



1

Hitler & Churchill

Aggression & Defiance

Dr. Tod Worner

2

Hitler & the Versailles Treaty

- 1919 Versailles Treaty mandated
 - Complete acceptance of war guilt -> Hitler was belligerent
 - Reparations to victors -> Hitler refused to pay
 - No heavy military artillery or tanks -> 1934, Hitler develops tank fleet
 - Minimal army with little turnover -> 1935, Hitler mandates universal conscription
 - No air force -> 1935, Hitler develops air force
 - Minimal naval fleet & no submarines -> 1936, Hitler develops sub fleet
 - Relinquish colonies & many territories -> Hitler begins reacquiring territories

3

Hitler & the Versailles Treaty

- British military stagnation
 - Funding cut
- By 1938, Germany had increased from:
 - 7 infantry to 46 infantry divisions
 - 3 cavalry divisions to 5 tank divisions & 3000 combat aircraft
- Comparatively:
 - British had 6 infantry and 1 tank division (spread throughout their empire)
 - German air force > British + French air force

4



One blood demands one Reich.

– Adolf Hitler (written on the first page of his memoir, Mein Kampf)

5

Hitler's Aggression

- Militarization of Rhineland (1936)
- Annexation of Austria (1938)
- Munich Pact (1938)
 - British & French agreement to surrender western Czechoslovakia to Hitler in return for no further aggression
 - “I believe it is peace for our time.” - Chamberlain
 - “The sequel to the sacrifice of honor is the sacrifice of lives, our people’s lives.” – Churchill
 - “Our enemies are little worms. I saw them at Munich.” - Hitler
- Hitler annexed the remainder of Czechoslovakia 6 months later



6



7

Bloodless Conquest #1 - The Rhineland

- Rhineland (western German land) had been demilitarized since WWI as a buffer offering French access to industrial heart of Germany.
- **On March 7, 1936**, the Nazis march into & bloodlessly occupy Rhineland (violating Versailles & Locarno Agreements).



8

Bloodless Conquest #1 - The Rhineland

- Hitler immediately gives assurances in “peace speech” offering:
 - 25 yr non-aggression pact with France/Britain
 - 10 yr non-aggression pact with eastern European countries
 - Offered rejoining of League of Nations
- French estimated Nazi strength at 295,000 soldiers
 - It was only 22,000 troops & 10,000 police
 - French felt only alliance with GB and Italy could repel (French has 320,000 at home)
 - Great Britain only tepidly protested



9

Bloodless Conquest #1 - The Rhineland

They spring, yelling & crying to their feet. . . Their hands are raised in the slavish salute, their faces now contorted with hysteria, their mouths wide open, shouting, their eyes, burning with fanaticism, glued on the new god, the Messiah. The Messiah plays his role superbly.

- William Shirer, journalist, on audience at Hitler’s public proclamation of the Rhineland occupation

10



11

The government simply cannot make up their minds. . . so they go on in strange paradox, decided only to be undecided, resolved to be irresolute, adamant for drift, solid for fluidity, all powerful to be impotent.

–Winston Churchill, frustrated over the lack of British response to Nazi movement into the Rhineland (1936)



12

The 48 hours after the march into the Rhineland were the most nerve-wracking in my life. If the French had marched into the Rhineland, we would have had to withdraw with our tails between our legs. The military resources at our disposal were wholly inadequate for even a moderate resistance.

– Adolf Hitler (privately)



13

A retreat on our part would have spelled collapse. What saved us was my amazing aplomb.

– Adolf Hitler

14



I go the way that Providence dictates with the assurance of a sleepwalker.

– Adolf Hitler

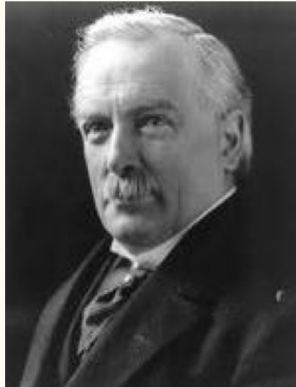
15

This was the last chance the Western democracies had of stopping Hitler at small cost to themselves.”

– William Shirer



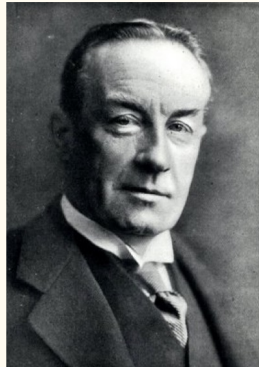
16



Germany has no desire to attack any country in Europe.

– David Lloyd George, former British Prime Minister

17



We none of us know what is going on in that strange man's mind.

– British Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin

18

Hitler may have been an amateur at generalship, but he possessed the great professional talent applicable to all human affairs: an understanding of human nature & the understanding of the weaknesses of his opponents. That was enough to carry him very far.

– John Lukacs



19

It is important to diagnose the evil.

– Winston Churchill

20



21

Bloodless Conquest #2 - The Anschluss

- Anschluss = Union
- British envoy Lord Halifax indicates he wouldn't oppose "changes" in Austria, Czechoslovakia, or Danzig if peacefully sold/executed.
- Nazis stir up unrest in Austria providing a pretext for invasion ("to protect citizens from unrest").
- **March 12, 1938** - Nazis march into Austria to wild acclaim.



22



23



24

Let those who wish to reject [aid & alliance with victims of Nazi aggression] ponder well & earnestly upon what will happen to us if, when all else has been thrown to the wolves, we are left to face our fate alone.

– Winston Churchill, exasperated at British policy on the Anschluss



25



For five years, I have talked to this house on these matters – not with very great success. I have watched this famous [British] island descending incontinently, recklessly, the stairway which leads to a dark gulf. It is a fine broad stairway at the beginning, but after a bit, the carpet wears. A little further on, there are only flagstones; and a little further on still, these break beneath your feet.

–Winston Churchill, exasperated at the British policy regarding the Austrian annexation by Hitler (March, 1938)

26

Bloodless Conquest #3 - Czechoslovakia

May, 1938

- Hitler decries treatment of ethnic Germans in Sudetenland (pretext for war).
- Militarily fortified industrial bulwark of the Czech state

September, 1938

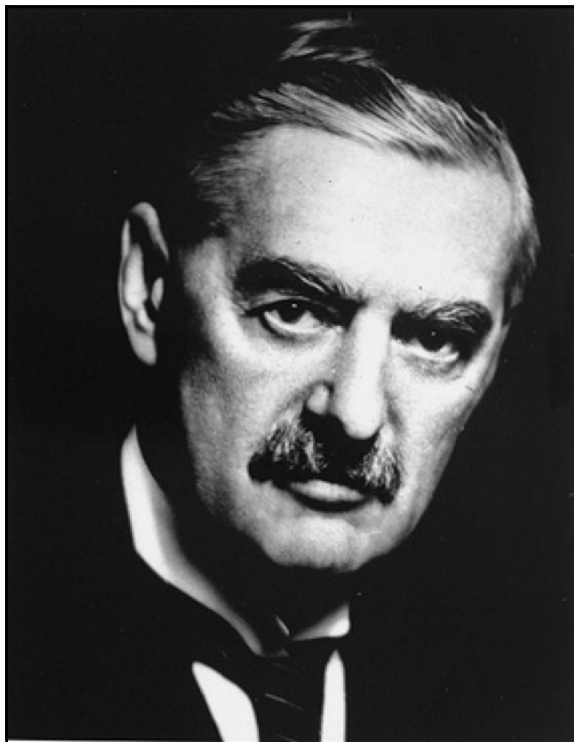
- British PM Neville Chamberlain & French Premier Edouard Daladier hand over Western Czechoslovakia to Hitler in the Munich Pact.
- Hitler promises no more territorial demands.

March, 1939

- Hitler annexes the rest of Czechoslovakia



27



How horrible, fantastic, incredible it is that we should be digging trenches and trying on gas-masks here because of a quarrel in a far away country between people of whom we know nothing.

— British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain on Czechoslovakia

28

My good friends, for the second time in our history, a British Prime Minister has returned from Germany bringing peace with honor. I believe it is “peace for our time.” Go home and get a nice quiet sleep.

– Neville Chamberlain, to an exultant London crowd following the Munich Pact



29



In spite of the harshness & ruthlessness I thought I saw in his face, I got the impression that here was a man who could be relied upon when he had given his word.

– Neville Chamberlain to the British Cabinet

30



Good man.

- President Franklin Roosevelt, in congratulatory cable to Neville Chamberlain

31

It declares to those who have ears to hear
that Germany henceforth wants peace.

– Walter Duranty, Pulitzer Prize-winning
journalist for the New York Times



32

Much as I dislike saying it, [the truth is that] Hitler is really entitled to what he is asking for.

– Joseph Kennedy, American Ambassador to Great Britain



33



Agreement was made on a peaceful solution to the crisis. It was basically simple. All of Hitler's demands were met.

– Jackson Spielvogel, historian

34



I have not come into this world to
make men better, but to make use of
their weaknesses.

– Adolf Hitler

35

I will begin by saying what everybody would
like to ignore or forget but which must
nevertheless be stated, namely, that we have
sustained a total and unmitigated defeat. . .

He had the choice between war & dishonor. He
chose dishonor, & he will get war anyway.

–Winston Churchill, on Prime Minister
Neville Chamberlain's appeasement of Hitler



36



If [Hitler's] proposal means that we should come to an understanding with Germany to dominate Europe, I think this would be contrary to the whole of our history.

– Winston Churchill

37

An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile – hoping it will eat him last.

- Winston Churchill, on the Munich Pact, 1938



38



I know of no statesman, no national leader in the history of the modern world, who understood a foreign enemy as Churchill understood Hitler.

– John Lukacs, historian

39

The Beginning of the Second World War

August, 1939

- Hitler's belligerence toward Poland & his deception of the West led Great Britain & France to form a treaty with Poland.
- Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact (cynical)

September 1-3, 1939

- Invasion of Poland and split between the two countries
- Great Britain & France declare war on Germany
- Winston Churchill named First Lord of the Admiralty



40

WINSTON IS BACK!

– Radio message from the Admiralty Board
to the Royal Navy Warships



41

In the course of my life I have very often been a prophet, and I have usually been ridiculed for it. During the time of my struggle for power it was in the first instance the Jewish race which only received my prophecies with laughter when I said I would one day take over the leadership of the State, and that of the whole nation, and that I would then, among many other things, settle the Jewish problem.

Their laughter was uproarious, but I think that for some time now, they have been laughing on the other side of the face. Today, I will be once more the prophet. If the international Jewish financiers outside Europe should succeed in plunging the nations once more into a world war, then the result will not be the bolshevization of the earth, and thus the victory of Jewry, but the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe!

– Adolf Hitler

42



You can imagine what a bitter blow it was to me that my long struggle to win peace failed. Yet I cannot believe that there is anything different I could have done. . . we have a clear conscience.

– Neville Chamberlain,
on the decision to
declare war on Germany

43

There is a generation of Britons here now ready to prove that it is not unworthy of those great men, the fathers of our land...We are fighting to save the world from a pestilence of Nazi tyranny & in defense of all that is most sacred to man...It is a war...to establish on impregnable rocks the right of the individual. It is a war to establish and revive the stature of man.

– Winston Churchill, newly appointed
First Lord of the Admiralty, on the
first day of WWII



44

Come then: let us to the task, to the battle, to the toil – each to our part, each to our station. Fill the armies, rule the air, pour out the munitions, strangle the U-boats, sweep the mines, plough the land, build the ships, guard the streets, succor the wounded, uplift the downcast, & honor the brave. Let us go forward together in all parts of the Empire, in all parts of the island. There is not a week, not a day, nor an hour to lose.

– Winston Churchill, 3 months into war

45



While Chamberlain was wringing his hands, Churchill was shaking his fist.

– James Humes, historian

46

Declarations of neutrality can be ignored.

Considerations of right and wrong do not enter the matter! The aim must be to deal the enemy a smashing decisive blow right from the start!

Close your hearts to pity! Act brutally! The stronger man is right. Be harsh and remorseless! Be steeled against all signs of compassion!



- Adolf Hitler, to his military

47

Our enemies are small worms – I saw them in Munich.

– Adolf Hitler, to his Generals

48



This man – Hitler – is Germany's fate for good or evil. If it's now into the abyss, he'll drag us all with him. There's nothing to be done.

–Former Army commander, Werner von Fritsch, fatalistic after Hitler's celebrated success after success & manipulations of the military out of true power

49



50



51



52

The “Sitzkrieg” or “The Phoney War”

September 1939 - May, 1940

- After British/French war declaration, not much fighting in defense of Poland

“From the German side of the river I could see the French troops on the far bank working on their fortifications. One group was playing an impromptu soccer-football game. Neither side fired on the other. A strange kind of war.” – William Shirer

- Meanwhile, Hitler fortifies his gains and plans to turn West.

53



54



55

Whereas Socialism, and even Capitalism in a more grudging way, have said to people, “I offer you a good time,” Hitler has said to them, “I offer you struggle, danger, and death,” and as a result a whole nation flings itself at his feet.

– George Orwell

56

The tyrant who now held [the generals'] fate in his hands – and the fate of Germany and, as it then seemed, of the world – had become beyond any question a dangerous, irresponsible megalomaniac.

Yet in the next seven months Hitler could be so cool and cunning in his calculations and so bold in carrying them out that few could doubt that he well might be the military genius he claimed to be.

– William Shirer



57



I cannot see this war, then, simply and purely, as a struggle between the “Forces of Good” and the “Forces of Evil.” If I could simplify it into a phrase at all, it would seem truer to say that the “Forces of the Past” are fighting against the “Forces of the Future.”

– Anne Morrow Lindbergh
wife of Charles Lindbergh

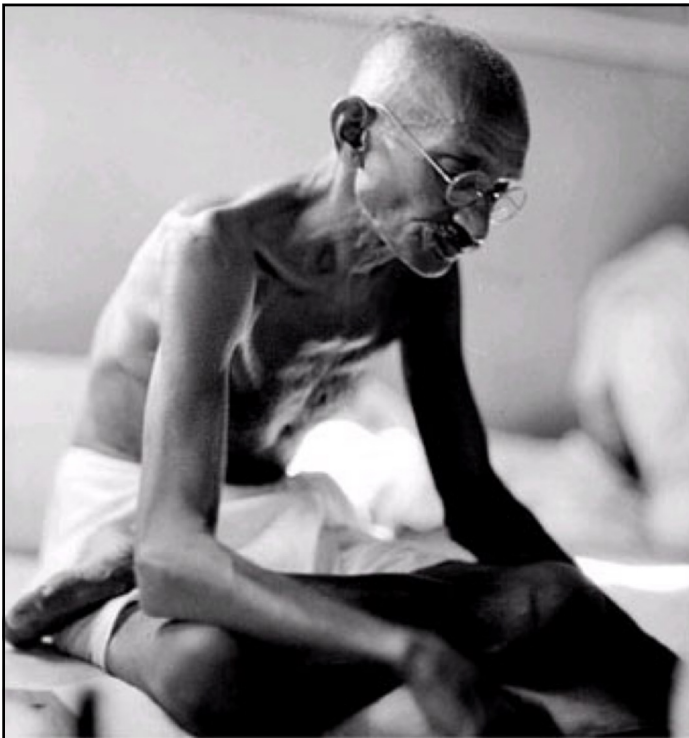
58

A great man, a genius, a person
sent to us from heaven!

– Anonymous 17 year-old
German girl on Adolf Hitler



59



I do not consider Hitler to be as bad as
he is depicted. He is showing an
ability that is amazing and he seems to
be gaining his victories without much
bloodshed.

– Mohandas Gandhi, Indian civil
rights leader, in May 1940 (in
1937, Hitler told British Lord
Halifax that he should “Shoot
Gandhi”)

60

Do you realize that perhaps we
are heading for defeat?

– Winston Churchill, Lord of the
Admiralty, privately expressing
frustration over the Western
unwillingness to fight (in the
Phoney War)



61

It is startling and fearful to realize
that we are no longer safe in our
island home. For nearly a thousand
years England has never seen the
camp fires of an invader.

The stormy seas and our Royal
Navy have been our sure
defense...It is indeed with a pang of
stabbing pain that we see all this in
mortal danger.

*A thousand years scarce to form a
State, an hour may lay it in the
dust*

– Winston Churchill



62

The Rise of Churchill & The Nazi Assault on the West

- April – June, 1940
 - Nazis conquer:
 - Denmark (bloodless)
 - Norway (8 weeks)
 - Belgium (18 days)
 - Luxembourg (bloodless)
 - Holland (5 days)
 - France (6 weeks) - surrendered June 22
 - Nazis succeeded by faking WWI approach, and surprising through “impassable” Ardennes forest region



63

The Rise of Churchill & The Nazi Assault on the West

- British botched Norway invasion & shortly had to evacuate
 - Chamberlain OUT as Prime Minister
 - Winston Churchill IN as Prime Minister (May 10, 1940)



64

I have nothing to offer, but blood, toil, tears and sweat. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering.

You ask, what is our policy? I can say: It is to wage war, by sea, land, and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy.

You ask what is our aim? I can answer in one word: It is victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival.

– Winston Churchill, in his first speech as Prime Minister to the House of Commons (May 13, 1940)

65

The Most Pivotal Moment of the Second World War

- Late May, 1940 (momentary uncertainty)
 - Churchill new as Prime Minister
 - Threat to his government if his policy was not supported (King didn't like, Conservatives skeptical, Nazi sympathizers in aristocracy)
 - Appeasement pressures
 - Lord Halifax (other candidate for P.M. encouraging a negotiated peace with Hitler)



66

The Most Pivotal Moment of the Second World War

- **Late May, 1940 (momentary uncertainty)**
 - Rapid westward expansion by Hitler
 - Capitulation of Belgium, imminent fall of France, and British were attempting the largest evacuation in military history at Dunkirk, France
 - Uncertain support from the U.S.
- **SHOULD BRITAIN CONSIDER A NEGOTIATED PEACE WITH HITLER?**
 - Churchill's answer...?



67



68



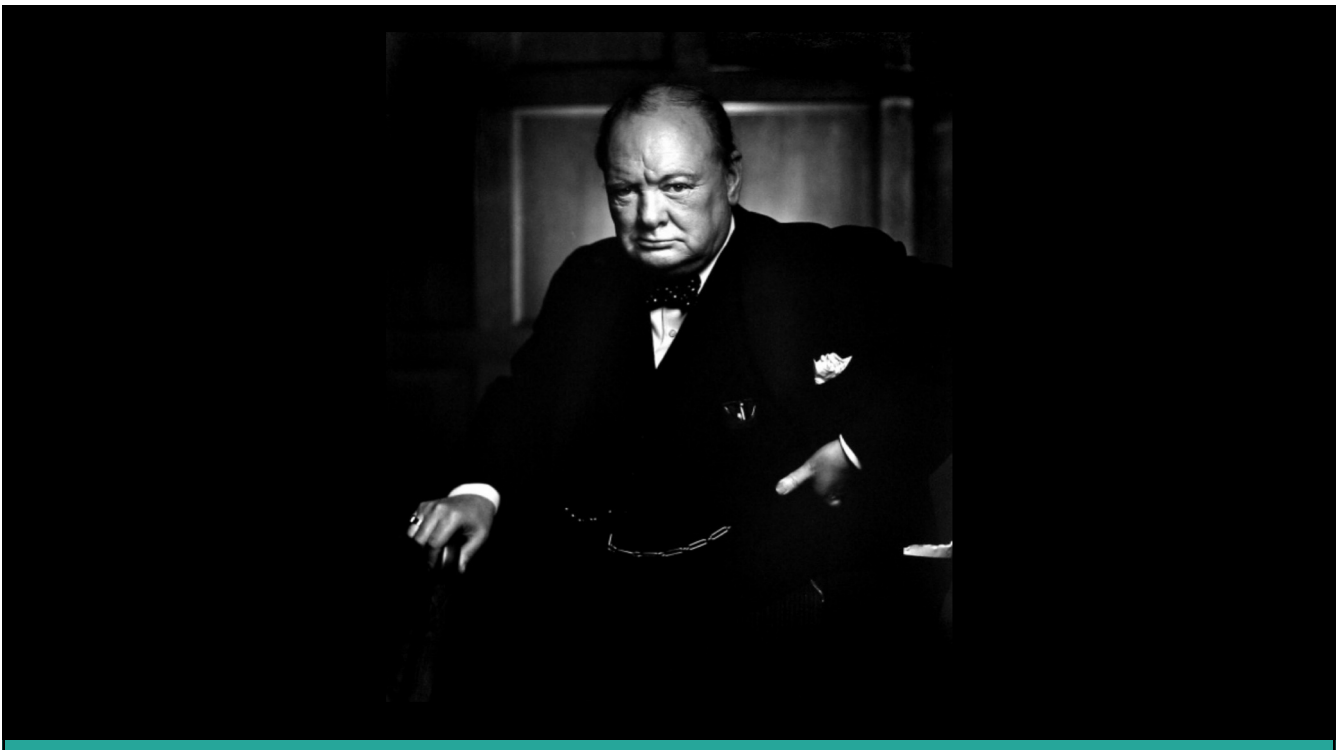
69



70



71



72

Nations that went down fighting
rose again, but those who
surrendered tamely were
finished.

– Winston Churchill, to his
War Cabinet



73

If this long island story of ours is to end
at last, let it end only when each one of us
lies choking on his own blood upon the
ground.

– Winston Churchill, to his Outer Cabinet



74

Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous States have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end, 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 grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills;

we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old.

– Winston Churchill, June 4, 1940 address to the House of Commons (to roars of applause, back-slapping, bench pounding)

75



. . .and if they do land, we'll beat the bastards with the butt ends of broken beer bottles, which is bloody all we've got.

–Winston Churchill, as an aside to his Cabinet in the front benches just after finishing his speech

76

“The most magnificent words ever heard in the English language!”

“That was worth 1000 guns & the speeches of 1000 years!”

– Perspective of two Members of Parliament regarding Churchill’s speech

77

If Germany defeated either ally or both, she would give no mercy; we should be reduced to the status of vassals and slaves forever.

It would be far better that the civilization of Western Europe with all of its achievements should come to a tragic but splendid end than that the two great democracies should linger on, stripped of all that made life worth living.

– Winston Churchill



78

Well, Harry, if we give aid to England, it's not like the French – money down the rathole... As long as that old bastard's in charge, Britain will never surrender.

– President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to friend (& future British envoy) Harry Hopkins, immediately after hearing Churchill's speech on the radio. He then decided to militarily support Britain through "Lend-Lease" which began 9 months later.



79



I hate nobody except Hitler – and that is professional.

– Winston Churchill, 1940

80

"All Behind You Winston!"



81

The Miracle at Dunkirk

May 10, 1940

- Nazis invaded France through "impassable" Ardennes forest & fought against joint B/F forces



82

The Miracle at Dunkirk

May 24, 1940

- Nazis push British/French forces to English Channel coast
- Hitler halted Nazi advance (power move with Generals)
- Felt Luftwaffe would finish
- Wanted to preserve military strength for further battles in the south
- NOT MAGNANIMOUS...



83

The Miracle at Dunkirk

May 26 – June 3, 1940

- Thanks to bad weather, RAF, British boat coordination, & Luftwaffe incompetence:
- 340,000 British and French soldiers trapped at Dunkirk were evacuated across the English Channel
- “Wars are not won by evacuations.”
- WSC



84

The Fall of France

- On June 22, 1940, after 6 weeks of fighting...
 - French surrender
 - The Nazis twist the knife:
 - Nazis removed railcar used for signing armistice at end of WWI (in which Germans surrendered) from French museum, then brought to very site of WWI surrender at Compiegne
 - Hitler then dictated HIS terms to the French
 - North & West France – **Nazi occupied**
 - Central & South France – **Vichy regime under WWI hero Marshal Petain**



85

That was the greatest & finest moment of my life.

– Adolf Hitler, on visiting Paris after the Fall of France



86

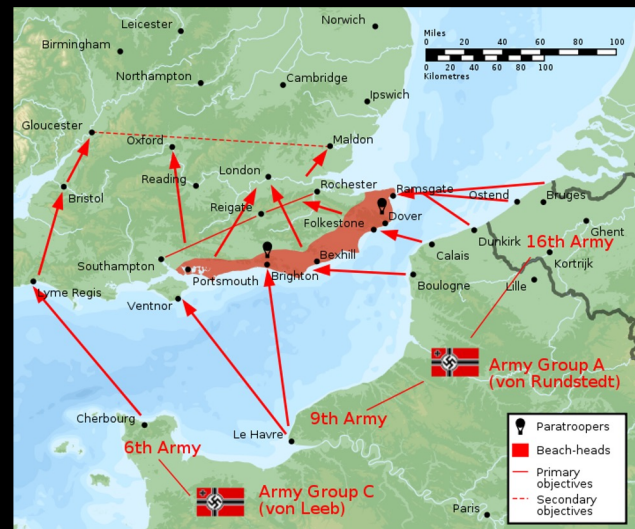
It [will] be the Middle Ages again, but not illuminated by the mercy of Christ.

- French Premier Paul Reynaud on France's loss to Hitler



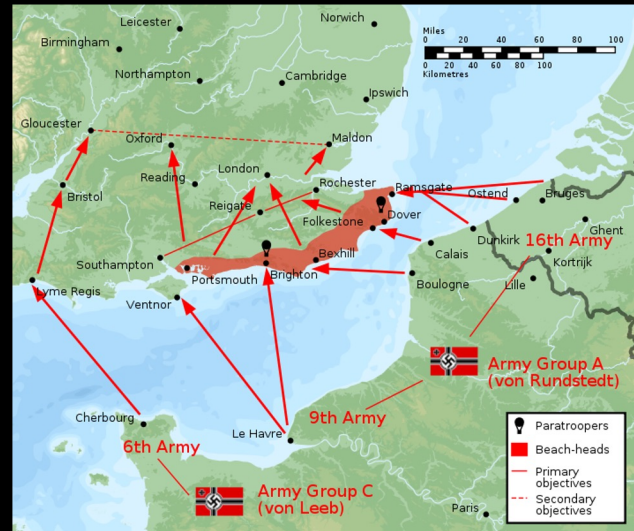
87

- Summer, 1940 – Hitler interested in a “NEGOTIATED PEACE” with Great Britain
- . . .but Churchill & War Cabinet refused to consider. . .



88

- Hitler plans air and sea assault on England, followed by September 15, 1940 invasion.
- “It was a sign of the difficulties that Hitler had maneuvered himself into. Britain would not play his game.” – Ian Kershaw



89

I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilization.

Upon it depends our own British life, and the long continuity of our institutions and our Empire. The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us.

Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be freed and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands.

But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new dark age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science.

Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves, that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, “This was their finest hour.”

– Winston Churchill, June 18, 1940

90



Never, never, never, never give in.

– Winston Churchill

91

The Battle of Britain

- **July 10 – October 31, 1940**
 - German Luftwaffe attempted to gain air superiority over Britain in advance of a Nazi invasion.
- Churchill in command center
 - “What other reserves have we?”
 - “There are none.”
- Royal Air Force prevailed
 - Radar (first use in battle)
 - Tactical errors by Luftwaffe
 - The Blitz



92



93

The Blitz

- Sept. 7, 1940 – May 11, 1941
 - Tactical shift from strategic bombing to “terror bombing” (allowed RAF to recover)
 - Luftwaffe had bombed London in late August, 1940, Churchill responded with (first ever) bombing of Berlin. Hitler responded with massive force.
 - “When the British Air Force drops two or three or four thousand kilograms of bombs, then we will in one night drop 150-, 250-, 300- or 400,000 kilograms. When they declare that they will increase their attacks on our cities, then we will raze their cities to the ground.” – AH



94

The Blitz

- Sept. 7, 1940 – May 11, 1941
 - 57 consecutive days of bombing (in the first wave)
 - 150,000 homeless, > 40,000 killed
- Hitler cancels British land invasion.
- HITLER'S FIRST DEFEAT



95



96



Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.

– Winston Churchill, on the Royal Air Force in the Battle of Britain, August 20, 1940

97



If you're going through hell, keep going.

– Winston Churchill

98

Hitler's Restlessness

- **December 17, 1940**
 - Hitler orders official plans for the invasion of the Soviet Union (Operation Barbarossa)
 - Frustrated by Stalin's territorial expansion (Stalin had already gotten Finland, E. Poland, Baltics, now angling for Romania & Hungary)
 - BUT INCREASINGLY CONSTRAINED... still contending with British, cleaning up Mussolini's messes, and needed Soviet raw materials
- **March-April, 1941**
 - Hitler further preoccupied by ordering military into North Africa, Yugoslavia, & Greece
 - Mussolini losing to British
 - Needed secure southern front in advance of Operation Barbarossa



99

England's hope is in Russia and the U.S. If the hope in Russia disappears, America is also lost, because elimination of Russia would tremendously increase Japan's power in the Far East. . .

But if Russia is destroyed, England's last hope is shattered. Germany will then be master of Europe and the Balkans. . . The sooner Russia is crushed, the better.

– Adolf Hitler... REMEMBER that Hitler wanted alliance with England to safely attack Soviet Union, but having difficulty getting England to submit to him or join him, he felt he would do it the other way around. By eliminating USSR, he would isolate England – with no Russia or U.S. to help them fight Germany. THIS, HOWEVER, WOULD RISK TWO FRONT WAR...

100



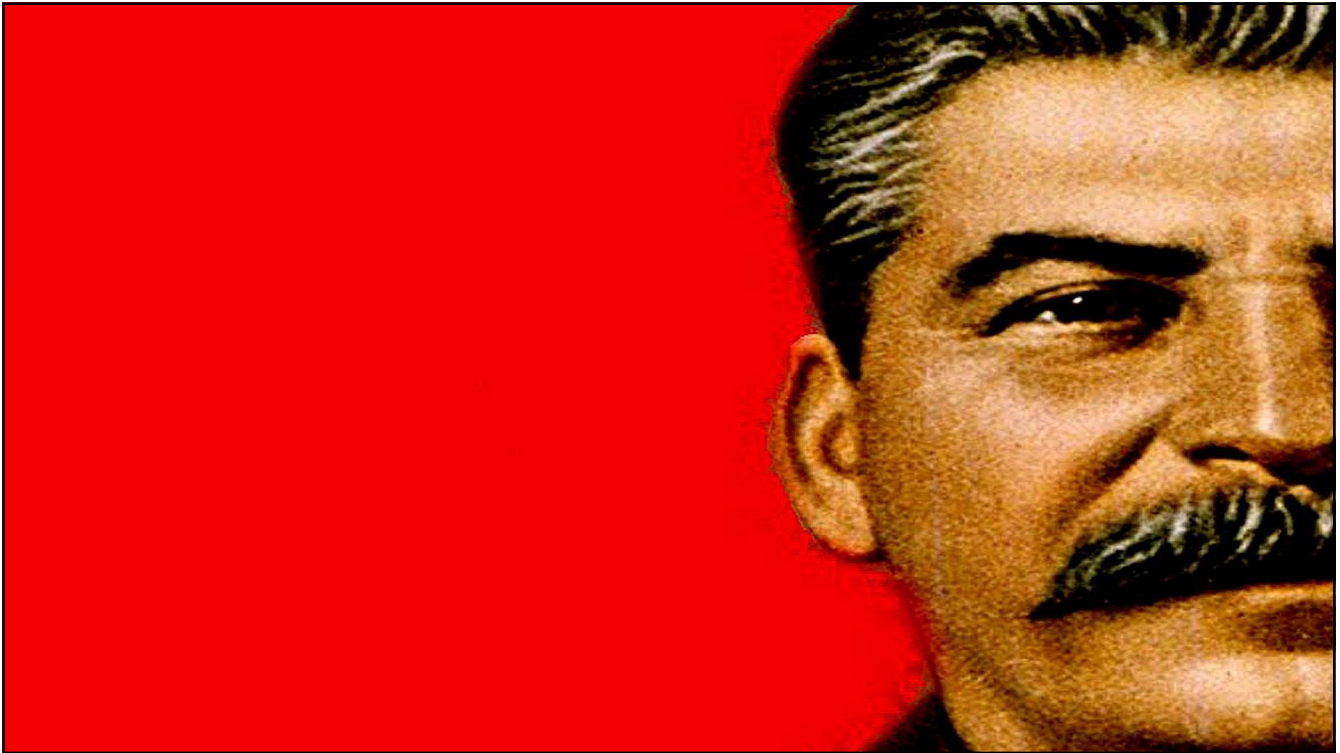
101

Hitler and Russia

A campaign against Russia would be child's play.

– Adolf Hitler

102



103

Hitler and Russia

The beginning of every war is like opening the door into a dark room. One never knows what is hidden in the darkness.

– Adolf Hitler

104