We in switzerland just see it as: Wow, that was really fucking close.

I live in Belarus. Every third person in my country was killed during WWII. 500 meters away from my grandmother's house there is a grave with tens thousands buried people killed in death camp. When my native town was liberated in 1944 there were only 119 people left (down from about 150000, but I can be mistaken here, still it was one of the biggest cities in the country). I think like 9 out of every 10 movies filmed in Belarus are about war. So memories are strong here

In Finland people tend to be enthusiastic about the Winter War etc. during early December when we have our independence day, but other than that there's little focus on WWII I think.

Veterans are highly respected and honored which, I've heard, is not common with the Axis or axis-aligned countries, but then again Finland's situation was kind of unique.

One thing I've noticed reddit seems to have a bigger boner about Simo Häyhä than the average Finn, haha!

Australian here, in high school you're pretty much taught about the basics of the war (sides etc. Axis bad, Ally good). But the extensive (elective) history actually focuses on Germany the most. Instead of saying Germany was evil, we clearly define Germany from Nazism. You spend about a week on the allies and months on German politics of the WWII era. It's brought to us as more of a 'lesson' rather than a 'tragic event'.

In Italy we see it as a war we were not supposed to go on, we were stupid to go on, we were at fault for going in... we do put ourselves to blame, and rightfully so. Everything changes after the Armistice of September the 8th, where Italy was split in two (the Allies were able to liberate the South very quickly), and we celebrate the heroism of the Partisans who fought against the Nazis invaders to liberate the North from the invaders. There is maybe too much emphasis put on the partisans' contributions - it was mostly the Americans and the British that liberated Italy - but I understand trying to redeem the image.

In Austria we see it as a national guilt. No doubt Hitler was Austrian. Austria joined him without protest in 1938. We then proceeded to provide many high ranking Nazis and -in comparison to our population- we were the better nazis, with more members of the NSDAP and SS. We put ourself to blame, but also suffered the consequences under russian occupation(east). But we are also proud of our partisans and clerical resistance.

All in all not our proudest time in history

In the Philippines it was remembered by how we were 'finally' and independent country after the US recognized it via the treaty of manila. Also, on how the Japanese acted on our women. And you can also count on for us to remember the 'I shall return' by McArthur.

We in Lithuania viewed The Nazis as rescuers from the Soviet regime. We thought they would help us restore our independence or atleast grant us somewhat autonomy much like Slovakia.

I live in the US but my grandmother is from Okinawa, Japan. She often talks about the bombing of Okinawa and how they killed her parents and took her family from a rich honorable samurai family to nothing. It brings up bad memories for her but she did meet my grandfather from the Americans that were stationed there and had all of her kids and grandkids, so I would like to think it got better for her.

While not many people know, Native Americans played a huge role in WWII, as radio operators. Enemy spies couldn't figure out the languages. I always found this fascinating, but never knew why it wasn't more well-known or appreciated.

A lot of people know. They made a movie about it with Nicholas Cage!It was pretty good.

In India.. WW II was viewed as a good thing that happened. It had weaken the British big time and it allowed Indian freedom fighters to pressure them for Independence.

Well, on the other hand, they really squeezed us in it too ... used Indian troops heavily to defend Burma, Indonesia and also in Africa.

But I guess freedom was a pretty big deal, and we got a good deal in the bargain.

I recently had the amazing opportunity to travel a bit around Europe, courtesy of studying in Norway for a year. I went to some popular, common destinations for Americans: Prague, Vienna, Berlin, Amsterdam, good times all around.

But I also got to see Warsaw. I was surprised very much by Poland in general but especially Warsaw, because like you, I have felt for a long time that WWII is seen as a rather rosy time period in the way history is presented, despite the knowledge of the horrors. Granted, we know various figures about death counts, factions, individual stories of heroism and bravery, but we hear it all through such romantic viewpoints because (in America especially) we see ourselves as the "heroes" in WWII and others as "villains".

In Warsaw there is an amazing museum called the Uprising Museum. It is essentially an entire museum dedicated to a very short period in history, only spanning approximately 2 months during 1944. The museum itself is very haphazard, a bit confusing to navigate, but overall completely worth the small entrance fee (PS: free on Sundays!) it charges.

There is an incredibly large amount of memorabilia, including thousands of photos, many excellent exhibits, actual crates dropped by air during the struggle, beautifully restored motorcycles, just a great place. But it was the history lesson that was the best part.

Read more about the uprising, but the overall image I received from visiting the place was this: Poland, and very specifically Warsaw, was stuck in the middle. They received promises from every side, and promises were broken on every side. There were no villains and heroes in the world at large, only villains in every other country and heroes at home. Those in Warsaw didn't care who wanted to be in charge of them, they wanted no one to rule them. Independence was a commodity fought for at an incredibly high price, and the British regularly made promises which they then broke. Stalin helped the resistance fight the Nazis, and then executed the leaders of the resistance because they might also oppose Communism.

It was a fascinating opportunity to see a glimpse into that time as told through the stories and images of a people who didn't want to be Axis or Allies, but wanted to be Polish, ruled by Poles. They didn't get their wish for decades after that event, but it is a two month window commemorated in that museum and which I am thrilled I got a chance to see.

If you get a chance, go to Warsaw. A beautiful city in a fascinating country which doesn't get the international attention it deserves. (IMHO)

Poland here. WW2 was a huge disaster. We lost independence for 60 years, we had a civil war for years after WW2 officially was ended. Country was reduced to the pile of stones, whole cities and villages were gone. 10 mln people died and a horror of death factories and Siberia exile is beyond the words. My family lost all the wealth and more then half of its members. Equally suffered from Russians and Germans. Some died as soldiers or guerrillas, other where executed by NKWD because of their social status, put in to gas chambers by SS or executed for helping Jews, died at exile in cattle wagons on the way to Siberia or starved and marched to death in German work camps. I heard a lot of great and terrifying stories about murders, rapes, pillage and heroes who never give up. But the worst is that WW2 divided my family. Some of them couldn't come back home from west, part of my family became communist and never again spoke to each other. My grandfather haven't spoke to his brother for 50 years he couldn't accept that his beloved brother betrayed values for with so many gave up their lives. My 2nd grandfather spend 3 years in forests fighting Germans and Russians, after the war he was jailed, tortured and broken by secret security. He killed him self not being able to forgive him self that he broke and gave up his friends. My grandmother saw how Ukrainians raped and killed her mother and put on fire her house with her 5 siblings inside. She was only survivor from whole village. 2nd grandma was sent to Germany as a slave to work in factories in the conditions that are beyond imagination. Her siblings were kidnapped and sent to Germany, 3 of them. She found her brother after 50 years, he even didn't know that he is Polish, other 2 never were found. And after all this they just started everything from the beginning. Rebuild the country, procreate and gave their children hope and future. All of this it is just a top of iceberg but things that I heard or I know about, makes me very grateful for their sacrifice and I'm so happy that I don't have to survive this horror.

Edit: I was little bit carried by the stories and forgot to answer to the actual question. WW2 is still a big thing here. We have thousands of monuments, cemeteries and museums. On the daily basis you can read articles about this time. Even a subject of German repatriations raises from time to time. Currently "hot topic" is a guerrilla fighters (Żołnierze Wyklęci) who represented mostly right wing and were chased,jailed and killed by communists, condemned in to oblivion but emerged and took the rightful place in the history. Huge problem is discussion about polish antisemitism. Also we will never trust our allies again(UK,France,USA). You have to know that we, Poles love (like really love) to put our self in the roles of martyrs so WW2 is never ending source of that. We also love to be this good ones, knights on white horse and often forgot that some were on the bad side(much less then Righteous Among the Nations but still). Memory of the WW2 is very alive here,actually we are still fighting effects of this disaster. There is plenty of movies, tv series and books still coming out. If you are into WW2 history, Poland is the place that you must visit. I recommend Warsaw and Auschwitz-Birkenau to see the stories, also there is a lots of museums worth to see and recreation events that are really interesting to watch.

In the Netherlands, there's still a lot of ire about it. What's remembered most in my particular region, though, is the fact that the Nazis intentionally starved people during the winter of 1944/45. It's seen by many as unforgivable, and is still a source of a lot of anti-German sentiment.

China produces many WW2 films and TV shows. I believe it got so out of hand that the government had to enforce a quota.

http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/25/us-china-japan-specialreport-idUSBRE94O0CJ20130525

It's generally agreed that one of Hitlers mistakes was to fight a two front war: England/USA on one side and Russia on the other.

The Russians definitely won the war in the east. And the Allies in the west, this was by design.

After the war there was 40 years wherein the Russian government's evil jackboot was stepped firmly on the throat of its citizenry and the entire Eastern bloc.

So, from a Western perspective, it's hard to see the American liberation of Europe as anything BUT the cavalry arriving to save the day.

Because after the war, we didn't force our economic policies and government upon the countries we liberated. France returned to being France. Italy returned to being Italy, etc.

Additionally, and most consequently, the Allies did not build a fricking WALL to enslave an entire population!

So, um yeah, go USA!

The Russians definitely played a huge part. But I have to remember how Stalin invaded Poland at the same time as Hitler. Stalin also kept Eastern-Europe occupied after the war while the Allies liberated Western-Europe.

The result is that there is a lot of hate towards Russia in Eastern-Europe while there is a lot of love for the Allies in Western-Europe.

If the Allies hadn't librated Western-Europe, Stalin may have kept going and occupied it.

Russian contribution to the war effort was incredible. However, the Americans were fighting the Japanese at the same time as the Normandy landing. We were fighting two fronts of the war.

As an American who went to public school, I definitely remember them highlighting the resilience and strength of the Russians. I was taught that the Russians were responsible for the turning point in the war.

I guess the argument is that without the Normandy landings (and the previous Western Allies invasions of North Africa and Italy), Germany would have had a much easier time fighting a defensive war against the Soviets. Look how difficult the Battle of Berlin was for the Soviets, and the Germans were already on the ropes by then.

I think you are correct by saying "Russians won the war". Stalin did not win the war, the Soviet Union did not win the war, the Communist Party did not win the war (nor did Putin, altho he's probably busy trying to figure out how he could have done it). It was those tough as nails, self-sacrificing ordinary Russians who won the war.

I just wish that WWII would end for you guys, as it has for the rest of the world.

Here is brief history of Slovakia in WWII.

The Allies screwed with us and sacrified Czechoslovakia to Germany in 1938. Germans liked only the Czech part, which became part of Protectorate, and that’s how the puppet state of Slovakia was established. We were the only state to join Germany on the first day of the invasion of Poland. Then we sent Jews to Poland and as the only state we paid Germans to do so. Then in 1944 there was Slovak National Uprising, which put us on the side of the victors after the WWII. Of course, there were quite a few pilots in RAF and Czechoslovak brigades fighting along the Allied forces. But at the end of the war, the Allies screwed with us once more and we became part of Europe controlled by Soviet Union.

This. Just getting screwed over, that's how we view it.

Source: I'm Czech.

Yeah, your country is like Poland, geographically caught between two antagonists.

I remember some of the studies I did for my undergrad regarding Czech'kia in WWII, and my God did you guys get a raw deal.

I imagine it has something to do with how close Great Britain came to being occupied by Nazi Germany. Before Hitler decided to attack Soviet Russia, Great Britain stood alone against the Nazi empire. Even with the help of the U.S. and the Soviets beating Germany (and Japan, often forgotten that the British fought the Japanese in the Burma and India regions) one could argue that this was the greatest accomplishment in the history of Great Britain. It took the cooperation of every citizen.

As an aside, the Commonwealth prevents Great Britain from actually standing alone. Anyone vs the UK automatically qualifies as a World War.

As an example: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British\_Commonwealth\_Air\_Training\_Plan

"The agreement called for the training of nearly 50,000 aircrew each year, for as long as necessary: 22,000 aircrew from Great Britain, 13,000 from Canada, 11,000 from Australia and 3,300 from New Zealand."

Spanish guy here, maybe you will find interesting the point of view of a "neutral" country.

Most of the knowledge here about the war (specially for new generations) come from movies and videogames from the USA, so most of the people is aware about the basis (Nazis are evil and killed jews, USA saved the day, normandy turned the tides of the war, there was russians on the other side and they were treated badly). I think is more a cultural thing, as most people don't know shit about history in general, nor there's an actual interest in the government to promote anything historical and/or cultural.

There's a strange stance on the situation as, in the time, the Spanish government was a fascist and openly pro-german, and the transition to the new "democratic" government after the death of Franco was... odd, to say the least. There's never been a "true" step out from the old government, nor a public condemn of the crimes of our own fascist government.

Everyone agrees with that the Nazis were evil, but there's a strange feeling of "that could have been the war we were in the wrong side" (And, to be fair, it was thanks to the negative of Franco to enter in the war after an interview with Hitler himself).

Of course, there were people here who helped scape Jews through our country and even some guys who actually fought in the war (The first troops who entered Paris were republican soldiers from the already overthrown Spanish republic government) and even that it seem one of the keys to the invasion of Normandy was a Spanish spy who pretended to be on the Nazi side while actually helping the allies (Nicknamed Garbo, didn't really believe his importance until I started reading The D-Day, of Antony Beevor).

The sad thing is that most of this people is greatly forgotten/ignored (maybe due the inheritance of the dictatorship) while the Blue Division (a group of "volunteers" who went to fight to the Russian front on the Nazi side) is more remembered by both sympathizers and detractors (as "they were heroes" and "they were scumbags/what a shame").

So.. basically we just eat everything the USA throw at us and just forget about the time, as in our country the things were pretty much fucked up (the civil war just ended with fascist victory) and left us in a, let's call it, uncomfortable situation.

Thanks for that, I've always wondered about the Spanish perspective (which is unique for WWII).

Mr. Garbo was pretty much a badass in the most strangest of ways.

I'm not sure where all the USA misconceptions are coming from. I grew up in suburban Pennsylvania. We have shipyards in Philly and sent plenty of boys across the oceans. In every town around here you'll find the town's war memorial and an honoring of the vets, ALWAYS there are more names for WW2.

In school we spent equal time on the Eastern and Western Fronts. In middle school (about 12-15 years old) I was instructed on the atrocities committed by both sides on the Eastern Front. I remember being shown a map of the Volga snaking through Stalingrad and spending as much time studying it as we spent on the Battle of Gettysburg (WHICH IS HUGE IN PA, everybody goes on a school fieldtrip to Gettysburg). Naturally the most exciting moment covered is DDay in Normandy. To be honest though, I think we covered the western front in almost entirely rosy and glossy terms until the Battle of the Bulge. The concentration on the rest of the war was a brief summary of N. Africa and Italy being mopped up, the horrors of the Pacific (including Nanking and Manilla), and the general depopulation of Eastern and Central Europe by the Fascists and Communists. I guess I'm just confused that most posters here claim that we aren't told about the Soviet Sacrifice. Well, I was, and it was implied that the Eastern Front in general was to be the worst example of human depravity in our collective history.

Maybe I was just cushioned by progressive historians. I should note that my primary school system never introduced me to the 'common' misconception that women are bad at math and science. Only experienced that in College, weirdly enough. For example, I was always in AP History courses in High School (up to 18 years old). The depth of the courses go: GP->CP->AP. At the GP level, students thought that the Vietnamese were responsible for Pearl Harbor. At the CP level, most people were concerned with getting just enough 75-80% scores to graduate. At AP we studied history.

In Iceland it is remembered for the boomtown mentality, it was the first time regular people could get some real money in their pockets, working for the occupational forces of the UK and later the USA. One of the biggest chapters in our history is the "situation" where the older people worried about the effect the troops had on young women around the country. The situation led to a few children named Erlendur Hermansson (Foreign Soldier's-son) after women got pregnant and the father had shipped off the country without leaving a name or address.

Iceland lost 0,19% of the population in the war, compared to the USA losing 0,32% of their population. (It should be noted that 0,19% of the nation was a number somewhere around 200 people, mostly fishermen drowned after U-boat attacks.

After the war the Marshall plan got us going for real, boosting fishing and industries like never before. Iceland became an outpost for the USA in the Cold War. WW2 was a true turning point for the country, even if it played little role.

Not as fetishized in Canada as WWI was. We did good, we accomplished stuff but we didn't win nearly as many crucial battles as we did in WWI. The first world war meant a lot more to Canada, because it was where we organized a nation for war without British supervision.

Historically speaking, it's because Canada actually had generals/commanders/captains who were not officers due to patronage to the crown. A lot of European nations had horrible military practices during the early 1900s because they had people who had bought positions running the show. Still, even without incompetent military leaders Canadian men still got slaughtered wholesale.

However, if what I read in a recent paper is correct Canada actually produced 50% of ALL allied vehicles (air/land/sea) used in WWII. We actually out-produced the US which surprised me.

Canada produced 815,000 vehicles during WWII. 9000 boats and ships. 16,000 aircraft.

The US produced 2,400,000 vehicles during WWII. 124,000 ships. 310,000 aircraft.

By the end of WWII, the US accounted for over 50% of ALL war production worldwide.

Sources: http://www.canadaatwar.ca/content-17/world-war-ii/canadian-war-industry/

http://www.nationalww2museum.org/learn/education/for-students/ww2-history/ww2-by-the-numbers/wartime-production.html

I don't know about that. Link a source?

All I found on quick google search, didn't seem to back that up at all

http://www.nationalww2museum.org/learn/education/for-students/ww2-history/ww2-by-the-numbers/wartime-production.html

http://www.canadaatwar.ca/content-17/world-war-ii/canadian-war-industry/

Canada only had 11 million people at the time and definitely did our share. But outproducing the US in vehicles of all things seems crazy.

It's worth noting that Canada made a HUGE contribution to the Battle of the Atlantic. And if we hadn't won that one, there's no Operation Torch, no Normandy Landings, no resupply of the Soviets... Logistics won that war for the allies. I think by the end of the war, the Canadian Navy was the third or fourth largest in the world.

By the end of the war we had the 5th largest navy of all of the countries (US, GB, USSR, and Japan ahead of us). We also produced the Hawker Hurricane which was instrumental in the RAF's squadrons and were a major factor in winning the Battle of Britain.

Edit: Clarification on navies. Thanks for pointing that out Limukala

German expat living in Japan. Here, more or less the only thing you hear about when it comes to WWII is Hiroshima/Nagasaki-related (at least every year on its anniversary). People don't seem to be hung up about the losing-the-war aspect and more than once have I had Japanese people half-jokingly buy me a drink because we were "partners in war". At least for the age group 30 and up, knowledge of German war crimes seems sufficient I'd say. Here too though most people will say something along the lines of "Aah come on, we did similar things". Contrary to most Western countries, Hitler and Nazi Germany are not really considered the ultimate uber-evil here.

Those below 30 probably won't know as much since the Holocaust quite honestly really only matters that much to the Japanese. It's being taught in school, but nowhere to the extent that it is taught in Germany. Kids nowadays are also less likely to have seen "Schindler's List" or something similar that might have introduced them to the issue, so they'll simply know that Germany killed a lot of Jews in the war. No specifics, numbers or anecdotes when it comes to those atrocities. That's just my observations though.

To us Germans it's obviously a huge part of our history. In fact so big that - which I myself find to be a pity - this rather short period of 12 years seems to cast a shadow over most history prior to that. It's such a national trauma that only in the past ten years or so the country's been getting away from constantly hanging its head in shame. Still, patriotism is a pretty foreign concept and if you want to talk of pride in your country you gotta preface it explaining that it's not that part you're thinking of. Ask any German about famous countrymen, something they're proud of in their history or anything along those lines. For some, not a lot is going to come to mind. Apart from the obvious cars, beer and football of course - which to me comes off as a tad too cheerful a facade.

It's a shame that German literature, philosophy, scientists, inventors, the amazing number of composers of classical music, etc will most probably stay largely unmentioned. Others reading me will probably see that differently, but to me it feels like many of those things have been rendered seemingly trivial by months and months of history lessons focused on the Third Reich and Holocaust. Of course I don't intend to say that these aspects are forgotten and neither that we shouldn't learn about the war, but our middle/high school education is bent just little too much on getting that whole "Those-Who-Do-Not-Learn-History-Are-Doomed-To-Repeat-It" point across. Clearly, it's hard to find a good middle ground there. I do believe that things have changed for the better in the past decade though.

Edit: As for Hitler jokes... I don't see the issue there. Sure, there's always going to be people who say Hitler shouldn't be mocked/parodied/laughed about given the weight of the topic. Others believe that we should for exactly that reason. Something that sure isn't gonna roll so well are jokes about uh, gas... and the like, but unless you're in a room full of Holocaust survivors, one should be relatively safe making a little fun of Hitler.

"It's a shame that German literature, philosophy, scientists, inventors, the amazing number of composers of classical music, etc will most probably stay largely unmentioned."

Really? I'm Canadian and Germany is still held in very high regard in all those areas. When it comes to classical music, everyone won't shut up about the German composers. I was under the impression that for example, German authors like Goethe, Schiller, Heine, Hesse, Mann were all held in very high regard.

After I heard stories from an old indo-dutch lady about how all the little girls were being raped by Japanse soldiers in the camp they put them, I really feel different towards Japan. They didn't even really apologize! Compare that with Germany...

My gramps is from the Philippines and I visit every year or so. In the Philippines reminder of the war is everywhere, but people are not angry over it. There's no hate towards the japanese, in fact they want closer relations in order to ward of china who is trying to steal some of their islands. Lots of families had anecdotes of the war like japanese atrocities, but when we are told them, it's not in the context of "we should hate these Guys for what they did", but as something that happned, that's why grandpas brother is not here etc. but it's surprising some of the stories that get repeated that are not in the history books, such as korean conscripts being especially bad, worse than the japanese which surprised me. I actually brought this up with a chinese person when I studied in china and he knew of the same story too! Among the older generation, MacArthur is the man. Grandpa had a rifle and a picture of MacArthur by his typewriter desk. The Germans are well thought of too. People know about the holacaust and shake their heads and tsk tsk, but the magnitude of that doesn't really sink in. For instance, the German General Erwin Rommel is well known and a popular figure, due to movies and books. There are German, American and japanese tourists so there is familiarity with those countries.

In Vietnam, WWII was the time Japanese army invaded my country, took all the rice from farmers in the North Vietnam, hence create a famine that kill one million people.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, it's special to be honest...

I'll try to write this as objectively as I can.

So you have three ethnicities in Bosnia-Herzegovina: Serbians, Bosnians and Croatians.

Bosnians GENERALLY celebrate the Partizan movement which liberated Bosnia, and Yugoslavia from the Nazi regime, which was governed through Germany's puppet state of Independent State of Croatia (NDH). Bosnians are often ashamed of the 13th SS division, called the Handzar Division, which sided with NDH, but I know some young people who sympathize with them.

Bosnian Serbs are GENERALLY attached to the Chetnik movement and their leader, Draza Mihailovic, is considered as a hero. At first the chetniks were against the Nazis as they wanted a free Serbia, but then sided with them to fight the communist Partizans. During the war, it is important to note that Serbians had the highest number of recruits in the Partizan forces.

Bosnian Croats are GENERALLY attached to the idea of a Nazi puppet state of Croatia and celebrate Ante Pavelic and his Ustashi regime. There's a lot of statues, street names honoring Croatian Fascist leaders all over Western Herzegovina (where the majority of Bosnian Croats live). Again, it is important to note that during the war, Croats were the 2nd most represented ethnicity in the Partizan Army fighting against the Fascist regimes. And one of the reason why they sympathize with the whole idea is because they felt oppressed during the Yugoslav Communist regime.

I tried to be objective, as this is a sensible subject in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and all of ex-Yugoslavia actually. When I say generally, it's not like this is what my "feeling" is. You often have politicians, popular singers and personalities glorifying some of the fascist war criminals. There's often problems at sporting events. You can walk through towns in Western Herzegovina and see Croatian fascist flags waving. Important (and I'll caps lock this): I'M NOT SAYING THEY ARE FASCIST, I'M JUST SAYING THAT THEY SYMPATHIZE WITH THE IDEA.

Anyway, there's this source, but it's in serbo-croatian. http://www.slobodnaevropa.org/content/bih\_mladi\_fasizam/2257314.html

I must say that the younger generation is more and more seing the irrationality in all of this and is changing, which is encouraging to me. Even if the majority of young people seem to be more favorable to Fascism than anti-Fascism. This probably has to do with the fact that 40% of young people are unemployed.

For more information:

Bosnian 13th SS Division (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/13th\_Waffen\_Mountain\_Division\_of\_the\_SS\_Handschar\_%281st\_Croatian%29)

Chetniks (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chetniks)

Ustashi (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Usta%C5%A1e)

Bonus fun fact: Hitler's representatives sent a memo to Berlin saying that Pavelic has to calm down on the mass executions. "... according to reliable reports from countless German military and civil observers during the last few weeks the Ustaše have gone raving mad." (Ailsby, Christopher (2004). Hitler's renegades: foreign nationals in the service of the Third Reich. Spellmount.)

Edit: few missing words + disclaimer.

As a Bosnian Serb, I highly support this summary of events during the WW2. You have my upvote. Although, I think you should have mention the amount of Jews that were exterminated exclusively by the Ustashi and NDH regimes within these Balkan regions. This region had a significant population of Jews which perished after WW2.

I come from a bosnian/Croat town called Kiseljak near Sarajevo (Bosnian Capital) and we don't sympathise with the Facists like some other towns do closer to the west border. Our town is 90% Croat and we do represent and everyone in the area knows it, we have flags everywhere. As I stated before in my previous comment people use the Ustasha (from where I come from) as a tradition and carry around flags during weddings and stuff, but none have a problem with jews etc. In our town we all know what the Ustasha and Facists did were wrong and that an incident should never happen again.

Its important to note that the younger generations do not feel the guilt and most of them have friends who are Bosnian/Serb. I believe that older people think in the old ways for example "You cant be friends with serbs blahblah".

In Denmark discussions occasionally pop up about our country's role during the German occupation 1940-1945, mostly around historical anniversaries or when movies are released, such as Flammen & Citronen or Hvidstengruppen.

WWII discussions are mostly focused on the Occupation, whereas Denmark didn't play much of a role in the War as such, so that isn't discussed all that much. The discussion usually revolves about a few issues, the most important one probably being the policy of cooporation. When German troops entered the country one early April morning in 1940 the fighting only lasted a few hours. The government and King ordered everybody to remain calm and go about their daily business as always. The government entered a reluctant cooporation with the Nazis, which meant that the Danish government would remain in power and society continue to function without too much disruption. The policy of cooporation continued until uprisings in August 1943, after which the occupation became more harsh.

The policy meant that a relatively low number of people were deported or sent to concentration camps - famously, it gave enough time for most of the Jewish population to make it to neutral Sweden - though the policy also meant that Danes participated in deportations and killings.

Was cooperating with the Nazis the right thing to do, seeing as it did save lots of lives, while at the same time leaving the country with 'dirty hands' so to speak, or should they have stood up and fought for the country's freedom?

Different arguments in relation to this are still empolyed in political spin, with right-wing national conservatives typically arguing the people should have put up more of a fight whatever the cost, and more pragmatically oriented politicians that cooperation, while undesirable, was a necessary choice.

And to add to this, Denmark has a huge national pride about our resistance and sabotage movements during the occupation. That is also what the two films mentioned are about. I can't cite a source, but my impression is that most people see the collaboration government as something we had to do, as outgunned as we were, but they are then very proud that ordinary citizens worked to sabotage the occupying forces from within. The collaborator government at the time weren't nazi sympathizers like Norway's Quisling, and aided the Germans just as much as they felt they needed to to preserve the nation.

Many of the resistance fighters were officially recognized post-occupation. Immediately after the occupation Denmark worked hard to show itself as an ally to the west, despite having collaborated with the nazi occupation force. Shortly after the occupation ended, citizens who had been informers for the nazis were prosecuted, and capital punishment was even brought back for some wartime offenses despite having been abolished in 1930 (and not used since 1882). Representatives of the resistance worked with the autorities, and actions they deemed to have been done in the name of the resistance were not to be investigated. This is despite the fact that a few resistance fighters might have used accusations of collaboration to kill and rob potentially innocent people.

But all in all Denmark was one of the "luckiest" countries to be occupied. The nazis had a respect for the Danes as a "nordic" people, and only needed to occupy Denmark to use it as a connection to transport natural ressources from Norway, and for most of the occupation things were relatively peaceful.

France : also loads of documentaries from lots of angles. There is no enthusiasm about it though, as the massive death toll and bombings reshaped the country from the ground.

Many cities are known just to have been erased from the maps, and almost everybody as an older relative who has lived through those difficult times.

There are a lot of remembrance ceremonies as well, and almost every city has a monument dedicated to it.

Here in Canada we remember it as a moment where we came into our independence and demonstrated that though we may be a small nation we're capable of rising to a challenge when needed.

Because our home country was not scarred from the violence and brutality of the war many people here perhaps glorify it too much - but we do so partially because of the huge impact it had on continued Canadian independence from Britain.

As a Brit, definately our finest hour. At one point in the War we were the last line of defence, and our sheer stubborness to submit in the face of overwhelming force kept us in the fight long enough for the Americans to finally give us a hand.

I cant stress how proud we are of our involvement in WW2. We have some seriously shitty history (as does America) yet in that moment we showed our true colours. Sheer grit and determination not to give up.

The reason that the Americans and British are so pro-WWII is because it is seen as 'just' war. Because the war was 'just' in popular opinion we build big monuments to the conflict and celebrate it in popular media such as on television and in the media. An interesting side thought is that, a general rule of thumb for war memorials are that the more 'just' the war the bigger the memorial. Whilst 'unjust' wars are remembered in a more conspicuous manner.

Makes sense, I mean look at the Vietnam War Memorial, it's practically underground.

Slovakia. Any discussion of WWII starts with Neville Chamberlain and ends with Soviet occupation. We're not fans of socialism, communism, obamanism, etc. as we've lived through those social experiments and have witnessed all the damage first hand. For us, there is no victor in WWII.

There are some fantastic responses here, they're all very interesting and I'm making my way through them.

Belgium here. WW2 was a pretty dark period in our nations history, that even today still causes political issues. Belgium played a big part in the Great War. Our tiny nation played a (great) role in slowing down the German Empire, so the French and British could organise their forces. Belgium was never fully occupied, of this we are very proud. But in WW2 the German Blitzkrieg was unstoppable. After 18 days ("The 18 days' Campaign" May 10 - May 28 1940) we had to surrender. Belgium was occupied until the autumn of 1944. When we look back to this period there are several stains on our nations history. One of these stains even effects politics this current day. This stain is what the call "The collaboration". Nothing very special you might say? But to understand the grave effects you must see this in a Belgian perspective. Belgium is made up out of 3 lingual areas ("communities"): The Flemish community, the French community and the German community. Ever since our Nation was created (1831) French was the official language. The government used only French, the courts used only French and the armed forces were lead by French-speaking officers. After WW1, the Flemish Nationalist movement was born and demanded cultural rights for Flanders and it's Dutch language. We received several rights, but there was no equality whatsoever. This issue was used by the Germans in the WW2. Some in Flanders started helping the Germans, hoping Hitler would win the war and the nation of Flanders would be created. After the liberation, collaborators were hunted down and shot/imprisoned/branded outcasts. To regain public order, the government eventually decided to grant amnesty to the collaborators. Today Flemish Nationalism is at it's strongest. The Flemish Nationalist party (N-VA) is the largest of the whole country. Just several months ago one of the N-VA secretaries attended the birthday party of a 90 year old man who was a former collaborator, but also a leading person in the Flemish nationalistic movement. The French speaking socialist opposition used this to create a scandal, they even demanded he stepped down. In my personal opinion it is just ridiculous that something from over 60 years ago could affect current day politics. To conclude: In my eyes WW1 was way more important for my nation, than WW2. But we are eternally grateful to the US, Canada and Great Britain for liberating us from Nazi oppression.

In Spain we had our own problems, starting right before WWII.

WWII time is remembered as a moment of huge poverty and famine after the destruction of the Spanish Civil War. During the war and in the years following it, the fascist regime oppressed and executed leftists, intellectuals, artists and Catalan and Basque nationalists. My grandmother used to tell me stories from the time my great-grandfather was in prison. They didn't know if he was still alive or not, and they were afraid to express themselves, and had to accept abuse and stigmatization from, as she says, "the ones that won". Quite a terrible time.

Thousands of Republicans fleed Spain, and many of them were retained in France in concentration camps, and young men were forced to enlist in the French Army. Many antifascists were sent back to Spain to be executed by the fascist regime or sent to Nazi concentration camps, notable Mauthausen.

Regarding WWII, Hitler wanted Spain to join in the Axis' side but the economic situation made it impossible. We did send a volunteer division to the Russian Front, called the Blue Division for the blue shirts that Falangistas (Spanish Fascists) used to wear. Apart from that, we stayed quite neutral.

I'm 46 and view our US WWII vets with complete veneration. Anytime I see one of the old American Legion vets handing out "Forget Me Not" flowers for donation, I always contribute and shake the hand of a true, real life legend.

In my lifetime, there will be a time when every veteran that fought in that war will be gone. I want to make sure that I do what I can to never forget their service and sacrifice.

I live in Poland. I think many people here associate the WWII with so called 'Western Betrayal' and feeling that Polish achievements (e.g. breaking the Enigma machine, first report about Holocaust prepared by a volunteer to Auschwitz) are not recognised. Technically speaking Poland won the war, but it was probably one of the most bitter victories in history (Churchill didn't even bother to invite Poles for a victory parade in 1946). We've lost around 16% of population, cultural diversity, freedom, years of development and thousands of possibilities. We've lost most of the brightest and bravest people, that couldn't get back home from emigration or were killed by Soviet or Germans. The biggest reminder about WWII nowadays is our economy and foreign newspapers stating that German Auschwitz was a 'Polish death camp'.

More info:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western\_betrayal

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London\_Victory\_Celebrations\_of\_1946

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enigma\_machine

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witold\_Pilecki

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%22Polish\_death\_camp%22\_controversy

http://www.en.truthaboutcamps.eu/

edit:formatting, spelling

Bigger insult? The No. 303 ("Kościuszko") Polish Fighter Squadron was snubbed from recognition for their efforts in the Battle of Britain. You know, despite being one of the most successful squadrons in the war.

thank you for posting this view

French here, first post ever, I thought it'd be interesting to share my view on the topic as I noticed no one from my country shared his thoughts. TL;DR at the end for the laziest ones.

My first "experience" with WWII comes from my great grand-father (who passed away in 2006), when I was around 5 or 6. Potential movie storyline incoming:

My great grand-father emigrated from Spain (Barcelona) when he was 18, fleeing the Spanish Civil War in 1936, he crossed the Pyrenees (mountain chain between Spain and France), all by himself. He settled in a small village and met the one who was going to become my great grand-mother (who's still alive). He had been practicing boxing since he was a kid and became a professional boxer, also working as a carpenter since boxing wasn't enough. War started in 1939, in 1943 he got reported to the police for hypothetically being a member of the Resistance and was sent to a concentration camp in Poland, in Sobibor I believe, while his wife was a few month pregnant. SS officers organized boxing fights between prisoners, and he was taking part in them. For this reason, he was popular among officers and thus was entitled to more food, and a little more "freedom", as he was allowed to move more freely inside the camp than other prisoners.

He escaped the camp with other prisoners a few months later, taking advantage of his status. It took him a whole year to come back to France, on foot. He really hated this particular part of his life, as he told me himself that "he had had to eat rats and to kill people to eat and survivre".

His come back to his village was an unreal event for his wife, as she thought he was dead. He met his son at that moment, as he was born during his absence.

Some details might be missing, as my great grand-father didn't really like speaking about the past, he only told me the main events and facts of his story, after I harassed him to tell me.

One thing that always struck me as a kid was that there always was TONS of food at meals, food and eating was something excessively important to me, as he had suffered so much from hunger.

To come back a little more on-topic, as a French 25-year-old guy, WWII is an atrocious event, in which my country took part by collaborating with Hitler. Members of the Resistance are seen as heros (even though many of them are not living anymore nowadays), and Charles de Gaulle remained the most liked person of the country for several decades. Younger generations (so does mine) do not seem to fully realize what was WWII really like, but I guess it's hard to do so unless you actually experienced it. I, nevertheless, try not to forget, especially now when extremisms are in constent rise in Europe.

TL;DR: My great-grandfather (Spanish-born) ran away from Spanish Civil War to France, was later sent to a concentration camp in Poland, escaped thanks to his boxing talent and walked home alone to southern France for 1 year, surviving Bear-Grylls'-style

Croatian/yugoslavian. As a croatian i know many people who joke around about liking hitler and being part of the ustasha (croatian version of SS) at some weddings they have an ustasha flag as tradition. Dont get me wrong though 90% of our people are against this and i recommend all to go see croatia its beautiful and has similar beaches to greece.

The support for facism though doesnt really have a lot to do with the nazis. This support started rising again during the war of independence, where the serbs were seen as cetniks/partizans and bosnians as muslims and croatians as facists since our political alignment during WW2.

I know that during tito's reign that many facists and chetniks were oppressed and sent to jail for involvement against partizans. They also made many old movies of the triumpth of the people over germanys large. War machines while they only used horses. Some events were not to be named etc. My dads side of the family were facist and had many stories of grandmas dog sending secret messages across town to other fascists during prosecution.

Some see our choice of action in the war as a "we had to do it or die", 5% think what we did was right as to gain military support against the serbs but almost all of us know that what we did was a huge mistake.

Yep, as a Serbian/yugoslavian I agree with this. (which is rare nowadays :( )

This also covers Serbian view of WWII .

The war in Serbia "started" when Serbian people rejected agreed pact with Hitler by protesting in the city streets.

Plus Serbians had 2 factions while fighting Zi Germans. There were Chetniks (remains of royal army gone guerilla) and Partisans (new rising communist army, led by Tito). Partisan army prevailed and they established themselves as Yugoslav National Army (JNA) a uniter of south slavic nations and sort of warranty of non-nationalism within the new state. While Chetniks are usually viewed as Serbian nationalists interested in Great Serbia more than Yugoslavia. There has also been betrayer- Nazi regime in Serbia, but with little support so we are proud of our rejection of nazis and our horrendeus sufferings.

Of course post-war years meant representations of war through cheesy propaganda movies.

-Korea-

It's not ignored since it's such a huge part of history, but that time period is over shadowed by Japanese occupation and related things. When talking about 1900~1945 main topics would be things like resistance movement of bunch of sorts, Japanses tyranny, etc, etc.

And then in 1950s BAM! Korean war basically totals the newly independent nation. It's a huge topic that is still relevant today in Korea. They talk about it a lot.

Funny how in the west the Korean war's often labeled as "the forgotten war", when from Korean people's perspective it was "The war".

I'm a bit off topic but i just thought i'd have my say on all those commenters saying that Nazi Germany could have won if x and if y and if w.

It simply would not have happened. Nazi Germany was practically alone against the world.

Hypothetical 1: Germany could have beaten the British air force and invaded.

Ok, look Britain wasn't alone even without American aid. It had vast colonial holdings. Think about how troublesome D-day was and try to imagine the nazis trying to take London in a direct assault across the strait. The brits could've called for reinforcements from India and Canada almost indefinately. The germans had no V-2's or other purported magic weapons in 1941. It would've been borderline impossible not factoring in a potential Soviet invasion opening up 2 fronts.

Hypothetical 2: The nazis take Moscow and Leningrad.

The russians we're beaten back badly in the first months of the war but if the Vietnam war, the Korean war and of course the very war we're discussing is any indicator the soviets wouldn't have given up even if they'd been pushed to Siberia. It didn't even have to do anything with communism necessarily. Hitler said the German 'volk' needed lebensraum and the extermination of all slavs to achieve this goal. They we're threatened with extinction and wouldn't have surrendered even if they'd got rid of Stalin. Absolutely no way.

Hypothetical 3: Finland, Spain, Italy etc. give Germany full support.

Still nothing compared to the combined industrial base of Britain, the U.S and U.S.S.R. Japan was bogged down in China and was pretty much losing there already by 1942. Spain and Italy hardly even had modern tanks to offer the Wehrmacht. Germany's allies were so bad they were almost a burden(and in the case of Italy, were). You may also forget the fierce resistance movements in Poland and France. They weren't just movements they we're underground armies.

The reason Germany didn't win was the same reason for the tides turning just 3 years into the war: It was hopeless from the start and driven by nationalist madness. I really hope i won't have to see these comments about Hitler having a chance of victory, ever again. I'm not pointing fingers but they seem to be a subtle token of respect or awe towards nazi Germany by someone who's only source of information on WW2 is the History channel. So please stop this pseudo-worship of Hitler's 'industrial miracle' and 'blitzkrieg' and read an actual book on WW2.

In Austria, we kind of see ourselves as victims, which is arguably wrong.

Singapore. We were a British colony back then, and we were told that Singapore was an impregnable fortress due to the coastal guns we had pointing towards the sea and a strong naval presence. The Japanese invaded from the north via Malaya(now Malaysia), and the British eventually surrendered. As a result, we were occupied by the Japanese, and we definitely weren't treated well. We were forced to adopt their culture - we had to bow to them when they passed, or else we'd get beaten or worse.

The Japs especially hated the Chinese due to their involvement in the 2nd Sino-Japanese war, resulting in the Sook Ching massacre. What made matters worse was that the Japs established a network of informers, who were paid well and had no fear of arrest as long as they told on people suspected to be anti-Japanese. After the war, the British would return to Singapore, but we lost faith in them due to their failure to protect us, leading to our eventual independence.

As far as I can tell though, we don't hold hard feelings against either the British or the Japanese for the events of WW2. The former were nice to us all this time and even helped us along in achieving independence, while perception towards the latter (at least in my generation) is that what the soldiers did should not be held against the other Japanese people.

(editted for grammar)

The Canadian government had no choice about joining the war, allies with Britain and all that. But the millions of Canadians who volunteered to fight, did have a choice. So something to be proud about if you're a Canadian. Google Canadian bunker busters, biggest balls in all the land.

I live in Canada. It's pretty heavily tied up with the development of a Canadian "national identity", although you might say WW1 is more prominent in that department.

edit: lots of focus on Canadian contributions at Juno Beach and in Italy, kind of trying to show that "hey, Canada did stuff too and were significant in the largest war in human history"

US here. Things have slowed down now that the WWII generation has largely passed on. However, I had a grandpa who served, and it seemed at times like he spent most of his free time watching WWII documentaries on TV, which were always on. My grandfather has died and I don't watch TV, but I believe that it isn't nearly as dominant in the culture as it was, say, twenty years ago. For young kids today, I think it is a loss that the old people they grow up with won't be the WWII generation -- who were a proud, grateful and inspirational group, on balance -- but the Vietnam generation, who are not very inspirational at all.

Russian living in US. Most Russian cities Ive been to have a monument with an eternal flame to all those who fought/died in the war whom were from that city. And once a year celebrate victory day, with massive parades and fireworks, very proud overall. Lots of statues.

Egypt here, we were a British colony by that time. Population majority were hoping the nazis couldn't advance any further, they got as far as Alamein only 100 KM from Alexandria. A minority of the population were hoping the germans would make it out of spite because of the ruthlessness of British occupation. By the time the germans were on the shores of Egypt most of the jews in the country fled east. This was the first of the jews immigration waves out of Egypt (technically the second if you count Moses), soon to be followed by the last immigration wave when things started to get tense between Arabs and Israel. Jew radicals were blamed for some explosions in Egypt (No one knows if that is true) and the people were so angry at the jews that they started suffering discrimination and eventually fled to Israel or Europe.

The topic still grabs a lot of attention here in Norway. Right now there is a very popular drama on TV covering the most spectacular 'sabotage' operation on Norwegian soil. Last weekend's episode had an estimation of 1,2 million viewers, which is roughly 23% of our population.

On the other hand, we don't celebrate 'Victory Day' like they do in Russia with time off from work or large military parades or stuff like that. Neither do we have a Memorial Day like in the US. If you own a flag pole in Norway you are supposed to raise the flag on the 8th of May, which was our liberation date in 1945. We also have a song about the 8th of May...which I haven't heard in ages.

I am from Turkey. I can say the only thing Turks know about WWII is hollywood movies based on that war. Since Turkey is neutral in the war, it is not an important matter in our history. WWI is much more interesting for Turkish people.

I live in Ireland which was Neutral there was two views one by republicans which supported Germany under the pretext of "my enemies (Britain) enemies is my friend" while we also helped by letting the u.k fly through out air space to protect the atlantic ocean. Many it ("the emergency" as we call it as we didn't even officially recognise it) was a inconvenient event as there was rationing.

WW2? I don't remember there being a second World War, we did have a bit of an Emergency around that time though, maybe that's what they're all talking about? Mad stuff altogether

Singapore, it's remembered as a Japanese invasion/occupation, torture, and starvation.

If only this question could have been asked in 2 months... I'm traveling from the US to Japan to do a peace study about how the war was reported in America and Japan and doing research on both perspectives while in both countries. From what I've been told by my prof., the Japanese were completely amazed that they lost because when the Emperor declared the war over, he also declared that he was not a god. (which pretty much every Japanese person believed at the time). Also it was considered shameful to be a male A-Bomb survivor that got radiation poisoning because it was looked down upon that military aged men were being taken care of.

No doubt there are many replies from the Netherlands already, but I felt like I should chip in.

In school there's a lot of focus on it. I've been on several school excursions to concentration camps all before I was 16. For me it made a really big impact - I remember how everything reminded you of death in there. Stone tables where people were operated on, et cetera. A lot of children/young adult books are about the war and a lot of very specific traumas are mentioned there. Stuff like malfunctioning v1s and v2s falling from the sky and killing entire families. Needless to say that as a young boy I soaked it all up.

Dotted throughout the country there are war memorials. Some are absolutely hidden, and you won't find them unless you set out for them. During a hike last fall I came across 3 markers that indicated three kids had died there when they found a cache of German mortar rounds, just a few weeks after being liberated. A lot of people (resistance, but also civilians) were shot in the woods and swamps, and there are still groups trying to locate these graves.

Every year we remember our dead and celebrate our liberation during two successive days. During our remembrance day we observe a moment of silence, country wide.

Last year during those days I worked at a local city hospital. Every day I had to pass a very tall and very large church. They had hung a huge flag from the tower. That possibly was the first moment where I, a Dutchman of 25, felt proud of my country. https://farm4.staticflickr.com/3263/2465520896\_74182f837f.jpg

Tl;dr: Dutch seem to focus mostly on the dead and horrors of WW2, education doesn't shy away from approaching it directly.

In the Philippines, my grandma called it "Japanese Time"

33 year old guy from the US here. My grandfather fought in WW2 in France and Germany driving a tank in Patton's army. He was 19 when he joined. He didn't like to talk about the war and basically said it was hell on Earth. He helped liberate Auschwitz and Dachau. He did talk about standing on top of train cars full of fur coats and clothes that he tossed to naked starving Holocaust survivors below him. Many of his friends died during the war.

The view here in the US is we couldn't sit on the sidelines anymore and watch what was happening in Europe. We got sucked into Japan we they attacked us. My view of the war is not a positive one. It is the sad reality of how cruel the human race can be and how horrible war really is. I am very glad things have been as nice and cushy in my life due to the sacrifices of those in the past from all countries to fight very bad people.

Canadian. In the storming of Normandy, Canada's efforts at Juno Beach are considered one of our greatest military achievements.

I would think the liberation of Holland was greater? Maybe Vimy?

Estonia checking in. WWII still haunts us to this day and the subject matter is quite popular in print, TV and movies. I believe if our budgets allowed, there would be many more movies and documentaries about WWII made here. There is a new movie coming out in Estonia 20.02 called "1944" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ImJm1J1K98). Check it out. Caution, trailer is in Estonian, which may sound like elvish for some :)

Like many Eastern European countries such as Poland, Lithuania and Latvia, we were unwillingly dragged along into Stalin and Hitlers bromance before "zhe war" actually broke out in Europe. With the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact (August 1939) Estonia and other Baltic states were promised to Stalin and thus quite soon we were occupied by the Soviet Union and a huge number of the populous was deported to Siberia. When Stalin and Hitler cut their bromance short, Germany soon conquered Estonia.

In essence, most of the movies and documentaries made try to analyze the schizophrenic nature of the situation. Our country was occupied by one mustachioed tyrant after another: Stalin -> Hitler -> Stalin again. This tore the country to shreds, each side drafted men into their armies either as volunteers or by force, some of the men hid in the forests etc. After the war another wave of deportations followed. Everyone who was deported lost their homes, untold number of lives were lost etc.

When WWII came to a halt, the western allies screwed us over and the rest, as they say, is history :)

An example of how fucked up the situation was. My paternal grandfather served in the Red Army as driver on the Road of Life, an ice road on the lake Ladoga, that carried food to Leningrad, which was under blocade (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Road\_of\_Life). My paternal grandmother (an Estonian who was born in Russia) came as a child from from Russia to Estonia after the war to start a new life. My maternal grandfather and grandmother were deported to Siberia, one in 1940 and the other in 1949. My maternal great grandfather was imprisoned in Gulag for hiding in the forests during the war. One of his daughters husbands was in the Gulag with him for collaborating with the germans.

TL;DR: WWII was a maelmstrom for a small country like Estonia and our movies and documentaries are still trying to sort the mess out.

Australia

Similarly to WW1 and gallipoli, our soldiers who fought in the Pacific, against the japanese, are remembered as incredibly brave, heroic and were all good mates.

The one thing I learned from the stories of the war (and history teacher) that no nation is good or bad, people is the ones who are bad or good. PS. English is not my main language. So it probably didn't come out as I imagined.

No, your thought is easily understood, and a very good point.

Austria is an interesting case. In 1943 the Allies declared Austria the first victim of Hitler, and after the war was over, Austria went along with it. Not that it was true - the majority of Austrians supported Hitler or were at least indifferent. But 1945 wasn't a good time to be close friends with Germany...

It took until the late 80s for Austria to start thinking about their responsibility in WW2. To this day there are many that deny or belittle Austrian envolvement.

Victim theory on Wikipedia

In Northern Ireland there is a lot of pride for the British forces etc., however sadly some cunts feel the need to attach it to their loyalist views and as a result many nationalists will not celebrate Remembrance Day. It's quite petty really on both sides, the soldiers died for everyone from both Unionist and Nationalist backgrounds, in saying that the problem seems to lie with loyalism claiming actions of the fallen in a sense.

Republic of Ireland here. While we were 'neutral' during the war we were actually very pro-allies. However, due to the Easter Rising, War of Independence and Civil War being within the living memory of the majority of people, Irish men who joined the British military to fight were ostracised from society upon their return. The government snubbed them and they weren't entitled to a lot of state benefits. Believe it or not they weren't officially pardoned until very recently.

From about the 1960s on however people began to realise these men were justified in fighting. That they were not fighting for Britain but rather against tyranny.

Nowadays our remembrance of the war is very much akin to that of the UK, with a bit more focus on the Irish who fought and died in it.

I'm sorry to hear that it has taken on a political agenda up North, it's something that should be remembered and respected by all. An incident that is often remembered here in Ireland is when De Valera sent Irish firefighters across the border to help put out fires during an air raid on Belfast. An olive branch during a time of war.

I'm surprised no so few heretalked about Germany. I suppose I'll bring in something. Sorry if this is too personal but thats just what it is.

I grew up in a town called "Salzgitter", I can say that safely without giving away any personal information. It's not a small town, it has a large steel industry. Can you imagine why?

During planing phase in WW2, it was called "Hermann Göring Stadt", and in that city there was the "Reichswerke AG für Erzbergbau und Eisenhütten Hermann Göring". In 1937, there started what would later be one of the biggest corporation in the third reich.

There are a lot of rumors about it, for example the city was supposed to be a large swastika if you look at it from the sky, and even my former school was supposed to have that shape. I'm not sure whether thats correct or not, but thats the stuff people tell each other.

But anyway, growing up in that town I obviously knew nothing. When I got into grade 5 or 6, history slowly started getting more serious. It all went from roman history, germanic tribes etc to WW1 and then 2. And with that, all the horrors.

So basically we learn all that stuff. And then we are taught all the evil things these people did. And you are upset, you wonder how ANYONE could do that. Mind you, we were little kids. Our first reaction was "This would NEVER happen right now! I mean, look at all of this. We're not murderers! It was a different time!".

We were all feeling bad about it. We saw the pictures of starved children having to standing in lines to beg for food, we learned about Anne Frank and the horrors she went through. We saw all the pictures. We saw what those people did, at age 12, more or less, we were fully aware of what happened back then.

And then we had a field trip. We looked at those places. What seems like just another old house turns out to be a former bunker that seems once was for antiarcraift organization, what looks like usual steelworks, once provided the Nazis with FLAK ammunition and other things with it's own KZ with around 4000 people living in it. My father worked there. Other family members of friends worked there, and in other places connected to that as well.

And then, being the 12 year old kid I was, I cried. I cried because the same ground I'm standing on, I grew up on, was the place of horrors. It was the place where innocents got bombed to death in a war they were already the victims of. It was the place where family ties would be shredded apart. Lives thrown away like they are garbage. I saw the pictures in the books, and I went on the Internet. I know what happened. And it happened right where I grew up.

I definitely can't speak for all of Germany, but if you ask me what I remember from WW2, I'd say enough to do every little bit that I can to prevent ANYTHING like that from happening. Because in Germany, WW2 is not just a memory. It's not something that happened far away. It happened here, and it wasn't someone strange. Everyone around here has ancestors that were, more or less, involved. And you can find more places like that.

Also, I went to Auschwitz with my school class some years later. I visited countless other places and former KZs. And I've met many people that feel the same, so I feel like while not many like to talk about it, we are all aware of it.

And it's really hard to find proper ways to deal with that. How do you deal with such a burden?

P.S: Today, Salzgitter is but a shrinking city, according to the guardian

Also, please excuse my spelling mistakes.

In Mexico it seems like nobody cares. We do have the 201st, however. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/201st\_Fighter\_Squadron\_%28Mexico%29

An Armenian here: I have mentioned in an earlier post, both my grandpa's were WW2 veterans. Armenia had 600 thousand soldiers fighting both in eastern and western fronts. Of course most of Armenians were fighting in Soviet Red Army as Armenia was part of soviet union but there were many Armenians in French resistance and US army as well.

The [Armenian Tamanyan division](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/89th\_Rifle\_Division\_(Soviet\_Union) was the only ethnic division in Red Army to enter Berlin. Can you imagine, from Armenia to Berlin and they danced an Armenian war dance in front of Reichstag here is a link so dear Germans if you see couple of Armenians dancing this kind of dance in front of the Reichstag, it is for this reason.

Also, even though religion was banned in soviet union, the Armenian Apostle church and diasporan Armenians donated money to build a whole tank regiment called Sasuntsi Davit.

In the United States it's viewed like a global crusade against the epitome of evil, both in the field and in the factory. The generation that fought in it and worked to give the soldiers and allies everything they needed is called the Greatest Generation if that is any indicator of how they're viewed and venerated. The Great Depression is always tied into it as well since the war is viewed as the time we pulled ourselves from the depths all the way to superpower status.

I live in Israel, it's mostly about the holocaust here. There's a memorial day (for the "holocaust and the bravery"), at first holocaust survivors were ridiculed in Israel, seen as going like" lambs to the slaughter", the thing that changed the perspective and allowed people to talk about it was I belive the Eichmann trials,anyway that's why they added the bravery part to the title of the memorial day. We learn about the war and about the holocaust in history class at school, I'd say at about 50/50 ratio. And it is also very common to travel with your high school at 11th grade to Poland to tour the ghettos and camps.

Mexico here.

Mostly people were like "Heey amigo WTF, don't fight!"; and US was like "you're with us or against us"; and we were like "but we don't know how to fight"; and Germany was like "Join us and we will give you back from Texas to California"; so the US was like "go send some planes to fight, prove your loyalty to us"; and Mexico was like "Ok as you say".

Finally Mexico send some planes to fight, all of them were destroyed and Mexico was like "There, US, we proved ourselves, can we go back to tequila and cerveza until the fight is over?"

korean here, the japanese surrender is celebrated in both countries. From what my grandparents told me. during the japanese occupation they all had to change their names and learn japanese. we were all treated as second class citizens, harassed by japanese police. siblings of my grandparents fled north and joined the communist movements whileas my grandfather was conscripted into the japanese army and sent to manchuria. They don't talk much about it besides how much they hate japan.

My family is from the Southern United States, more specifically the Memphis, Tennessee area, my grandmother, who was from Jonesboro Arkansas told me a story of the German POW camps.

During WWII German POWs were allowed to have freedoms most other POWs in other countires at the time didn't have. She told me they were allowed to go into Jonesboro every once and awhile as it was thought they couldn't wander off, and even if they did they would be found because they didn't know the land. She went on to tell me that many German POWs stayed in the US after the war.

Canada: We get that way in November and mostly forget about it the rest of the year. If there's a type of "on TV at almost any time of day" category of documentary it would be nature/wildlife.

Remembrance day is to signify the end of World War 1, not World War 2.

In canada, we have remembrance day, Nov 11. During this time there are a lot more shows and documentaries on TV. At school they spend a couple weeks learning about ww1 and ww2, and the students are asked either to draw a colored poster, black and white poster, poem or essay. Then on Nov 11 all the legion members and vets will look at the work the students have done (whick are hanging in the town hall) and pick winners for each category and age bracket. They have a mass thing at 11:00 and at the end they announce the winners.

I'm from Slovenia, and for such a small country, our WWII experience was pretty complex. The axis powers split our country between themselves (Italy, Germany and Hungary). There was a pretty successful resistence movement, the Partisans (which later got semi-hijacked by communists and they went on to found SFR Yugoslavia). There was also a group of nazi collaborators, who joined the Germans to "fight communism", called The Homeguard. This means there was a civil war going on between the Partisans and the Homeguard, and people are still pretty split on this. The right here is constantly trying to excuse the Homeguard, with the support of the Catholic Church, trying to frame the whole collaboration thing as some sort of freedom fight against communist invaders.

I'm pretty much on the side of the Partisans. They actually fought to liberate our country, and because they were so successful, we didn't need help from the Russians, which kept us out of the whole Eastren block clustefuck. There were revenge mass killings and purges of the Homeguard during and after the war (a consequence of the civil war), but as far as communist countries go, Yugoslavia was actually a pretty nice country to live in. Definitely better than being part of the Soviet Union.

The young people are fortunately mostly uninterested in the whole Homeguard vs Partisans argument that our polititians keep using to get some political points (predominantly on the right), so hopefully we just have to wait for another generation to die off before we can stop this idiotic debate.

I'm from the US and its pretty weird. We seem to think that we won the whole war? Yeah right. Let's give a little credit where it is due. We wouldn't have won shit without Russia or Britain. It could have been so fucking easy for Churchill to just give up when London was getting bombed easily. It could have been fucking easy for Stalin to give up when Germany pushed that far to the capital. They fought back and it cost them a lot. The only thing to happen on our land is Pearl Harbor, 2000 deaths. Other allies had to fight the majority of the war on their own land. We definitely couldn't have won shit by ourselves. But to be fair, without us in the war the Allies could not have won by their selves either. We kept the Japanese occupied the whole war and defeated them and brought the main force to liberate France. Our country is still quite ignorant of it though, the whole "We saved everything and won the war single-handedly" attitude that makes me fucking sick. So disrespectful to all of the Russian and Britain and other Allies lives that were lost on home soil, especially their citizens. I think I was on an app that asked questions as polls, and the question was "What would you have rather not happened in history". The number one choice was 9/11, with like 65%. There was an answer "German conquest of Europe 1939-1945" with about 21%. Fucking incredible. American stereotypes can be so true. So short-minded. I'm only 16 and I have no memory of either events. But to compare 9/11 with Germany taking over all of Europe and the Holocaust and all that combined is fucking ridiculous.

In the USA it's pretty fondly remembered honestly. At least from a historical perspective. With the dictators and racism of the Axis powers giving us a movie-like villain to root against, it seemed to everyone (and still does) that America was fighting for the good side.

Plus America's economy took off after the war, since most of the collateral damage was in Europe of Asia, and America's infrastructure was mostly untouched. Add in the Lusitania and the Zimmerman Letter which make warring on the Axis seem like self defense, and the general feeling became that we a. fought for the good guys b. had good cause to go to war c. and benefitted as a nation from the overall results

edit: had some factual errors.

In the US we are pretty obsessed with it. A lot of people consider it our last "good" war. It's seen as a morally solid action on our part, while some of our other actions since have been a bit sketchy. It's super romanticized.

American money, British strategy, Soviet blood

Well.. I grew up in Germany.. We do have documentaries about the war, however compared to the UK (which is very pro war, good against evil) German documentaries, are not. They always have a "yeah we did wrong, now repent" undertone.

Well, if there is one thing you can't blame Germany for in relation to the war it's repentence. There is quite a lot of it. Everywhere.

As an Australian I see it as the first and only time Australia has ever had to defend itself or be under any threat from a foreign enemy, in this case the Japanese. They bombed towns in northern Australia the most notable being the Darwin bombings. They also got a submarine into Sydney harbour and blew up a ship. I also believe they shelled The suburbs around Bondi at one point but I can't remember for sure. They were dangerously close to taking Papua New Guinea but were held back by Australian and later American soldiers. After this us and the Americans fought a lot in the pacific against the Japanese. My grandfather fought on the island of Bougainville.

We also fought in North Africa and peformed excellently during the siege of a coastal town called Tobruk where the Australian soldiers were cut off completely by German soldiers and had to be supplied by ocean. The Germans also kicked our ass in Greece.

Here in Canada almost anyone will portray WWII as "The Canadians were actually helping the whole time, then the Americans come in at the very last minute and get all the glory"

As an American in his 30s, I feel like that we look back on the war fondly, as it was the last clearly cut (sort of) conflict in which we participated. We revere our grandparents for their "can do attitude", and from their efforts we were gifted the suburbs. Similarly, we are reminded of our role in the bomb and how that changed the world.

I would say a sense of melancholy and pride.

In Belgium, it is mostly the same as in the UK. Lots of documentaries. Occasionally an American bomb is found at some works. (Surprisingly it's mostly the Americans who bombed Belgium in WW2. For a good cause of course but they could have worked on their aim a bit more.)

Other than that everyone knows some stories about the resistance or about a collaboroator in the Eastern front.

It's mostly WW1 which is remembered here since that war left Belgium partly destroyed and completely plundered empty.

Netherlands here.

You could ask fifty ten-year-olds about the war and they would say the same thing: started in 1940, ended may the fourth 1945 thanks to Canada, UK, and America. This was put in their head by teachers in elementary and everyone finds out that it's not true when they're in high school. We get taught that the Russians were just as bad as the Germans, and when we get told that the Russians really ended the war in high school there are gasps throughout the entire classroom.

Canadian here. From what I've seen, Hitler being a bag o' dicks is always highlighted, and the Japanese were sadistic torturers who cared little for human life. That's how it is taught. Interestingly enough, they never talk about how shitty Canadian's were to Japanese-Canadians and others. It's all about what the other countries did (whether good or bad), how Canada helped, and how pissy Hitler was.

Hungary

Just a few things. As a whole, we remember it as a defeat. Without a choice we were drifting towards axis/germany. And comes our biggest loss, the Don river. The Second hungarian army, 200,000 man, was given an order to defend the Don river. A rushed, badly trained army without proper weapons and supplies. Only 40,000 returned...

American here. History Channel used to have a lot of interesting documentaries about WW2 years ago, now they play reality TV bullshit. I'm still extremely interested in it though. Tales of the Gun, Dogfights and a number of other older shows are pretty readily available on youtube.

In France, there's a lot to say.

I know i'm young and i didn't know how it really happened. This is just how my family who didn't suffer from any losses (in battle, bombing and deportation) explained it to me. It may be way different for other families.

Sorry for my english, it's not my native language.

I lived by Auschwitz as a child but long after the war was over. We visited the baths and showers, inside the camps and got a glimpse of the living conditions. I was 8 years old when they showed us this. To this day anything that has to do with the holocaust really chills me, I can't make jokes about it because of this revelation. Personally I think it was propaganda, even if it was in a good direction, showing a kid something like this so early is harmful.

Korea. Probably the most divisive event in the history of our nation. WWII has both liberated us from the cruel grip of imperial Japan and yet divided us into 2 bipolar countries. Then we were told we couldn't see our families, brewed to hate each other, and even caused what you can consider a civil war between ourselves. Koreans are a proud race with a long history dating back thousands of years. We have long defended against great enemies (sometimes unsucessfully): China, Japan, Mongols, etc. But never once were we seperated. And yet here we are, North and South Korea so drastically different.

Malaysian there. There's a pretty big divide between the attitudes of various generations. The postwar ('46, '47, etc) generation was never exposed to Japanese cruelty, so they're pretty apathetic about the whole thing. They're far more likely to be pro or anti-British and Communist, due to our rather stormy postwar period where we had Communist uprisings(anti-Brit, of course) and a huge push for Independence from the Brits by various national parties.

Amongst the generation born or alive during the war, a lot of them still hate Japan and its people for what they did. They refuse to purchase Japanese products or associate with anything Japanese. That generation is dying out, though. It should be noted, though, that initially the Malays (our majority race) were treated well by the Japanese as they had no prior bad blood between them.

The Japanese collaborated a lot with the Malays, as a majority also happened to be particularly anti-British (removing Sultan's rights, taking away the special Malay privileges, trampling on Islamic practice etc), and Japan hated the Chinese due to the Sino-Japanese war. A hell lot of Chinese suffered rape, torture, etc under the Japanese, The Indians were somewhere in between. Eventually, though, everyone began to feel the toll of a wartime economy and popular sentiment turned against the Japanese.

However, a result of this racial divide is that we still have lingering racism amongst the various races, thanks to this and other incidents that occurred along the way, also made worse by racist politicians and policies.

As for us young(er) folks, well, Japanese culture is highly influential and esteemed over here. We have a booming anime/manga/games scene. Along with the rise of Japanese restaurants/products and the advent of the Internet, there is a greater appreciation of Japanese culture amongst the youth and young adults. We even have a pretty sizable expat population here, with Bon Odori festivals held in various states yearly, organized by their associations and embassies, and various Japanese cultural awareness events and classes too.

Of course, you have the occasional crazies (hardliner/extremist Muslims) who view WW2 as a good thing because Hitler killed a lot of Jews. For the most part, we're not very torn up over the whole war, and Germany is but a footnote in our textbooks.

Seeing that only one or two germans have posted so far, I feel inclined to share what I think. National pride is instinctively denied around here because of how ashamed and guilted we feel about what happened. It feels like everything up to that point (WW2) has been irrelevant in our national history and we had to make a fresh start. Now with the cold war and germany being devided, the reunification.. we had lot's of stuff to fill that hole. Then again most of history-, german-, politics- and english-class revolve around our past, the nazis, the holocaust, the two big wars. I'd say it's a pretty big part of being german to remind yourself that things can go south pretty hard and fast no matter how developed you think your nation or your society is. We're very aware of the fact that masses of people can easily be manipulated. Also the media won't like you, if you come from the right political spectrum. It's a really sensitive topic and rightfully so. Then you have the people that preach to the choir but actually hold a lot of xenophobic ideas. "I'm no Nazi, but...". I guess it might be frustrating to feel prohibited from displaying national pride, then again I think that this is a really petty way to feel in the face of the things that happened..

I live in the US and I have heard a lot about the American home front. A lot of credit is given to the men and (mostly) women who were at home constantly working to provide weapons, ammo, etc. I hadn't read anything about this in this thread so far and I thought this was a pretty big deal that is highlighted fairly regularly.

In the Netherlands, it's probably mostly a few specific details. Nazis were evil, they oppressed us and killed lots of Jews. Lots of people in concentration camps. They caused the hongerwinter, when the entire country suffered huge food shortages. But there was the resistance, secretly hiding Jews as well as undermining Nazi occupation and working with the allied forces in secret, and eventually D-day, als known as the Liberation (and less well known as the Normandy landings) happened, and we were freed shortly thereafter, thanks primarily due to the efforts of the Commonwealth and the resistance, as well as some help from the Americans, although not before "A Bridge Too Far". And lest I forget, there was not only the resistance, but also the NSB. They're remembered as Nazi aligned traitors. Basically the Dutch offshoot of the German Nazi party. They were pretty much the antithesis of the resistance.

We are aware of a lot of other details, of course, such as Japan and Italy getting involved, but those details aren't capitalised upon as much. Japan is mostly renowned for what happened in Indonesia, a former colony whose culture heavily influences Dutch culture to this day. Although we weren't exactly nice people in Indonesia, what happened there during and after the second world war (the roles were swapped, instead of the Dutch being cruel to the indigenous Indonesians, you really didn't want to be of Dutch ancestry in Indonesia after WW2) left a big national emotional scar, that still marks Dutch-Japanese diplomatic relations today. We're okay with the Japanese, and I expect a lot of cooperation in solving problems associated with an ageing population, but the past has been all but forgotten.

German here. We treat it like a warning sign. It's something pretty much everyone carries around with them and even though the younger generations don't know what it was like, everybody kind of feels a little bit like it's our duty to prevent something similar to happen ever again.

Most of the focus, when we think of it, is on the wrongs that the Germans have done. But in history lessons, we learn about all the sides of the war. What I will say, though, is that Japan is often forgotten or not mentioned nearly as often as in the US.

In our history channels, there is always something like "Hitler's secrets: now revealed" on, (this week in German magazine SPIEGEL there is a great article of Auschwitz survivors recounting their life stories) and in daily conversation/ articles it comes up more often than in other countries, I guess. It serves as a warning sign and also is something that has changed our personality as a country- for example that patriotism isn't viewed as something too great.

Canadians view it as a huge breakthrough in our independance from the Crown. It always slightly annoys me when Americans are all "'Muricaaaaa! Beat the evil Nazis fuck yeaaaaah" about the situation because they only joined the war after Pearl Harbour. The Canadians were in it since the beginning.

WWII is pretty much viewed in America as "not our problem" until Pearl Harbour then it became "our problem" and we kicked ass and essentially saved the day

I live in Ireland which was Neutral there was two views one by republicans which supported Germany under the pretext of "my enemies (Britain) enemies is my friend" while we also helped by letting the u.k fly through out air space to protect the atlantic ocean. Many it ("the emergency" as we call it as we didn't even officially recognise it) was a inconvenient event as there was rationing.

There's a lot of pride about it in Canada, along with WW1. It normally turns into an America-bashing conversation, though (like every time we do anything), which I find beyond stupid.

I live in germany. we don't like to talk about it but it's 24/7 on tv and in history lessons in schools that germans are evil.

I would say germans are not very enthusiastic about WWII but they try to show the younger generations the mistakes of the past so people can live a better future.

The only enthusiasm WWII produced here was for people interrested in weapons/war tech and conspiracy theories.

I live in Iceland. We were "invaded" by the British, then the Yanks and we loved them. Now most of us don't really care about World War 2, except the atrocities committed by the Nazi Germans. My grandmother lived in a town that was basically the only place in Iceland that was attacked by the Germans and that was from a bomber and 3 people died, including a kid she knew.

Now there are people that admire the technologies and strategies the Germans created, but that's basically all there is...

USA here. We see ourselves as the savior of the world against the Axis of Evil.

Rarely is Russia's role mentioned, when without them it is doubtful that England could have withstood a Nazi attack. The threat of Russia joining in the fight against Japan was another major factor in their surrender.

German here, what do you expect they try to teach us here per TV or history books?! It's not forgotten yet and were still the bad...

If my memory serves me right, in school in Canada, there's a major focus on just how much we tried to help. There wasn't a whole lot of "oh, if it weren't for Canada this would have failed!" and so on, it was more like, "yeah, Canada had a pretty bad economy, pretty small population, but we did our best."

It was basically acknowledgment towards what we did, but it never went beyond that. WW1 is usually regarded as being more important, for Canada, but we spent a lot more time on WW2 topics, for instance, the Battle of the Atlantic and the Canadian Merchant Marine, Dieppe, etc, over the WW1 Battle of Vimy Ridge.

I also remember statistics being thrown around a lot, the amount of servicemen produced by Canada, the production of vehicles and food, as well as the death and casualty toll for such a small population.

Another big thing was Juno Beach, the fact that Britain and USA had their own beaches is understandable, being such massive powers in the war, but for Canada to have it's own beach, which is, in comparison to them on either side, it just enormous. I remember being taught about that specifically in school, as well as something along the lines of, having the second most fierce resistance, and the farthest to advance inland, as well as having the only remaining footage of the first wave landings.

This quote by John Keegan is usually requoted; “At the end of the day, its forward elements stood deeper into France than those of any other division. The opposition the Canadians faced was stronger than that of any other beach save Omaha. That was an accomplishment in which the whole nation could take considerable pride.”

But that's just what I remember from school in the Maritimes, might have been different in the rest of the country.

American here. WWII is viewed largely here as an American victory, with everyone else playing a minor role in ensuring victory.

We have Hollywood to thank for focusing on the theaters of war where the USA was involved.

While I agree with the overall sentiment of the United States being the most important reason for Allied victory in WWII, it isn't as cut and dried as "American GIs went across the globe stompin' Jap and Nazi ass" like many who hold the most popular view.

World War II is obvious a very complex conflict, and the most important in the history of modern civilization. No other event has influenced, or continues to impact our lives even now in the 21st century, quite like the 2nd World War has.

So--why does USAFoodTruck think that the United States was the country most responsible for Allied victory in WWII? In a one word response: industry.

While we cannot discount the contributions of the Russian foot soldier or the British population surviving the German onslaught, all of this wouldn't have mattered in the least had it not been for American production.

Germany and Japan were finished when it got to the point of our huge population mobilizing for war. We could simply produce more planes, tanks, guns, and soldiers faster than the Axis could ever destroy them.

Our production of food coming over in the lifeline across the Atlantic that kept British resistance viable was IMPERATIVE. Had it not been for American supplies, the British do not survive, and surrender at some point in 1941. They were a breath away from surrendering WITH American supply, and if Hitler had not changed the focus of German strategic bombing from attacking British aircraft targets to attacking British cities, the British would have been unable to mount a defense and Operation Sea Lion would have occurred in earnest.

Same could be said for the Soviets. Without American trucking, the Soviet tank production is unable to keep up with war needs. The Battle of Kursk never happens. The Soviets wouldn't have the industry necessary to turn the tide.

As far as the Pacific theater, well the United States was clearly the force responsible for subduing the Japanese Imperial Army.

TLDR: Americans think we were the reason why the Allies won the war. Although the way my average countryman might argue how it happened aren't necessarily accurate, it doesn't mean their main argument isn't correct.

From Canada. I think the general feeling people in my country have is "we helped too y'know!". The states is right below us so it's sometimes easy to forget that we had a large part to play on D-day, and one of the largest navies in the world by the end of the war etc. (I'm 26)

Sweden, it's very mixed. Some people regret we didn't do more to aid the allies and how we helped the Germans in many ways (troop transports, SS Viking volunteers, high quality iron).

Others are of the same opinion as me: if we resisted, we would've been crushed. At least we stayed in control of our own country.

A lot of swedes did good stuff: Raoul Wallenberg saved a lot of Jews by giving them passports, which eventually cost him his life when he was captured and probably executed by the Russians. Folke Bernadotte made sure that more than 11000 POWs got to return home via Sweden and the Red Cross.

Not only that, but Sweden staying out of the war and not getting bombed to pieces led to a financial golden age: people came from all over Europe to work in Sweden, especially Greece and the rest of the Balkan peninsula.

Mostly, though, I'd say people view it as a thing of the past, sadly. People have seemingly forgotten about what it was like, and few understand Sweden's situation back then.

Japanese films used to be remorseful and depict the horror of war. In more recent years, movies have tended to romanticize the war and excuse the role of Japan. This has become a concern of the Chinese and Koreans: http://news.usni.org/2014/04/14/japanese-eyes-world-war-ii-japanese-cinema

Ireland here, as we were neutral during we didn't take much in the action but we still suffered nevertheless in fear of being bombed by being mistaken as the UK and with rations and all that. Otherwise everyone studies a portion of it during our history course at Junior Cert. and no one really gives a care after that.

It's fairly glorified in Canada. the "Canada Remembers" Facebook group is run by the government and sends updates out to every Canadian on Facebook (so every Canadian) every week of some important event in World War 2 history. The overwhelming theme was that Canada's army was small but fierce and effective.

The quote: "If I had American supply lines, British planes, German officers and Canadian troops, I could take over the world" was a made up quote by Canadians to enforce our perceived reputation from our enemies.

Remembered? A yearly memorial on whatever Jewish date it falls on. Viewed? Depends who you ask.

The Holocaust survival generation living in Israel is nearing its last decade or so. I am sure from what you guys know about the Holocaust, gas chambers and concentration camps that you already know this population percentage's view or memory of the Holocaust.

To the younger Israeli generation, the ones his parents, grandparents or great grandparents are Holocaust survivors, World War II is mostly studied and viewed in relation to the Holocaust. The Holocaust is a constant reminder to this generation that they have a duty to protect Jews everywhere, which was made possible with the formation of the State of Israel. Hence, the creation of the State of Israel, World War II and the Holocaust are seen as directly related. The way we see it is: "Remember what happened to our people in the 1930s/1940s? Don't let that happen again"

I'm an American and going to Moscow for the first time three years ago I made the grave mistake of going into a conversation about World War II, where I quickly saw that the historiography of WW2 in Russia is pretty different than in the states. My Russian friends could NOT believe that we were not told that Russia "won World War II", exactly in those words. I had no idea Russians felt that way.

In the United Kingdom, especially England, 'beating Hitler' has become the defining myth of a new national identity based around tolerance, moderation, stability and quiet determination, symbolised by (for the left) the postwar invention of the world's first modern welfare state and (for the right) the keep calm and carry on Battle of Britain spirit. This has been a hugely important salve to help the British identity deal with the extremely rapid dissolution of the world's largest Empire as a direct consequence of the financial and political costs of having to rely on American aid to win the same war.

Thanks to the Channel sea keeping the Wermacht at bay we have the least complicated and troubled attitude of any European country to the war. We fought hard, lost a lot of battles and suffered bombing but never had to collaborate with the Nazis (or Soviets). The brutality of our strategically pointless bombing campaign against German civilians is forgotten, and defeats like Dunkirk are reinvented as moments of plucky determination in the face of overwhelming odds.

My grandparents generation frequently loathe anything Japanese thanks to the death marches, and our parents generation think of the Germans as go-to cartoon villains thanks to heroic war movies, but the younger generation don't carry these prejudices any more.

World War 1 has a far more contentious and troubled historical memory because Britain entered it enthusiastically and it maimed an entire generation for no explicable reason. It's largely seen as the beginning of the end for the old imperial, patriotic and heavily class-based Victorian type society people associate with Britain.

in america we seem to think that we did everything and all the other countries just sat around and pissed their pants. of course that is wrong but americans tend to take credit for everything

USA here - we won the whole goddamn thing and bailed everybody else out. You're welcome.

My father and grandfather are watching a WWII film as we speak,

USA.

US of A - Back to back World War champions

In Bulgaria we are taught our country was pressed to join the Axis. It is seen as a positive that we managed to keep our jewish population not being sent to the nazis. Although the country (especially the capital) suffered bombing from both sides - Germany while pressing us to join, Allies later on. There are many anti-nazi partisan stories running around, especially during communist regime before 1989 (it was part of the pro-commie propaganda as they took over right after WWII).

I'm an American living in China. The view here is interesting. Anti-Japanese sentiment is still very alive here. (Perhaps rightfully so) At just about any time of day you can find a war movie on TV. Of course, this is not "World War II" but "the War of Resistance Against Japan". It is interesting to note that if you ask most Chinese people about the U.S./British (and allies) contribution to the war, they know very little. (No doubt due to the rhetoric of the CCP). All they really know is that the U.S. dropped a couple big bombs on Japan. They know nothing of Saipan, Okinawa, Guadalcanal, etc. In my travels throughout China, I have only seen a little bit of the Allies contribution acknowledged in Kunming (Yunnan province, SW China), where the Allies brought the ROC supplies "over the hump". I have spent a little time in Taiwan, but not enough to get a real read on the view of WWII. I can say that you will be reminded of the war with Japan in mainland China daily. I did not experience that in Taiwan. Perhaps someone more experienced in Taiwan could provide more info on this.

As a Chinese I think I will try explaining the reasoning for not giving the allies much credit for their support.

The main reason for this can be said that the allies did not "really" start helping until Japan invades Pearl Harbor in 1942. So from that perspective, China had been at war with Japan for many years on their own.

In Latvia, we study this period quite extensively. It usually starts with the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact that divided the buffer region between the USSR and Nazi Germany and our forced acceptance of USSR's terms, which we could fight against, but Kārlis Ulmanis(Our 4th President and leader at the time) decided it would be better if more of us would survive than be uselessly slaughtered by the Soviets anyway by rejecting the terms.

The soviets take command, install their puppet government and set up military bases in the region(same thing happened in every area that was divided by the pact, except for Finland, because even their balls were too big for the soviets). And comes the first wave of repressions against the intelligentsia, the commanding officers of our army and everyone else who might cause problems to the existing government, who are immediately shot or taken away to Siberia to a prison(like Kārlis Ulmanis, who died there) or gulag camp. Now, many did escape to Germany or Sweden, but a lot of our bright minds suffered under the brutal regime of the soviets. So it's no wonder that when the Wermacht pushed the soviets out they were greeted as heroes and there are many tales passed down from the people that were around that the Germans actually treated the general populace nicely and were kinder to them than the soviets, who usually trashed apartments, shat in drawers, etc. And because of this, you had a lot of Latvians who fought on either side. The ones who were older, usually ended up on the soviet side and the ones who were slightly younger by the time of the original draft ended up in the Wermacht. This of course made them look better in the eyes of the general populace, except for the Jews, who were hunted extensively, by both Latvian collaborators and the SS alike, without even knowing the underlying plans for Latvia if Germany achieved total victory over the allies.

As the Germans got pushed out and another wave of repressions happened in 1944(the first one was in 1941, which is also called "Baiga Vasara" - The Dreadful Summer), all of the collaborators who had stayed behind and helped the Germans in anyway, mostly just people who hadn't done anything were sent in cattle wagons off to Siberia. Many of them died on the way there and most were never seen or heard from again.

The war then ended and another Gulag therapy session was had in 1949. From then on we lived quietly in the Soviet Union til good old Gorbachov gave us a chance to break free, unwillingly, of course.

TLDR: We view neither side as good or bad, they were just another conqueror not giving a rat's arse about what we wanted. And that goes not only for Germany or the USSR at the time.

So I'm from Canada. We surprisingly did quite a bit in both world wars but being a part of the 2nd was really big because we weren't forced in by the British and really did it to show we, as Canadians and not some country controlling us, care. I'm actually Jewish and went to a private Jewish school so my "view" isn't really your average Canadian view. During my Jewish schooling (high school and elementary) we learnt A LOT about world war 2. There was a lot to cover because we had to focus on the war itself and the crazy situation with the Jews as about everyone in the school had great grandparents who died in death camps. Culturally world war 2 is huge here but i just feel as if younger generations just don't care anymore. People seem to think the Americans did everything and other than the US, English, French, Germans and Japanese, no one was involved.(which is really sad). There are always documentaries, movies and even TV shows on but as I said, people just seem to not care anymore.. my grandmother told me that when she lived in Morocco, the king told Hitler that Jews are under his protection and he refused to give them up, leading to many bombings from Nazis. She said I wouldn't be here today if the king didn't make that decision and I think that was pretty cool and under rated. I'm pretty young so my writing skills aren't the best.

I am from Argentina. The war was great for our economy since the products we sell ( meat and grains) so we are recognized as the World's Barn. Plus we gave shelter to plenty of Nazis, and people joke about it

I live in Spain, so by the time WWII began, we had just come out of our civil war and Franco was in control of the country. Here our war has been much more important than WWII, and there's a lot of movies and literature about it. WWII went by silently, so to speak.

There were a few Spanish guys who went over the border to help with the french resistance and stuff, IIRC. But we were having our own shit right at home.

As an American, kinda like this

I live in Malaysia so in here WWII was mostly about Japanese Occupation rather what happen in Europe (in fact, Hitler barely even mentioned in our school's textbook and even WWI was just several page of factoids). And for most coverage about Japanese involvement in WWII seems restricted to US's involvement after Pearl Harbor... its rare to find someone who were just as interested with WWII in Asia countries especially in Southeast Asia.

I think most folks forgot about how British military suffered in their colonies as POWs during the war. Japanese army was pretty much against British Empire's expansion and did many thing to whitewash british influence in this region by implementing theirs. Its a brief occupation but the social impact are staggering and even had its reach to this day.

Canada had a VERY big impact on the War for it's population. From supplies and manufacturing, to the per-capita who fought/assisted, and the number of very brave operations that Canadians took part in ( including D-Day ).

It is seen a horror, very likely to happen sooner or later given the situation after the war ( most people don't understand much about it, but the treaties and debt in Germany after WW1 made for healthy soil for Nazism.

3 of my Grandpas fought ( One grandma re-married ), one was a combat medic, one was a tanker ( Sherman Firefly ) and the other went behind enemy lines in modified half-track and won a medal for capturing 17 Waffen SS soldiers ( 5 of them Officers ) without firing a shot by sneaking up and lying about having them surrounded ( that is a very short version of the awesome story )

I live in the United States. I am a Jewish woman. It was basically a right of passage to read the Diary of Anne Frank and a big part of our general education in Elementary, Middle and High school is about WWII. We learn about it in the sense that those who participated in it proactively are evil, Nazi war criminals and those who stopped it are heros. It's funny, because where I grew up we learned about WWII almost immediately after discussing the south in the US and slavery. As if they are both history elements we are ashamed to talked about, yet the only reason they ended were fear that they would spread to different religions or races.

In Ireland we feel neutral about the whole thing. We had a regiment of Irishmen fighting for the Nazis with the IRA being vaguely supportive based on promises of independence, and we had men fighting for the British scattered about.

I'm from the Faroe Islands. Here, the second world war is strongly connected to the Faroese independence movement. During the second world war, we were occupied by the British, shortly after Denmark was invaded by Germany. This was, however, a very peaceful occupation. At the time, the Faroes were still only a county in the Danish Realm, and not a self-governing country, as it is today. During the British occupation, our parliament was given full legislative powers, our flag was properly recognized by the British and we (sorta) had our own currency at the time. When the war ended, the Faroes were returned to Denmark, and was once again a mere county in the realm. Suffice to say, that no one was happy with that anymore.

In 1946, there was an independence referendum, in which the Faroese people actually voted for independence, but long story short, we stayed in the realm, and attained home rule in 1948.

The British occupation still has a lasting impact on our culture. We still love fish and chips, and Cadbury chocolate is available in pretty much any store (unlike in Denmark).

American.

We see it as a victory but primarily a victory for the United States and Great Britain. The Soviet contribution was played down a bit when I was a kid. It seems we play up the Nazis as the enemy more than the Japanese as well.

I'm a WWII buff in my 50s. That's the way it seems to me.

I get the fact that it was called the world wars for a reason but it is amazing to think that no one was left unscathed. Every country was affected in some way by it.

Since we didn't directly partake in it, the WWII in Portugal is seen as one of the brightest moments of Salazar's dictatorship - a wise diplomatic move where the Portuguese neutrality help the nation's finances by exporting goods for both the Axis and the Allies.

It is also remembered as the time where the qualities of Portuguese people, such as the goodwill and the braveness, were shown through the heart of Aristides de Sousa Mendes, a noble man who served as Portuguese consul in France. Much to Salazar anger, he conceded thousands of Portuguese visas for those who were running away from the tyranny of Germany. The number is still questioned, but some say he saved 10.000 Jews.

Overall, and beyond the Portuguese particularities, in a simplistic way it is seen as a manicheist grand event where the good prevailed over the evil.

Who knows what we would think if the Operation Felix actually had taken place?

Canada here.

WWII = bad, Nazi & japan scum = bad

canada + murica + england + allies come in and BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM

now usa #1

For us in the Baltics, WWII ended 1990 after around 60 years of fighting for survival as nations, when we managed to free ourselves from the Soviet occupation. We commemorate it as a struggle for existence which gives us motivation to grow as independent nations but also an event whose decreasing effect is felt even today.

WWII resulted in Bulgaria entering the Soviet sphere of influence. The 45 years of Soviet-backed communist rule are generally remembered as a dark period in our history, although there are those who claim that life was actually much better compared to now. I think a key event in Bulgaria's history during WWII that needs to be researched/discussed more is the bombing of the Bulgarian capital by the UK/US Air Forces which resulted in many civilian deaths.It wasn't on the level of Dresden or Hamburg of course, but nevertheless the casualties were in the thousands. Also, it might sound funny now, but at one point Bulgaria had the dubious distinction of being simultaneously at war with Great Britain, Germany, Russia, and the United States. I honestly don't know what we were thinking :)

Korea was a Japanese colony since 1910.

We were exploited. Men were exported for slave labor, women for sex slaves. There were many traitors who sold their people and nation to Japanese. There were also many patriots who rise against the imperial occupation. The fight for independence lasted for almost 40 years.

All these struggles abruptly ended with 2 bombs which ended a war between Japan and their allies against some other allies. War between the countries with strange names made us independent. We were liberated by both Russians and Americans. Many thought it was the end of sadness.

Then Korean War broke out, and we killed and were killed by our own people.

Someone spoke about Brazil before, but I think they left out the most important part.

Yes, Brazil did send some troops to fight for the allies in 1942, but what's more noteworthy is how close Brazil, and many other countries for that matter, was to aligning with the Nazis.

At school in Brazil you learn about WWII with a clear-cut "good vc. evil" perspective, where Hitler was the devil, and the nazis were monsters who hated jews and blacks. I've met many Germans who carry a profound guilt for the atrocities of the concentration camps, but I feel they carry a burden that should be much more widely shared.

What isn't told in schools is how anti-semitism wasn't at all exclusive to Germany, and how close Brazil came to joining the war on the Axis' side. At the time the war broke out Brazil's government was much more ideologically sided with Mussolini's Italy than with Churchill. What determined which side Brazil was eventually going to take had much more to do with the political and economic dominance and influence the US had over South America at the time than with a love for human kind, or peace and justice. Brazil stayed on the fence, stalling as long as it could, until pressure from the US became too great (and by that time it was pretty clear the Allies were going to win, anyways) and Brazil joined the war with some 25.000 troops.

That is true to other countries in Latin America, too. Both Brazil and Argentina, for example, have considerable populations of nazis who fled Europe once they realized they were losing the war, and they were well received, finding places to settle and opening businesses.

Bottom line is, since the war didn't take place in South America and anti-semitism was widely accepted, Brazil's (and many other South American countries') siding with the allies is much more due to opportunity and politics than what is taught in schools nowadays.

Australia

Being the United Kingdom of the Pacific Theater

Getting fucked over by American generals

Brutal POW camps

Kakoda track

The Americans were already here in the Philippines even before World War I started, so it seemed like we were going to be fine in World War II. Then December 8, 1941 happened. And America's rule in the Philippines fell within 5 months. Right now, there's a giant cross very near the battlegrounds in commemoration of the Filipino and American soldiers who did their best to defend the Philippines from Japan. History class tells us about how brutal the Japanese were during their 3-year stay in the Philippines. We were very lucky to have the United States still holding on to the Philippines, because it's scary thinking about what would have happened if the war lasted even just a bit longer.

Romanian here, basicaly my view on the war and from what i've learned in school and what I read later on the interwebs, we basicaly didnt want to go to war, but we were forced, on one side the Soviets were taking Basarabia, and on the other side the Germans wanted Hungarian claims, we were basicaly sandwiched between like Poland, our only western Ally was France, and they ceased to exist in 1940~ so we were without any help, we had to take one side, and I guess Romania always had Western europe views and inclinations we sided with the germans even tho we had to give up NW transilvania to the hungarians.

I dont know if this true but my grandfather lived in a villaged around Cluj in that time and from his stories he said he had to refuge to Alba because simply the Hungarians were rounding up and executing. Take this as a grain of salt, its just an oldman stories.

So I guess the point is that we didnt had any other options. at least we kinda kept our teritories and didnt get eliminated by Russians, they easily could have split us between Bulgaria/Ukraine/Serbs or other Slav allies.

In China, most people treat Anti-Japanese War as one thing while WWII another.

I live in Northeast China where was colony of Japan back to 1937. My grandpa who was born in Dalian studied in a Japanese business school in 1930's once said there were only 4 Chinese students including himself.

He then moved to Harbin, another northeast colony city where Soviet Union had s stronger influence, to run a food business. Unlike government propaganda, he recalled Japanese troops "buy" in his shop but Soviet red army just "rob" without paying.

When it comes to U.S. influence, few if any Chinese know that baseball back 1940's was our favorite sports that even troops play baseball during Chinese Civil War (a post here, in WWII, Chinese students and American soldiers playing baseball game, ChengDu, 1940).

Everything changed since 1949. 70 years after WWII, apart from historical issues, I don't think people really hate Japanese or American or western countries or Soviet Union or South Korea, especially younger generation born after 1980's.

When government messed up with internal affairs, they bring up ethnic hatred and disputes to divert attention, and people kinda sick of that. Hisroty was covered, truth may never be known, we just want develop some peace and love through communication, like anyone else in the world.

My great grandmother came to the USA from Poland in the early 30's with two of her 11 siblings. We are Jewish, and when she got here she ended up marrying a Russian Jew. Both of my grandfathers served in the war, as did my grandfather's brother (who also served in Vietnam and Korea). I would say my family remembers the war as rightful vengeance. You see all 11 siblings and every other trace of my family in Poland was wiped out by the Holocaust. After the war, my grandfather refused to buy or use anything German made for the rest of his life, and even I too at my age feel animosity towards the country. To me, Germany has not suffered nearly enough for what they have done, they should be reduced to the life of a third world country for the devastation they visited on the entire world. It just makes me sad that I never got to connect with the Polish roots of my blood.

Sweden checking in! Poor conditions overall, not much action going on. Nations claiming our iron. Food rations and of course shortage of coffee was the worst part for many civilians. As told by my grandmother (on my mothers side.)

My grandfather (on my fathers side of the family) tells a whole different story. He was a part of The French Resistance, going deep behind enemy lines undercover. He hasn't talked about it since, until a couple of years ago not so long before he passed away. He showed me and my dad his old revolver, his war medals and all fake passports. That was the only time he ever told anyone in the family about his time in the war. When he passed away they arranged a war veteran funeral. Funny thing is that it's only 1000 kilometres between my mother and my fathers home towns, in Sweden and in France, yet so very different memories of the war.

I live in Singapore. Here it's seen as a war that the British left us to fight on our own, and didn't do anything while civilians were massacred. Post-war Singapore really hated the British.

Murica: Everything was going to shit & Murica heroically saved everyones asses and did no wrong.

We tend to gloss over the fact that by the time or Normandy the Soviets were already pushing the Germans back and probably would have won without us (Though that'd be bad for Europe). We also like to say how it was won through the bravery of our soldiers & the competence of our leaders despite the vast majority of Nazi casualties happening in the USSR & nazi Germany actively diverting troops away from us to stall the Soviets. We tend to ignore how much worse the Soviets had it and how much of the victory was actually theirs.

We also focus so much on racism & antisemitism but neglect to teach about the Japanese internment camps we made or the war criminals we let go for access to their research. Because we're the good guys all is right & just but let's just forgive Ishii and the like so we can use their knowledge gained via excruciating torture.

American. My great grandpa was at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked. His ship was being repaired so his crew wasn't on the side with all the damage. When it began his crew ran to their ship and still managed to shoot down a plane. He once told me that he was on cleanup duty after it ended. He said he would reach into the water to pull on a guys arm and the hot oil froml destroyed ships caused the skin to just melt off. The only time I ever heard that amazing man cry was the day he told me about THAT day. Yeah us Americans remember we joke about being back to back world Champs but we still revere our veterans and there is always a documentary that can be watched.

The war we escaped and our country was only used to gather spies... - Portugal

US: "This does not apply to me getting a job, so I dont care"

I live in Thailand. The war is barely remembered here. Most of the population knows basically nothing about it.

Thailand barely took part in the war. Only a few thousand overall war related deaths. They were allies/puppet state of Japan but they weren't mistreated. There is no anti Japanese sentiment at all, unlike Korea, China, or the rest of SEA. There was some light bombing from the allies but Bangkok wasn't flattened like the Japanese cities. And after the war, the US treated them as an occupied nation rather than a member of the Axis.

So basically the entire event is forgotten. Most people know very little about the war. It's not viewed as a serious subject at all, and Nazi/Hitler symbols are used as comedic fashion accessories. Very few people understand why that is offensive because they know so little about the subject.

USA: "We kicked Germany and Japan's ass, and saved everyone else. The end."

I'm pretty sure that's how most people in this country remember it.

In America it is often viewed as a war where we tried to stay out of it, but then the allies were losing and Japan made a huge mistake by attacking us. So then after the USA got involved and started dropping freedom on other countries we won the war for the allied nations.

This is how I see a lot of people view it, but there are a lot of people who also have the view that the growing political tension could be contained by the other respective powers but FDR knew that a great war like this could be a huge way to prop up the economy so he inevitably got involved in it.

Also people think of the US throwing materials at the war to beat the Germans and Japanese, and the Russians throwing bodies. When the truth was the US had revolutionized warfare with higher tech machines and strategy than any other nation would be able to use until much later.

TL/DR People think America is great, it is, but it didn't come close to singlehandedly winning the war.

/edit spelling

United States: we only got involved because the Japenese decided to bomb Pearl Harbor. We were staying out of it up until that point.

Bulgarian here. For us the war was really different than the rest:

-We were allies with the Germans and they did only and very good stuff for us without us doing nothing in return, and they were very civilized and cultural people.

-We haven't had a single fight during that time, not a single man dead in the war.

-We got our territories back, we were bigger that time.

-We got bombed and our buildings destroyed by bombardment by the British and the Americans even when not a single soldier of ours had an active fight. We had many civilians dead.We managed to shot down planes and we even had heroic aces. But... well... we were allies with their enemy.

-We got change of rule and the communist party (who were doing in Bulgaria terrorist acts during and before the war) came to power.

-Russian soldiers came and "liberated" the country - stealing whatever they saw, doing shit ton of trouble.

-Then the communists killed a lot of intelligent people here. Mass extermination. Unknown graves.

-The party sent Bulgarians to fight against the Germans, so for the first time in the war we had active battles and victims of the war (of the fights).

-We lost our territories and we got fucked by the communism for the next 50 years. Concentration camps built.

-We're still a fucked up country because of that.

So that's that....

And even if it's an unpopular view for all of you- we would have been way better if the things were different.

And fuck this - I can even say - Thanks to Germany.

In Ireland, I guess it would be slightly different depending on North or South, as the Republic of Ireland was neutral during WWII however, Northern Ireland, being part of the Uk, was at war along side Britain, and was also targeted, I.e. The Belfast Blitz. Living in the north for my whole life I remember being taught mainly about the Blitz and the Holocaust, and how horrible the later was. Also this may be due to living in a Catholic community, I have no memory of being taught about British battles and any knowledge on the matter comes from the documentaries you previously mentioned

In Malaysia, we view it as a time when the British were defeated and driven out of our lands by the Japanese, who later enslaved and starved our country into submission.

The elderly here especially remember having to either hide from the Japanese occupiers, or do anything the Japanese say, to fulfill or avoid their harsh standards, or risk getting killed any time.

I live in Poland, but while I was born here, I spent my childhood in other places. (Returned this year, 31 yo).

I don't really watch TV, but it doesn't really seem to stand out all that much. We have memorials, Auschwitz, etc. to remind us, and you often see mentions in magazines, etc.

War movies are fairly common, but I would say (from my limited experience) TV shows more movies made during the communist times than war movies... "Classic" polish cinema.

So, not forgotten, but no constant reminders everywhere. A bit more during holidays (our independence day).

Here in Ireland it is seen often as a way that we proved that we could be independent. Even though during the war we were officially neutral we did favour the allied side e.g. allowing Allied soldiers that landed in Ireland to go to the UK but imprisoning Axis soldiers, also allowing the Allies to fly over Donegal. We proved that we could keep our independence and showed our longterm policy of neutrality

Finland:

School attempts to be neutral about it, but re-reading the history books i had when i was younger gives a clear "Good vs Evil" vibe. My current history books (i'm at upper-secondary school) do keep it quite neutral.

Since we were on the Axis's side (it's a bit more complicated than just being friends with Nazi Germany, it had a lot to do with the threat of Soviet Union), it is thought of a bit ankwardly when not educating about it. It is rarely discussed about outside education, but i assume this goes for most countries. Also some had a dream of "Great Finlandia" or something to the effect, which was hopes of conquering back the territories Soviet Russia claimed from us. They saw Nazi Germany as ways to secure this.

Documents about it are popular here, though, so i guess we're kinda over it.

TL;DR: We're a bit shamed about joining the Axis, but we are mostly over it. We attempt to tell it neutrally.

Finland never joined the Axis as in signing the Tripartite Pact. The alliance was only with Germany, not with the other Axis countries. And as a Finn, I disagree with you. No one is ashamed about Finland allying herself with nazi-Germany (with the exception of some neo-commmunists like maybe yourself?).

Should not have done that! DO NOT forget what YOU (your ancestors) have done, where and how many. And oh yeah, we were the bad guys, but very successful and organized. Plus French weren't as important as they always tell themselves they were. And yeh, fighting on the west front or africa was vacation compared to the Eastfront.

In Australia its remembered probably similarly to the Americans or British but one thing i noticed is that no one, ever, talks about the bombing of darwin, ask the average person here and i doubt they even knew it happened, probably because of how shameful it was

Austria: don't tell anyone that Braunau is actually part of this country!

But seriously, it's a difficult topic. It gets tackled in high school and we learn a fair share about the cruelties of what happened throughout this period. There are also memorial places in pretty much every small town at least at the graveyards, memorial ceremonies several times per year to commemorate those who have suffered, but also for those who have died or got captured as soldiers since many people still have relatives who either died or have been wounded in battle so their sacrifice is being honored as a reminder to never let it happen again. (both of my actual grandfathers died at the age of 24, my step-grandfather - is this actually a word? - lost his left leg and died two years ago at the age of 94.) Documentaries are shown from time to time with historians and serious talk.

There still are some people who still think it was all okay and "Hitler did nothing wrong", but you can't make a statement like that in public since it's very strictly punished under the term called "Wiederbetätigung" (re-exercising). Especially at the countryside, there are many groups like that and even though everybody knows about their disposition, law-enforcement can't do anything about them until they made a mistake. The right-wing political party FPÖ is often connected with giving shelter to these people and sharing their ideology to a certain extent, however they always dissociate themselves if the topic is brought up. Again, another open secret.

All in all you could say most people here are not proud of what happened and what was done.

Every year on February 15, Singapore commemorates Total Defence Day.

Cos that's the day the British colonial masters surrendered to the Japanese, and then PM Lee Kuan Yew wanted to make sure we remember it and never put our sovereignty in the hands of another.

At 12:05 pm on that day, the Civil Defence Force would co-ordinate with local radio stations to broadcast "Important Message Signal" all over the island and explain the measures to be taken for each of the three different signals (Bombshelter/Allclear/ImptMsg)

Schools everywhere, as well as within army camps would have National Education talks/speeches to emphasize the importance of Total Defence, which comprises of Military, Civil, Economic, Social, Psychological defence.

Here in the US, there are WWII documentaries on most days in the higher cable channels. Lots of these focus on the personalities and mental health of top Nazi leaders. The most recent is an exploration of Hitler's drug use during the later years of the war. The only Nazi that gets a somewhat normal grade is Albert Speer, but I've noticed that the bloom is coming off his rose over the last 5 years.

Socially, most conservative political candidates still refer to WWII romantically and as an example of what "Americca can do" when we all pull together. The British accomplishments are also beginning to be seen as world-class fighting and deception. This was not always the case.

In America, it can vary from state to state, but overall there's a huge emphasis on the tragedy of the Holocaust and how America didn't get involved until later in the war, and that our decision to get involved is what tipped the scales completely in favor of the allies, who were having a tough fight.

I sometimes think it's focused on to an unhealthy extent, like you say there are always programmes on about it, ad nauseam. I sometimes wish they'd concentrate on another war for a while. There are plenty to choose from. The Napoleonic Wars, for instance, are fascinating.

I also don't like propaganda uses of its remembrance. I fear the effect of it could be to bolster up support for current military exploits, and glorify militarism in general. My own grandfather didn't often speak of his experiences in the war, in order to avoid making it seem like a good thing, and, were he still alive, I'm reasonably sure he wouldn't approve of this tacit glorification of militarism that goes on now every November. The purpose of it is clearly to stifle criticism of current military actions.

I'm from Canada. WWII is a very well remembered thing in our country. It is taught every year from primary, all the way through high school. I think we put a bit more of a focus on our own part and that there's a little bit of exaggeration on our roles in the war, but I think it could say that a lot of countries would focus more on their involvement than others.

Veterans are very, very well respected and renowned members of our communities, and there is probably a Royal Canadian Legion in almost every town.

Remembrance Day on November 11th. Pretty somber, very respectful. Everyone wears poppies. I remember in primary school there'd always be one or two kids crying for some reason.

Although November 11th is typically a remembrance day for all wars/veterans now, the day was originally created for Armistice Day, which effectively ended major fighting in World War I. The poppies are used for the same reason.

I think lots of people are sort of ashamed about how passive and cowardly Sweden behaved during the war. Our neighbouring countries were all being invaded and occupied while we bent over backwards to not piss off the Germans. We let them use our railways to transport troops, sold them shitloads of iron, knowing full well what it would be used for. Plus we had lots of research into eugenics and crazy ideas about race purity long before WW2 (which was actually a big inspiration for the nazis later on), and lots of prominent and important people in Sweden in the 30's were open nazi sympathizers.

It's no good. There's lots of shame about it, and lots of trying to justify our actions during the war. We did what we have to survive, and hey, at least we weren't Germany.

I livr in germany and apperantly today people jusA wanna forget about it http://m.bild.de/politik/inland/holocaust/studie-jugend-will-mit-holocaust-abschliessen-39474324,variante=S,wantedContextId=17410084.bildMobile.html this came out oday in germanys bigest newspaper. 81% of germans want to move on

In the UK grandparents and great grandparents tell of really tough times and rationing due to the blockades from Germany. As well as constant fear of bombings and air raids. Lots of resentment of the US who were no where near the fighting from a civilian standpoint and where not effected by rationing.

Canada supplied Britain with everything they needed to fight off the Nazis until the Americans got involved and planned the invasion, then we took Juno Beach and liberated Holland. They send us tulips and buy us beer as a thank you.

In denmark it is like "DAE DANISH PARTISAN STRONGEST AND EXTREMELY VALUABLE"

I used to live in Denmark. My impression was that Danes, rightly, were extremely proud of the lack of collaborators they had under Nazi occupation, which was totally unique, and the success Danes had in helping the Jewish population escape. Also, I understood that English is almost universally spoken in Denmark today, in large part, because Danes strongly sympathized with the British and Americans in the war. Together, I saw the World War II experience as seminal in creating the modern Danish self-image as a uniquely just and resilient nation with powerful bonds to Great Britain and the United States.

I'm in the Midwest of the US. It's almost seen as just very historical. There is very little hurt here about it anymore. We do have quite a few documentaries, but they're also weighed out by ones covering the American Civil War and other various topics dealing with racism and racial tension of sexism and feminism. And then, of course, 9/11 which we still hurt a lot from. There is something to be said about the older generation. I had a talk with my 90-yr old great Aunt who was in her twenties during the War. She uses racial slang (although she often doesn't mean it to be racist), and has a lot of negative reactions to my young cousin who's nickname is "Jappy." She has a lot of very interesting stories about her working through her racism toward the Japanese. Kinda powerful stuff, and aside from slang it seems she's actually truly worked passed her prejudice.

Canada here. Probably similar to any of the other Western allied countries, it's seen as a very proud victory and monument to self sacrifice. We see it as a real good vs. evil situation where Canada and her allies fought against an injustice. We're very respectful and proud of our veterans, remembrance day on November 11th is a big deal. In my family we had a few grandparents serve, and we have remnants of anti-German sentiments left over from the war. Going to Germany with my family this Summer though, so hopefully that will quell some of the hard feelings left over by some of my older relatives.

In Spain (where my mother is from), it was historically not very well taught at school. Broadly speaking, it is understood that Spain stayed out of the war because it was living through the immediate fallout of a civil war (essentially fascist vs. communist in nature). There is some truth in that, but what isn't widely known is that Spain was effectively paid off by both Axis and Allies not to contribute to the opposing side's war effort.

I don't know if that has changed, but my cousins, ageing in range from 25 to 50, are almost entirely oblivious, with what little understanding they have fuelled either by Hollywood or contemporary polarised political opinion.

Spain is such a young and juvenile democracy, and in the shadow of the longest fascist rule in Europe, that it frames absolutely everything in terms of politics.

Kind of a two part answer for me. In Canada.

I think specifically that you'll see different views of these things in different parts of the country and I also think that different generations saw/see it all differently and that in the coming years the narrative will become more vague and universal.

Personally, I am from the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, which didn't join Canada until 1949, so we look at the war a little bit differently than other Canadians since we participated differently and the impact was different.

The Dominion of NL had no military and essentially let other countries (mostly the UK and Canada, a little the US) recruit its citizens into their armed forces. The majority served with the UK (Royal Navy and in two Royal Artillery regiments that were entirely comprised of Newfoundlanders, the 166th Field Regiment (fought in North Africa and Italy) and the 59th Heavy Regiment which defended England’s coastline mostly and went in behind D-Day into the lowlands).

In that sense, we share most of the sentiments about pride in our veterans and the importance of their sacrifices that Canadians and Brits have.

As for the impact of the war and lingering views, it is viewed both positively and negatively. The Americans sent a large number of forces to the island as a result of the lend-lease program and set up bases and built the infrastructure up in what was a very economically depressed area. Unlike places where the war was actually being fought, the home-front was actually better during the war than before. The American influence created a lot of underlying cultural impacts, which was significant in explaining why Canadians were disliked compared to Americans in Newfoundland. The collapse of the British Empire also resulted in the need to tack on to Canada, so it's remembered as part of the reason independence had to be given up.

I live in Germany and the Interesting thing is that my parents who both grew up in the 1960s told me more than once that they never heard anything about WWII in school, while I personally heard a lot about it in school. Also there are a couple of tv channels which show A LOT of WWII documentaries, to a ridiculous degree actually. They never seem to run out of stuff to talk about related to WWII.
I would say the thing most people associate with WWII is probably the massive bombing of Germany cities during the war, it's mentioned quite a lot when you talk about how German cities look today.

I'm from Canada and in my opinion the West remains in what could be described as a state of post-traumatic stress because of WWII. I was taught to be proud of Canadian soldiers in that war, and I am, but the experience of that war and WWI before it did incredible damage to the West from which we may never really recover. We simply weren't prepared for industrial-scale warfare. It was the beginning of the end.

I went to visit Lake Ontario, and found out (as far as I know) it was the only place the U.S. took in refugees from WWII. Only 982 people total. I was a disappointed the U.S. didn't do more for people after the war. link

I live in switzerland, so my country was not involved in any direct battle (just a few bombings by accident because the allies thought they were already over Germany). But as we share (mostly) the same language and TV channels as Germany, get a lot of their stuff. I think it's really interesting and we should not be allowed to forget what happened, even when soon the last surviving people will be gone.

In Spain it depends on who you ask, some will tell you that Franco was wise not getting into it, others will tell you he was a pussy that allied with Hitler. In general, since most of our TV shows are imported from the US, the society is a bit biased in that matter (srsl tho, you have to see that documentary called "The rise and fall of the Nazi party", the intro made me cringe)

I've noticed that the Japanese, especially the younger generations, like to think of themselves as the victim of the war because of the nukes and fire bombings. I mean, it's not like ordinary citizens deserved the consequences to their government's war mongering, but still. As a Korean living in Japan, this irked me a little.

There are daily documentaries on this in America too. Everyone likes to remember it cause we are clearly the "good guys" (or the lesser of two evils), because the scope of its geopolitical ramification was so massive, and I think at this point it makes us feel proud to be an American. So many other things make us question this sentiment (Vietnam, Iraq, etc.).

Easy sell, but it really is so damn interesting because it was so recent and because it is the most modern depiction of total war between a bunch of countries. Hopefully it will be the last.

Not many people know, but Mexico was a part of the Allies. In Mexico, we talk about famous Aztec Eagles who helped liberate the Philippines. This is something most other countries don't really know about.

In Turkey people just remembers the hunger, and below anectode: President Ismet Inonu, who was also the second leading general in Independence War between 1918-1922, successfully refrains from going to war. However food prices were very high, and even though country was not at war, there was a certain shadow of it. One day Inonu wanders around somewhere, a little kid approaches and says "I don't have any toys, we suffer because of you, etc." (not that anyone can say something like this to erdogan now, btw). Inonu responds: "I made you suffer, you may not have toys, but you still have your father." They were really tough times, but we did as fine as possible and smart people know/remember that.

Norwegian here, we get inacurate entertaining from real stories like Max manus: Movie and Kampen om tungtvannet: Series

In Spain the civil war is more important to us, we don't have films about WWII. At the time we were in a dictatorship favourable to nazis, so pretty much we see it the way American films showed it.

This thread is actually extremely interesting in the sense that it does prove the meaning of "World War". I've been reading the responses of people all around the world, not just from Europe (which all the history courses I've participated in throughout middle school, high school and university have had the emphasis on) and the US (which is the most portrayed view in popular culture). So this is kind of eye-opening to me, even though I was very much aware, that the whole world, not only Europe and North America, was affected by the war,

Mainly, we remember based on its facts. The NAZI party did awful things to rise to power, then it started wars and mass murder campaigns and actual programs of genocide targeting ethnic groups, Jews in particular. Canada did not immediately have an issue with that and sent a few boats full of Jews away, then it changed its mind, let some in, and joined the war with its allies. Canada was then a solid contributor and helped the US directly and Russia indirectly to win the war. In Canada much more emphasis is placed on the US and allies and seeks to play down the Russian role. Also, Canadians accept Jews for the most part, and Jews in Canada are solid law abiding contributing members of our society to this very day.

We saved Holland. The Dutch ate still grateful. I asked for directions from someone who waved me off because they couldn't speak English when I was in Amsterdam. I had a Canadian flag on my bag, the woman stopped me, brought me to someone who did speak English, then explained how Canadian soldiers liberated her grandmothers town and would only accept trades for gifts because the people has next to nothing at that point...so she was raised to owe a debt of gratitude to Canadian decedents. I was happy to find my way.

Ps if you are an American choosing to fly under the Canadian banner, do your homework. I know my Canadian trivia, I'm just tired of being tested with easy questions.

In Greece we are proud for our participation in WW2 and we celebrate at 28 of October every year because it was the date we entered the war against Italy, when they demanded our surrender. We consider this one of the most heroic acts of our nation since even if our troops were undernumbered and had absolete equipement they still managed to defeat the Italians in the albanian mountains.It was in fact the first victory of the Allies in WW2.

Anzac day remembrance of the Australia and New Zealand Army Core, really big day and occasion, usually moaning about how they where used as canon fodder by the British troops.

It's not that big of a deal here in Switzerland since we weren't involved - refugee politics during WWII were source of controversy in the followeing decades, but it's not that important anymore. We've got a lot of German TV so we get the coverage from there. Obviously we also learn about it in school.

Britain seems to be very different to the rest of Europe. Here, we of course were never invaded by the Germans (except some small islands) and we have always thought of them as almost a comic book villain- "He tried to take over all of Europe but our jolly British lads managed to fight off old Mr Hitler" is basically the view over here. We never experienced occupation and so will never truly be able to acknowledge how bad it was. We do also try to remind people of our often forgotten battles in Burma and North Africa. Barely anybody (except those involved) remembers that Britain was fighting in Burma for ages.

Ireland checking in. We didn't have a war. We had what our grandparents referred to as "The Emergency". We look back on it with mixed emotions because we remained neutral while providing tacit support for the allies due to our dependence on British and American aid at the time. However had we entered the war on the side of the allies the government would have been lynched due to the fact that we'd spent the last several hundred years at some degree of war against the brits and memories of a pretty brutal and bloody occupation were still fresh, notwithstanding the particularly rabid anti semitic attitudes of the borderline theocratic governance supported by the Catholic Church of the day. However many Irish men did join the fight but were considered traitors on their return and barred from working in the public service, which was absolutely shameful. In fact they received a (mostly posthumous) "pardon" from the government a year or two ago.

Slightly off topic, but I thought I read somewhere that in remote areas of the world, people are found that belive world War II is still happening?

I'm an American and who lives in a rural, conservative area of Michigan. We seem to focus on the European Theater of the war; that's where a lot of the men in my area went to. We also focus on the Holocaust part of World War II. We have a few Holocaust survivors in my area and that really brings the horrors to light.

Very patriotic here in Finland. People tend to focus on the heroics of the winter war and tali-ihan tala instead of discussing the fact that we were an axis power and that the continuation war perhaps could have been avoided.

New Zealand here. World War One is celebrated more as our ANZAC troops were slaughtered in Gallipoli, Turkey. We get a national day off for that one. World War Two was important as our first step away from British colonial influence. After the fall of Singapore in 1942 Britain could no longer protect her Pacific colonial nations, focusing on a European defence. We had to unite with other Pacific nations like Australia and the USA. We signed our first ever foreign treaties and opened our first embassies in the 1940s. WWII led us towards the semi-independent nation we are today.

I live in Sweden and since we weren't a part of the war we do not have any kind of day or something specifically for the war.

We did however play a part in everything, so it's not totally forgotten, occasionaly we talk about Nazi Germany moving soldiers trough Sweden, sometimes we talk about jews coming here from the rest of the north and a few times we talk about us helping Finland during the winter war.

In Switzerland (french part), when we talk about it we hardly mention our country. we're talking about it as if we were just observers. Which is technically true, as far as I know rare were the people who actually fought during the war. The only "war" thing I remember about an event that occurred during WWII is the bombing of Geneva, which had been mistaken for Genova by British pilots... Don't know if it actually happened but i'ts a funny fact !

From Bolivia. World War II is not really talked about much. We lost most of our tin to the USA in a forced buy out, but aside from that we were not affected much. We were considered neutral for the most part, although some German people did come to South America after and during the war. We also had some Japanese enter the country. We did not physically participate in the war. Although we did declare war on Germany, it was politically forced by the USA as we were either with them or against them. Both Germany and the USA wanted our tin for ammunition, but the USA did not like the fact that we were selling it to both nations at the beginning of the war. (Feel free to correct me on any of this, but know that it was presented as such in Bolivia, and I am sure that it is stated differently in the USA)

Sorry to disappoint you, but it's not stated in the USA at all. When covering WWII, we talk about the war in Europe and the Pacific. Latin America is never mentioned.

I feel like I'm the guy in this video.

A very good depiction of America's view of the war can be found in the National World War II museum in New Orleans. (It's fantastic I spent five hours there no problem) It does make you proud, and feel for our allies losses cue "proud to be an American". But what I hated like all US history, the exhibit on the atomic bomb. It's VERY underwhelming. Kinda like "we didn't want to use it, here's why, so we did." War over. Exhibit over.

to be fair, there wasn't really much more to it- we bombed the city into dust, yup. if you'd been paying attention the rest of the war, the only really surprising thing would be that it only took one plane that time. it's not like tokyo or dresden had it any better.

No one from Israel?

Here, we put a massive emphasis in schools, memorial days and museums on the Holocaust and the horrors Nazi Germany had committed on Jewish Population. The war itself is barely talked about as much as the Holocaust, and those who were liberated from consecration camps and extermination camps by the Soviets are being referred to as "Survivors" by themselves and others, rather than they were saved.

There's actually a movie coming out about WWII in Estonia. They usually always get English subtitles, so if you're interested, check it out. Here's the trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ImJm1J1K98

In Ireland it was referred to as the 'emergency'. And dammit if we weren't right about that.

Here in the UK, some people view as winning the war for the second time and then other people say it is how britain lost its empire.

In Australia, most people didn't care about it. It was viewed as an European problem. People went on their way as normal. We had rations and all that but agian people just don't care. Young men would join up, mostly from the major cities. Returning soliders where shocked with the country. Then Darwin was bombed by the Japanese. Our attention quickly turned to them and Europe. Our war effort rose and young men from all of the country joined. WW1 is more remembered.

In ireland it was reffered to as the emergency but we tried to stay out of it as much as possible. We were officially neutral but we secretly gave the British weather reports. My grandfather was in the military and he told me about how when both allied and axis forces crashed in ireland they were both locked up but they let out the allies to go to the pub or for a walk until night time. This was common practice until two Canadians escaped back to Canada after they went out. After this no one was allowed out so the allied prisoners wrote to their counties explain the situation. There were so many letters sent to the various countries that the Canadian government sent them back. The daily releasing continued for everyone except the axis soldiers... and the two Canadians.

I live in Denmark. We were neutral, blew up some Nazi trains, shipped some Nazis, were one of the winners of the "not poor" euro lotteries after the war

Argentine here, we learn about it on 10th grade, sophomore for you americans. It's just a few classes in the last semester, no big deal.
Then there's the usual programming in the documentaries channels around may. Edit: and we don't even mention the nazis that sought refuge here, or the submarine that surrendered on our coast.

I would like to see a non European and non North American perspective. Doesn't seem like most of the other continents have witnessed the horror of these wars where they just merely attempt to repeat them in their own (looking at you the Middle East). If only they knew...

Outside of Japan and China.. don't get me wrong.

Here in Belgium, the underlining message in the reference to the second world war is: that one time Germany steam rolled over us.

Czechs: We got screwed over twice, first by Munich agreement and than by almost everyone.

China win the war but loss the country. The Chinese government later was exiled to Taiwan in 1949. And in 1971 it became a non-country, and still standing as of today.

In Ireland its taught in secondary school from a pretty "western perspective" A whole page for the blitz on london and about 5 lines for the bombing of german cities by the allies. And our cirriculum almost completely ignores the eastern front after stalingrad.

A real page turner though.

England:

We went in to save Poland.

We got our shit kicked in.

Germans tried to establish air supriority over our country.

They got their shit kicked in.

Soviet Union crushed them.

We won but we still couldn't save Poland :(

I'm from the USA so you can only imagine how it's viewed here. Constant documentaries about the deaths and victories and such. Videos of actual people who fought in the war and liberated the concentration camps and what they saw and such. We generally view them all as heroes.

USA here. I was born in the mid 1950's, 10 years after WW II ended. My father, like the fathers of almost all the kids I grew up with, had fought in the war. You could count on multiple mainstream movies a year about it. At any one time there were usually several TV series set in it - Combat, 12 O'clock High, Rat Patrol, and yes Hogan's Heroes - were ones we watched. For us it was always The War, a great adventure and a noble crusade to (in the Pacific) avenge Pearl Harbor and (in Europe) to root out Nazi Germany, our generation's icon for inhuman evil. Our fathers didn't talk much about it, probably not wanting to dwell on things they saw and did in combat, and maybe on some level afraid of damaging US morale.

As we got older we were shocked to discover some of the ugly details, either in school or more likely by reading on our own. They told us about the concentration camps once we were older. My first visit to Germany in 1982 revealed more shocking facts. I'd heard about the Allied bombing campaigns against Germany of course, even Dresden, but Fodor's talked about Hamburg being 80% destroyed, Frankfurt 90%, other cities comparably damaged; I didn't know the effects had been that bad.

They still make movies about The War today, most recently "Fury", but they tend to portray it as an example of war in general: a brutal and destructive effort with long-lasting effects.

British here. It is seen as a classic triumph of good vs. evil. And how the incredibly culturally diverse British and Commonwealth nations put everything down, set aside their differences and worked towards the common goal of giving Hitler a good old thrashing. It is put across that we put everything we had into that war, the best of us lived, fought, and died in that war. But all the way through, we kept our famous stiff upper lip, and kept on going to save our European neighbors from being destroyed by the Nazi's.

pls disregard all of our dodgy politics on the side pls.

American here. We take a lot of pride in our WWII veterans and we even have a Veterans' Day to celebrate them. And unlike most other countries in the war, we did not have constant attacks on our people (other than Pearl Harbor), due to being an ocean away from our enemies so the war stories we have are all from soldiers.

That's not to say we think of the war fondly. We talk a lot about the Holocaust as well. And we think about one of the evil dark parts of our history that a lot of people often forget: Japanese internment. Basically, the government locked up all Japanese-Americans thinking they might all be spies of some sort.

One thing I'm finding interesting about other responses is that there is a fear of being patriotic because of war. I had no idea this existed because In the US it's the opposite. At school they play videos of interviews with veterans with the instrumental national anthem playing in the background. Veterans Day is taken very seriously by our schools and there are even a few teachers who give a few extra credit points for wearing red, white, and blue on Veterans day.

In China:

There is always propaganda TV shows and movies that the government subsidies for the public.

And there is still a lot of anti-Japan ideology that is here, especially from people born before 1980s, like My parents don't want to buy Japanese products because they don't want to support Japanese companies.

Im sure everyone remembers Nanking too well

I'm an American and had always assumed that America saved the day (something we were taught in school). I was shocked to hear one of my Russian co-workers say that he was raised to believe that Russians were the ones who won WWII. It made me realize that WWII was more complex than I had thought and that countries put their own historical victories on wars.

Some Nigerians and West Africans fought, but WW2 is really seen as the West's fault and own battle.

I live in Austria. It's... not something most people want to engage in for understandable reasons, and if they do, the holocaust is usually the centre of attention, not the actual war.

When it gets to individual history, things get even more sensitive and you have to tread carefully. The old people usually act like they weren't alive 1938-45, and the young like their fathers or grandfathers weren't.

There's a joke in Austria and Germany that goes "You know who was a Nazi? Someone elses Grandfather." No one likes to think about how their close kin might have been complicit in those crimes.

Of course, high school education makes absolutely clear who the "good guys" and "bad guys" were, including the visit of a KZ Museum. This goes so far that V-E-Day, so our defeat in WW2, gets celebrated including posters that basically accused anyone of not celebrating of being a Nazi.

That being said, there are of course significant differences between left and right, city and country etc. of how things are viewed.

India and Pakistan have two different views based on the political leadership.

Muhammad Ali Jinna (Founder of Pakistan) supported the allies cause as a way to get get good will from the British to let them have their freedom. To this end, he supported British Indians volunteering for the war. The solders who ended up settling in newly formed Pakistan were treated pretty well, they got a government pension and were more or less seen as hero.

On the Indian side, Gandhi did not support the Allied cause and didn't want any solders to join the war. When the war was over, Indian solders were not given pension and were not treated as hero. It was actually the Indian national Army that were treated like heroes in India. For those who don't know, the INA were Indian POWS held by Japan and formed into an army sent by Japan to fight in India.

USA:

As the last war we had any legitimacy in... So, it's the one most celebrated.

If there is one thing we Americans love more than a Hamburger its WWII stories and documentaries.

Canadian here.

WW1 and WW2 are both covered in similar fashions, and with similar undertones.

Lots of pride in Vimmy Ridge, and D-Day, our airforce and navy.

Depending on the teacher, lots of bitter resentment about lack of recognition, the Dieppe raid, British being bastards, America being late and taking credit, so on and so forth.

All the positive stuff is according to curriculum, as well as some Nazi history and facts. The bitter aspect is usually from the teacher personally, or spread through the class by children with bitter parents/grandparents.

Personally, I think the Germans get focused too heavily, with not nearly enough attention paid to Russian and Japanese war crimes. French contribution is also skipped alot, which is ironic, as the wars were mostly in France, and we're bitter about our own lack of recognition.

US here. WWII is primarily thought of as having occurred only in the European theater, and we tend to focus on all the Hollywood heroics there, as you all know. Pearl Harbor, however, is seen in the same light as 911. It truly shocked our country; it was the only successful aggression on our soil and was the impetus for our entry into the war, and everyone was on board. While our history classes do teach the main points of the war in the Pacific, the focus is by and large Europe. Interestingly, while we learn about many of the atrocities committed there, we routinely gloss over the horrors we inflicted on Japan via the atomic bombs. Truman is generally thought to have done what was necessary to end that war, and no one really questions that.

Unfortunately, I don't think my generation in America focuses as much on WW2 as they should since 9/11 happened.

I live in the US and World War II is a very prominent topic in high school history classes. My junior year I had to take US History II and September-January was dedicated to learning every detail about the start of WWII and America's involvement. Which is strange because World War I was only briefly covered in my US History I class. I also took a film studies class in high school and a whole section was dedicated to Holocaust films. It's definitely the most well known and discussed history topic over here, even more than the Revolutionary War(at my school at least).

Australia, the focus is around the soldiers who fought and battles we took part in. Apart from the bombing of Darwin and the sinking of a ship by midget subs in Sydney, we were untouched. At the time there was a real fear of Japanese invasion.

The most recounted story is that of the Australians who fought the Japanese along the kokoda trail. People often travel to walk the trail, which a merciless hike. At the end of the trail there is a ceremony. There is also the shrine of rememberance. (Which doubles as a museum) The surrounding buildings cannot exceed a certain height so that the shrine is not overshadowed. There is also a focus on the politics of the time.

Pretty much like this.

I would like to know how WWII is viewed by the Germans and the Japanese.

Here in the good old u s of a bare minimum once a month but it really depends on your area, my areas public broadcast has alot of agricultural programs on it, in Hawaii id be willing to bet stuff is shown quite often

Check out the cooperation American companies had with Germany during WWII. FORD, GMC, IBM, STANDARD OIL, COKE COLA, BAYER, ETCRA played both sides and were compensated by the American Government after the war for Allied bombing of their factories in Germany.

USA. All of our grandpas/great-grandpas went and got some good war stories to tell. If we're talking about the Pacific front the older generations (those born before, say, the 80s in general) skirt around Hiroshima and Nagasaki, while the younger people debate that very subject. On the subject of the European front, the older generations pretend that the US was a major player in that fight, while the younger ones know that the USSR was a far bigger player.

I have learned alot from this post. I'm glad to have read alot of views from many different countries.

My grandfather was a citizen in Italy during the occupation. He saw the war as a horrific event. He has repeated a particular story during the German occupation in which a high ranking German soldier was occupying his home. He said at first the man was very cruel to him, but they eventually started to teach each other their native languages. They later became friends, and he gave my grandpa a special opportunity in which he would be treated differently, and he would have full ownership of his home.

American here. To me it seems that while my country was deeply invested in the war, very little of it actually happened on American soil. All the stories and accounts of the horrible things that happened, while extremely moving, were lived by our soldiers or by other people. The going was tough as far as people earning a living and keeping the country going during that time, but really the civilians here didn't suffer in comparision to the places that got torn up by the war. Pearl harbor was the closest thing to the population really feeling the terror of having war on our doorstep. There is a deep sense of respect and graditude towards veterans of the war. Also it seems, a lot of interest in learning about the war and hearing stories about it.

I had a very interesting conversation with a Japanese penpal of mine on this subject. My husband's family name is McArthur, so the war came up as a subject of curiousity. It was weird to speak to someone who's ancestors were on the other side. Also a little awkward with us both trying to be respectful, not knowing how the other viewed the war and history surrounding it. I mean, both of us had grandparents that had been trying to kill each other.

Denmark here; We are quite proud about our resistance fighters, probably more than we deserve. There is some bad feelings towards the politicians of the day, afterall they surrendered, on the other hand- we had 0 chance and we were spared almost all of the brutality of the war because we rolled over.

There are still stories of german brutality ofcourse, throwing grenades into busses (sporvogne) as retaliation for railroad sabotage as an example.

Oh and we are glad that we helped almost all of our jews escape to Sweeden, and sad that all our cops were sent to the concentration camps when they didnt help enough with hunting down resistance fighters.

All my old folk tell me "fuck the Russians". I'm Romanian.

India:

British starving millions of people to death because they demanded freedom from colonial rule even has tens of thousands of Indian soldiers were fighting in British Army.

I think the general perception is that it is frowned upon and that Hitler guy was a really uncool dude. the friendly hazing got a little out of hand and it is probably a good thing somebody came along and put a stop to it before somebody really got hurt

New Zealand, shiet almost got invaded there. Close call. Until I was about 12 all Germans were bad. Then I realised that world war two was 70 or whatever years ago and people change.

I'm Irish and my country kind of has an ambivalent view on it. In hindsight we don't seem to care all that much. I guess that goes with how little we were invested historically..

I don't know if anyone knows but Ireland stayed completely neutral for that war, and for the most part it was respected. Of course I imagine Ireland having having almost tactical advantage had a hand in that.

Ireland was so serious about neutrality that we never even directly referred to the war as a war. Our government insisted it be referred to as "the Emergency". Now I will say this Ireland was a cheeky neutral country. We didn't officially take sides but in general the people were wholely sympathetic to the allies.

In fact there were cases of Germany or American pilots who crashed in Ireland. We kept the odd Nazi imprisoned for the duration of the war but helped any American or British pilot in need of it.

I'm an American. For the most part WW 2 was just a foreign war to us. Its exotic and mythical in a lot of ways. A generation of our grandfather's went to the Pacific and Europe and died or came back heros. Right after that since most of the industrial world was destroyed by the war we had the biggest economic explosion in history. Seriously the boom so large we are still on the downward slope of the curve. Thats one of the reasons Americans at large have a hard time associating the pain and horror of that war to the realities of the world they lived in. Its a strange and confusing dichotomy.

What most people don't realize is WW2 marked a big change in the way the US maintained military readiness. In every other conflict we ever had the post war sell off of military resources was common practice . Thats why we had so few of everything at the wars beginning. Post war treaty agreements and occupation duties meant for the first time we kept our stuff and made new stuff. The "military industrial complex" was born.

My history teacher, who is Cambodian (but that's irrelevant) went to Hiroshima. He met some of the elderly who were around during the bombing and his first question was "Do you hate Americans, for bombing the city?".

Surprisingly, the answer was no. They pinned the blame on the Japanese government and the military, especially after propaganda campaigns had convinced the people they were going to win. They heard about the atrocities committed during the war by Japanese soldiers, and I think there was a degree of shame.

In essence, they thought the US was justified in bombing the cities because the Japanese had brought it upon themselves. Obviously I'm not talking for every Japanese person nor myself (UK).

In Bulgaria we see WWII, WWI and The Balkan War as the times when we had almost all of Bulgaria actually IN Bulgaria. And then come the Russians (WWII) or all our neighbours and "slavic brothers" turn against us :(. No bitter feelings tho, even if it is unfair.

Edit: That's just how things happen in the Balkans - big countries start fighting and we choose sides in order to fight with our neighbours.

Also even though we ended up to be on Germany's side after failing to stay neutral we kept all our jews alive - about 50 000 and no one was hurt.

Mexico here, what we learn from history class is pretty much the basics, in mexico, racism is not a problem as clasism is so generally there is no prejudice towards germans and japanese somehow even without special attention towards separating nazism and germans, as for the stance of the country towards the war it is seen as a somewhat external conflict, yes Mexico sent a squadron to fight and helped liberating the Philippine island of Luzon but this isnt viewed with much detail and overall WWII is viewed as the conflict between the 2 biggest kids on the block and their sequi.

This probably goes without saying but the general feeling is that the Germans got another thrashing after getting all uppity.

German here: The German perspective on both world wars, exspecially on the second one is different.

In terms of time I'm far away from the war generation. My grand parents experienced in the war. I belong to the real first generation that has no direct connection to the war or the working up of the war.

Nevertheless, there is no other topic in German history that is more taught and more discussed in school, in television or else where than the WW2 and the crimes that Nazi Germany has committed. I'm not even able to tell how many times I have been hearing about WW2 and the holocaust since I'm in school.

Without any doubt - WW2 is seen as the biggest tragedy in German history and the guilt is probably never going to leave the collective German mind. The German public in general is very distrustful against anything that is more right winged than our conservative Christian partys( that aren't really conservative anymore, but that's another topic).

German history sees the allies as liberators from the Nazis albeit many more German were involved in the structure of the dictatorship as they wanted to admit after the war.

If anybody has questions about the German view on the world wars then don't hesitate to ask.

To sum it up for USA: 2-0 undefeated world war champions

For me, we remember it the EXACT way that it happened. The allies were getting their asses handed to them by the obviously terrible evil known as the German and Nazi menace. Eventually, those cowards sucker punched us, so we decided to join the war to help the allies, and show the evil cowards inhuman ass holes on the axis powers who's boss in the world. Once we entered, the US was able to single–handedly turn the tide, and we won. First we led the allies to victory against the Germans, and then we nuked Japan and knocked them the fuck out. In the end, we saved countless lives and the world over. We were the heroes, and that's why the world loves us, even to this day.

Source: Grew up in America

Ireland here:

We kept neutral during the war. Our president, Eamon deValera, realised that we couldn't risk getting involved in such a huge war.

However Ireland got bombed three times, I believe, when the Luftwaffe got confused by many cities in England turning their lights off and then mixing up the ones they saw in Ireland. Hitler wrote letter of apologies after this happened.

If either German or English planes crashed in Ireland the pilots were interned. Often times both were treated so well that there were cases of the Germans staying and setting up lives here.

There was this story about how Lord Haw Haw, a famous propaganda spokesman for the Nazis, reported that the Fuhrer wanted to attend the Galway races. This led to the British army setting up men and tank traps all across the road to the racecourse. He never arrived, of course.

A Saudi Arabian here, we don't really care about the war, and we're very sympathetic towards Hitler, he's actually loved for killing the Jews (disgusting, I know) I can't say anything about movies and stuff since...well...they don't exist, most of our movies come from Egypt and their war movies are usually about independence from the British or wars with the Israelis.

What we're taught in school is mostly about WWI, being a very islamic nation with a very religious society (wahabism's birthplace) we glorify the Ottomans as the conquerers of Europe that fell in the hands of invading powers, with Anti-Semitism thrown in there somewhere, but we also curse them and for destroying the first and second Wahabi uprisings and fighting us in the third one.

Back to the point about WWII, it's briefly mentioned in our history books, and most our people like Hitler.

I can't speak for all arabs about liking Hitler, but all I can say is that no Arab actually cares or sees is as a tragedy.

Please note that we still live with the mindset of "The Glorious War" and our WWII is that with Israel, there's a lot of racism against them (though that's actually changing with younger generations)

The main difference between our Israel and your WWII is that we actually see ours as continuous, we still actually think that one day we will "expel the Jews" it's part of the culture. It's a war we still live.

(P.S: I'm speaking about my people, NOT myself, I greatly disagree with these sick fucks.)

I was born in Poland and grew up un the states. I can say that in Poland the cloud of WWII covers almost everything across generations. For example if you are getting to know someone new WWII comes up very quickly when talking about family history etc. I am not jewish but had two grew grandparents die in the concentration camps.

But in terms of how these things get passed from generation to generation both sets of my grandparents were traumatized and emotionally scarred by all that happened. My parents had to deal with this growing up and so on.

As a side note my father claims to have found many undetonated grenades and such when growing up in the country side. Apparently him and his friends would blow stuff up for fun (maybe thats a fable, but I think its true).

I live in the USA and throughout my life, over and over I have been told that it was a great sacrifice. Women had to work, we all had to grow our own food, and countless items were lost in the marketplace due to materials shortages. Many people died, and the generation who faught the war is referred to as "The greatest generation." All these sacrifices resulted beginning of our new economy, the acceleration of science and industry and the end of a lot of our individual liberties and freedoms. And yea, every day at least 10 shows on cable

I dunno . Something about Australians, some beach, and the Galapagos trail.

UK here.

I lost aunties and uncles in the war. I never got to meet them. My mother and father were 9 when the war started and had the early teens growing up amongst the bombs and the rationing. (The rationing didn't end until 1954)

My parents generation viewed the war as a kind of sad adventure. Sad, because relatives and friends died but also as an adventure.

Britain felt very alone for much of the war as the other great powers were either allied with Hitler (Russia) or trying to stay neutral (USA). There was a lot of resentment towards the majority of the USA for refusing to pitch in and help us. We were fighting for our very survival and the USA stood on the sidelines. For my parents,the most significant dates from WWII were end of May, beginning of June 1940, 22nd of June 1941 and 7th December 1941.

The first was Dunkirk. The shock of the ending of the phoney war and the fall of France terrified my parents. There was now nothing standing between us and Germany but the Channel. And our army was trapped on other side running out of ammunition. In our first encounter with blitzkrieg, we had our heads handed to us. (But we did have a lot of nice trenches that we'd dug....... We were still trying to fight WWI style). To my parents, it looked like they'd grow up speaking German. Then, due to German folly and British courage, we turned the tables. A bit. A massive armada of pretty much everything that had a motor and could float arrived at Dunkirk and took off our soldiers. Why the hell Hitler let that happen is a mystery. If he'd pressed the attack the way his generals (especially Heinz Guderian, the father of blitzkrieg) wanted then we'd have been finished. But Hitler let us off the hook and we saved 340 000 trained troops. The shock of losing to the Germans and then the elation of the evacuation stiffened Britain's spine. If Germany invaded we'd fight to the last man.

The second was when Hitler turned on Russia and attacked. That shelved his plans to invade Britain and probably saved us. Hitler could have probably taken Britain but would have paid a hellish price unless he could destroy our navy and airforce first. Trying to force a channel crossing with our navy and airforce still intact would have seen him take 80% causalities at least. Then he'd have to fight through ground that we knew backwards and positions that we'd had 2 years to prepare. Even now, in 2015, Britain is littered with WWII pill-boxes, mortar positions and other prepared defenses. Hitler might have taken us but he'd lose millions of troops doing so.

The there was 7th December 1941. When the news reached Britain there was dancing in the streets - literally. At last the fucking Yanks would get off their fat arses and join the party. (Here I have to point out that the USA was doing everything short of sending troops to help Britain. We were getting mountains of ships, arms, food and equipment from the USA at incredibly generous terms (we're still paying those loans back BTW) and FDR really wanted to pitch in and send troops. But Congress (mainly the the GOP) wouldn't let him. It would have been electoral suicide.) But Pearl harbor happened and the Yanks were coming!!

They were ill-trained, had no discipline, no manners, too much money and were just generally obnoxious. But, fuck! - there was a lot of them. And their equipment was superb. Most of the British hated them. Except the kids (who the Americans treated with candy and gum) and the women ( who couldn't fall over backwards, legs akimbo, fast enough for the promise of some stockings). All this changed when the Yanks actually started fighting. Then they were treated as we treated own own soldiers. God Bless the fucking Yanks.

As an aside, the one thing the USA military excels in is organisation and supply. We Brits suck at it.

Bugger. Have to end this. Will post more tomorrow. I have to expand on Britain being alone and explain the incredible support from the British Empire. Including Canada, Australia, India, South African and others. Almost all of then we fucked over in defence of the motherland. Canada? I'd like to really apologise for Dieppe. Churchill was a grade one bastard who'd sacrifice his own mother just for fun. No heart, no conscience. But he was the leader we needed during the war. But we kicked his fat arse out of office once we'd won. Him and Hitler would have been a nice pair.

in Israel, there was no World War II, only a Holocaust

Considering that B-17s destroyed my grandfathers' house and half of my city-Sofia, killing big part of my family in the process , then the communist took over stealing our lands in favour of the state totally destroying our economy and society,WW2 was quite tragic event.

In fact Bulgaria was the only country in the world that was both in war vs Allies and Axis at some point. All began when Hitler dropped 50 divisions on our Donau border and "politely" asked us to become part of the Axis, several years later the Russians "politely" done the same exercise.

Even if Bulgaria haven't deported single Jew and haven't helped Hitler with single soldier, even if Bulgarian army lost thousands of its half million army send against Hitler after switching sides, my country was on the losing side in the peace treaties.

As result from economic point of view-Bulgaria was at 8th place in Europe before WW2 and currently around 60 years later holds the last place.

Well of WW2 taught us anything it's that you can't trust the Italians

Wait, there was a sequel?

In Slovakia we mostly focus on the 1st Slovak state and the Soviet liberation. The soviets are viewed as heroes and the only true victors of the war. But it isn't thought enough in schools. We mostly learn about our history like the Avar invasion, Samo's Empire, Great Moravia and the Hungarian invasion.

Living in Flanders, pretty neutral. By this I mean: It was a horrible occurrence, but locally made documentaries usually cover both sides harsh situations and wrongdoings.

My grandfather ended up in the Hitlerjugend (name of the boy scouts in Germany and conquered countries during the time), since he and his father went to Germany to work in the new industries before the war even started. When the Germans got desperate, they sent in the boy scouts to fight in Berlin. So he ended up getting tasked to throw molotovs at Russian tanks.

His uncle was conscripted into the Belgian army before its capitulation, and was put in a prisoner camp until the liberation, but was treated quite well by the Germans.

There are many stories like that in Belgium. At least in the north. I think over here its mostly remembered as a time of great division and shortcomings.

Obviously they try to remember the holocaust as well, but tbh, unless you were part of the targeted population, you didn't really suffer much from it. So it's mostly a political-correctness thing.

Collaboration rate was pretty high for multiple reasons. During WW1 the northern soldiers were quite mistreated by their southern (French speaking) officers (the north is Dutch speaking), this left a very sour taste, on top of the cultural differences between both parts of the country. Some people wanted independence from them, so they tried to convince the Germans to either let them become a separate country, or let them integrate the north into Germany, which means integration in their military and political apparatus.

Family of collaborating soldiers were treated quite well, so if a good house father wanted to keep his family safe (and fed, as being soldier actually got you decent payment, which was very valuable in a time of hunger), he could join the Wehrmacht (or SS, if you had other motivations similar to the earlier mentioned).

Belgium was very catholic at the time, and priests ordered the faithful to fight the "Bolshevistic threat" in the east, as the church felt threatened by the Soviets. So many Flemish and people from the Netherlands ended up fighting at the eastern front.

Others simply went with it, others opposed either silently, joined the resistance, hid wanted people, etc.. Just like anywhere else in conquered Europe.

Most civilian (non holocaust) casualties fell around the time of the liberation, due to allied bombardments, and later (after the liberation)when the Germans fired V1 and V2 rockets onto strategical locations (like the middle of cities).

Here in Italy the general feeling is mixed. Most people, especially the older generations, are ashamed of our participation in the war alongside the Axis. Others, especially the younger generations, seem to be idolising the Fascist movement and its relatively insignificant participation in the war. The latter, sadly, is something that is starting to worry me, as far right political parties keep gaining popularity, especially with the younger, naive, percentage of the population. Edit: Grammar

Chilean here, besides history channel showing nazi conspiracys, very few people know much about WWII, they probable remember the bomb and Hitler nothing else.

American - I think it's universally recognized as the last black and white war. Good triumphing over evil.

Did this thread occur to you while watching The Greatest Briton?

Sweden reporting in.

We don't talk about it much, sadly. When we do, it's always a bunch of mixed feelings from those informed. I've never had the fortune to actually speak with anyone who remembers the war, nor anyone who served in the volunteer corps in Finland, but I can tell you the general idea I've gotten from just ordinary people.

Some people wonder why we didn't play a more active role, why we didn't resist the Germans more than we did. Why we never formally came to Finland's aid, opting instead to send volunteers and materiel, why we turned the other cheek while Norway and Denmark were overrun. A lot of people understand, of course, that the chance we would have been able to withstand a German invasion was microscopic at best (at least in the beginning of the war), but they would still have preferred that we tried and failed.

Then again, many people see the benefits of our succesfully enforced neutrality. After the war, as one of the more intact nations on earth, helping rebuild Europe and entering a golden age of development and growth. And then, of course, we didn't just sit idly by, we did help fight the holocaust in a way, by providing refuge to Jews and such, Raoul Wallenberg being a prominent example.

Personally, I tend to be of the opinion that we should have formally come to Finland's aid at the very least, and perhaps been slightly more daring than we were in our talks with Germany. No matter how unlikely it may sound, there were things in the Swedish arsenal that the Germans were wary of, such as our Sverige-class coastal defence ships. Some people have even claimed that ship itself to be the #1 reason Germany never invaded. I personally doubt that though.

But, all in all, it's hard to fault the government for what they did and holding together the country as well as they did. I just hope we'll be quicker to help our neighbours if anything like that ever happens again.

The camp Westerbork is really close to us, they are saying all the names and ages from the Fallen since last thursdy until next teusday...

It's one of the way's we remember WW2...

http://www.kampwesterbork.nl/index.html#/index

'TO DEFEND OUR ISLAND HOME, TO RIDE OUT THE STORM OF WAR AND TO OUTLIVE THE MENACE OF TYRANNY. IF NECESSARY FOR YEARS, IF NECESSARY ALONE.'

'WE SHALL FIGHT IN FRANCE. WE SHALL FIGHT ON THE SEAS AND OCEANS. WE SHALL FIGHT WITH GROWING CONFIDENCE AND GROWING STRENGTH IN THE AIR. WE SHALL DEFEND OUR ISLAND, WHATEVER THE COST MAY BE. WE SHALL FIGHT ON THE BEACHES, WE SHALL FIGHT ON THE LANDING GROUND, WE SHALL FIGHT IN THE FIELDS AND IN THE STREETS, WE SHALL FIGHT IN THE HILLS; WE SHALL NEVER SURRENDER.'

it was seen at the time, that Britain, and anyone who stood shoulder by shoulder with her would fight till the last citizens last breath. We had watched Hitler destroy our friends in Europe, and we knew that would not be allowed to happen in England. Every god damn school teacher, baker, priest, postman, milkman... knew what had to be done in the event of invasion. Retired men were given handguns, boy scouts taught how to ambush, our women taught to lie and deceive.. and Hitler knew it. A population of 50 million armed and willing to die rather than bow down to fascism is a force to be reckoned with. We had trained and willing suicide squads in every god damn city, town and village south of Glasgow. My grandfather told me that he never feared living under German rule, because you can't rule a nation who would rather die for freedom, speaking the queens English under a British flag then live any other way.

We knew it might happen. But honestly they wouldn't of had a chance here. Even today, we're a small and proud nation, but my god do we have this alarming psychotic urge to roll up our sleeves and take on anymore who fucks wit our freedom. Or tea. Same thing.

Often obsessively (UK) :)

I share that obsession.

The last time our whole country stopped to support and fight a war. USA

In India, nobody remember s WW2, even though millions fought in the war and thousands of Indians and Pakistanis died in it. At some level it is seen as an embaresment to the nation that we strived so hard for European freedom and way of life while at same time not being granted the same freedoms.

In America, we call that whole generation "the greatest generation". They're very respected. As far as the war goes, we are still kinda salty about the attack on pearl harbor. Yet at the same time, we kind of feel like it had to happen because without them attacking us, we wouldn't have entered the war, and without us, hitler wins hands down. We feel that we saved the world, twice.

This is the first thread where I have seen both amazing history posts and someone refer to windtalkers with Nicholas cage as a really good movie

In the Netherlands we say the name/age all the jews that got killed.

Turkey: They don't teach it in highschool and elementary because its "too recent" but when you take the appropriate courses in uni they mostly talk about how turkey was very poor and how there was a lot of political parties with Nazi ideology's which still exist today to some degree but we also talk a lot about Korean war which only happened a few years later.

I am 46 year old male in the U.S.A. and many of my family fought in the European theater. They looked at the normal Germans as soldiers fighting a war for the country and thus gave them the respect they deserve but the S.S. and Nazi's were looked at as animals worthy of death. Many families from the Appalachian mountains where I am from have some kind of German ancestry so they could not very well condemn themselves.

On the other hand the Japanese were considered sub-human monsters and animals by them. I even recall my Great grand mother hating on them when I was a kid. The way they treated our P.O.W.s was horrible and worthy of hatred. At least the Germans did not kill our P.O.W.s like the Japanese did and fought a semblance of honorable warfare if there is a definition of such a thing.

The generation that fought WWII is considered the greatest generation in America next to the civil war and the revolutionary war. Most Americans realize we did not win the war on our own and the more intellectual realize we were drug into another European war that we did not want. Europeans have been fighting each other for a very long time and Americans did not want war.

We did however drive the war machine that won the war from giving money and hardware to our allies. It took guns, planes, ships and many more things to win that war and America is responsible for most of it. We gave the Russians a lot of money help build there war machine to do what they did but yet I do not see a post talking about things like this. If not for America the war would have probably been won by the Axis.

Well said, judeman. The Soviets were also recipients of our Lend Lease Act, as were the Brits --- tanks, planes, food, etc. We, (USA), had the natural resources and man-power, especially before Pearl Harbor, to help keep our future Allies in supplies. (Though being allied with Stalin makes me puke).

Biscuitboy, I don't know about the boob-tube, (television), or what's in the movies these days with WW-2? Haven't watched either very much at all in decades, since the Internet came to be.

I do know, (well should say "did" know, for most of them are gone now, like my dad and uncles), some WW-2 war vets who /were/are still very bitter toward our enemies from back then. But for most part, most of them have let it go long ago and lived normal as possible lives.

My being biased, as this part of history is one of keen interest to me, makes it hard for to say of your posted question about how this country remembers or views this war now-a-days? Or with documentaries, movies, t.v. shows. Strange or unnerving, I would not think so, but I think wrong things daily, hah.

Remember too, we're talking about media here. Which are in a business. In the US, the media will show whatever sells, meaning in numbers of viewers as to be profitable, and bottom line this will dictate what is shown or not on ongoing basis. The buck stops there, period.

Just my opinion, to end with, but as a whole, after we were attacked in Pearl Harbor, this country did pull together for the war effort, and I feel that sentiment about the war still stands-- we are quite proud of our part in WW-2. And this is what is taught in schools.

In Germany: Non-stop documentaries about it. A lot of them also about the plans of Hitler, like building "Germania" a mega-city or the stealth-bomber. So pretty interesting actually.

But most of the time it's not actually about the WWII itself but about the Holocaust. It of course is undeniable the baddest chapter in our history, but we all grow up with this humility and this thought in our head "We did bad things 80 years ago, so you should never voice your opinion against any other nations etc. because we are the bad guys."

I think that's annoying, because wether me nor my parents nor my grandparents were involved in this war. In Germany the only time you can wave the national-flag without being called a Nazi by immigrants is when the FIFA-World-Cup is on.

I agree. Im from the US but I know German citizens still get a bad rep for this. I'm sure over 95 percent are humiliated by being a citizen of a nation who had that kind of chapter in history, but theres nothing the world can do about it now, 70 years later. Lets let it go. Most germans now had nothing at all to do with it.

When I was younger I always thought that we (US) had been the main force in the war through media. But a few years ago my US history teacher did such a great job teaching us about the battle of Stalingrad (Moscow) and how without Russia and their major victory in Moscow we would have never won the war.

Stalingrad is not Moscow. It's a different city altogether. And while it was a major turning point in the east, to say the allies would not have won the war without this victory is a stretch. It probably would have taken longer, but the allies would have won in the end. Still it was a huge victory and played a major part in the defeat of Germany.

Just look at a graph of total casualties by country, military and civilian. That gives you a lot of insight as to why the Soviets (and, later, the Russians) were very defensive-minded.

Two battles, Moscow and Stalingrad. The Germans stalled only 20 miles from Moscow, so Hitler shifted focus to the south, at the industrial city of Stalingrad on the Volga. The Soviets managed to hold on, then pushed back the Germans for the first time in the war.

One thing I forgot to mention is the fairly open debate regarding US committing war crimes. The most common examples are the fire bombing of Dresden, the internment of Japanese citizens and the use of atom bombs in Japan. Another topic is the lack of action the U.S. took when the government saw solid evidence for concentration camps in Germany.

In the US, we hyper-focus on the tragedy of Pearl Harbor, and aggrandize the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as the feather in our cap of dominance over the rest of the world.

We completely gloss over the convention at Evian, and our part in refusing Jewish refugees before Hitler started stuffing them into gas chambers to get rid of them, because no one would take them. We don't talk about how we gave diplomatic immunity and citizenship to half of the Nazi officers and scientists after the war, to take for ourselves the information they had so atrociously acquired. We also do not mention that the Jews declared war on the Germans before the Germans declared war on them, and that the Jewish head of state had announced a strategic plan to economically attack business interests in Germany, which was why they being deported and then killed. The victim status of Jews in US culture serves as perpetual justification of all our financial and military aid to the poor, beseiged people's of Israel, so that we can use them to provoke and slaughter Muslims for US in the Middle East, alongside our many military and commercial holdings in places like Indonesia, Tailand, Taiwan, South Korea, etc.

Furthermore, we bury and ostracize discussion of the probable false flag Pearl Harbor was. That the Army Pearl Harbor Board reviewing the trials of Admirral Kimmel and General Short concluded that "Up the morning of December 7, 1941, everything that the Japanese were planning to do was known to the United States except... the very hour and minute when bombs were falling on Pearl Harbor." link

These are all things that the average US citizen is not taught in school, and never bothers to learn through independent research. The extent of average opinion is that we were justified in kicking ass because we were unjustly attacked, for no good reason at all, and that once provoked, we proceeded the clean evryone's clocks with our indomitable military genius and superior righteousness. Britain totally needed our help, the French are whimps, the Japs were murderous dogs, and the Germans were the great evil of the world, which the US smashed heroically to smithereens. 'Murica!

I'm not joking. That's what most people think here. I am slightly encouraged by hearing more conversations of doubt, but those are still disturbingly sparse. Most of us are woefully ignorant here. Good conversation to instigate, though. Thanks! Discussions like this help.

Americans like to talk about our role in defeating European fascism, but we would rather forget about the whole Japanese internment thing.

American here. We see it as a just war. The last one we have had. There are alot of ww2 movies etc here. For us, it was when we turned into a world power. I think there is some pride in that. We feel like the heros. That being said, seems like people don't talk about the war with Japan much. They will mention peril harbor. That was what got us into the war. However, the A bomb in Japan is never talked about. I know I feel shame about that one. : ( many people do. They pretend it didn't happen.

i think ya just haven't been looking in the right places. i've heard plenty about the a bomb. but aside from the bomb and pearl harbor, yeah, we mostly just talk about the western theater.

USA: War was won with American Steel, British Intelligence and Soviet Blood to quote a famous saying. But really it was all the US(jokes). Something I always found interesting learning about it in school is that there's a lot of focus placed on the Jewish portion of the Holocaust, but not on any of the other groups persecuted. I realize that proportionately, Jews were by far the most affected, but the almost negligent mention of the near eradication of Gypsies and infirm is nearly mind boggling to me. Homosexuals I can understand as up until recently, they were still viewed as undesirables by a majority of the population. All of that aside, I think that most people view it as the last war that we engaged in that was truly worthwhile. Our coming out party if you will. Regardless of the fact that undoubtedly the major turning point of the war was Stalingrad, you will find that there is very little mention that it was American material that, quite simply, made it possible for the Soviets to put up any sort of prolonged resistance (two and a half ton trucks, boats, food, ammo, weapons, boots, coats, almost everything an army needs to fight). Also, Hitler, while not very concerned about us at the start, became much more so later on when fronts started opening up here and there. Greatly effected his troop deployment on the Eastern Front, including a disastrous decision to move the 12th SS Panzer Army away from the initial attack on Stalingrad. An almost unanimously held opinion by most historical scholars is that had the army engaged in the initial assault, it would have been decisive as the Red Army had simply did not have the resources in or around the city at the time to combat such a large and effective force. Unfortunately, not nearly enough attention is paid to the countries and the people that defied Hitler and paid dearly for their bravery. The war was turned into a propaganda campaign by both the Soviets and the US during the Cold War to determine who had the bigger d\*ck. Since I was very young I have read almost everything I could get my hands on about WW2, and while a great many Soviets died, 20% of Polish people died. That is a mind boggling statistic that cannot be put into words. Many of the Soviet Deaths were due to go awful tactics, poor training, a disregard for human life, killing their own, etc, etc. But the Poles... No words can do them any justice. The Pacific: This was where, at the time, most of the attention in America was focused. After all the Japanese were the ones that attacked us. But how many Americans know that, on the day after Pearl Harbor, 80,000 British troops were taken Prisoner at Singapore, the largest capitulation in British history. The island hopping campaign cemented the heroic legacy of the Marines Corps. Tarawa, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, the list of their immense sacrifice and bravery for little strips of land has faded into the history books and screens of dramatized TV shows. And I think that much of this has to do with the refocusing of American foreign policy on Europe during the post war and bragging about the impact that it had there. The invasion force at Normandy was the greatest fleet ever assembled, but if the bombs hadn't been dropped, the fleet that was planned for the invasion of Japan would have made Normandy look like a commando raid. Overall I think that the message of the war, and how easy it is to get swept up in something evil when times are hard has been lost. Most people that I have talked to about the war in the states possess at most a very basic grasp of what happened. The can name names like the battle of Midway and the Battle of the Bulge, but can't attach a meaning to either. The Nazis boil down to a bad people and 'what if' questions, a short evil man with grandeous schemes and fantastic weapons portrayed in documentaries on netflix and wikipedia articles. Its hard to debate what ifs if they don't even know what really happened. Tl;Dr: Americans recognize that it was a 'worthwhile' war, but don't really understand why.

That time we swooped in and saved the world. (USA)

I think it is unfair that Americans get this meathead stereotype about World War 2 reading this thread it seems like just about every allied country that participated celebrates it in that same fashion.

Germany and Japan were bad and Russia was pretty bad but not as bad. USA champs.

good times over here, the warring countries were being blown to shit and couldnt produce enough to sustain themeselves so they imported a lot, and we exported a lot, the national currency was high, economy booming, progressive political measures, a neutral stance on the war.

or maybe it was WWI, probably both, then after the war everything went to shit, twice.

dont really talk about the war outside of history class, and regular TV/Movies general media like anywhere else.

Same as the OP, I'm from a country on the "winning" side (is there really a winner in a war?) in America, so we have TV channels, weekly specials, and movies about the subject. I didn't have any family members who served, but I do feel like it's a subject that needs to be told to all generations regardless of where they are from.

USA

Apparently we are morally superior to everyone and that is why we were able to "win the war". We also think we single handedly won the war and Russia didn't have much to do with it. We also don't hear very much about our brutality in our bombing campaigns that turned cities to rubble and killed all kinds of civilians. We don't really talk about the kind of brutal tragedies that we carried out in trying to win. I think this part is important because it is so often depicted as very black and white conflict where the allies were this truly righteous force and apart from the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki all of the atrocities leveled against the people caught up in the middle of the battleground was on the side of the axis powers. I'm not saying that it was all wrong, but when you win you get to make the narrative whatever you want, and in the case of the USA, maybe because the cold war was already playing out, it seems like we went with the Lord of the Rings saved the day from an evil race that conveniently happen to just be bad because that's how they are sort of narrative. This is why they are called the Greatest Generation, which assumes some kind of ultimate moral battle took place. I never really understood why people didn't see it in the same way as other wars throughout history.

Usually other wars are regarded as a kind of tragedy in themselves and the violence and destabilization from it are indicative of someone in power screwing up, a failure of ideology, of economy, or policy incidentally causing some other party some kind of injustice for which there is no ready mechanism for reconciliation; all of these things become a whole nuanced messy chain of events spiraling out of control until young people that had relatively similar lives have to kill each other to consolidate power over the narrative. For the person on the ground fearing for what this might mean for their lives, it is clear to them that they have very little stock in the outcome or its beginning, But as far as this war is concerned, Americans just rock out with their cock out and talk about it in biblical terms as though the US had cast Satan out of heaven. We just seem to prefer to look at it this way and refuse any nuances that there might be. History buffs and historians may be an exception. But as a policy in our general culture it is this.

Personally I think in a war, it's hard to justify who is right or wrong to the actual soldiers fighting, since winning is the main objective of both sides, but politically, the US was morally superior.

Well the holocaust DID kinda blow

sigh

This pretty much sums it up, I fear.

In Ireland there's not too much about it. The government at the time called it "The Emergency".

We've always had the same documentaries on as you lot next door (because of access to BBC, ITV, C4 etc - thanks for that by the way BBC is infinitely better than RTÉ).

Recently we've started to pardon the Irish who fought for the British as they were treated as pariahs (for "taking the queen's schilling").

In schools we learn the whole story, probably the same details you do, as well as what happened at home. We stockpiles turf in Phoenix Park, had blackouts, interned downed german pilots (but sent allied pilots up north across the border). The German's accidentally bombed areas in Dublin thinking they were over the English Midlands. When Hitler died, Eamonn DeValera signed a book of condolence at the Dublin embassy - a controversial move but we were supposed to be neutral at the time.

I think you mean Sweden, not Norway.

There are many things, But the main thing is my country the United States used Nuclear weapons. The only country ever to use a Nuclear weapon against another. Also we are not proud of using those 2 bombs on Japan. If anything it opened our eyes to how dangerous they are. This is why the Americans are so hard at work with nuclear regulations.

In Canada we like to pat ourselves on the back for going over and helping out. Remembrance day is a decently big event where everybody has a moment of silence once per year and many people wear poppies around remembrance day in honor of the soldiers and civilians who died.

America saved the world from the Nazis. Britain/France/Russia/other Allies were incompetent and losing til the badass Americans showed up. Japan was Iwo Jima/Okinawa (first time Japan nation was invaded in 5,000 years whoa!!) and the atom bombs. That's as far as it goes on TV/film usually. Honestly the country as a whole probably loves it due to how black and white it seems for the most part as opposed to almost every other war the US has been involved in. And due to the huge industrial superiority it had it doesn't seem likely the Allies could have lost. Americans' attitude toward on average it is probably much more gung-ho than yours since the Nazis were pretty messed up and nowadays are the perfect cartoon villain for Captain America to beat up or zombie/mecha to mow down. Not gonna lie though alternate history scenarios where they win are morbidly fascinating.

I'm not going to say that the US won the war in Europe on its own like some Hollywood movies might like to portray, but to say we were a minor player that probably contributed the most in the war being won. To put it another way, if it hadn't been for the US, England and Russia couldn't have paid for the victory over German in money or on the battlefield.

we remember it as breaking through the final barrier of ego entrancement where we finally saw the non dual view and achieved satori and in doing so realized that both being and non being, birth and death are one, all opposites reconciled, that time is an illusion and that there is only an eternal now in which worried, anger, fear are absurd to the extreme and true liberation was achieved. it was fantastic. just absolutely neat.

source please

Not the British and American troops who stormed the beaches of Normandy?

Not the German people who risked their lives to try to help people escape being sent to concentration camps?

There is absolutely NO evidence that the Americans knew about the private conversations between Soviet Russia and Japan. Yours is nothing but some paranoid conspiracy fantasy.

I have a question are you an American if so where did you learn these things?

I like how the Brits bitch about American pride with the European theater, like we asked to fight in your European bullshit. We supplied countless materials, and thousands of young men to help for the greater good. We are on the same side for fuck sakes.

People also seem to forget how large our navy and Air Force was, and how deadly on both fronts.

Not true at all, this person does not speak for all of us.

We were minding our own busness when the American Dogs dropped Atomic Bombs on the peaceful people of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Such a travrsty.

You shoulda tapped out sooner

America single-handedly saved the world from Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan, and everyone forgets Italy because they were useless! Churchill was FDR's trusty sidekick! And we try as hard as possible to forget Stalin was on our side and that Russia did anything!

Seriously, there are basically three American wars which most people agree were justified: the American Revolutionary War (i.e. American War of Independence), the American Civil War, and our role in World War II. Out of those three, WWII is easily the most glorified.

How does your history describe the atom bombings?