

# World War II

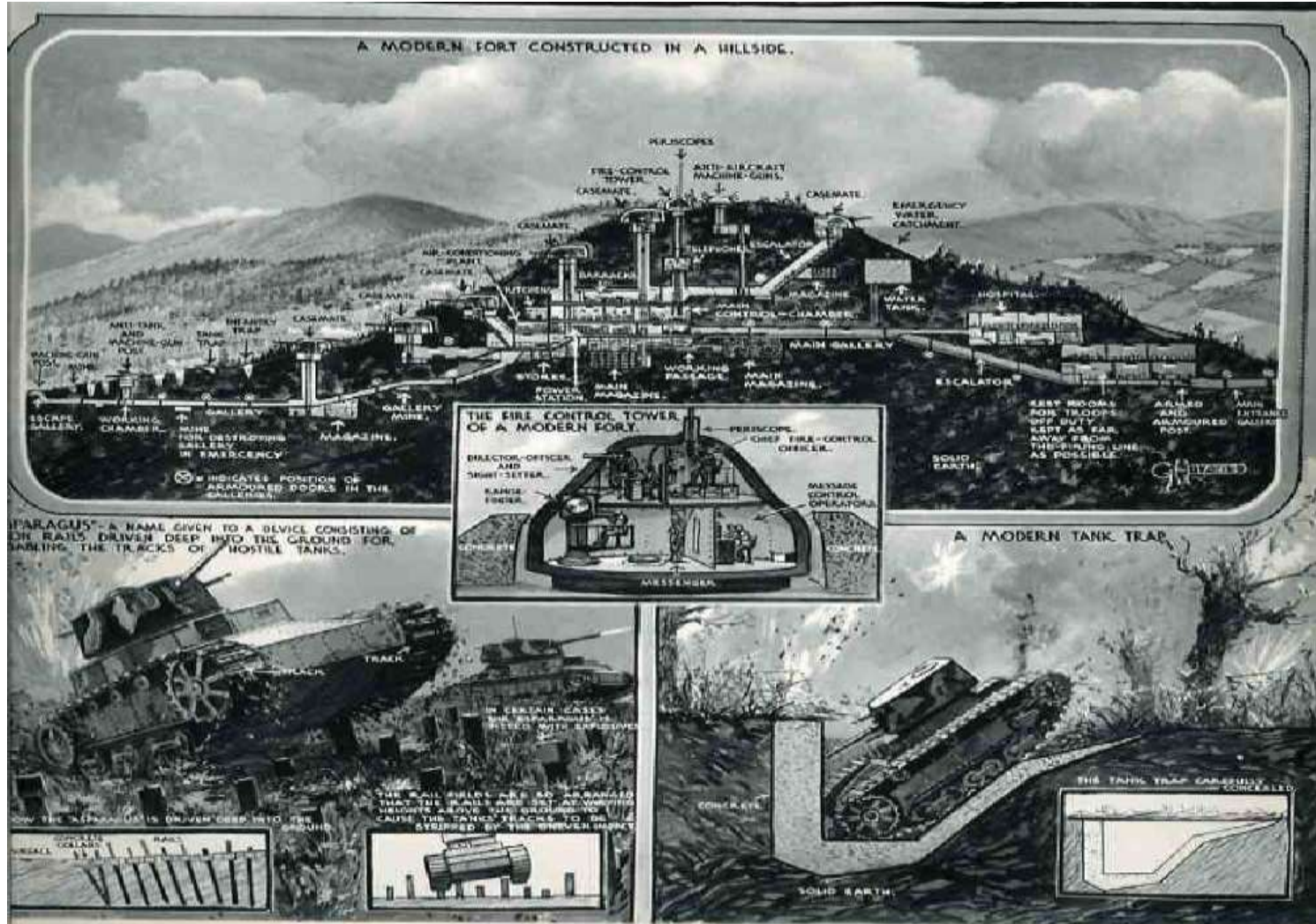


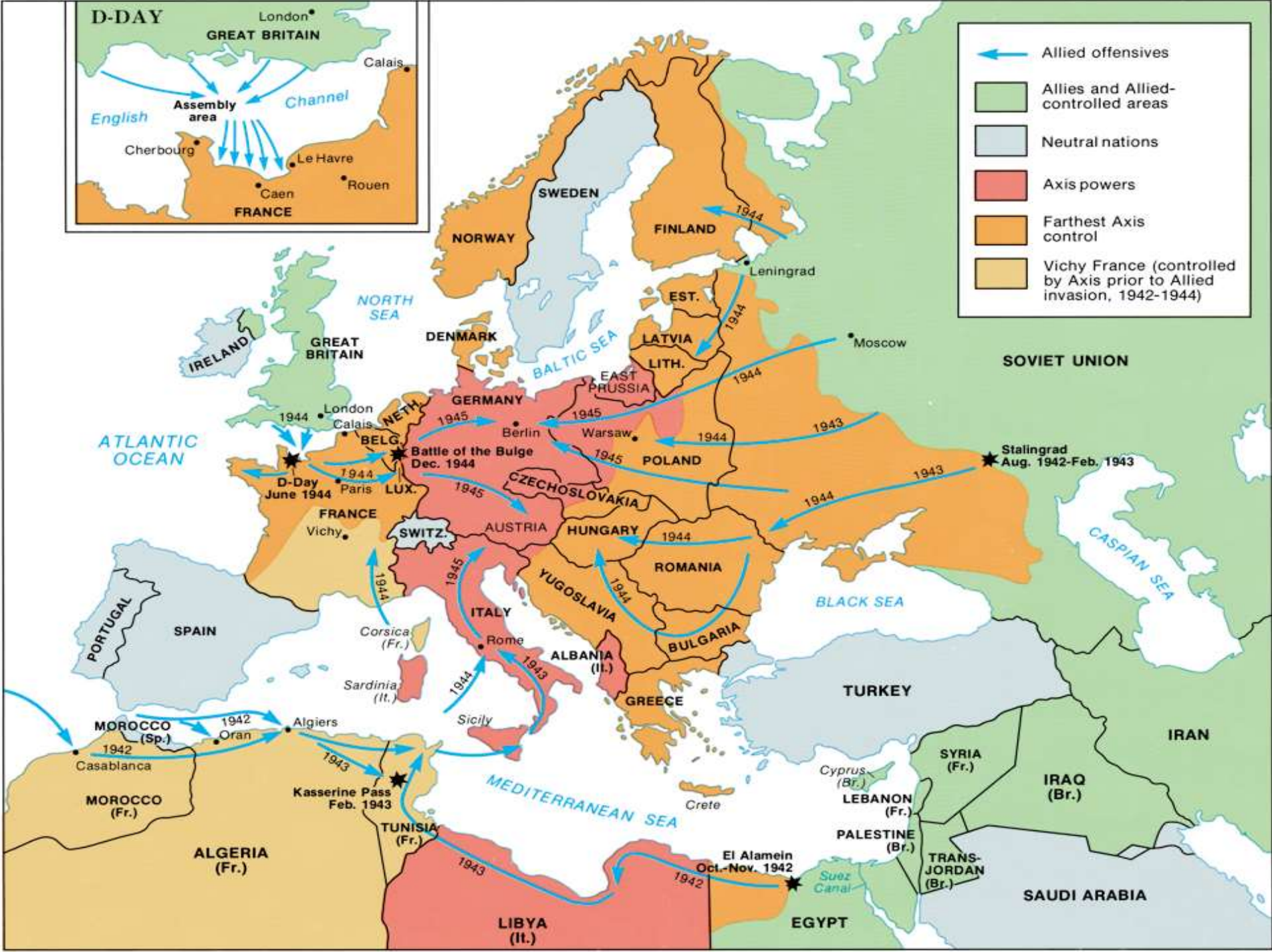
# The Fall of France



- Germany invades France through Belgium and Luxemburg avoiding the heavily fortified Maginot Line
- On June 22, France signed an armistice with Germany, agreeing to German occupation of northern France and the coast.
  - The French military was demobilized, and the French government, now located at **Vichy**, in the south (and headed by Marshall Henri Philippe Pétain), would collaborate with the German authorities in occupied France.
- Refusing to recognize defeat, General **Charles de Gaulle** escaped to London and organized the Free French forces.
- Britain now stood alone against Germany.

# Maginot Line





# A Grand Alliance

## The Big Three

- Great Britain (Winston Churchill)
- The U.S. (FDR)
- The Soviet Union (Joseph Stalin)

## Strategies for War

- Defeat Germany first





# Keeping Britain Alive

- In 1940 alone, 900 allied ships are sunk, only 29 U-Boats are sunk in the same period of time.
  - US gives Britain 50 destroyers in return for 8 overseas British bases
- Vitally important was keeping shipping lanes to Britain open. (5.5 million tons of goods were shipped from the US each month)
- Nazi's use U-Boats to attack shipping lanes to Britain
- US and Britain use convoy system to keep ships going to Britain protected

# Battle of the Atlantic



- When the US entered the war keeping shipping lanes open was a failure.
- In 1942 the Germans sunk 2703 US ships a rate of 36 to 1.
- Something had to change. It happened through intelligence. Britain gifts the US all scientific and military intelligence. (Atomic bomb, rockets, superchargers, submarine detection devices, radar technology (magnetron #12)) In exchange the US would produce this technology through it's industry.
- This turns the Battle of the Atlantic

# The Battle of Britain



- Hitler expected Britain to make peace, however, Britain, led by a new Prime Minister, **Winston Churchill**, refused to surrender.
- Roosevelt had to choose to focus on either the Pacific Theater or the European Theater. The choice was to focus on Europe and keeping Britain in the war.
- Hitler proceeded with invasion plans. The Luftwaffe began massive attacks on Britain to destroy its air defenses.
- Britain held firm during the **Blitz** despite devastating destruction to English cities.
  - The British resistance convinced Hitler to postpone the invasion but he continued the bombing attacks.
  - The RAF (Royal Air Force) shot down 1900 Luftwaffe planes in just 113 days.







# Gloomy Prospects for the Allied Powers

- By the end of 1942, the Allies faced defeat.
  - The chain of spectacular victories disguised fatal weaknesses within the Axis alliance:
    - Japan and Germany fought separate wars, each on two fronts. They never coordinated strategies.
  - The early defeats also obscured the Allies' strengths:
    - The manpower of the Soviet Union and the productive capacity of the United States.

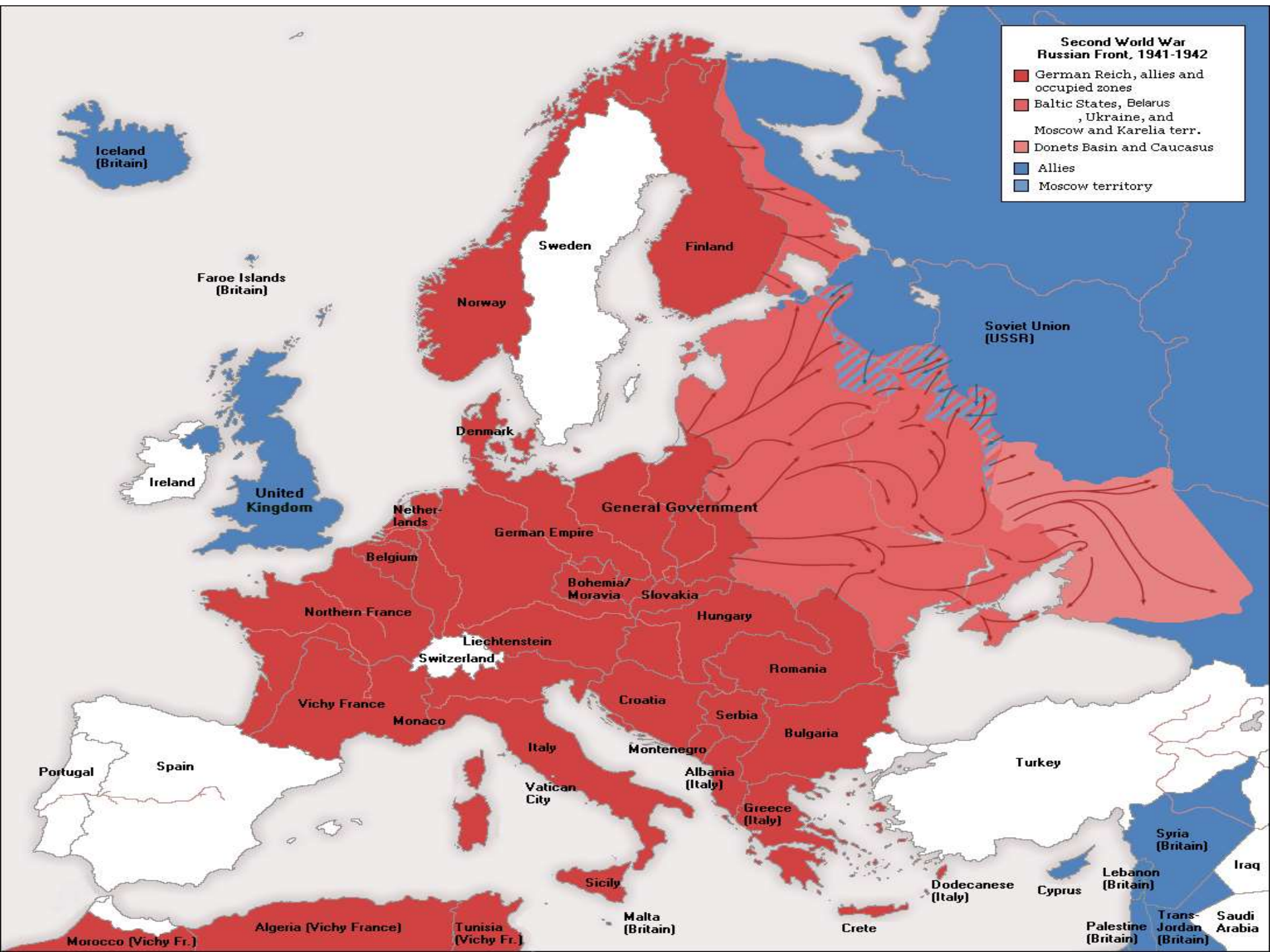
# The British and US Take the Fight to Germany



- After the Battle of Britain, the RAF start sending nighttime bombing raids into Germany. Only 1.5% of bombs hit within 3 miles of their targets.
- US brings in B-17 “Flying Fortress” bomber and gains air supremacy over Germany
- US and Britain start to destroy German airfields and synthetic oil production plants

**Second World War  
Russian Front, 1941-1942**

- German Reich, allies and occupied zones
- Baltic States, Belarus, Ukraine, and Moscow and Karelia terr.
- Donets Basin and Caucasus
- Allies
- Moscow territory





# Invasion of the Soviet Union

- It was then that Hitler made his pivotal mistake. He invaded the Soviet Union.
  - The obliteration of Bolshevism was a key element of Hitler's ideology; however, it was a gigantic military mistake.
- On June 22, 1941, Hitler launched **Operation Barbarossa**, consisting of an attack army of 4 million men spread out along a 2,000-mile front in three massive offensives.
- The German army quickly advanced, but at a terrifying cost. **For the next three years, 90 percent of German deaths would happen on the eastern front.**

# Special Action Squads



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- As the Germans advance into the Soviet Union Special Action Squads slaughter political rivals, Soviet leaders, and Jews.
- 1,000,000 people are slaughtered in the first year by S.A.S.

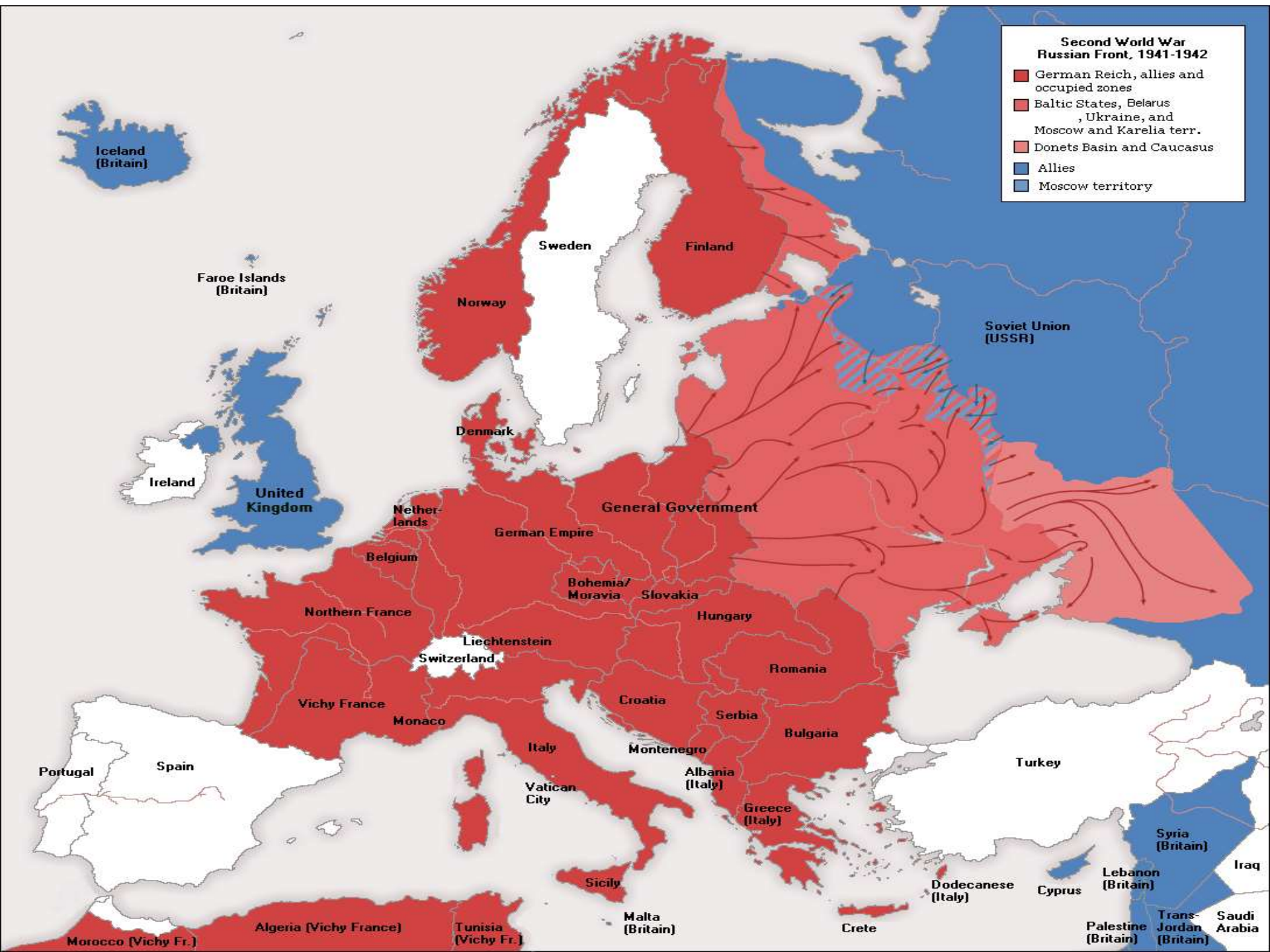
# Invasion of the Soviet Union



- Hitler saw the Soviet Union as a stronghold of Communism and Judaism.
- Hitler also needed the raw materials (oil and food) that the Soviet Union could produce if in Nazi hands.
- 4,000,000 Nazi troops invade the S.U. (largest army in the history of the world)
- Nazi's were very successful pushing back the Soviets almost to the capital city of Moscow.

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# The Turn of the Tide in Europe

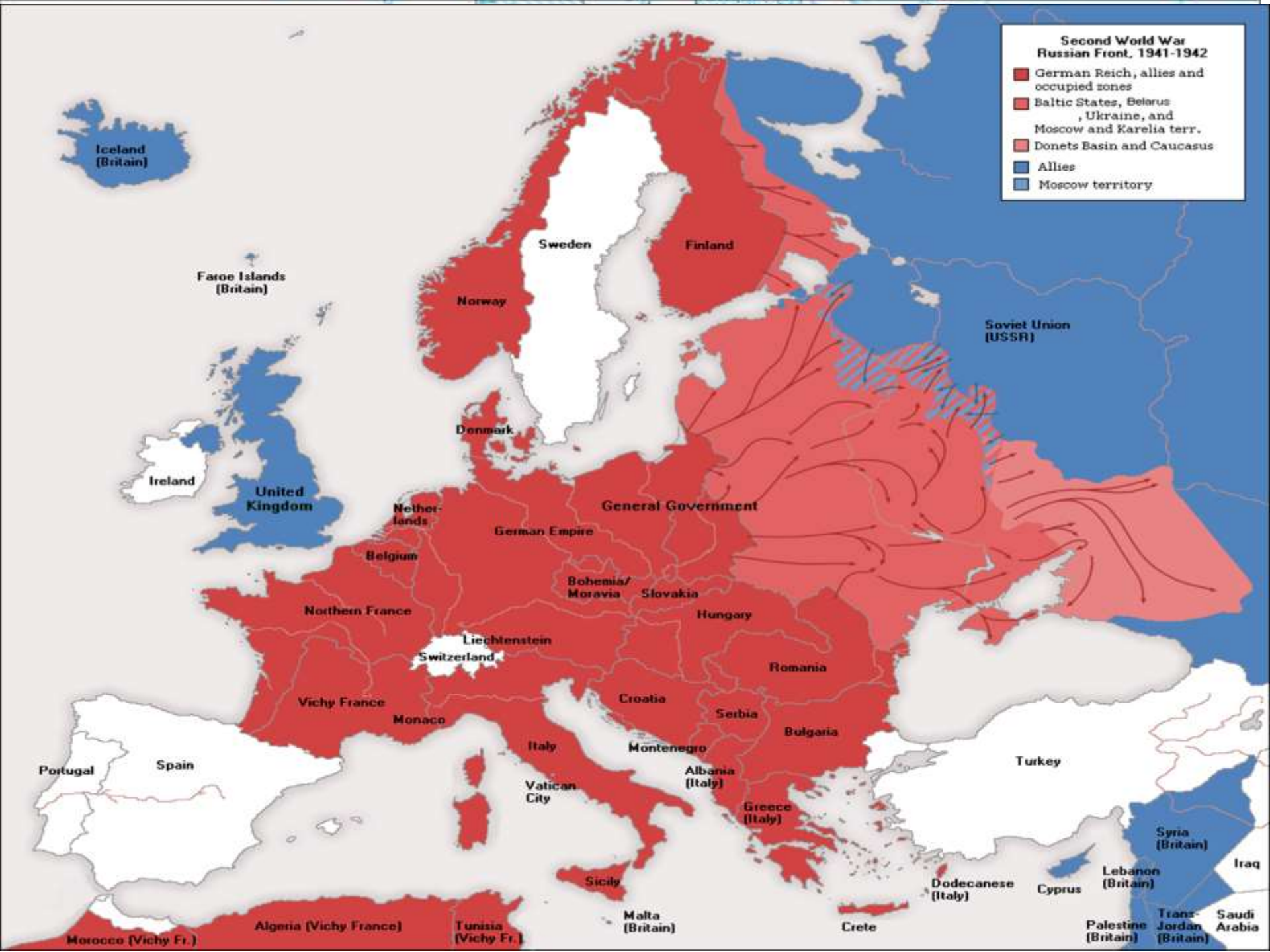
- Defeat of the Axis Powers

- The turning point of the war came in 1942-43.
- Allied victory in North Africa was followed by an invasion of Italy, which stopped the Axis powers' string of victories.
- The decisive theater of war, however, was the eastern front.



### Second World War Russian Front, 1941-1942

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# Turning Points of the War: The Battle of Stalingrad

- The Battle of Stalingrad was the turning point of the war. The German Army (Wehrmacht) had already lost 2 million men on the eastern front.
- The Germans needed oil and to get to Soviet oil they had to go through Stalingrad
- In 1942-43, a German army of over 300,000 was defeated and captured at the Battle of Stalingrad.
- The Germans then lost the battle of Kursk and began a long retreat.
- The Red Army crossed into Poland in January 1944. <http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/world-war-ii-history/videos/world-war-ii-battle-of-stalingrad>





# How did the Soviets win at Stalingrad and Kursk?

- US opened up Lend Lease supplies to the Soviets
- Through the Persian Gulf the US send:
  - \$11,000,000 of supplies
  - 3 million tons of gasoline
  - 1 billion rounds of ammunition
  - 14 million pairs of boots
  - 5 million tons of food
  - 500,000 Studebaker trucks

# Turning Points of the War: Western Front



## ○ Operation Torch (1943)

- Roosevelt decides to test out American troops in North Africa before an invasion of Western Europe.
- US troops encounter Vichy French troops in Morocco and Algeria. The US troops are ill prepared and inexperienced. Fighting is a disaster yet are able to defeat the Vichy French.
- When the US get to Tunisia they meet the German Army led by Erwin Rommel for the first time.
- The largely untested US Army led by D. Eisenhower engages Rommel at Kasserine Pass. US lose 6,500 men in one day.
- After this disaster the US Army regroups and changes strategy that eventually makes Germans retreat out of N. Africa.
- The US and British Army invade into Italy in Sept. of 1943 leading to the overthrow of Benito Mussolini.



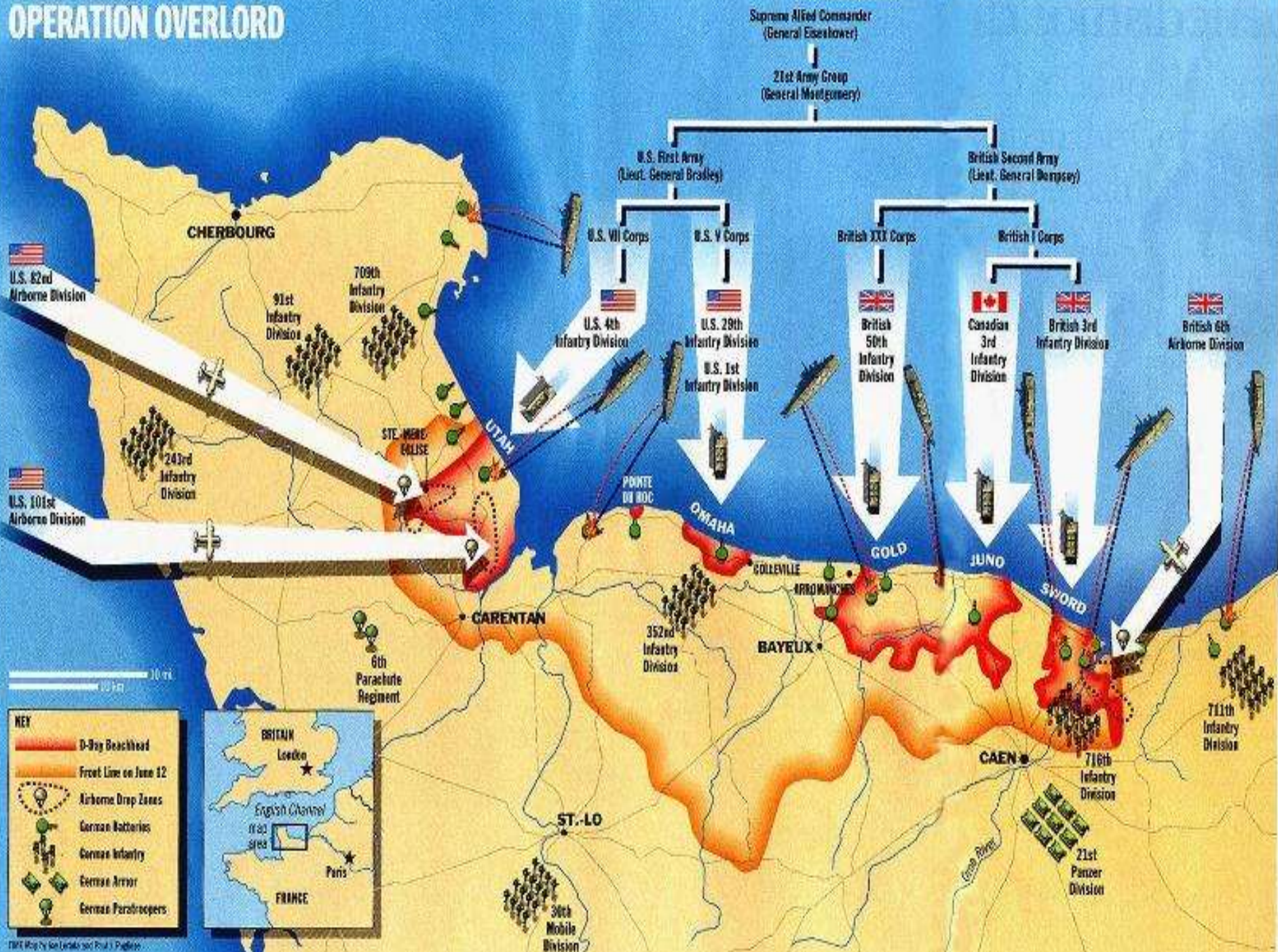
# D-Day: Operation Overlord



- The Allied needed to establish a second front.
- General Dwight Eisenhower launched an invasion of Normandy on **June 6, 1944**.
- An invasion fleet of some 4,000 ships and 150,000 men (57,000 U.S.)
- Invasion successful. 5,000 killed and wounded Allied troops.
- It allowed them to gain a foothold on the continent from which they could push Germany back.



# OPERATION OVERLORD



# USA and D-Day



- 73,000 American forces landed in Normandy.
  - 23,250 on Utah Beach
  - 34,250 on Omaha Beach
  - 6,603 American casualties (killed, wounded, MIA, POW)

# Race to Berlin



- D-Day was the turning point of the western front. Stalingrad was the turning point of the eastern front.
- The British, U.S., and Free French armies began to press into western Germany as the Soviets invaded eastern Germany.
- Both sides raced to Berlin





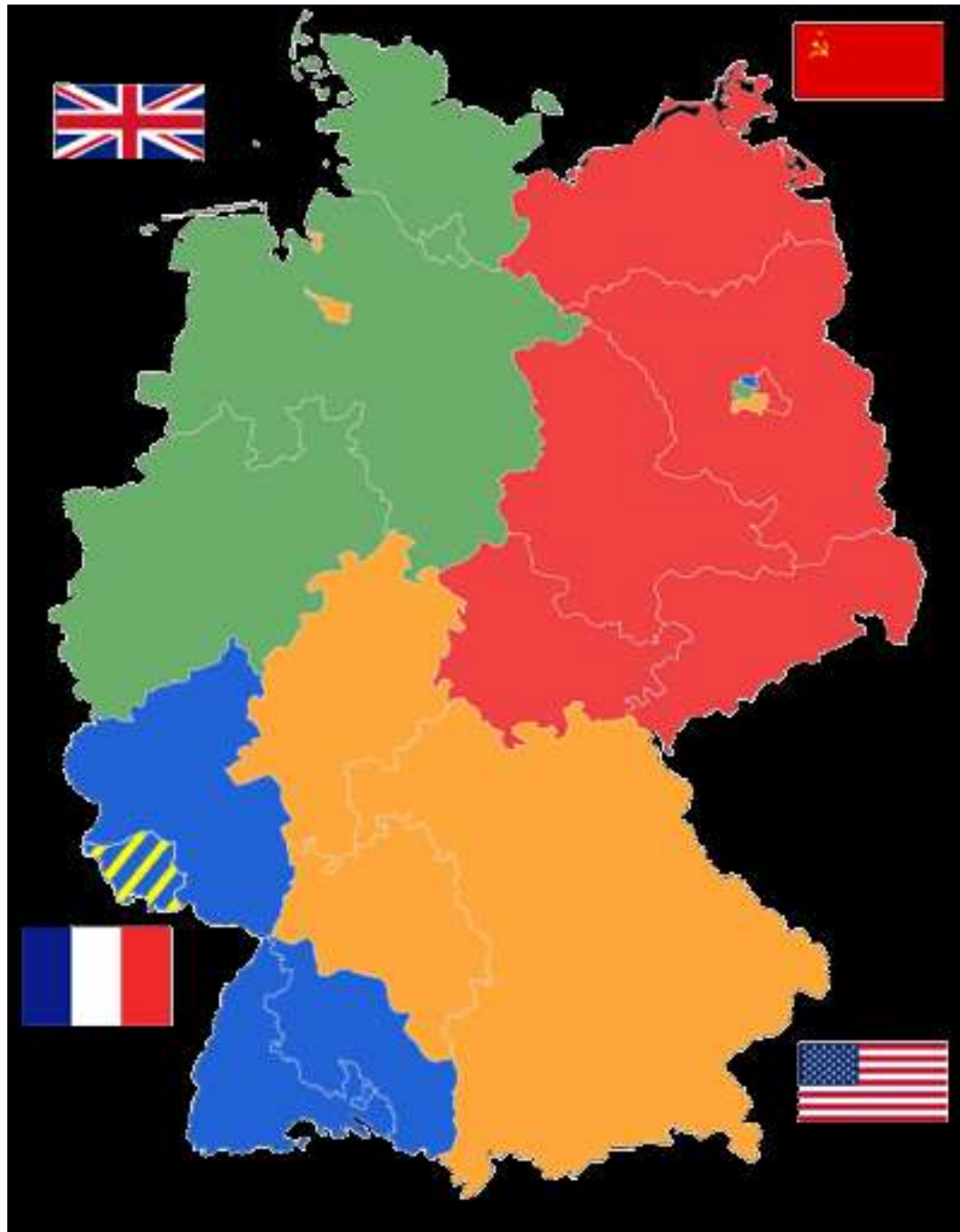
Dorian RYSER, octobre 2008

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHcJtU9dr6l>

# Victory in Europe

- Mussolini was captured and killed by Italian partisans and Hitler committed suicide in April 1945, as the Russian troops took Berlin.
- **Germany surrendered unconditionally on May 7, 1945 (V-E Day).**
- Fighting in the Pacific would continue until August.
- US Holocaust Response:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMTPAE53PqE>





**1. How was France divided in 1940 after the Nazi invasion?**

**2. What was the Battle of the Atlantic and why was it so important for the Allies to win?**

**3. What was Operation Barbarossa and why was it seen as a mistake by Hitler?**

**4. Who won the Battle of Britain and why?**

**5. What was the turning point of the Eastern Front for the allies? Explain that event.**

**6. Why did Hitler need to get control of the Caucus Mountains or the Suez Canal?**

**7. What was Operation Torch and how did it lead to eventual downfall of Benito Mussolini?**

**8. What was Operation Overlord and what role did the American's play in this event?**

**9. How was Germany divided after the fall of the Nazi's?**





# Cost of War

- **Germany**- 3 million combat deaths (3/4ths on the eastern front)
- **Japan** – over 1.5 million combat deaths; 900,000 civilians dead
- **Soviet Union** - 13 million combat deaths
- **U.S.** – 300,000 combat deaths, over 100,000 other deaths
- **When you include all combat and civilian deaths, World War II becomes the most destructive war in history with estimates as high as 60 million, including 25 million Russians.**

# Postwar Efforts at Revenge



## ○ The Nuremberg Trials of 1945-46

- After, WWII the Allied powers decided to place on trial the highest-ranking Nazi officers for “crimes against humanity”
- Allied forces had attempted to do this after WWI, but had released them on the grounds that they “were just following orders”
- Hitler, Goebbels, and Himmler were dead; but, 22 Nazi leaders (including Goring) were tried at an international military tribunal at Nuremberg, Germany. 12 were sentenced to death. Similar trials occurred in the east and throughout the world.
  - **The Tokyo Trial (1946-48)**



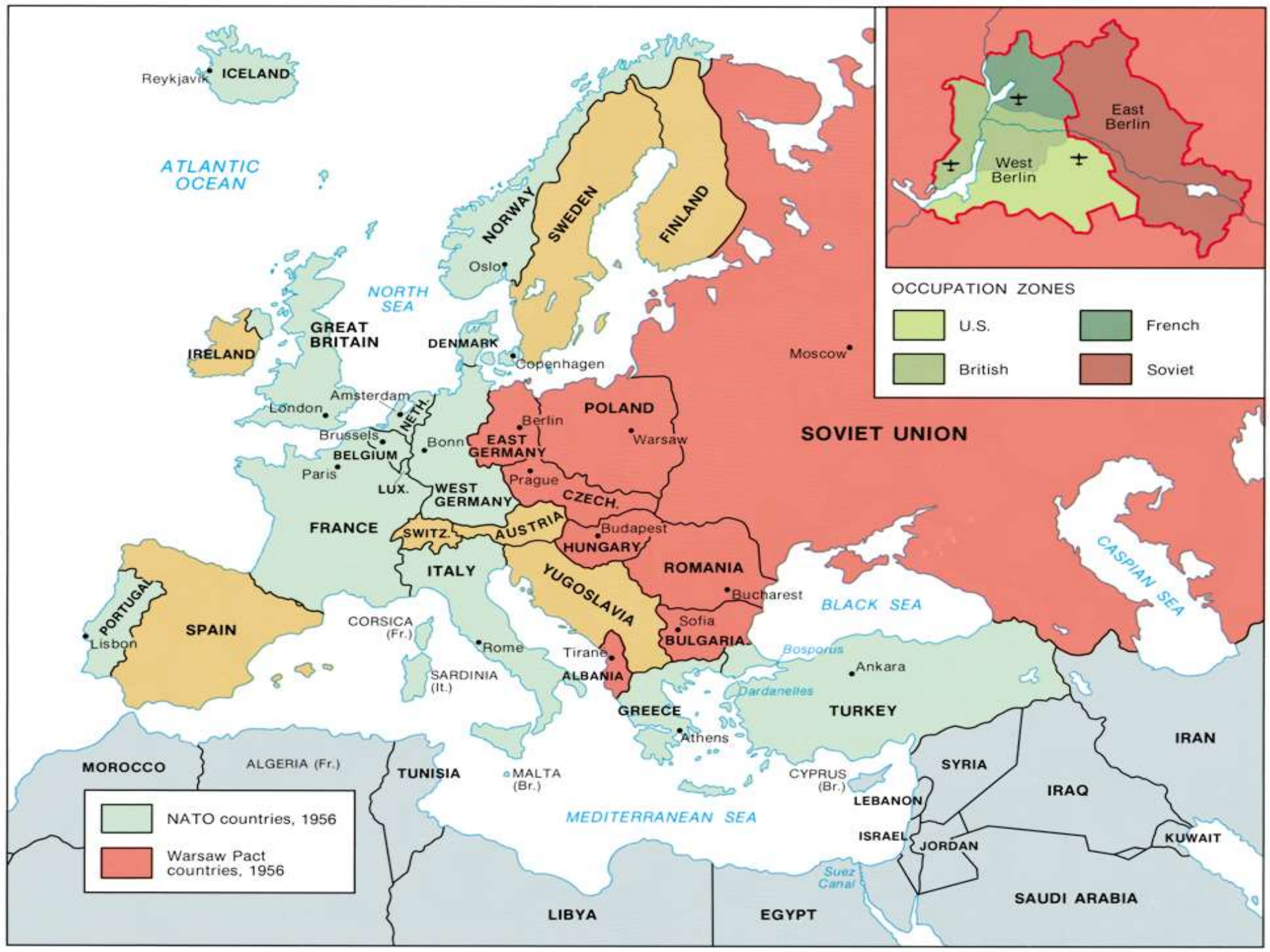
# Postwar Efforts at Peace

- The United Nations – There was some hope when, in 1945, the United Nations was created; an organization to promote international stability
  - A **General Assembly** where representatives from all countries could debate international issues.
  - The **Security Council** had 5 permanent members – U.S., Soviet Union, Britain, France, and China could veto any question of substance. There were also 6 elected members.
  - Key: the U.S. joined in contrast to League of Nations

# Wartime Agreements



- Unlike WWI, there was no Peace of Paris to reshape Europe.
  - Instead, the Yalta agreement of February 1945, signed by Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin, turned the prevailing military balance of power into a political settlement.
  - Potsdam Conference, in suburban Berlin (July 1945)—Truman, Stalin, Churchill – Finalized plans on Germany. Germany would be demilitarized and would remain divided.



# Postwar Reality:

## Soviet Control of Eastern Europe

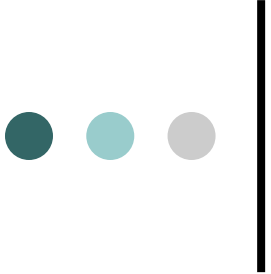
- Europe was politically cut in half; Soviet troops had overrun eastern Europe and penetrated into the heart of Germany.
- During 1944-1945, Stalin starts shaping the post-war world by occupying SE Europe with Soviet troops that should have been on the Polish front pushing toward Berlin.
- Roosevelt did not have postwar aims because he still had to fight Japan; Stalin did have postwar aims.



**OCCUPATION OF GERMANY AND AUSTRIA**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  French zone  |  U.S. zone   |
|  British zone |  Soviet zone |

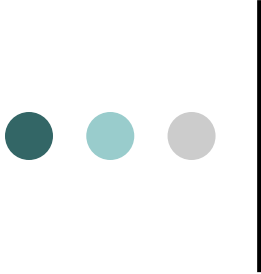
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0 50 100 Kilometers



# Postwar Reality

- **Consequences of World War II**
  - Soviet Union with agenda
  - Unlike the isolation after WWI, the U.S. was engaged in world affairs
  - The triumph of Communists in China
  - Decolonization
    - The independence of nations from European (U.S. & Japan) colonial powers.





### *What Really Happened:*

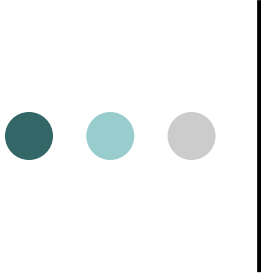
*Poison gas was first used during World War I to break the trench warfare stalemate. Both the Allied and the Axis powers had poisonous gas weapons during World War II, but only Italy (in Ethiopia) and Japan (in China) used them. The decision not to use these weapons was not based on any treaty, but on the unpredictable behavior of gas weapons. (They could cause damage to one's own troops and were often ineffective.)*



***What Really Happened:***

*Throughout the war, the OSS carried out special operations in many European countries. These “cloak and dagger” operations often turned violent as agents vied with each other for information about their enemy’s strengths, positions, and plans. There is a great deal of*

*documentary evidence about the Nazi’s cruel treatment of captured special agents. Evidence exists that the Allies, too, engaged in brutal treatment to extract vital information in extraordinary situations, but never on the systematic, government-sponsored level of the Nazis.*



### ***What Really Happened:***

*Churchill made the difficult decision not to warn the city of Coventry about the impending air raid. He felt that the panic that might ensue could cause more casualties than the actual bombing. And Ultra had to be protected at all costs. The ability to read the German codes had largely saved England during the Battle of Britain over the summer of 1940. On the night of November 14/15 the raid took place just as the Ultra messages had indicated. The city's gas mains and railroad connections were destroyed. Twelve aircraft industry factories were badly damaged. Five hundred and fifty-four citizens of Coventry were killed and 4,865 people were wounded. But Ultra had been protected. The Allies continued to benefit throughout the rest of the war by being able to decode German communications.*