World War II

Timeline

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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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| **January 1942** Germany establishes the ‘Final Solution’ for Jews in Europ | **June 1942**  |
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| **May 1945**  | **Spring 1945** Allies capture Iwo Jima and Okinawa that would stage air raids on Japan **August 1945**  |