

World War II – Part 2

Background

Today we conclude the Second World War in Europe.

We start with the Battle of the Atlantic.

Having failed to conquer Great Britain, Hitler was determined to cut all supply from reaching its ports.

This was a classic strategy of attrition . . . a serious threat to the British war effort!

Winston Churchill once said, "The only thing that really frightened me during the Second World War was the U-Boat peril."

When reading about the Battle in the Atlantic, pay special attention to the development of the convoys system and radar.

Then we swing back to the Eastern Front, where Hitler was battling his General Staff.

There was a critical philosophical break in the German High Command.

The aims of Operation Barbarossa were unclear.

Hitler was most unclear. He wanted to capture the industrial centers of the Soviet Union, but he also wanted the resources of the Caucasus.

Most of his generals were much more traditional. They wanted to draw the enemy into a defensive action, and then destroy the Soviet Army at Moscow.

Lacking a clear objective, the German Army was spread thin across a thousand mile front.

Hitler refused to allow a tactic retreat to winter shelter, so his troops faced the worse winter in a generation wearing summer clothing.

It all fell apart at Stalingrad.

The Battle of Stalingrad was a decisive turning point in the Second World War.

After Stalingrad the Allies took the offensive, and Nazi Germany could never turn the tide.

The Allies took the offensive in Italy.

Italy was conquered, and the body of Benito Mussolini was hung in the streets.

On June 6, 1944 we start reading about the most famous chapter of this story . . . Operation Overlord.

With full offensives coming from the west and east, Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945.

Assignment

Your mission is to gather information about the Second World War from the Atlantic to Victory in Europe Day.

Step 1 – Referring to your PLOS, read each section in your *Student Workbook*.

Step 2 – Take notes, focussing on specifics.