

## Beginning for world war 2:

The Second World War in Europe consisted of blitzkriegs, campaigns of conquest against Germany's neighbouring countries with the incorporation of occupied territories, the establishment of puppet governments and widespread bombing. In the territories conquered by the Axis powers, after initial widespread collaboration with the occupying authorities, an increasingly strong resistance to National Socialism gradually emerged, which also grew in Germany. For the German Wehrmacht, the course of events in the theatres of war in Europe and the Mediterranean can be divided into three main phases:

First phase: attacks (with quick victories through blitzkriegs) on Poland, Denmark/Norway, the Benelux countries and France, Yugoslavia and Greece as well as in North Africa.

The second phase began with the German invasion of the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941.

The third phase followed in the west with the Allied landings in Normandy on 6 June 1944, while the Red Army launched its successful Operation Bagration in the east around two weeks later[1].

Second World War - Warring parties and front lines in Europe 1939-1945

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Six European states remained officially neutral and did not participate directly in the fighting: Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain (but supporting the Axis powers), Portugal and Turkey (the latter only until February 1945). The US government of President Franklin D. Roosevelt had declared US neutrality at the beginning of the European war, but from November 1939 the new Neutrality Act and the cash-and-carry clause allowed belligerent states to buy weapons and munitions in the United States and transport them on their own ships. Direct deliveries from the USA were made possible by the Lend-Lease Act passed in February 1941. In August 1940, the US Congress gave its approval for the construction of a large fleet to be deployed in the Atlantic and Pacific. As part of the Lend-Lease Act, the USA supplied the Soviet Union alone with over 15 million tonnes of military equipment and fuel from 1941 onwards.

With the entry into the war of Fascist Italy, ruled by Benito Mussolini and allied with the German Reich, parts of East and North Africa and the Mediterranean region also became a theatre of war from June 1940. Italian troops attacked British Somaliland in the East African campaign. In the parallel African campaign, Italy invaded British-occupied Egypt and, following setbacks, was reinforced by the German Africa Corps from February 1941. This advanced deep into Egypt and threatened Alexandria, Cairo and the Suez Canal. After the two battles at El-Alamein in July 1942 and October/November 1942, Anglo-American troops landed in Morocco and Algeria (Operation Torch) and the German and Italian troops had to surrender after the Tunisian campaign in May 1943.