

HISTORIC CRISIS COMMITTEE

VIT TUC 2016



Agenda: " CENTRALIZING THE WORLD WAR 2 TO EURASIA AND SIGNING A DECLARATION OF PEACE"



Distinguished Delegates,

Welcome to the first committee of the Historic Crisis Committee at VIT Technical United Conference 2016. It is our honour and privilege to serve as your Executive Board for the duration of the conference.

Keeping in mind your busy schedules, we have compiled this study guide to help you with your research for council. Bear in mind that the study guide is in no way exhaustive and is only to provide you with enough background information to establish a platform for you to begin your research. We would highly recommend that you do a good amount of research beyond what is covered in the study guide. The agenda that we will be discussing during the conference is “centralizing the world war 2 to Eurasia and signing of a declaration of peace”. Do remember that when you step into the shoes of a delegate, you must leave behind your personal opinions and represent your character to the fullest.

Delegates for your convenience this study guide will be in form of major questions that beg the attention of readers to interpret and consider the gravity of the situation. This study guide is prepared with an aim of providing you with a basic knowledge of the expectations that we at the executive board have for the debate in the following days. We would be grateful if the preliminary part of our debate is mainly but not entirely based on the topics given in this study guide.

First timers and experienced delegates alike, please go through standard UNA-USA Rules of Procedure before coming to council. We will spend significant amount of time explaining the same to you, but it's always better to have a fair idea of how council will function before you step in on Day One. However we shall be modifying the Rules of procedure significantly to accommodate the ongoing time frame. We will be following UNA USA Rules of Procedure in council.

In case you have any doubts or queries, please feel free to contact any EB member and we will get back to you as soon as possible. We look forward to three days of cutthroat diplomacy, solid debate and great fun.

CHAIR PERSON

PRADYUMNA SARMA

VICE CHAIR PERSON

NEHA GOLANI

The committee shall convene on the 21st march, 1941. To make sure that the delegates follow the given time freeze we have given a timeline of events that have taken place from 1912- 1940. Please make sure that any research dating beyond 1941(21st march) shall be deemed null and void.

Pre-World War II Timeline

1912



Sun Yat Sen overthrows the Qing Dynasty in China and establishes the Nationalist Party, commonly known as the Kuomintang.

1914



Adolf Hitler enlists with Bavarian Army and fights in World War I. Serves as a private while in Belgium and France.

1915



Jan. 18. Prime Minister Shigenobu of Japan sends Twenty One Demands to the new government of the Republic of China.

May 7. The British passenger RMS Lusitania is torpedoed by a German U-boat.

1917 Jan. 16. The Zimmerman Telegram reveals Germany's proposal to Mexico to make war with the US.

Apr. 6. The U.S. formally enters World War I by declaring war on Germany.



June 15. Espionage Act of 1917 was passed to prevent people from supporting enemies of the US.

Oct. 25. The Bolshevik Revolution completes its takeover of Russia.

1918 Oct. Hitler is blinded during a gas attack by the British in Ypres before the end of WWI. He was disappointed by the eventual surrender of Germany, so he and other nationalists blame German Jews and Marxists for his perceived betrayal.

1919



May 4. Intellectuals in China entertain Marxist ideals that lead to the [May Fourth Movement](#).

June 28. [Treaty of Versailles](#) helps end World War I. US rejects the treaty and the power given to the [League of Nations](#).

Sep. Hitler joins the [German Workers' Party](#).

1920



Jan. The [Nazi Party](#) is formed, with Hitler giving emotional speeches between February and March.

1921 *July 29.* As an effective speaker, Hitler is named leader of the Nazi Party, earning the title der [Führer](#).



July. The [Chinese Communist Party](#) is founded after a lengthy civil war in Shanghai.

Nov. 21. The [Washington Naval Conference](#) takes place in Washington DC, attended by nine countries. Japan later withdraws from the agreements made at the conference.

1922



Apr. 3. The [Soviet Communist Party](#) appoints Josef Stalin as General Secretary. Note: at the height of WWII, Stalin and the Soviets become part of the Allied forces.

Sep. 18. Hungary becomes part of the League of Nations. Hungary would later join Germany in World War II against the Soviet Union.



Oct. 28. The Fascists of Italy take control appointing [Benito Mussolini](#) as its prime minister.

Dec. 30. Belarus, Russia, South Caucasus, and the Ukraine form the Soviet Union.

1923



Jan. 11. France & Belgium take over the Ruhr area hoping to force Germany to make reparations for WWI.

Nov. 8. Nazis, led by Hitler try to overthrow the German government but fail, this was known as the [Beer Hall Putsch](#).

1925



Jan. 21. [Lenin](#) dies, paving the way for Joseph Stalin to takeover as leader of the Soviet Union.

July 18. [Mein Kampf](#) is published. The book is an autobiography written by Adolf Hitler. *Mein Kampf* reveals the political ideology of Hitler.

Aug. 18. French troops withdraw from Germany.

1926 *Apr. 24.* The Soviet Union and Germany sign the Treaty of Berlin, which allow either country to remain neutral if one or the other is attacked by another country.

1927



Apr. 12. The Kuomintang and the Communist Party of China make up the two factions during the [Chinese Civil War](#).

May 20. The United Kingdom gives Saudi Arabia its independence. Saudi Arabia later supplied oil to the Allies during WWII.

1928



June 4. Japanese assassins cause the death of Manchurian warlord [Zhang Zuolin](#) during the [Huanggutun Incident](#). This increased tensions between China and Japan.

Aug. 27. In an attempt to prevent aggressive warfare, the [Kellogg-Briand Pact](#) is signed by major powers of the world in Paris. The pact was aimed at preventing the use of force by any one nation against others.

1929



Feb. 9. Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, and the Soviet Union sign the [Litvinov's Pact](#) in Moscow. Those who signed it agreed to denounce war as stated in the Kellogg-Briand Pact.

Apr. Persia, modern day Iran, signs the Litvinov's Pact.



June 7. Italy and Vatican City ratify the [Lateran Treaty](#) making Vatican City a sovereign state. Under [Pope Pius XII](#), Vatican City remained neutral during WWII.

* The [Great Depression](#) begins in the US and spreads worldwide.

1930



April 22. Italy, Japan, the UK, and the USA agree to regulate submarine warfare and shipbuilding by signing the [London Naval Treaty](#). Japan would later renounce their agreement under this treaty.

1931



Sep. 19. Japan invasion of Manchuria signals the beginning of minor fighting of the [Second Sino-Japanese War](#).

1932



Jan. 7. In response to the invasion of Manchuria by Japan, the US issues the [Stimson Doctrine](#), which was meant to prevent expansion of Japan's

territories.

Feb. Having been born in Austria, Hitler finally receives his German citizenship.



Apr. 10. Germany elects **Paul Von Hindenburg** for president. He played an important role in the rise of Hitler's Nazi party.

Dec. 3. **Kurt Von Schleicher** is named German Chancellor by Hindenburg. He was later assassinated by order of Hitler in 1934.

1933



Jan. 30. German President Hindenburg appoints Hitler as Chancellor and ousting Von Schleicher.

Feb. 28. Hindenburg issues the **Reichstag Fire Decree**, it nullified many civil liberties of citizens.



Mar. 23. The **Enabling Act of 1933** approved by the German government gave Hitler unlimited power. This allowed him to be dictator in Germany.

Mar. 27. Japan leaves the League of Nations. The reason Japan gave for withdrawing was because of accusations made against them regarding Manchuria by the League of Nations..



Apr. 26. The **Gestapo** is established in Germany to maintain "order" throughout the country and especially during the war. They represent Hitler's group of enforcers.

May 10. The **Nazi Book Burning** takes place. Students from university towns marched with torches with the intent of burning "un-German books". More than 25,000 volumes of those "un-German books" turned into ashes that night.



Oct. 17. [Albert Einstein](#) arrives in America as a refugee from [Nazi Germany](#). Before emigrating, he learned that the new regime (Nazi's) would not allow Jews to hold any government position.

Oct. 19. Germany leaves the League of Nations.

1934



Jan. 26. Poland and Germany agree to sign the ten year [German-Polish Non-Aggression Pact](#). The pact allowed Germany to maintain an eastern border. Five years after signing the pact, Germany invades Poland without much resistance.

June 30-July 2. Political murders known as Operation Hummingbird, or the [Night of the Long Knives](#), is carried throughout Germany and beyond. The action was seen as a purge against those who would politically oppose the ruling Nazi party.



Aug. 2. After a long wait, Hitler receives the [Führer](#) of Germany title, making him chancellor and head of state.

Dec. 29. Japan renounces the [Washington London Naval Treaties](#) they previously agreed to.

1935



June 18. The German Reich and the United Kingdom reach an agreement regulating the size of their respective navies. This is known as the [Anglo-German Naval Agreement](#) (AGNA). Disagreements ensued later that Hitler denounced the agreement.

1936



Mar. 7. Germany violates some contents of the [Treaty of Versailles](#) by [militarizing the Rhineland](#). Under the treaty, Allied forces would occupy the Rhineland for fifteen years.

July 18. Led by [Francisco Franco](#), the [Spanish Civil War](#) Begins. Germany gives support to Franco, who represented the Nationalist faction during the war. Germany was instrumental in many victories for the [Nationalists of Spain](#).



Oct. 25. The [Axis Powers](#) or Axis Alliance is formed. Germany signs a treaty with Italy and Japan. The alliance would later be the main antagonists during WWII.

Nov. 25. Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan come to an agreement by signing the [Anti-Comintern Pact](#) directed against the communist movement and the Soviet Union.



Dec. 1. The [Hitler Youth](#), a paramilitary Nazi group, expanded to 5 million members. The group makes it mandatory for boys between the age of 10-18 to join.

1937



July 7. [Marco Polo Bridge Incident](#) is a battle between the Chinese and Japanese armies and is seen as the start of the [Second Sino-Japanese War](#).

1938



Mar. 13. Nazi Germany completes the Annexation or [Anschluss of Austria](#). Austria was the first country to be annexed by Hitler's Germany.

Sept. 30. Seen as a way of appeasing Nazi Germany, the [Munich Agreement](#) is signed by France, Italy, the UK, and Nazi Germany. The purpose of the agreement was to allow the annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland borders.

1939

Jan. 27. In an attempt to better the British Royal Navy, Hitler gives the approval for [Plan Z](#). The plan was a five year project aimed at expanding the Nazi German navy fleet by 1944.

Mar. 14. Nazi Germany troops enter Prague and [capture Czechoslovakia](#) in complete violation of the [Munich Agreement](#).



Mar. 17. British Prime Minister [Neville Chamberlain](#) warns in a speech that Britain will fight any attempt by Germany to dominate the world.

Apr. 28. During a speech before the Reichstag (parliament), the Anglo-German Naval Agreement and German-Polish Non-Aggression Pact is renounced by Hitler.

1940

January 1940

1: 10,000 Japanese troops launched a counter-attack in eastern Shanxi Province in China in an attempt to relieve the nearly-surrounded Japanese 36th Division.

2: The Soviet offensive in Finland is halted by several Finnish victories; numerous Soviet tanks are destroyed.

7: Rationing of basic foodstuffs is established in the UK.

A major Finnish victory at [Suomussalmi](#) is reported; one whole Soviet division is eliminated, and again numbers of military vehicles are captured.

7: General Semyon Timoshenko takes command of Soviet Army forces in Finland.

10: [Mechelen Incident](#): a German plane, carrying plans for [Fall Gelb](#), crashes in neutral Belgium.

16: Captured documents reveal Hitler's plans for the invasion of Scandinavia and a postponement of the invasion of France and the Low Countries until the Spring, when the weather is more compatible for an invasion.

17: The Soviets are driven back in Finland and retaliate with heavy air attacks.

20: German submarine U-44 torpedoes and sinks Greek steamer Ekatontarchos Dracoulis off Portugal at 0415 hours, killing 6. U-44 had been hunting for Ekatontarchos Dracoulis for the past 6 hours.

21: A U-boat sinks British destroyer [HMS Exmouth](#) and its crew of 135 are all lost.

24: [Reinhard Heydrich](#) is appointed by Göring for the solution to the "Jewish Question."

27: Germany makes final plans for the invasion of Denmark and Norway

February 1940



Finnish ski troops in Northern Finland January 12, 1940.

1: The Japanese [Diet](#) announces a record high budget with over half its expenditures being military.

5: Britain and France decide to intervene in Norway to cut off the iron ore trade in anticipation of an expected German occupation and ostensibly to open a route to assist Finland. The operation is scheduled to start about March 20.

9: [Erich von Manstein](#) is placed in command of German XXXVIII (38) Armour Corps, removing him from planning the French invasion.

10: USSR agrees to supply grain and raw materials to Germany in a new trade treaty.

14: British government calls for volunteers to fight in Finland.

15: The Soviet army captures Summa, an important defence point in Finland, thereby breaking through the [Mannerheim Line](#).

Hitler orders [unrestricted submarine warfare](#).

16: British destroyer [HMS Cossack](#) forcibly removes 303 British POWs from the German transport [Altmark](#) in neutral Norwegian territorial waters, sparking the [Altmark Incident](#).

17: The Finns continue retreat from the [Mannerheim line](#).

Manstein presents to Hitler his plans for invading France via the [Ardennes](#) forest.

21: General [Nikolaus von Falkenhorst](#) is placed in command of the upcoming German invasion of Norway.

March 1940

1: [Adolf Hitler](#) directs his generals in planning the invasion of Denmark and Norway.

3: Soviets begin attacks on [Viipuri](#), Finland's second largest city.

5: Finland tells the Soviets they will agree to their terms for ending the war. The next day they send emissaries to Moscow to negotiate a peace treaty.

11: Meat rationing begins in Britain.

12: In Moscow, Finland signs a peace treaty with the Soviet Union after 105 days of conflict. The Finns are forced to give up significant territory in exchange for peace.

16: German air raid on [Scapa Flow](#) causes first British civilian casualties.

18: Hitler and Mussolini meet at the Brenner pass on the Austrian border; [Benito Mussolini](#) agrees with Hitler that Italy will enter the war "at an opportune moment".

21: [Paul Reynaud](#) becomes Prime Minister of France following Daladier's resignation the previous day.

28: Britain and France make a formal agreement that neither country will seek a separate peace with Germany.

29: The Soviets want new territories. Molotov speaks to the Supreme Soviet, about "an unsettled dispute", the question of Romanian Bessarabia.

30: Japan establishes a puppet regime at [Nanking](#), China, under [Wang Jingwei](#).

30: Britain undertakes secret reconnaissance flights to photograph the targeted areas inside the Soviet Union in preparation for [Operation Pike](#), utilising high-altitude, high-speed stereoscopic photography pioneered by [Sidney Cotton](#).

April 1940

April: 22,000 Polish officers, policemen, and others are massacred by the Soviet NKVD in the [Katyn massacre](#).

3: The Ministerial Defence Committee, with the [First Lord of the Admiralty \(Winston Churchill\)](#) as its chair, replaces [Lord Chatfield](#)'s ministerial position of [Minister for Coordination of Defence](#).

9: Germans land in several Norwegian ports and take [Oslo](#); the [Norwegian Campaign](#) lasts two months. The British begin their [Norwegian Campaign](#). Denmark surrenders.

10: Germans set up a Norwegian government under [Vidkun Quisling](#), former minister of defence.

11: [First Battle of Narvik](#). British destroyers and aircraft successfully make a surprise attack against a larger German naval force. A second attack on April 13 will also be a British success.

12: British troops occupy the Danish [Faroe Islands](#).

14: British and French troops begin landing at [Namsos](#), north of [Trondheim](#) in Norway.

15: British troops land at [Harstad](#), near [Narvik](#), Norway.

16: More British landings in Norway, notably north and south of [Trondheim](#); the struggle for Trondheim continues until the 22nd.

27: British troops begin pull-out from central Norway, north and south of [Trondheim](#).

May 1940



The state of the allies and axis powers in May 1940.



The German [Blitzkrieg](#) offensive of mid-May, 1940.



Map of the British invasion of Iceland in mid-May 1940.

- 1: Allies begin evacuating Norwegian ports; the efforts will continue until June.
- 5: Norwegian government in exile established in London.
- 8: Prime Minister [Neville Chamberlain](#) barely survives [Norway Debate](#) vote in the House of Commons.
- 9: Conscription in Britain extended to age 36.
- 10: Germany invades Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands; [Winston Churchill](#) becomes [Prime Minister of the United Kingdom](#) upon the resignation of [Neville Chamberlain](#). The United Kingdom [invades Iceland](#). Belgium declares a state of emergency. Churchill is called on to form a wartime coalition government.

The massive German offensive against the [Western front](#): The invasion of Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands, and France begins. In a bold stroke, German paratroops [capture](#) the Belgian fort [Eben Emael](#).

10: The [Battle for The Hague](#) becomes the first failed paratrooper attack in history as the Dutch quickly defeat the invaders.

11: Luxembourg is occupied.

Churchill offers the former Kaiser [Wilhelm II](#), who is now living in the Netherlands, asylum in the United Kingdom; he declines.

12: The Belgians blow up all the bridges over the [Meuse River](#) to halt the German advance.

12: [Battle of Hannut](#) begins in Belgium.

13: [Dutch government-in-exile](#) established in London.

General [Heinz Guderian](#)'s Panzer corps breaks through at Sedan, France.

[Queen Wilhelmina](#) of the Netherlands flees to asylum in the United Kingdom.

Churchill's "[blood, toil, tears, and sweat](#)" speech in Commons.

13: The Dutch lose the [Battle of the Grebbeberg](#) to the Germans.

14: The creation of the [Local Defence Volunteers](#) (the *Home Guard*) is announced by the new [Secretary of State for War Anthony Eden](#). It is mostly composed of the elderly and retired. [Rotterdam](#) is carpet-bombed by the Luftwaffe, causing many civilian deaths and tremendous damage. The Netherlands decide to surrender with the exception of Zeeland.

Churchill asks President Roosevelt and Canada for aid in these dark days. Outlines of the new British coalition, which includes Labour, Liberal, and Conservative members, is made public.

14: The Dutch defeat the Germans at the [Battle of the Afsluitdijk](#).

14: The [Rotterdam Blitz](#) successfully brings an end to the [Battle of Rotterdam](#).

15: The capitulation of the Dutch army is signed.

German forces cross over the [Meuse River](#).

16: Churchill visits Paris and hears that the French war is as good as over

16: The Belgian government leaves Belgium for [Bordeaux](#) in France, as the Belgian army retreats. It later moves to London.

17: Germans enter Brussels and also take Antwerp.

[Paul Reynaud](#) forms new French government, including 84-year-old Marshal Pétain, the French hero of World War I.

18: [Maxime Weygand](#) replaces [Maurice Gamelin](#) as commander of the French armed forces Antwerp captured.

18: Germans win the [Battle of Zeeland](#).

19: [Amiens](#) in France is besieged by German troops; [Rommel](#)'s forces surround Arras; other German forces reach Noyelles on the Channel.

19: The British complete their invasion of [Iceland](#).

20: General Guderian's Panzer groups take [Abbeville](#), threatening Allied forces in the area.

23: [Oswald Mosley](#), leader of the pre-war British fascists, is jailed; he and his wife will spend the duration in prison.

24: The British make a final decision to cease operations in Norway.

25: The Allied forces, British and French alike, retreat to [Dunkirk](#). Hitler orders a halt to the advance of Germans toward the Allied beachhead and allows Hermann Göring to use the Luftwaffe to attack. British R.A.F. defends the beachhead.

Sporadic Luftwaffe bombings in England.

[Boulogne-sur-Mer](#) surrenders to the Germans.

25: Soviet Union is preparing a total takeover in the Baltic States organizing and staging conflicts between the Baltic States and the USSR. Soviet government accuses Lithuania of kidnapping Soviet soldiers.

25-28: 86 Belgian civilians [are murdered](#) by German forces in the village of [Vinkt](#)

26: The [Patrol vessel A4](#) arrives in [Plymouth](#), evacuating the final 40 tonnes of national gold reserves out of Belgium.

26: [Calais](#) surrenders to the Germans.

[Operation Dynamo](#), the Allied evacuation of 340,000 troops from [Dunkirk](#), begins. The move will last until June 3 under ferocious bombardment by the Luftwaffe.

28: Belgium surrenders to the Germans; King [Leopold III of Belgium](#) surrenders and is interned.

30: Crucial British Cabinet meeting: Churchill wins a vote on continuing the war, in spite of vigorous arguments by [Lord Halifax](#) and Chamberlain.

31: The Japanese heavily bomb Nationalist capital [Chungking](#), on the upper [Yangtse](#).

June 1940

3: Last day of Operation Dynamo. 224,686 British and 121,445 French and Belgian troops have been evacuated.

Germans bomb Paris.

7: German battleships [Gneisenau](#) and [Scharnhorst](#) sink the aircraft carrier [HMS Glorious](#) and two destroyers off Norway; the British ships have had no air cover.

9: Red Army provokes conflicts on the Latvian border.

10: Italy declares war on France and the United Kingdom. Norway surrenders. [King Haakon](#) and his government had evacuated to Britain three days previously.

11: French government decamps to [Tours](#).

12: More than 10,000 British soldiers of the [51st \(Highland\) Division](#) are captured at [Saint-Valéry-en-Caux](#).

13: Paris occupied by German troops; French government moves again, this time to [Bordeaux](#).

14: Elements of the [French Navy](#) ([Marine Nationale](#)) based in [Toulon](#) carried out offensive operations against Italian targets along the [Ligurian coast](#).

A total military blockade on the Baltic States by the Soviet [Baltic Fleet](#). Soviet troops along the Baltic borders are ready to organise communist coups in the Baltic States. Soviet bombers

shoot down a Finnish passenger airplane [Kaleva](#) flying from [Tallinn](#) to [Helsinki](#) and carrying three diplomatic pouches from the U.S. legations in Tallinn, [Riga](#) and Helsinki.

15: Eight-hour ultimatum to surrender is given to Lithuania by the Soviets. President Smetona escapes from the country so the takeover is not possible to do in a formally legal way. Soviet troops enter Lithuania and attack Latvian border guards.

Start of the evacuation of British troops from ports western in France in [Operation Ariel](#).

16: [Philippe Pétain](#) becomes premier of France upon the resignation of Reynaud's government.

The French sloop [La Curieuse](#) forced the Italian submarine *Provano* to surface and then sank it by ramming.

Soviet Union gives eight-hour ultimatum to Latvia and Estonia to surrender.

17: Sinking of liner [RMS Lancastria](#) off [St Nazaire](#) while being used as a British troopship— at least 3,000 are killed in Britain's worst maritime disaster.

Soviet troops enter Latvia and Estonia.

18: General [De Gaulle](#) forms the [Comité français de la Libération nationale](#), a French government in exile; [Estonia](#), [Latvia](#) and [Lithuania are occupied](#) by the Soviet Union.

20: The French seek an armistice with the Italians

21: Franco-German armistice negotiations begin at [Compiègne](#).

Elements of two Italian armies cross into France during [Italian invasion of France](#).

21: The French battleship *Lorraine* opened fire on the Italian port of [Bardia](#) in [Italian North Africa](#). During some of the last actions of the French against the Italians, French naval aircraft attacked [Taranto](#) and [Livorno](#) in mainland Italy.

21: Soviet-led coups in the Baltic States. In the only military resistance in Tallinn, 2 die on Estonian side and about 10 on the Soviet side.

22: [Franco-German armistice](#) signed.

24: Franco-Italian armistice signed.

25: France officially surrenders to Germany at 01:35.

Last major evacuation of Operation Ariel; 191,870 allied soldiers, airmen and some civilians had escaped from France.

26: The Soviet Union send an ultimatum demanding Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina from Romania.

27: Romanians propose negotiations. Molotov replies that the demands are land concessions or war. New ultimatum from the Soviets to the Romanians.

28: General De Gaulle recognised by British as leader of [Free French](#).

Marshal [Italo Balbo](#), Commander-in-Chief of [Italian North Africa](#), is accidentally killed in a "[friendly fire incident](#)" by Italian anti-aircraft fire at Tobruk, Libya.

28: The Red Army occupies Romanian Bessarabia and the northern part of Bukovina.

28: The Luftwaffe bombs the demilitarised British Channel Islands, they had not been informed of the demilitarization. In Guernsey, 33 are killed and 67 injured, in Jersey, 9 are killed and many are injured.

28: Axis and Allied convoys [clash south-west of Crete](#).

30: Germany invades the [Channel Islands](#).

July 1940

1: [Channel Islands occupation](#) is completed by German forces.

: [French government](#) moves to [Vichy](#).

: Marshal [Rodolfo Graziani](#) is named as Balbo's replacement in North Africa.

: The [Italian Royal Air Force](#) starts [bombing](#) the [British Mandate of Palestine](#).

2: Hitler orders preparation of plans for invasion of Britain, code-named [Operation Sea Lion](#).

2: [Alderney](#) surrenders to the Germans.

2: [Brighton](#) beach is closed to the public and mines, barbed wire and other defences are put into place.

3: [Cardiff](#) is bombed by the [Luftwaffe](#) for the first time.

3: The British [attack and destroy the French navy](#), fearing that it would fall into German hands.

4: The [destruction of the French Fleet at Mers-el-Kébir](#), [Algeria](#) by the [Royal Navy](#); [Vichy French](#) government breaks off diplomatic relations with Britain in protest. At Alexandria the French agree to demilitarise the battleship Lorraine and several smaller ships. The [Duke of Windsor](#) (tainted by suspicion of pro-Nazism) is named governor of the [Bahamas](#), putting him some distance from controversy.

4: [Sark](#) surrenders to the Germans. The Germans now control all of the British Channel Islands.

4: The German News Bureau released excerpts of the documents captured during the fall of France relating to [Operation Pike](#), an Anglo-French plan to bomb Soviet oil fields. The compromised operation was subsequently aborted.

5: Two Belgian politicians, [Camille Huysmans](#) and [Marcel-Henri Jaspar](#), form an unofficial government in exile in London, afraid that [the official Belgian government](#), still in France, will surrender to the Germans.

9: A [fairly indecisive naval skirmish](#) happens off the coast of Italy. No lives are lost.

10: The [Battle of Britain](#) begins with Luftwaffe raids on channel shipping. President Roosevelt asks Congress for huge increases in military preparations.

11: [RAF](#) raids on enemy emplacements in the Netherlands and on German munitions factories.

12: [Luftwaffe](#) attacks on Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

14: Soviets organize rigged elections in the Baltic States. The parliaments will be in the control of the Soviets.

16: [Adolf Hitler](#) submits to his military the directive for the invasion of the United Kingdom, [Operation Sea Lion](#).

18: In response to Mers-el-Kébir, the [Vichy French Air Force](#) bombs British-held [Gibraltar](#).

19: General [Johan Laidoner](#) of Estonia is deported to Siberia.

19: Allied ships clash with two Italian light cruisers, sinking one in the [Battle of Cape Spada](#).

21: [Czechoslovak government in exile](#) arrives in London.

In the Baltic States Soviet controlled parliaments request membership of USSR.

22: The [Havana Conference](#) meets; the nations of the Western hemisphere meet to discuss neutrality and economic cooperation.

[Fumimaro Konoye](#) is named the Prime Minister of Japan.

23: The British "[Home Guard](#)" is officially established, drawing on elderly men and those considered unable to serve in the regular armed forces.

25: All women and children are ordered to evacuate [Gibraltar](#).

26: The [United States](#) of America activates the General Headquarters (GHQ), [United States Army](#), which is designed to facilitate mobilization by supervising the organization and training of the army field forces within the continental United States, which is code named the [Zone of the Interior](#).

30: The [President of Estonia](#), [Konstantin Päts](#), is arrested and deported to Russia by the Soviets.

August 1940

August: The so-called *Spéngelskrich* ("War of Pin-badges") begins in occupied Luxembourg as civilians wear patriotic lapel badges prominently, in defiance of Nazi attempts to "Germanize" the territory.

1: Hitler sets 15 September as the date for [Operation Sea Lion](#), the invasion of Britain.

: Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov reaffirms Molotov-Ribbentrop pact in the Soviet Supreme while verbally attacking both Britain and the USA. He also asserts that the boundaries of Soviet Union are moved to the shores of the Baltic Sea.

: The [Italian Royal Navy](#) establishes its [BETASOM](#) submarine base in [Bordeaux](#) and joins the "[Battle of the Atlantic](#)."

1-4: Operation Hurry, the first of the [Malta Convoys](#), is accomplished.

2: General [Charles de Gaulle](#) sentenced to death in absentia by a French military court.

: The USSR [annexes Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina](#).

3: The USSR formally annexes [Lithuania](#).

4: Italian forces under General [Guglielmo Nasi](#) [invade and occupy British Somaliland](#) during the [East African Campaign](#).

5: Failure to achieve air superiority and bad weather in the Channel results in a postponement of the invasion of Great Britain.

: The USSR formally annexes [Latvia](#).

6: The USSR formally annexes [Estonia](#).

11-15: [Battle of Tug Argan](#) fought in British Somaliland during the [Italian invasion](#). To avoid encirclement, the British withdraw.

13: This is "[Adler Tag](#)" or "[Eagle Day](#)". [Hermann Göring](#) starts a two-week assault on British airfields in preparation for invasion. (For some German historians, this is the beginning of the "[Battle of Britain](#).")

14: British scientist Sir [Henry Tizard](#) leaves for the United States on the [Tizard Mission](#), giving over to the Americans a number of top secret British technologies including the [magnetron](#), the secret device at the heart of [radar](#). Radar is already proving itself in the defence of Britain.

15: [RAF](#) victories over the [Luftwaffe](#) continue, in a wide-ranging fight along the East coast. British fighter aircraft production begins to accelerate.

: Sinking of the Greek cruiser [Elli](#) by an Italian submarine on 15 August 1940 at the harbour of [Tinos](#).

16: The [Battle of Britain](#) continues; Germans are hampered by poor aircraft range and British extensive use of RADAR.

: A first draft of the [Destroyers for Bases Agreement](#) by the US and Britain is made public.

17: Hitler declares a blockade of the British Isles.

18: Heavy fighting in the [Battle of Britain](#); Germans suffering severe losses on bomber formations. Göring declares cowardice among his fighter pilots and orders them to closely guard the bombers, further restricting their capabilities.

19: [Italian](#) forces take [Berbera](#), the capital of [British Somaliland](#) and the British defenders flee to [Aden](#). The fall of Berbera completes the invasion of the British colony. By the end of the month, the Italians control British Somaliland and several towns and forts along the border with the [Sudan](#) and [Kenya](#) including [Kassala](#), [Gallabat](#), and [Moyale](#).

20: Italy announces a [blockade](#) of British ports in the Mediterranean area.

: Churchill's speech "[Never was so much owed by so many to so few](#)" speech delivered to the [House of Commons](#)

20: Chinese Communists launch the [Hundred Regiments Offensive](#) against the Japanese in North China.

22: Germans are now shelling [Dover](#) and the nearby coastal area with long-range artillery.

24: German aircraft mistakenly bomb a church in [Cripplegate](#), accidentally dictating the future shape of the Battle of Britain.

25: Churchill orders the bombing of Berlin in retaliation for the previous night's bombing of Cripplegate.

26: Both London and Berlin are bombed, Berlin for the first time.

30: The bombing of England continues; London is now bombed in retaliation for the [bombing of Berlin](#); thus, the beginning of "the London Blitz."

: Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini dictated the so-called [Second Vienna Award](#) which forced Romania to hand over the [Northern Transylvania](#) (including the entire [Maramureş](#) and part of [Crişana](#)) to [Hungary](#).

31: Luftwaffe attacks on British airfields continue, as well as on London. Attacks on Radar installations prove ineffective.

31: Two Royal Navy destroyers are sunk off the Dutch coast in the so-called "[Texel Disaster](#)"
September 1940

1: Germany's Jews are ordered to wear yellow stars for identification.

2: The [Destroyers for Bases Agreement](#) is completed. Britain obtains 50 destroyers in exchange for giving the United States land grants in various British possessions for the establishment of US naval and air bases, on ninety-nine-year rent-free leases on bases in the [Bahamas](#), [Antigua](#), [St. Lucia](#), [Trinidad](#), [Jamaica](#), and [British Guiana](#).

3: Hitler postpones the invasion of Britain, as the Luftwaffe fails to break the British defenses. However, fears of the forthcoming invasion continue to haunt Britain.

6: [King Carol](#) abdicates the Romanian throne in favour of his son [Michael](#) while control of the government is taken by [Marshal Antonescu](#).

7: In one of the major misjudgements of the war, the Luftwaffe shifts its focus to London, away from the RAF airfields. Success may be measured only in the estimated 2,000 civilian dead. Other British cities are hit.

9: During the [Western Desert Campaign](#), Italian colonial forces in [Libya](#) under General [Mario Berti](#) launch the [invasion of Egypt](#). The first objective is to advance from defensive positions within Libya to the border with [Egypt](#).

: [Tel Aviv](#) in the British Mandate of Palestine is [bombed by Italian aircraft](#) causing 137 deaths.

10: [Operation Sea Lion](#) is now set for 24 September.

: The [Italian Air Corps](#) is formed to fight in the [Battle of Britain](#).

13: After re-taking [Fort Capuzzo](#) just inside Libya, Italian colonial forces cross the border and advance into Egypt. The Italians take the small port of [Sollum](#), but the only resistance to the invasion is a light British screening force which withdraws as the Italians advance.

14: [Operation Sea Lion](#) is postponed until 27 September, the last day of the month with suitable tides for the invasion.

15: Massive German bombing flights on English cities; most are driven off. The RAF begins to claim victory in the Battle of Britain.

16: [Selective Training and Service Act of 1940](#) introduces the first peacetime [conscription](#) (this time for men between 21 and 35) in United States history.

The [Italian invasion of Egypt](#) comes to a halt when approximately five Italian divisions set up defensively in a series of armed camps after advancing about 95 km to [Sidi Barrani](#). The Italians never approach the main British positions at [Mersa Matruh](#).

17: Decoded messages now reveal that Hitler has postponed Operation Sea Lion until further notice.

18: [Radio Belgique](#), a French and Dutch language radio service of the [BBC](#), begins broadcasting to occupied Belgium from its base in London.

22: Heavy convoy losses to U-boats in the Atlantic.

The Japanese occupy [French Indochina](#); local French administrators become only figurehead authorities.

23: Free French and British forces [attempt a landing at Dakar](#), French West Africa; Vichy French naval forces open fire sporadically for two days, and the expedition is called back.

24: Berlin suffers a large bombing raid by the RAF.

: In response to Dakar, the Vichy French Air Force bombs [Gibraltar](#) for the first time since 18 July.

25: Vichy French aircraft return to Gibraltar for a second day of bombings.
: Japanese 5th Division march into [Hanoi](#), [North Vietnam](#).

27: The [Tripartite Pact](#) is signed in Berlin by Germany, Italy, and Japan, promising mutual aid. An informal name, "Axis", emerges.

28: [Vidkun Quisling](#) becomes head of state in Norway.

October 1940

1-31: The [United States Of America](#) separates the Corps Areas established in 1921 to perform the administrative tasks of the various regions of the US from the four Field Armies that had been established in 1932.

1: Chinese Nationalist and Chinese Communists fight each other in southern China. Meanwhile Japanese forces have a setback at Changsha.

2: The [bombing of London](#) continues throughout the month.

3: [Warsaw](#)'s Jews are directed to move into the Warsaw ghetto.

4: [Adolf Hitler](#) and [Benito Mussolini](#) meet at the [Brenner Pass](#) to discuss the prospects in the war.

7: Germany invades [Romania](#) to block the Soviet Army and get access to valuable oil fields.

9: [Neville Chamberlain](#) resigns from the [House of Commons](#) for health reasons; [Winston Churchill](#) is elected head of the Conservative Party.

12: Any German invasion of Britain is postponed until Spring 1941 at the earliest.

12: The Royal Navy [clash with and defeat](#) several Italian ships which attacked them after a convoy mission to Malta.

13: British civilians are still being killed by German bombs though the attacks have dropped off significantly.

14: [Balham station](#) disaster. German bomb pierces 32 feet underground killing 66 people.

15: [Clarence Addison Dykstra](#) becomes Director of [Selective Service](#) in the United States.

15: Mussolini and his closest advisers decide to [invade Greece](#).

16: Draft registration begins in the United States.

19: The Italians [bomb Bahrain](#).

20: Italian aircraft bomb [Cairo, Egypt](#) and American-operated oil refineries in the British Protectorate of [Bahrain](#).

21: [Liverpool](#) is bombed for the 200th time.

23: [Adolf Hitler](#) meets with [Franco](#) at [Hendaye](#), near the Spanish-French border; little is accomplished, and least of all [Hitler's hope to convince Franco](#) to enter the war on the Axis side.

24: After meeting with Franco, Hitler was going to [Montoire](#) where he met with [Philippe Pétain](#) took place signifying the start of organised French collaboration with the Nazi regime.

24: The [Italian Air Corps](#) sees its first action during the [Battle of Britain](#).

25: Berlin and Hamburg are bombed heavily.

28: At about 03:00 am the Italian ambassador to Greece issues ultimatum to Greece and Greek Prime Minister [Metaxas](#) replies: "So it is war". The [Italian Royal Army](#) launches attacks into Greece from [Italian-held Albania](#) and begins the [Greco-Italian War](#). Hitler is angered at the initiative of his ally.

29: Very heavy convoy losses during this period as numbers of U-boats increase.

29: The first number drawings for US [Selective Service Act](#) draftees.

30: President Roosevelt, in the middle of an election campaign, promises not to send "our boys" to war.

31: The Warsaw District government moves all Jews living in Warsaw to the ghettos

November 1940

1: Turkey declared neutrality in the Italo-Greek war.

2: The Italian advance into Greece continues. [Vovousa](#) is captured and Italian aircraft bomb [Salonika](#).

5: President Roosevelt wins a third term. The British see the event as promising of more help from the US.

5: The [HMS Jervis Bay](#), a merchant cruiser, is sunk on convoy duty, but much of the convoy escapes. The loss becomes a media event.

7: It becomes clear that Ireland will refuse to allow the United Kingdom to use its ports as naval bases.

8: The [Battle of Elaia-Kalamas](#) ends and the Italians end their futile offensive in Greece.

9: Neville Chamberlain dies.

11: British naval forces launch attack against Italian navy at [Taranto](#). Swordfish bombers from [HMS Illustrious](#) damage three battleships, two cruisers and multiple auxiliary craft. The event secures British supply lines in the Mediterranean. The British success will be studied by Japanese military already preparing for an [attack on Pearl Harbor](#).

12: Molotov meets Hitler and Ribbentrop in Berlin. New World order is under discussion. Molotov expresses Soviet interest in Finland, Bulgaria, Romania, Dardanelles and Bosphorus, but Hitler talks along broad lines about worldwide spheres of influence between Russia, Germany, Italy and Japan.

12: In the [Battle of Gabon](#), British forces finish wresting central Africa from the Vichy French.

13: Molotov meets Hitler again asking acceptance to liquidate Finland. Hitler now resists every attempt to expand Soviet influence in Europe. He sees Britain as defeated and offers India to the Soviet Union.

: The [Battle of Pindus](#) ends in a Greek victory.

14: A heavy [night raid on Coventry](#). [Coventry Cathedral](#) is destroyed and the medieval centre of the city is levelled.

: The Greek [counter-offensive](#) against the Italians begins.

15: The Soviet Union is invited to join Tripartite Pact and to share in the spoils of British Empire. Warsaw's Jewish ghetto is cordoned off from the rest of the city.

16: Churchill orders some British troops in North Africa to be sent to Greece, despite concerns by his military leaders that they are needed in the current campaign against the Italians in North Africa.

19: The Greeks continue to advance, and evict Italian troops from Greek soil.



The Greek counter-offensive

20: Hungary signs the [Tripartite Pact](#).

21: The Belgian government, in exile in Britain, declares war on Italy.

22: Fall of [Korytsa](#) to the Greeks.

23: [Romania](#) signs the [Tripartite Pact](#).

24: The [Slovak Republic](#) signs the [Tripartite Pact](#).

25: The Soviet Union gives her terms to join the Tripartite Pact including substantial new territorial gains for Russia.

29: A massive overnight bombing raid on [Liverpool](#).

30: A large bombing raid on [Southampton](#) in southern England; the city is hit again the next night, followed by [Bristol](#) on 2 December, and [Birmingham](#) on the 3rd.

December 1940



The state of the allies and axis powers in December 1940, showing great axis expansion in Europe and Northern Africa.

1-8: Greek forces continue to drive the Italian armies back, capturing the cities of [Pogradec](#), [Sarandë](#), and [Gjirokastër](#).

1: Bombing raids are exchanged throughout the month between Germany and Britain. First German bombs, then Britain's.

[Joseph P. Kennedy](#), the US Ambassador to the United Kingdom is asked to resign by President Roosevelt after he gives a newspaper interview expressing the view that "Democracy is finished in England".

5: The RAF bombs Düsseldorf and Turin.

6-9: British and Indian troops of the [Western Desert Force](#) launch [Operation Compass](#), an offensive against Italian forces in Egypt. The Italians have seven infantry divisions and the [Maletti Group](#) in fortified defensive positions. Initial attacks are launched against the five Italian camps around and south of [Sidi Barrani](#). The camps are overrun, Italian General [Pietro Maletti](#) is killed, and the [Maletti Group](#), the 1st Libyan Division, the 2nd Libyan Division, and the 4th Blackshirt Division are all but destroyed. The remaining Italian units in Egypt are forced to withdraw towards Libya.

8: [Francisco Franco](#) rules out Spanish entry into the war; the immediate result is that Hitler is forced to cancel an attack on Gibraltar.

12: In North Africa, over 39,000 Italians lost or captured in Egypt.

16: The first RAF night raid--on Mannheim, Germany.

: In North Africa, the British are in command at [Sollum](#) in Egypt and take [Fort Capuzzo](#) in Libya.

18: Hitler issues directive to begin planning for [Operation Barbarossa](#), the German invasion of the Soviet Union.

22-24: Bombing raids on [Manchester](#).

28: The [Greco-Italian War](#) continues to go badly for the Italians and the Greeks hold roughly one-quarter of Albania.

: Italy requests military assistance from Germany against the Greeks.

UNITED PRESS ASSOCIATIONS (UPDATE 1)

26th March, 1941-

The united states of America has signed the lend and lease act as the principal means for providing U.S. military aid to foreign nations during World War II. The act authorized the president to transfer arms or any other defense materials for which Congress appropriated money to "the government of any country whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the United States." Britain, the Soviet Union, China, Brazil, and many other countries received weapons under this law.

By allowing the president to transfer war matériel to a beleaguered Britain— and without payment as required by the Neutrality Act of 1939—the act enabled the British to keep fighting until events led America into the conflict. It also skirted the thorny problems of war debts that had followed World War I.

Hitler with his commander , Gerd von Rundstedt have broken down the French resistance and have taken over it . The aura of triumph has made hitler and his military enthusiastic and prepare for the war on soviet union.

In the mean while , hitler and his military is hoping to have an alliance with the Imperial Japanese Army to declare a war against the West. The war on the sovient union is on the brink of incoming danger from the red army. It is estimated that the Imperial Japanese army is in preparations for their own war against the West marking the initiation of the formation of Axis powers.

Useful resources and links :

ADOLF HITLER

<http://www.history.co.uk/study-topics/history-of-ww2/nazi-germany>
<http://www.shmoop.com/wwii/adolf-hitler.html>
<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/adolf-hitler>

CHIANG KAI SHEK

<http://www.britannica.com/biography/Chiang-Kai-shek>
<http://www.history.com/topics/chiang-kai-shek>
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BENITO MUSSOLINI

<http://www.shmoop.com/wwii/benito-mussolini.html>
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<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/benito-mussolini>

FRANCISCO FRANCO

<http://www.history.com/topics/francisco-franco>
<http://www.britannica.com/biography/Francisco-Franco>

HARRY TRUMAN

<http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/harry-truman>
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HIDEKI TOJO

http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Hideki_Tojo.aspx
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JAMES DOOLITTLE

<http://www.britannica.com/biography/James-H-Doolittle>
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DWIGHT EISENHOWER

<http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/dwight-d-eisenhower>

YAMAMOTO ISOROKU

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/yamamoto-isoroku-japans-mastermind-of-the-pearl-harbor-attack-is-born>
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CURTIS LEMAY

http://www2db.com/person_bio.php?person_id=509
<http://www.britannica.com/biography/Curtis-E-LeMay>
<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/world-war-two/military-commanders-of-world-war-two/curtis-lemay/>

FRIEDRICH PAULUS

http://www2db.com/person_bio.php?person_id=8
<http://www.britannica.com/biography/Friedrich-Paulus>

ERWIN ROMMEL

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<http://www.britannica.com/biography/Erwin-Rommel>

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korechika_Anami

JUAN MODESTO

<http://spartacus-educational.com/SPmodesto.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juan_Modesto

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<http://www.britannica.com/biography/Mao-Zedong>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/mao_zedong.shtml

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mao_Zedong

PHILIP VIAN

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Vian

http://ww2db.com/person_bio.php?person_id=414

JOSEPH STILWELL

<http://www.britannica.com/biography/Joseph-W-Stilwell>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Stilwell

KOMURA

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keiz%C5%8D_Komura

ROY GEIGER

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roy_Geiger

MITSURU USHIJIMA

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitsuru_Ushijima

SIMON BOLIVAR

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simon_Bolivar_Buckner,_Jr.

GONZALO QUEIPO

<http://spartacus-educational.com/SPllano.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gonzalo_Queipo_de_Llano

DOUGLAS MACARTHUR

<http://www.history.com/topics/douglas-macarthur>

<http://www.britannica.com/biography/Douglas-MacArthur>

MIAJA

<http://spartacus-educational.com/SPmiaja.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9_Miaja

JUAN HERNANDEZ

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Teruel

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juan_Hern%C3%A1ndez_Saravia

Topic study and resource management:

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/pearl2.htm>

<http://www.history.co.uk/study-topics/history-of-ww2/us-entry-and-alliance>

<http://totallyhistory.com/us-history/world-war-ii/>

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