

World War II Timeline

Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few—Winston Churchill, on the Battle of Britain, the first major defeat for the Nazi war machine



US soldiers hoist American flag on the island of Iwo Jima—a 5 mi² island that took the 100,000 US soldiers 5 weeks to capture, at the cost of 25,000 American casualties; of the more than 18,000 Japanese soldiers there, only 216 Japanese prisoners were taken.

Europe		Pacific
	1931	Japan occupies Manchuria (northeast China)
Hitler instates the draft, signs Anglo-German Naval Agreement	1935	
Hitler re-occupies Rhineland	1936	
	1937	Japan initiates full-scale war with China
Hitler annexes Austria, part of Czechoslovakia	1938	
Hitler signs Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, a non-aggression treaty, dividing Poland with Russia; and also trade agreements	1939	
Hitler invades Poland (Sep 1); England and France declare war		
Germany conquers France; Evacuation at Dunkirk	1940	Japan invades French Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos)
Battle of Britain (Germany bombs Britain) (July-Oct 1940)		
Operation Barbarossa (Germany invades USSR)	1941	Roosevelt freezes Japanese assets in the US, and stops oil sales to Japan; Japan invades Dutch East Indies (Indonesia)
		Japan attacks Pearl Harbor; and also Hong Kong, and other British naval targets
Battle of Stalingrad (Aug 42-Feb 43)	1942	Battle of Midway
D-Day—Allied invasion of Normandy, France (June 6)	1944	
Germany surrenders unconditionally	1945	Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Japan surrenders unconditionally