- On 30 April 1945, facing imminent defeat by the Allies, Hitler committed suicide.
- After much fighting, the US and British forces met up with Soviet forces at the River Elbe in Germany, and the war in Europe was over when Germany formally surrendered on 8 May 1945.

Turning Points in History

A Why to Weigh Factors

- A turning point in History would involve a shift in the nature of change. This could be in terms of the:
 - **Pace of Change:** things could start developing at a much faster pace, or slow down to a crawl; or
 - **Direction of Change:** developments could shift from mostly negative to mostly positive, or vice versa, for example.

WWII in Asia-Pacific

Introduction

In the Asia-Pacific, Japan had been aggressive in its expansion since its invasion of Manchuria in 1931

- Japan continued its expansion into China in 1937 when it attacked and occupied areas such as Shanghai, Wuhan and Nanjing (also known as the Second Sino-Japanese War).
 - Although Japan was not successful in occupying the whole of China, it was able to exploit the natural resources and manpower of the areas they occupied to support their war efforts.
- From 1941, Japan advanced into parts of the Pacific region. It was a massive conflict, fought over a vast territory and involving millions of allied troops.

Overview

1. July 1937: Japan launched a full-scale invasion of China, occupying cities such as Shanghai, Wuhan and Nanjing, after the Marco Polo Bridge Incident
 2. September 1940: Occupation of French Indochina by the Japanese after the fall of France.
 3. December 1941: Japan disabled much of the US fleet at Pearl Harbour when it launched a surprise attack.
 1. Simultaneously, Japan launched attacks on Malaya, the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies
 2. The United States declared war on Japan
 4. January-May 1942: Japan completed its invasion of Malay, the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines.
 5. June 1942: The American fleet destroyed four Japanese aircraft carriers and 300 aircraft in the Battle of Midway and all their experienced aircraft carrier pilots die.
 6. August 1942-June 1945: The US forces pushed back the Japanese forces island by island despite fierce resistance in a campaign of island-hopping
 7. August 1945
 1. The USSR declares war on Japan and invades Japanese-occupied Manchuria
 2. Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
 3. Japan surrenders unconditionally thereafter.
- Japan was initially successful after attacking Pearl Harbour in the United States in December 1941.
 - By the start of 1942, Japan had occupied many territories in the Asia-Pacific including Malaya, the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines.
 - While the United States had formally entered WWII in 1941, the Allies had agreed to prioritise the defeat of Germany.
 - Nevertheless, the Allies continued to resist the Japanese and from May 1942, the Japanese were gradually driven out of the territories they had conquered.
 - When Germany finally surrendered in May 1945, Japan faced the Allies alone and would eventually be defeated by September 1945.

Attack on Pearl Harbour, 1941

- Japan attacked Pearl Harbour in 1941:

- It was a devastating attack that ended in near total success for the Japanese
- US intelligence failed to warn the US forces, and Japanese planes from aircraft carriers achieved almost complete surprise against the American forces.
- The attack lasted around 90 minutes
 - 2000 military personnel lost
- Three days after Pearl Harbour, Japanese forces sank the most powerful British battleships in the Pacific region, the Prince of Wales and the Repulse.
 - As a result...
 - “There were no British or American capital ships in the Indian Ocean or the Pacific. Over this vast expanse of waters, Japan was supreme and everywhere we were weak and naked.”
- However, in the long run, Pearl Harbour did not prove to be as decisive as the Japanese thought
 - The United States was able to recover quickly within a few months and retaliate against Japan
 - The outrage over the surprise attack allowed US President Roosevelt to rally the country. The United States was now probably more united and organised than it has ever been to declare war on Japan.
 - Now the country's huge resources were directed towards the war
 - E.g. The US shipyards quickly constructed new ships, especially aircraft carriers
 - On a tactical level, there was also some comfort for the US navy, as its aircraft carriers during the attack.
 - Japan had made a massive error: they failed to hunt down and destroy the carriers, which the United States continued to use throughout 1942.
 - This meant that Japan did not gain control of the Pacific as they had hoped.

Battle of Midway, 1942

- The decisive battle came at Midway in June 1942
 - During this battle, the Japanese lost four of their Japanese carriers and nearly three-quarters of their experienced pilots
 - This negatively affected their naval and air defence capabilities for the rest of the war
 - Furthermore, Japan remained weakened as it could not match the output of the US shipyards and aircraft factories.

Defeat of Japan and the Atomic Bomb

Island-hopping

- After the battle of Midway, the United States and its allies gradually drove the Japanese back across the Pacific from the territories they had taken. They used a strategy known as **island-hopping**
 - The US island-hopping strategy led to several key victories between 1942 and 1945, such as in the battle to regain the Philippines, which continued to weaken the Japanese military
 - Japan's resources became severely overstretched and it was not able to defend the entire empire.

- The Japanese fought fanatically for each island in the Pacific and each territory in China and Burma
- Soon, the war reached a pivotal stage in 1945, with US air raids on Japanese soil, such as the bombing of Tokyo.
- In April 1945 British and US forces took the island of Okinawa
 - The Allies had to kill or capture every one of the 100,000 Japanese soldiers defending the island - none of them would surrender
 - Allied ships had also been badly damaged by Japanese kamikaze suicide bombers, who crashed their planes deliberately into them.
 - These attacks were used as a last resort by the Japanese
 - Although Japan was being pushed back, it came at great cost for the Allies

The Atomic Bombings, August 1945

- By May 1945, the United States was confident of winning the war eventually.
 - Nonetheless, after Roosevelt's death in April 1945, the new president, Harry Truman, was faced with the prospect of a year or more of heavy casualties. US troops would have to beat back the Japanese island by island, and then invade Japan itself.
 - However, there was an alternative. An international team of scientists in the United States, working on what was known as the Manhattan Project, had just perfected the world's first atomic bomb
- In the end, Truman decided to use the bombs without warning.
 - He accepted military advice to drop two bombs in quick succession. This was to convince the Japanese that the United States had a large stockpile of the weapons, which it did not.
- On 6 August 1945, the American bomber, Enola Gay, dropped a five-ton atomic bomb, nicknamed "Little Boy" over the city of Hiroshima
- On 9 August 1945, the United States dropped a second atomic bomb, nicknamed "Fat Man", over the city of Nagasaki.
- Both instances of dropping the atomic bombs caused appalling damage and horrific casualties, and reduced the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to ruins.
 - They also left a legacy of cancer and other radiation-related diseases among the survivors.

| | Hiroshima | Nagasaki |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Total Population | 255,000 | 195,000 |
| Dead | 66,000 | 39,000 |
| Injured | 69,000 | 25,000 |
| Total Casualties | 135,000 | 64,000 |

- Japanese Emperor Hirohito and most of his government told the army to surrender after the Nagasaki bomb.
 - However, some of the military leaders disagreed with the Emperor's proposed actions and attempted to overthrow the Emperor and continue the war instead.
 - This proved to many people on the Allied side that the decision to use the bombs was right.
 - The Emperor's will prevailed, and Japan surrendered on 14 August 1945.

Historical Interpretations

- Historians can have different interpretations of the past, even though they may be examining the same historical event or period.
- **Factors can Explain Differences in Historical Interpretations**
 - These factors include:
 - Differences in the questions historians ask about the past
 - The different sources that historians can draw upon to help them reach their interpretations and
 - Differences in the way historians make sense and meaning of the past
- To make sense of differing interpretations and decide which are acceptable, and which one we prefer, you can consider the following:
 - What claims are being made in the interpretations?
 - What evidence is being used to support these claims?
 - What the context in which these interpretations were made is?

Historical Interpretations

- E.g. of such differences...

Few actions in war are morally justifiable. All a commander or political leader can hope to assess is whether a particular course of action is likely to reduce the loss of life. Faced with the Japanese refusal to surrender, President Truman had little choice.

His decision was mainly based on the estimate of half a million Allied casualties likely to be caused by invading the home islands of Japan. There was also the likely death rate from starvation for Allied PoWs and civilians as the war dragged on well into 1946.

What Truman did not know, and which has only been established quite recently, is that the Imperial Japanese Army could never contemplate surrender, having forced all their men to fight to the death since the start of the war. Japanese documents apparently indicate their army was prepared to accept up to 28 million civilian deaths.

Antony Beevor, a historian, writing in 2015 in a history magazine

Overview of the War

- Most historians looking back at WWII tend to agree on the broad picture of the war.
 - Germany, Japan and Italy were important nations, but they were not as strong as the leading powers - Great Britain, the USSR and above all, the United States.
 - The Allies not only had superior resources but also managed to mobilise and utilise them in a manner suited to help them win the war.
- While the Axis powers were seemingly successful at the start of WWII, they did not have the capability both militarily and economically to fight a prolonged war.

Why did the Allies win WW2?

Strengths of the Allies

Importance of the United States - Economic and Military Strengths of the United States (Europe and the Asia-Pacific)

Example and Explanation

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States' vast resources were mobilised within a short time. Its people, factories, shipyards, farms and even Hollywood and the movie industry joined in the war effort. For example, by 1944, the United States was producing almost half of the weapons being made globally – more than twice the production of Germany and Japan combined. In total, between 1941 and 1945, US factories produced 250,000 aircraft, 90,000 tanks, 350 naval destroyers, 200 submarines and 5,600 merchant ships.

Link

This massive production derived from American economic strength translated into military strength as it supplied it and the other Allied powers with a vast amount of military equipment and other resources essential for the war effort. Resources that the Axis powers simply could not match, thus giving the Allies a overwhelming advantage that allowed them to win the war

Importance of the United States - Battle of the Atlantic (Europe)

Example and Explanation

Control of the Atlantic was vital to the Allied war effort as it was only control of the shipping routes across the Atlantic that vital American supplies could be shipped to Britain and to the USSR. This control was only achieved through a bitter struggle and at a high cost by the Allies. German submarines (U-boats) were very effective early in the Battle of the Atlantic. In 1940, the Germans sank over 1,000 ships, a quarter of Britain's merchant fleet. In 1941, 1,300 Allied ships were lost, and in 1942, 1,661 ships. As a result, in January 1943, the British navy had only two months' supply of oil left. The tide began to turn through 1943. British intelligence was able to break the secret codes used by the U-boats. This allowed the Allied convoys to steer clear of the U-boats, hence ensuring Britain and the USSR had the resources to fend off the Axis powers. New weapons and tactics were also developed to counter the U-boats.

Link

This victory allowed the much needed American supplies to reach Britain and to the USSR, allowing them to continue the fight against the Axis that would ultimately conclude in an

Allied victory in World War 2.

Importance of the United States - Island-Hopping Strategy in the Asia-Pacific (The Asia-Pacific)

Example and Explanation

To avoid a potentially lengthy and costly campaign against the Japanese forces which had dug themselves into island strongholds across the vast empire they had built from 1937-1941, the Allies came up with the strategy of island-hopping. It involved using air attacks and submarines to isolate Japanese-held areas, instead of trying to capture them. The Allies would then conquer the islands, which were poorly defended, and use them to further cut off ships that supplied the well-defended islands. The idea was to cut off some areas from their supplies of food, ammunition and other essentials.

Link

This approach proved to be successful. It allowed the Allies to incur fewer casualties and come within striking distance of Japan itself in just a few years. It thus contributed to Allied victory in World War 2.

Importance of the United States - Use of the Atomic Bomb (The Asia-Pacific)

Example and Explanation

Faced with the strong resistance of the Japanese forces, the United States decided to use its newly developed atomic bombs without warning. On 6 August 1945, the American bomber, Enola Gay, dropped a five-ton atomic bomb, nicknamed "Little Boy", over the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Following this, on 9 August, the United States dropped a second atomic bomb, nicknamed "Fat Man", over the city of Nagasaki. In total, the two atomic bombings killed more than 100,000 people and injured another 100,000.

Link

The devastation brought about by the two atomic bombs was one of the key reasons for Japan's surrender, securing Allied victory in World War 2.

Importance of Britain - British resistance to German invasion (Europe)

Example and Explanation

A key factor in the defeat of the Axis powers was Britain's ability to resist the German invasion in 1940–1941. During the Battle of Britain, Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) had excellent fighter aircraft such as the Supermarine Spitfire, and the Hawker Hurricane British aircraft were as good as the Germans'. Additionally, the factories were able to keep producing more of such aircraft to replace their losses. Moreover, the British had the new technology of radar which could be used to detect and locate incoming enemy aircraft.

Fighting over home ground also gave the British the advantage of tapping large reserves of spare parts for repair work and using less fuel for its war production.

Link

Thanks to these advantages, the British were able to win the Battle of Britain and prevent a German invasion of their country. This allowed Britain to become a substantial military base for the Allies. A base that made the D-Day landings of 1944 and the Allied bombing campaigns against Germany possible. Campaigns that ultimately led to the defeat of Germany.

Importance of Britain - British resistance to the Japanese (The Asia Pacific)

Example and Explanation

The British Empire was a major source of the manpower and resources that opposed the Japanese in the Asia-Pacific. The armies and navies of Britain, Australia, New Zealand and around 120,000 African troops from British colonies fought alongside US troops against the Japanese. The British Empire forces also included the immense manpower and resources of India. India provided over 2.5 million men and women and a staggering 80 percent of its wealth to the Allied war effort. Although Indian troops fought in North Africa and Europe as well, the majority fought in Asia against the Japanese.

Link

Thus the British represented a major component of the manpower and resources opposed to the Japanese in the Asia-Pacific. They thus played a vital part in the effort to defeat the Japanese and securing an Allied victory in World War 2.

Importance of the USSR - Reorganisation and resistance (Europe)

Example and Explanation (Reorganisation)

When the German advance was halted by the Russian winter in late 1941, Stalin and his military leaders used this time to reform the Red Army completely. They copied many of the tactics and ideas used by the Germans and added some of their own. For example, the Red Army created specialist tank armies and air forces. At the same time, harsh discipline was enforced, such as, Order 227 of July 1942 which ordered the Soviet Army to fight and die for every bit of Russian soil.

Link (Reorganisation)

By taking such steps to reorganize the Red Army, the USSR was able to improve its ability to fight the Germans. An ability that ultimately allowed them to turn the tide and not only push the invaders out of their country but to launch a counterattack that saw them invading and occupying parts of Germany itself, securing victory in World War 2.

Example and Explanation (Resistance)

The Soviet Union suffered heavy losses in the early phases of the German invasion. However, it nevertheless continued to fiercely resist. The Germans had advanced again in 1942 towards the city of Stalingrad. Here, the Soviets held them in a fierce battle and, despite suffering heavy casualties, were eventually able to encircle the Germans, forcing them to surrender.

Link (Resistance)

This victory raised the morale of the Soviets as they began to drive the Germans back. A counterattack that led to them not only pushing the invaders out of their country but invading and occupying parts of Germany itself, securing victory in World War 2..

Importance of the USSR - Resources and Production: The Soviet War Economy (Europe)

Example and Explanation (Measures taken by the USSR)

To ensure production kept up with the high demand needed by the Red Army in its fight against the Germans, the Soviets enacted harsh measures. For example, adults in the USSR received no food unless they worked in some way for the war effort. This applied to men and women – half of the Soviet workforce was female. Forced labour was also used and the secret police kept close control of the population.

Link (Measures taken by the USSR)

These measures allowed the Soviet Red Army to not only continue to oppose the invading Germans but also steadily grow in strength. Strength that ultimately allowed it to turn the tide and not only push the invaders out of the Soviet Union but to launch a counterattack that saw them invading and occupying parts of Germany itself, securing victory in World War 2.

Example and Explanation (Role of the USSR's allies)

The USSR's allies also made important contributions to the campaign. Britain and the United States supplied vast amounts of food, raw materials and industrial equipment via shipping routes despite the U-boat threat from Germany. The United States provided the USSR with over 500,000 motor vehicles and 1,900 locomotives and half of its supply of rubber tyres and copper.

Link (Role of the USSR's allies)

This aid allowed the Soviet Red Army to not only continue to oppose the invading Germans but also steadily grow in strength. Strength that ultimately allowed it to turn the tide and not only push the invaders out of the Soviet Union but to launch a counterattack that saw them invading and occupying parts of Germany itself, securing victory in WW2.

Importance of the USSR - Entry to the Asia-Pacific (The Asia Pacific)

Example and Explanation

As agreed at the Tehran Conference and Yalta Conference, the USSR entered the war against Japan three months after the defeat of Germany. Despite being part of the Allied forces, the USSR did not take part in the war against Japan in the Asia-Pacific until 1945. This was because Japan and the USSR had signed the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact in 1941 which was to be upheld for five years. On 8 August 1945, the Soviets declared war against Japan and launched their invasion simultaneously on three fronts of Manchuria.

Link

The Soviets were able to defeat the Kwantung Army in Manchuria and occupy northern Korea, which contributed to Japan's decision to surrender to the Allied forces.

Weaknesses of the Axis Powers

Germany's Military Weaknesses - Hitler's Mistakes (Europe)

Example and Explanation

The Germans made several critical errors in their campaigns, largely due to an inefficient command structure. German commanders constantly had to report back to Hitler, who regularly intervened in military decisions. One example of such is his declaration of war on the United States. Hitler erroneously decided to declare war on the United States four days after the Pearl Harbor attack, despite having no obligation to do so under the terms of the Tripartite Pact signed with Japan and Italy. This move essentially brought the United States, which had been neutral, into the European theatre of war. Germany would now have to contend with the immense amount of resources and military might brought about by the United States, one of the most industrialised countries in the world.

Link

While Hitler may have been a shrewd politician, he had never been a senior military commander. He had little military command experience at the highest level. Thus, the mistakes he made as a result of this inexperience contributed to the Axis defeat in World War 2.

Germany's Military Weaknesses - The Two-Front War (Europe)

Example and Explanation

In WWI, Germany had tried to avoid a war on two fronts – against Russia in the east and against Britain and France in the west. In 1940, Hitler successfully fought a single-front war against Britain and France, but he failed to defeat Britain. When he invaded the USSR in 1941, he placed Germany in a two-front war. This prevented him from concentrating his efforts and resources on a single front. It could even be argued that Germany was fighting on three fronts if we consider the Allied bombing campaign. Besides, Germany was not just facing Britain on the Western Front, but the United States for most of the war.

Link

Thus by allowing the war to become a two-front war, the Germans put themselves in the position of being gradually worn down by the Allied forces. This strongly contributed to the Allied victory in World War 2.

Germany's Military Weaknesses - Poor Planning (Europe)

Explanation and Link (Naval Warfare)

Germany suffered from poor planning in regards to its navy. While the Germans' use of U-boats was highly effective, their use of surface ships was less so. They put too many resources into building giant battleships, such as Bismarck and Tirpitz, and failed to build aircraft carriers.

Link (Naval Warfare)

These weaknesses in its navy led Germany to defeat in the Battle of the Atlantic, which meant it was unable to cut off Britain and the Soviet Union from the vital supply of American resources shipped across the ocean. This failure ultimately contributed to its defeat in World War 2.

Explanation and Link (Air Power)

Germany suffered from poor planning in regards to its air force. From 1942 to 1945, the RAF and the US Air Force bombed Germany relentlessly. The Germans never developed heavy bombers like the RAF's Lancaster or the US' B-17, which could do severe damage to towns and cities. German bombers were too small and could not carry enough bombs. Also, in the Battle of Britain, the RAF had the advantage of radar, which the Germans had not invested in. The RAF also had plenty of fuel, ammunition and spare parts. On the other hand, shortages in these resources plagued the Luftwaffe.

Link (Air Power)

These weaknesses in its air force put it at a major disadvantage against the Allies that it could not overcome, ultimately contributing to its defeat in World War 2.

Japan's Military Weaknesses - Inter-Service Rivalry (The Asia-Pacific)

Example and Explanation

The Japanese army and navy had a long-term conflict with each other since the Meiji period. In the 1930s, both services of the Japanese military had different strategic goals and ideas for how they wanted to seize territories to obtain resources to sustain Japan's economy. When the war broke out, the rivalry between the army and navy prevented both groups from sharing resources and exchanging military intelligence, much less coordinate their attacks and defences against the Allies. For example, in 1942, when the navy asked the army to provide troop support for an invasion of Australia, the army refused. Furthermore, the army remained unresponsive throughout the Pacific War and was late to recognise the threat of the US counteroffensive in late 1942.

Link

This rivalry prevented the Japanese from making the best use of its resources, putting it at a disadvantage and thus contributing to their defeat by the Allies.

Japan's Military Weaknesses - Overstretched Empire (The Asia-Pacific)

Example and Explanation

The Japanese were unable to effectively leverage the empire they had expanded from 1931 to 1941. The Japanese empire was very spread out. In many areas, rail and road communications were poor, so it was difficult to deliver raw materials and workers efficiently to the places where they were needed.

Link

This inability to effectively allocate its resources due to its size meant that the Japanese empire was a disadvantage and thus contributing to its defeat by the Allies.

Japan's Military Weaknesses - Poor Planning (The Asia-Pacific)

Example and Explanation

The Japanese failed to understand that the war at sea had changed by 1941. Air power, in the form of aircraft based on carriers, was now far more important than traditional naval power like battleships. Therefore, while the Japanese damaged US battleships during the attack on Pearl Harbor, they did not destroy any US aircraft carriers, as they were not located at the base. This outcome allowed the US Navy to recover from the attack quickly.

Link

This failure to recognize that the nature of naval warfare had changed and adapt to a focus on carrier based combat meant that the Japanese empire was a disadvantage and thus contributing to its defeat by the Allies.

Japan's Military Weaknesses - Lack of Local Support (The Asia-Pacific)

Examples and Explanation

The Japanese were unable to make the best use of their empire because of how brutally they had treated the peoples they conquered. They looted the resources of the conquered lands. They also abused the locals and forced thousands into slave labour. This resulted in millions of civilian deaths under Japanese rule. As a result, the conquered peoples began to resist in any way they could against the Japanese. For example, in Vietnam, the nationalist leader Ho Chi Minh led the Viet Minh in a guerrilla campaign which gradually wore down the Japanese.

Link

This lack of local support within its empire meant that the Japanese could not effectively extract the resources it needed from its the territory it controlled. That said lack of support also often led to outright resistance also drained Japanese military forces as they would be required to be redeployed to suppress such forces. This thus caused the Japanese Japanese empire was put at a disadvantage and contributed to its defeat by the Allies.

Case Study of the Vietnam War, 1954 - 1975

Vietnam before WW2

- The modern state of Vietnam was part of the French-ruled area known as Indochina
 - It was conquered and controlled by the French Empire progressively between 1862 and 1904.
- As part of French rule...
 - Local forms of government were replaced with French systems of governance, led by French officials
 - Western education and healthcare
- French rule was largely characterised by....
 - Resource exploitation
 - Heavy local taxes
 - A colonial monopoly on the trade of salt, opium, rice and alcohol.
- Thus, there were several attempts to rebel and overthrow French rule from the 1890s to the 1940s.
 - However, none of them succeeded.

Vietnam during WW2

- After WWII broke out in Europe in 1939, France was defeated by Germany a year later in 1940.
- Japan, which was an ally of Germany, wanted access to French Indochina for its resources and strategic position.
 - As a result, Japanese forces invaded the northern region of French Indochina in September 1940 before coming to an armistice and agreement with the French Indochina colonial government.
- The French colonial government was aligned with Vichy France.
 - Vichy France was the new government set up after the defeat of France in 1940, and was aligned to Nazi Germany.
 - Vichy France allowed the Japanese to station troops in Indochina.
 - The French colonial government was often reduced to a puppet of the Japanese during this period.
- French colonial rule and the subsequent Japanese rule in French Indochina were both harsh.
- As a result, various groups emerged to resist French and Japanese rule.
- The most important of these resistance groups was the Viet Minh, led by Ho Chi Minh.
 - The Viet Minh, short for the League for the Independence of Vietnam (Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh), was a nationalist movement that aimed to achieve independence.
 - It was an umbrella movement made up of two main groups:
 - Non-communists who simply wanted to drive the Japanese out of Vietnam in favour of self-rule
 - Communists who wanted to establish an independent communist state in

Vietnam.

- During WWII, the Viet Minh received money, weapons and supplies from the United States, the USSR and the Guomindang (GMD) government in China.
 - Even though the GMD government in China was anti-communist, they supported the Viet Minh against the common enemy that was Japan.

End of the Cold War

Introduction

- Through the 1950s and 1960s, the Cold War was characterised by a series of crises and confrontations.
 - In that time, the United States and the USSR never quite took that fatal step of fighting a direct war with each other.
 - However, both sides - and indeed the rest of the world - lived in constant fear of this possibility, especially one that involved nuclear weapons
- As a result, by the late 1960s, the two sides were exploring ways to reduce tensions through **Detente**
 - They tried to improve relations and even cooperate in areas such as arms reduction and trade
 - This process became known as detente, a French word that means "easing of tensions"
 - The key mover of detente was US President Richard Nixon
- Although relations improved during the detente period, it did not last because of:
 - Too many areas of disagreement between the United States and the USSR
 - Too much pressure exerted on both countries
- Internal political rivalries in the United States led several presidents, especially Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, to adopt tougher approaches towards the USSR.

Rise and Fall of the Detente

- In the late 1960s and early 1970s, US President Richard Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev seemed willing to consider the possibility of having a less hostile relationship.
- Both men were concerned about the risk of a direct conflict and the financial cost of their rivalry.
 - They wanted to invest more in their own economies and the welfare of their people.
 - It was this combination of risk and cost which drove detente.
- Detente was presented by both sides in a positive thing and as an act of goodwill
 - However, some historians view detente motivated more by the superpowers' desire to achieve their aims in less costly and risky ways.

Reasons for Detente

Leaders' considerations motivating detente

1. Mutual fear of triggering a nuclear war
 - Nixon and Brezhnev were concerned that another crisis like the Cuban Missile Crisis could trigger a nuclear war.
2. Soviet fear of being isolated

- Sino-Soviet relations declined throughout the 1960s, while Sino-American relations improved.
 - Brezhnev was worried that the USSR might become isolated unless he also improved relations with the United States.
- 3. US desire to withdraw from the Vietnam War
 - Nixon was looking for ways to extract the United States from the Vietnam War.
 - The United States was struggling with the considerable cost of the Vietnam War and rising oil prices
- 4. Soviet desire to reduce military spending.
 - Amid its economic problems, the USSR was finding it difficult to accord its vast military spending in both its domestic and external commitments.
 - Example: Remaining competitive in the Nuclear Arms Race.

Examples of Detente in Action

Summit Meetings

- They began visiting each other's countries and meeting to discuss important issues such as nuclear weapons, conflicts around the world, trade and technology
- The meetings were known as **summit meetings**, as they involved the leaders of the countries.
- Examples:
 - **Feb 1972**
 - Nixon became the first US President to visit China since it turned communist in 1949.
 - A continuation of the progress made in 1971, when the US table tennis team became the first group of Americans allowed to enter China since the communist takeover in 1949 (as part of **Ping Pong Democracy**)
 - **May 1972**
 - Nixon visited Brezhnev in Moscow to sign a document called the Basic Principles.
 - The superpowers agreed to prevent dangerous exacerbation in their relations by doing their utmost to avoid military confrontations, to prevent the outbreak of nuclear war, and to exercise restraint in mutual relations.
 - Both leaders also signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty I (SALT I), limiting each side's production of nuclear weapons.
 - **June 1973**
 - Brezhnev visited the United States to sign the Agreement on the Prevention of Nuclear War, in which both sides agreed to do all they could to avoid a nuclear war.
 - **June 1974**
 - Nixon went to Moscow again to discuss ways to strengthen collaboration in many areas, especially in the economic aspects, as well as for further disarmament and a possible SALT II

Ping Pong Diplomacy

- Ping-pong diplomacy refers to the use of table tennis (ping-pong), a sport that China is good in, to improve relations between the United States and China.
- On 6 April 1971, the United States and Chinese table tennis teams played against

each other at the world championships in Japan.

- As the Chinese were interested in building better relations with the United States, they invited the US team to visit China.
- On 10 April 1971, the US team became the first Americans to visit China since the Communist Revolution in 1949.
 - This was widely perceived as an important step in reducing tensions. It paved the way for Nixon's visit to China in February 1972 and the eventual establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and China in 1979.

Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)

- SALT refers to the high-level bilateral conferences and treaties involving the United States and the USSR in the 1970s.
 - The main concern of these conferences was the limitation of arms in a bid to reduce tensions and the prospects of a military conflict.
- The first round of SALT began in Helsinki, Finland, on 17 November 1969.
 - Considered to be the crowning achievement of the strategy of détente embarked upon by Nixon and Brezhnev, SALT I saw the United States and the USSR agree to the limiting of the number of nuclear missiles in their arsenal. SALT II began in 1974.
- It was a complicated and time-consuming process.
- In 1979, the SALT II agreement was signed (for long-range nuclear attacks) in the 1970s finally announced.
 - By that time, superpower relations had taken a downturn and the US Congress refused to formally recognise SALT II.
- **Main Terms of SALT I**
 - Limits on the number of nuclear missiles and bombs held by each side
 - Limits on the development of anti-ballistic missile defences, which could shoot down incoming missiles
 - Each side was allowed to use spy satellites to verify that the other side had honoured the limitations imposed
 - Further talks to be held to create a SALT II agreement
- **Main terms of SALT II**
 - Further limits on the number of bombers and missiles each side held
 - Ban on the development and testing of new types of intercontinental ballistic missiles
 - Restrictions on the deployment of missiles (e.g. the number of places they could be launched from)
- **Helsinki Accords, 1975**
 - US, USSR and 30 other countries signed an agreement in August 1975 where they promised to:
 - Resolve international disputes by diplomacy
 - Protect human rights e.g. Freedom of speech, freedom from unfair arrest
- **Apollo-Soyuz Test Project**
 - A US-USSR joint space venture

- In July 1975, millions of people across the globe witnessed on television the historic moment when a US Apollo spacecraft docked with a Soviet Soyuz capsule.
- The mission commanders of the respective spaceships exchanged the first international handshake in space - a moment widely regarded as the symbol of detente between the two superpowers.

Decline of Detente

- In 1977, after the USSR's invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, then US President Jimmy Carter in 1977 abandoned detente and took a much more aggressive approach towards the USSR.
- At the same time, Brezhnev began to think the USSR was not gaining much from detente either.
- Both sides began to criticise each other's actions again and accused the other of breaking their promises.
 - Examples
 - Carter blamed the USSR for not settling disputes peacefully.
 - According to Carter, the USSR was making things worse by supplying arms to its allies in war zones such as Angola and Ethiopia.
 - Brezhnev countered that the United States was doing pretty much the same in Central and South America, as well as in South Africa.
 - They also accused each other of trying to get around the various nuclear arms limitation treaties.
 - The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.
 - When Carter heard about the invasion, he described it as "the most serious threat to peace since the Second World War."

The Decline of the USSR in the 1970s and 1980s

Introduction: Soviet Economy before the 1970s

- The Soviet command economy was based on the idea that the state was in the best position to make decisions about the economy.
 - The state decided which areas of the economy should receive investment and be developed.
 - The state controlled resources such as oil, coal and energy. It also controlled production, prices, wages and all other vital aspects of the economy.
- For much of the USSR's existence, the command economy seemed to be achieving its main aims.
 - **Examples**
 - From 1928 to 1940, the USSR was transformed into a modern industrial power with impressive growth rates.
 - By the 1940s, the USSR was a modern economy with industries, infrastructure such as roads, railways, dams and power stations, and a developing public education system.
 - This modernisation was a tremendous achievement.

- Its economy also contributed to the USSR being able to defeat Nazi Germany in WWII despite the immense loss of life and damage to property.
- In the 1950s and 1960s, it saw continued economic growth. The Soviets had guaranteed jobs, good healthcare, a place to live and free education to the university level.

Weaknesses of the Soviet Economy

- After impressive growth rates in the 1950s and 1960s, the Soviet economy began to slow down.
- The USSR began to experience a steady, long-term decline in the rate of growth.

Why was the USSR in decline in the 1970s and 1980s?

Weaknesses of the Soviet Economy: Structural Weaknesses of the Command Economy

Examples and Explanation

The Soviet economy had worked relatively well when it consisted of a small number of very large industries, particularly coal, steel and electricity. The government could make decisions about these industries, which could then be implemented. However, as the Soviet economy grew and expanded by the 1970s, the Soviet economy became overwhelmed by the increasing demands. The Soviet government struggled to cope with the many companies making different goods. It acted too slowly and made poor decisions. As a result, the USSR began to experience a steady, long-term decline in the rate of growth. For example, output growth for Soviet agriculture dropped from 4.8 percent a year in the 1950s to 1.8 per cent in the 1970s. Similarly, by the late 1970s, industrial output had dropped from a double digit percentage growth to a 3 to 4 percent decline.

Link

The structural weaknesses of the command economy has thus translated into the decline of growth in the Soviet economy as the economy grew beyond the ability of the command economy system to efficiently manage, leading to overall Soviet decline.

Weaknesses of the Soviet economy: External burdens on the economy

The Soviets engaged in numerous proxy wars that were substantial financial burdens. For example, they fought in the Afghan-Soviet War between 24 Dec 1979 to 15 Feb 1989. Soviet troops entered the Afghanistan to maintain the power of the pro-Soviet government there, but they were tied down for the next 10 years by Afghan fighters known as the Mujahideen. The Mujahideen saw themselves as fighting against the communist regime. To make matters worse for the USSR, they knew the territory

Return of Cold War Tensions

Introduction

- Ronald Reagan, American President from 1981-1989 brought a return to escalated Cold War tensions.
- Reagan had a straightforward and aggressive approach towards the USSR - essentially, the USSR was wrong, and the United States and its allies were right.
 - In one speech, he referred to the USSR as an "evil empire"

US Economic Superiority: Economic Boom in the United States and Western Europe

- Reagan also had radical ideas for US domestic policy. Like his close ally British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, he believed that people and businesses needed to be liberated from government regulation.
 - They believed people and the free market were better than governments at providing solutions to problems.
 - They both believed that government regulations stifled trade and innovation in business and held back economic expansion.
 - They emphasised that governments should cut taxes.
 - This would give people an incentive to work harder and start their own businesses since the government would not be taking their hard-earned wealth
- Both advocated that governments should spend less and limit their involvement in people's lives (such as through welfare or state healthcare) as far as possible.
- Most historians agree that they contributed to an economic boom in the United States and Western Europe, even if they were not necessarily the main cause.

How Big of a Boom Was It?

Comparison of capitalists and communist economies - 1970 to 1990 Gross Domestic Product

| Year | USSR | United States | West Germany | Japan |
|------|-------|---------------|-----------------|-------|
| 1970 | 8886 | 23958 | 17277 | 15484 |
| 1975 | 9779 | 25956 | 19193 | 18082 |
| 1980 | 10245 | 29611 | 22497 | 21404 |
| 1985 | 10692 | 33023 | 24133 | 24437 |
| 1990 | 10989 | 36982 | (Germany) 25391 | 29949 |

US Military Superiority: Expanding US Might

- The booming economy gave Reagan and his allies the confidence and the money to champion US values of capitalism and democracy.

- Reagan believed in taking a tough line with the USSR wherever possible and increasing US defence spending.
- Examples
 - He supported anti-communist forces in Afghanistan and Nicaragua
 - He increased the US defence budget massively.
 - In his first two weeks in office, he increased the defence budget by \$32.6 billion.
 - New weapons systems such as the B1 nuclear bomber were introduced.
 - This huge spending left the United States with \$4 trillion of debt by the 1980s.
- In 1982, he gave the go-ahead for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI, popularly known as the "Star Wars" programme).
 - This was a multi-billion dollar project to create a system that could use satellites and lasers to destroy missiles before they hit their targets.
 - Clearly, such a system could change the nature of war.
 - The SDI did not develop into a viable weapon
 - However, it put pressure on the Soviets, who were never sure whether the weapon would become a reality.
 - The USSR was already finding it increasingly difficult to keep up with the United States, given its stretched. Renewed arms spending would ruin it.

Gorbachev's Reforms

Introduction

- In 1985, the USSR elected 54 year old Mikhail Gorbachev to be its leader following the death of Konstantin Chernenko, who led the USSR for less than 14 months after succeeding Yuri Andropov in early 1984.
- Gorbachev was aware of the terrible problems facing the USSR:
 - The declining economy
 - The war in Afghanistan
 - The disillusionment of the Soviet people
 - The challenge of the United States under Reagan.
- Despite this, he believed that the USSR could be transformed with new ideas and new thinking.
- He did not intend to dismantle communism in the USSR and Eastern Europe, but he did not want to reform it radically.
- He described his ideas as New Thinking.
 - Gorbachev's New Thinking in domestic policy took the form of two key reforms: **Glasnost ("openness")** and **Perestroika ("restructuring")**.

Glasnost

- Gorbachev called for open debate on government policy and honesty in facing up to problems.
- Glasnost was not a detailed set of policies, but it did mean radical change.
 - For example, it would allow open political debate by Communist Party members who disagreed with the government. It would also allow criticism on the government in the media.
- With openness and reforms, the Soviet people were able to learn about the heinous

crimes committed by the Soviet Union in the past

- For example, during the Stalinist years in an exhibition called "Week of Conscience" held in November 1988.
- Unfortunately, Glasnost backfired.
 - It released much resentment against the communist government.
 - Glasnost also exposed the shortcomings of the government officials such as their inefficiency and corruption.
 - This led to decreasing confidence in the party.
 - The Soviets were also further exposed to aspects of the outside world, and especially the better quality of life in the United States and Western European countries, through popular Western culture.
- As a result, the positive picture of Soviet life that the government previously presented to the public quickly fell apart.
 - Many in the Soviet bloc felt deceived and lost confidence in the vision and rule of the communist governments.
 - Hence, instead of rallying the people behind the reforms of "openness", Glasnost had unintentionally created a platform which unleashed criticism of communist rule that eventually brought about the disintegration of the USSR.

Perestroika

- Perestroika, also known as "restructuring" in Russian, was the series of political and economic reforms which Glasnost was meant to pave the way for.
- Perestroika involved a range of measures.
 - Managers in companies and industries were encouraged to innovate and try new approaches without first seeking permission from the government.
 - Managers were also encouraged to involve workers in discussions and decision making about their businesses.
 - In 1987, Perestroika allowed market forces to be introduced into the Soviet economy.
 - or the first time in 60 years, it was no longer illegal to buy and sell for profit.
- The intent was to encourage new ideas, to increase efficiency and to fight the problem of corruption
- Failure as an economic reform
 - There was no overall increase in output.
 - Instead, there were chronic problems of unemployment, growth of black markets, as well as shortages in basic necessities.
 - This was a result of the conflicting methods of cooperative ownership.
 - Cooperative ownership meant that that private ownership of small businesses was permitted, but the state still retained control over the means of production.
 - This meant that small business owners still had to pay high taxes and deal with dishonest officials.
 - Furthermore, infrastructure, such as roads and storage facilities, for agriculture remained inadequate.
 - The number of unprofitable enterprises that needed government support increased, while many Soviet citizens lost interest in setting up their own businesses.

Reduction on Military Spending

- Gorbachev was eager to bring his New Thinking to foreign policy and the role of the military in the USSR. He began to cut spending on defence.
- After almost 50 years of massive investment and preparations for war with the United States and its allies, the Red Army began to shrink.
 - Gorbachev was realistic enough to recognise that the USSR could not hope to outspend the United States on nuclear weapons and other military spending.
- At the same time, Gorbachev brought a new attitude to the USSR's relations with the world.
 - In his speeches, he repeatedly talked about international trust and cooperation rather than confrontation as the way forward for the USSR.
- Examples
 - He announced cuts in arms spending.
 - In 1988, he began the final withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.
 - In 1990, Gorbachev signed the Treaty of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) that established comprehensive limits on key categories of conventional military equipment in Europe.
 - This allowed the Soviets to reduce the size of its military

The Reagan-Gorbachev Summits

- In 1983, Reagan was shocked to discover that the Soviets had almost launched a nuclear strike against the United States.
 - A malfunction in the Soviets' early warning system made them think the United States had fired missiles at the USSR.
 - Reagan was keen to advance nuclear disarmament and to tamp down the strategic arms race.
- He also observed Gorbachev's reforms with great interest
- These factors led Gorbachev to make overtures to Soviet leaders and to eventually engage Gorbachev in negotiations with a shared commitment to nuclear abolition.
- Between 1985 and 1988, Reagan and Gorbachev had five summit meetings.
 - By the end of these summits they had reached agreements to further reduce their nuclear weapons.
 - Reagan had also declared that he no longer thought the USSR was an "evil empire" because of the changes Gorbachev was making.

"De-ideologisation" of Soviet Foreign Policy

- As part of Gorbachev's commitment towards New Thinking at home and abroad, Soviet foreign policy underwent a change known as "de-ideologisation".
- This meant an end to all ideologically driven engagements designed to promote communism globally and change the United States.
- Gorbachev recognised that in order to successfully reform the Soviet economy, he had to first reduce the large amounts of money being spent overseas in superpower competition with the United States.
- Examples
 - Under Gorbachev, the USSR would no longer intervene in other countries to support communist regimes or takeovers, as it did under former leaders such as Brezhnev.
 - To demonstrate his commitment towards de-ideologisation, Gorbachev withdrew troops from military engagements in Afghanistan and Angola

- alongside Soviet support for communist regimes in Cuba and Vietnam.
- Next, he was prepared to tell the hard-line communist leaders of Eastern Europe that they had to change as well.
 - In 1989, Gorbachev called the leaders of the Warsaw Pact countries together.
 - He explained to them that he was now committed to a policy of non-intervention in the affairs of their countries.
 - He jokingly referred to this policy as the "Sinatra Doctrine."

Sinatra Doctrine

- This policy was named after the singer Frank Sinatra, who was famous for the song "My Way."
- In other words, Gorbachev was telling Eastern European states that they could and should go their own way.
- The term was first used by Gorbachev's Foreign Minister, Gennadi Gerasimov.
- In many ways, the policy was already in effect.
 - For example, the Polish government had negotiated with the trade union Solidarity to partially allow free elections in 1989 which could include non-communists in government.
- The policy caused extreme concern among the more hard-line communist leaders.
 - Most of the Warsaw Pact leaders, including East Germany's Erich Honecker and Romania's Nicolae Ceausescu, were traditional, hard-line communists.
 - They completely disagreed with Gorbachev's ideas and were sure that the USSR would not really abandon the communist countries of Eastern Europe

Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe

- In July 1988, Gorbachev made a speech at the Warsaw Pact summit stating his intention to withdraw large numbers of Soviet troops, tanks and aircraft from other communist states.
 - He reinforced these intentions in a speech to the Polish parliament soon after.
- In March 1989, Gorbachev made clear to the Warsaw Pact leaders that the Soviet army would leave Eastern Europe and no longer prop their countries up.
 - They would have to listen to their people.
- In the months that followed, there was a sudden and dramatic collapse of communism across Eastern Europe.

Examples

1. **May: Hungary**
 - Hungarians began dismantling the barbed wire fence between Hungary and non-communist Austria
2. **June-August: Poland**
 - Solidarity won 99 out of 100 seats in Poland's senate at the June elections.
 - Protests against communist rule in Poland continued to take place throughout the summer.
3. **September: Hungary and Czechoslovakia**
 - Thousands of **East Germans** on holiday in Hungary and Czechoslovakia refused to go home. They escaped through Austria into West Germany.

4. **October: East Germany**
 - Gorbachev visits East Germany and made a key speech urging all East European leaders to reform their countries.
 - He made it clear that the USSR would not use troops to keep them in power.
5. **October: Hungary**
 - Hungary declared itself a democratic republic rather than a communist republic.
6. **November: East Germany**
 - The largest demonstration in East Germany's history took place as over one million people demanded for democracy and free elections in East Berlin.
 - In response, the East German government announced the opening of borders and the lifting of the Berlin Wall on the evening of 9 November.
 - Even the Berlin Wall, a symbol of the Cold War, and of communist control of Eastern Europe, could not withstand the pressure. On 9 November 1989, the guards abandoned the Berlin Wall and jubilant crowds began to dismantle it.
7. **November: Czechoslovakia**
 - In Czechoslovakia, huge demonstrations forced the communist leaders to resign, resulting in the opening of its borders with the West.
 - In June 1990, it held free elections.
8. **December: Bulgaria and Romania**
 - Massive demonstrations led to the collapse of the communist regimes in Bulgaria and Romania (and Albania in 1992).

Collapse of the USSR

- In January 1990, Gorbachev visited the Baltic state of Lithuania, which was part of the USSR.
- Its leaders made clear that they wanted independence.
- Gorbachev was, for once, uncompromising. He would not allow this.
- Nevertheless, in March, Lithuania declared its independence.
- Almost as soon as he returned from Lithuania in 1990, Gorbachev received a similar demand for independence from the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan.
 - He responded by sending troops to end rioting there.
 - He also sent troops to Lithuania.
 - But by May-June, the crisis had worsened.
- Reformers within the USSR demanded an end to the Communist Party's domination of government.
- In May, Boris Yeltsin was elected the President of the Russian Republic, the largest republic in the USSR.
 - Yeltsin made it clear that he saw no future for the USSR.
 - He said that the many republics in the USSR should become independent states.
- In July, Ukraine declared its state sovereignty.
- Other republics followed. By the end of 1990, nobody was sure what the USSR meant any longer.
 - Examples
 - In January 1991, events in Lithuania turned to bloodshed as Soviet troops opened fire on protesters.
 - In April, the Republic of Georgia declared its independence.
- In August 1991, hard-liners and leading military officers attempted a coup to take over the USSR.
 - The plotters included Gorbachev's Prime Minister, Pavlov, and the head of the

armed forces, Dmitry Yazov.

- They held Gorbachev prisoner in his holiday home in Crimea.
- They sent tanks and troops onto the streets.
- Huge crowds gathered in Moscow.
 - They strongly opposed the military coup, and Yeltsin became the leader of the popular opposition.
- Faced with this resistance, the plotters lost faith in themselves and the coup collapsed.
- A few days later, Gorbachev returned to Moscow. He might have survived the coup, but he had lost his standing as the Soviet leader.
- He had to admit that the USSR was finished, and he with it.
- In a televised speech on 25 December 1991, Gorbachev announced his resignation as the president of the USSR and the end of the USSR.
 - This event also signalled the end of the cold war.

Conclusion

- The end of the Cold War has been long debated.
 - Unlike the world wars, the Cold War did not have an official end with a series of peace treaties.
- Some historians make the case that the Cold War ended in 1985 when Gorbachev came to power.
- Some argue it ended with the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989.
- Others put forward that it ended in December 1989, when US President George Bush and Gorbachev met at the Malta Summit and declared the Cold War over.
- However, to many historians, the collapse of the USSR in 1991 signalled the definitive end of the Cold War.

Revision

Economic and Military Strengths of the United States

The Allies won WW2 due to the economic and military strengths of the United States.

After the attack on Pearl Harbour, the United States' vast resources were mobilised within a short period of time. Its people, factories, shipyards, farms and even Hollywood and the movie industry joined in on the war effort. By 1944, the US was producing almost half of the weapons being made globally - more than twice of what Japan and Germany were producing combined. In total, between 1941 and 1945, the US produced 250,000 aircraft, 90,000 tanks, 350 naval destroyers, 200 submarines and 5,600 merchant ships.

This massive production derived from American economic strength translated into military strength that supplied it and the other Allied powers with military equipment and resources essential for the war effort that the Axis powers simply could not match. Hence, this gave them an overwhelming advantage that allowed them to win the war.

Efforts of the United States in the Battle of the Atlantic

The Allies won WW2 due to the efforts of the United States in the Battle of the Atlantic.

Control of the Atlantic was vital to the Allied war effort as it was the only way vital American supplies could be shipped to Britain and USSR. This control was only achieved through bitter struggle and at a great cost to the Allies. German submarines (U-boats) were very effective early in the Battle of the Atlantic. In 1940, the Germans sank over 1,000 British ships, a quarter of Britain's merchant fleet. In 1941, 1,300 Allied ships were lost. In 1942, 1,661 ships. As a result, in January 1943, the British navy had only two months of oil supply left.

The tide began to turn in 1943 when British intelligence managed to break the secret codes used by the U-boats, allowing Allied convoys to steer clear of the U-boats and deliver the supplies to Britain and the USSR that could be used to fend off the Axis powers. Weapons and tactics were developed to counter the U-boats.

This victory allowed the much needed American supplies to reach Britain and the USSR, allowing them to continue the fight against the Axis that would ultimately conclude in an Allied victory in WW2.

Island-Hopping Strategy in the Asia-Pacific

The Allies won WW2 due to the United States' island-hopping strategy in the Asia-Pacific.

To avoid a potentially lengthy and costly battle against the Japanese forces which had dug themselves into island strongholds across the vast empire they had built from 1937-1945, the Allies came up with the strategy of island-hopping. It involved using air attacks and submarines to isolate Japanese-held areas, instead of trying to capture them. The Allies would then conquer the islands, which were poorly defended, and use them to further cut off ships that supplied the well-defended islands. The idea was to cut off some areas from their supplies of food, ammunition and other essentials.

This approach proved to be successful. It allowed the Allies to incur fewer casualties and come within striking distance of Japan itself within just a few years. It thus contributed to Allied victory in WW2.

Poor Planning

Germany suffered from poor planning in regards to its navy. While the Germans' use of U-boats was effective, its use of surface ships was less so. They put too many resources into building giant battleships such as the Bismarck and Tirpitz, but failed to build aircraft carriers.

These weaknesses in its navy led Germany to defeat in naval battles such as the Battle of the Atlantic, which meant it was unable to cut off Britain and the Soviet Union from the vital supply of American resources shipped across the ocean. This failure ultimately contributed to its defeat in Ww2.

Germany also suffered from poor planning in regards to its air force. From 1942 to 1945, the RAF and US Air Force bombed Germany relentlessly. The Germans never developed heavy bombers such as the RAF's Lancaster or the US' B-17, which could do severe damage to towns and cities. German bombers were too small and could not carry enough bombs. Also, in the Battle of Britain, the RAF had the advantage of radar, which the Germans had not invested in. The RAF also had plenty of fuel, ammunition and spare parts. On the other hand, shortages in these resources plagued the Luftwaffe.

These weaknesses in its air force put it at a major disadvantage against the Allies that it could not overcome, ultimately contributing to its defeat in World War 2.

Inter-Service Rivalry

The Japanese army and navy had a long-term conflict with each other since the Meiji period. In the 1930s, both services of the Japanese military had different strategic goals and ideas for how they wanted to seize territories to obtain resources to sustain Japan's economy. When the war broke out, the rivalry between the army and the navy prevented both groups from sharing resources and exchanging military intelligence, much less coordinate their attacks and defences against the allies. For example, in 1942, when the navy asked the army to provide troop support for an invasion of Australia, the army refused. Furthermore, the army remained unresponsive throughout the Pacific War and was late to recognise the threat of the US counteroffensive in late 1942.

This rivalry prevented the Japanese from making the best use of its resources, putting it at a disadvantage and thus contributing to the Axis defeat.

Over-stretched Empire

One reason the Axis powers lost WW2 was due to Japan's overstretched empire.

The Japanese were unable to effectively leverage the empire they had expanded from 1931 to 1941. The Japanese empire was very spread out. In many areas, rail and road communications were poor, so it was difficult to deliver raw materials and workers efficiently to the places where they were needed.

This inability to effectively allocate its resources due to its size meant that the Japanese empire was at a disadvantage and thus contributed to its defeat by the Allies.

Poor Planning (Japan)

The Japanese failed to understand that the war at sea had changed by 1941. Air power, in the form of aircraft based carriers, was now far more important than traditional naval power like battleships. Therefore, while the Japanese damaged US battleships during the attack on Pearl Harbour, they did not destroy any US aircraft carriers, as they were not located at the base. This outcome allowed the US navy to recover from the attack quickly.

This failure to recognise that the nature of a naval warfare had changed and adapt to a focus on carrier based combat meant that the Japanese empire was at a disadvantage and thus contributed to its defeat by the Allies.

Lack of Local Support

The Japanese were unable to make the best use of their empire because of how brutally they had treated the peoples they conquered. They looted the resources of the conquered lands. They also abused the locals and forced thousands into slave labour. This resulted in millions of civilian deaths under Japanese rule. As a result, the conquered peoples began to resist in any way they could against the Japanese. For example, in Vietnam, the nationalist leader Ho Chi Minh led the Viet Minh in a guerilla campaign which eventually wore down the Japanese.

The lack of local support within its empire meant that the Japanese could not effectively extract the resources it needed from the territories it controlled. That said lack of support also often led to outright resistance also drained Japanese military forces as they would be required to be redeployed to suppress such forces. This thus caused the Japanese empire to be put at a disadvantage, contributing to its defeat by the Allies.