

Beginning of World War II Summary

After the **Munich Conference**, Hitler broke his promise and invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia.

Next, he planned to invade Poland..... But first he needed to make sure that the Soviets would NOT attack Germany, so he and **Stalin** signed the _____

On September 1, 1939 Hitler invaded _____ in a swift attack (“**lightning war**” or _____). **France** and **Britain (Allied Powers)** declared war!

Hitler wanted to attack France, but the Allied Powers had settled in at the _____ (defense bunkers along Germany’s border). So instead, Hitler invaded _____, _____, _____, and _____.

After Belgium collapsed, the **Allied Powers** retreated to the port of _____ (northwest France). As the Nazis came closer, the British sent ships across the English Channel to rescue the Allied troops.

However, the Nazis continued to sweep through France, and _____ helped Germany conquer France from the south. In June 1940, the French surrendered to the **Axis Powers** (Germany, Italy, and later _____)

Hitler knew that he could dominate Western Europe if he captured _____. In August 1940, the Nazis bombed Great Britain.... but, the British refused to surrender!

The _____ lasted until October 1940, when Germany finally gave up and retreated.

At this point, Hitler was frustrated and angry! He decided to break the Soviet-German Non-Aggression Pact and invaded the _____ in June 1941. The Soviets then joined the Allied Powers!



“GERMANY SHALL NEVER BE ENCIRCLED.”

Timeline of Hitler’s Invasions

March 1936 – **Rhineland**

March 1938 – **Austria**

October 1938 – **Sudetenland**

March 1939 – **Czechoslovakia**

September 1939 – **Poland**

April 1940 – **Denmark & Norway**

May 1940 – **Netherlands & Belgium**

June 1940 – **France**

June 1941 – **Soviet Union**

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