World War II

Timeline

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| European Theater | 1930 | | Pacific Theater |
|  | | **September 1931** Japanese imperialistic expansion into Manchuria | |
| **1933** Adolf Hitler becomes dictator | |  | |
|  | 1935 | |  |
| **September 1935** Nuremberg Laws  **May 1935** Benito Mussolini invades Ethiopia | |  | |
| **July 1936** Francisco Franco begins Civil War against Spanish government with help of Italy and Germany | |  | |
|  | | **July 1937** Japan invades China | |
| **March 1938** Hitler unites (Anschluss) Austria with Germany  **September** **1938** European leaders try appeasement to avoid war by giving Hitler Czech land in Munich Pact.  **November 1938** Kristallnacht | |  | |
| **August 1939** Hitler and Joseph Stalin sign nonaggression pact  **September 1939** Germany invades Poland using new military tactic—blitzkrieg.  World War II begins | |  | |
|  | 1940 | |  |
| **Spring 1940** Germany captures Netherlands, Belgium and France  **July 1940** Battle of Britain begins: German air raid on Britain in preparation for invasion. | |  | |
| **June 1941** Operation Barbarossa: Germany breaks its pact and attacks Soviet Union. | | **December 1941** Japan attacks Pearl Harbor drawing the United States out of its isolationism and into the war | |
|  | | **June 1942** Allies halt Japanese advance at the Battle of Midway | |
| **January 1943** Soviets stop German advance on Eastern front outside Stalingrad. | |  | |
| **June 1944** D-Day: Allied invasion of German occupied France providing a foothold.  **December 1944** Battle of the Bulge: German offensive | | **December 1944** Battle of Leyte Gulf: destroys Japanese navy and introduces Japanese kamikaze attacks. | |
| **May 1945** Soviets capture Berlin and Germany surrenders | | **Spring 1945** Allies capture Iwo Jima and Okinawa that would stage air raids on Japan  **August 1945** United States drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to prevent further US losses. Japan surrenders | |

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| **June 1941** Operation Barbarossa: Germany breaks its pact and attacks Soviet Union. | | **December 1941** | |
| **January 1942** Germany establishes the ‘Final Solution’ for Jews in Europ | | **June 1942** | |
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| **June 1944**  **December 1944** Battle of the Bulge: German offensive | | **December 1944** Battle of Leyte Gulf: destroys Japanese navy and introduces Japanese kamikaze attacks. | |
| **May 1945** | | **Spring 1945** Allies capture Iwo Jima and Okinawa that would stage air raids on Japan  **August 1945** | |