

History 12: World War II
1 BRIEF OUTLINE OF WORLD WAR II – Discussion Handout



Operation Dynamo

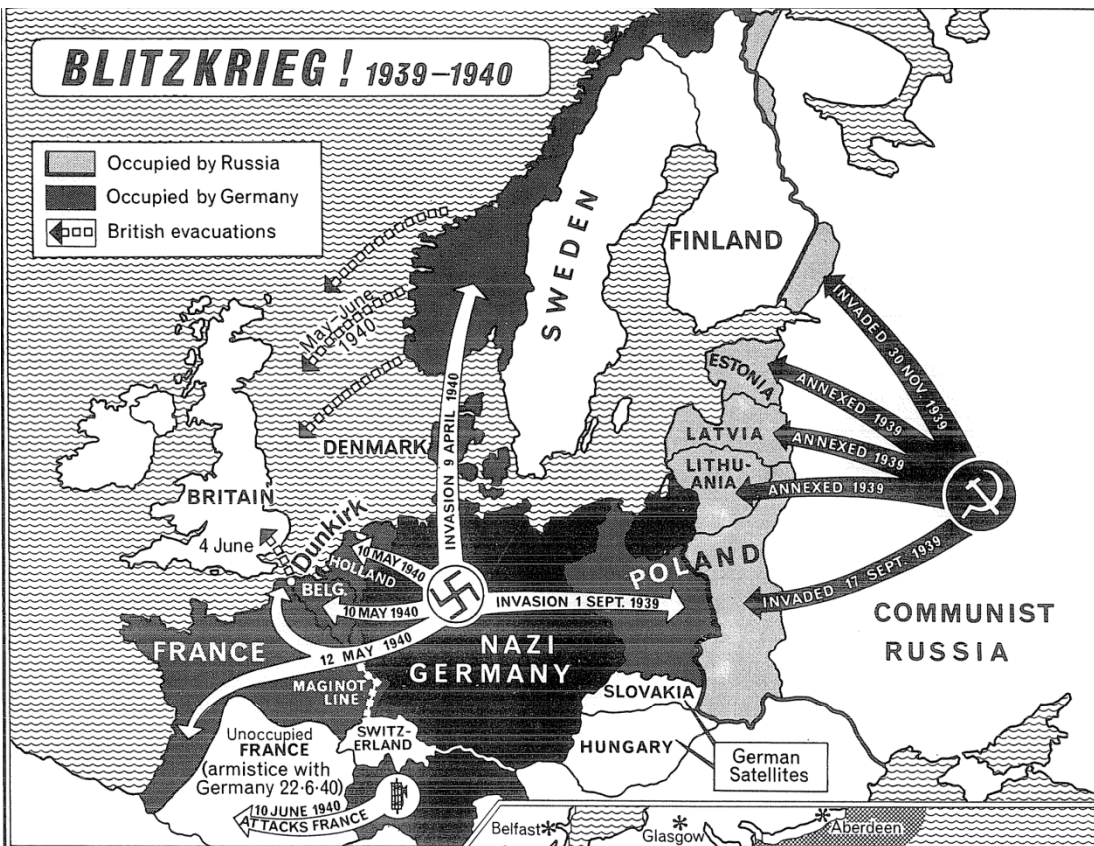
Name: _____

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- 1) Sept. 1939, Germany invades Poland and World War II is underway. May 1940, Germany quickly overruns France and most of Europe.
- 2) Hitler attempts to force Britain into submission through an air war (Battle of Britain) July to October of 1940. Stops short of the goal of conquering Britain. Hitler ambivalent towards Britain, still hoping to work out a deal. To Hitler, the war in the west is basically the "wrong war". German also try to starve Britain into surrender by using submarines to interrupt Necessary supplies, the "Battle of the Atlantic".
- 3) June, 1940, Italy declares war on Britain and France. Italy tries to expand its influence in North Africa. With German help, Italians fight British in North Africa. Germans surrender in Nov. 1942 in North Africa. This is just a sideshow to the Germans.
- 4) Hitler embarks on his real goal, the invasion of USSR, June, 1941. Germans commit 75% of their men and materials to the Eastern Front. The Germans take much Russian territory but suffer heavy losses. Turning point of the war is reached when Germany loses Battle of Stalingrad (Feb. '43). From this point on the Germans are retreating in Eastern Europe.
- 5) Meanwhile, the Japanese (allied with Germany) attack Pearl Harbour (Dec. 1941). The US enters the war against both Germany and Japan. Japan quickly takes over most of S.E. Asia. The U.S. spends the rest of the war driving Japanese back to home islands of Japan.
- 6) Stalin begs Britain and US to open a second front in Western Europe to relieve pressure on the eastern front. Churchill reluctant, instead launches an invasion of Italy, starting in Sicily in July, 1943. Thought Italy would be the "weak underbelly" of Europe. Instead, very difficult fighting, Rome did not fall until June 1944.
- 7) Americans, British and Canadians launch an invasion on Hitler's "fortress Europe" in June 1944- D-Day. They establish a beachhead in Normandy, France, and then move inland. The Germans are crushed between the British, Americans and Canadians advancing from the west and the Russians from the East. The Allies converge on Berlin. Germany is defeated May 1945.
- 8) Japan fights on until August, 1945, when atomic bombs are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

BLITZKRIEG ! 1939-1940

- Occupied by Russia
- Occupied by Germany
- British evacuations



- German bomber fleet with fighter escorts
- R.A.F. Spitfire or Hurricane base
- Town bombed by Luftwaffe
- Coventry
- German long-range guns fire on Dover

