

A History of Knowledge

Oldest Knowledge

What the Sumerians knew

What the Babylonians knew

What the Hittites knew

What the Persians knew

What the Egyptians knew

What the Indians knew

What the Chinese knew

What the Greeks knew

What the Phoenicians knew

What the Romans knew

What the Barbarians knew

What the Jews knew

What the Christians knew

Tang & Sung China

What the Japanese knew

What the Muslims knew

The Middle Ages

Ming & Manchu China

The Renaissance

The Industrial Age

The Victorian Age

The Modern World

A History of Knowledge

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What the Modern Age knew

- Bibliography
 - John Keegan: “World War II” (1990)
 - Antony Beevor: “The Second World War” (2012)



The Modern Age

- World War II:
 - Britain, USA, Russia (allies) win against Germany, Italy and Japan (axis)
 - Allies: China, Poland, Holland, France, Yugoslavia, British colonies, French colonies, Dutch colonies
 - Axis: Hungary (nov 1940), Romania (nov 1940), Bulgaria (mar 1941), Finland (jun 1941), Thailand
 - 61 countries with 1.7 billion people (3/4 of world's population)
 - 110 million military personnel (USSR 12.5m, USA 12m, Germany 11m, British Empire 8.7m, Japan 7m, China 5m)

The Modern Age

- World War II:
 - What the axis have in common (Germany, Italy and Japan)
 - They don't have large colonial empires that can make them self-sufficient
 - View the Allies as hypocritical for condemning their invasions after British, French and Russians have invaded most of the world

The Modern Age

- World War II:
 - The war from the point of view of Germany and Japan
 - Germany wants to fight WWI over again and win it
 - Japan wants to complete the conquest of China (which is supported by the Soviet Union)

The Modern Age

- World War II:
 - The German viewpoint
 - November 1917: The Russian revolution bring the Bolsheviks to power
 - March 1918: The peace treaty of Brest-Litovsk grants Germany the Baltic states and allows Germany to occupy western Russia from Poland down to almost the Caspian Sea
 - Fall 1918: Riots in Germany organized by Jewish Bolsheviks
 - June 1919: The humiliation of the peace treaty of Versailles (Germany loses 13% of its territory and is forced to pay reparations) and resentment against Poland (the main beneficiary of Germany's territorial losses)

The Modern Age

- World War II:
 - The German viewpoint
 - October 1922: Mussolini seizes power in Italy
 - 1923-24: Hyper-inflation
 - October 1929: Great Depression
 - September 1931: The Japanese army invades Manchuria without consulting with the government
 - September 1931: Britain leaves the gold standard to let its currency depreciate
 - Collapse of German exports
 - 1932: Mass unemployment
 - Fear of a Bolshevik revolution
 - Divided left (Communists vs Social Democrats)

The Modern Age

- World War II:
 - The German viewpoint
 - 85% of German oil is imported (the Caucasus has oil)
 - Germany has memories of starvation (Ukraine is a bread-basket)
 - German advisors to the Chinese nationalists fighting the Japanese
 - general Hans von Seeckt (May 1933)
 - general Alexander von Falkenhausen (Apr 1934)
 - July 1936: Spanish civil war

The Modern Age

- World War II:
 - The German viewpoint
 - November 1936: Germany and Japan form the anti-Comintern Pact to protect against communism
 - July 1937: Japan and China go to war after the "Marco Polo Incident"
 - The Soviet Union sells Hitler the steel, coal and oil that Germany needs for the war
 - Sweden sells Hitler the iron he needs
 - Hitler views the USA as the great Jewish power of the West

The Modern Age

- World War II:
 - The British viewpoint
 - Britain views the Nazis as a bulwark against Communism
 - Visceral anti-communism (Stalin left out of all negotiations with Hitler)
 - The Soviet Union invades peaceful Finland (1939) and is expelled from the League of Nations
 - The Soviet Union carries out as many massacres as Germany in Poland during 1939

The Modern Age

- World War II:
 - The British and French viewpoint
 - The Soviet Union fights Japan at the battle of Khalkhin Gol
 - Britain and France do not want another war
 - Right-wing and left-wing propaganda tells the French that Britain forced France into the war
 - Only colonel Charles DeGaulle strongly supports mechanized warfare in the French army

The Modern Age

- World War II:
 - The Russian viewpoint
 - Regaining what it lost in WWI
 - Stalin does not want a war with Japan and supports Chinese resistance to contain Japan
 - Stalin hopes that Hitler will be weakened by a war against France and Britain
 - Stalin does not believe until the last day that Germany is preparing to invade the Soviet Union

The Modern Age

- World War II:
 - The Japanese viewpoint
 - Liberating Asia from European colonialism
 - Japan distrusts Germany (that has signed an alliance with the Soviet Union)
 - No assistance from Japan to the German ally (except for one submarine attack on Madagascar in May 30, 1942)
 - Internal rivalries among Japanese generals and admirals and ministers
 - Japanese soldiers, taught that surrender is amoral, look down on British prisoners of war

The Modern Age

- World War II:
 - 55 million people dead (25m military + 30m civilian)
 - First war with massive direct civilian casualties

The Modern Age

- Germany invades
 - Spain, by proxy (1936)
 - Czechoslovakia (march 1939)
 - Poland (september 1939)
 - Norway (april 1940)
 - Holland (may 1940)
 - France (june 1940)
 - Bulgaria (february 1941)
 - Yugoslavia (april 1941)
 - Greece (april 1941)
 - Egypt (april 1941)
 - Russia (june 1941)
- Japan invades
 - Manchuria (1931)
 - China (july 1937)
 - Indochina (july 1941)
 - Hong Kong, Burma, Malaysia, Borneo, Philippines (dec 1941)
 - Singapore (feb 1942)
 - Indonesia (jan 1942)
 - New Guinea, Philippines (may 1942)

The Modern Age

- Italy invades
 - Ethiopia (october 1935)
 - Albania (april 1939)
 - Greece (october 1940)
- The Soviet Union invades
 - Poland (1939)
 - Romania (1939)
 - Lithuania (1940)
 - Latvia (1940)
 - Estonia (1940)

The Modern Age

- Japanese invasions
 - Two wars in Asia
 - Continental war in China
 - Sea and air war in the Pacific

The Modern Age

- German invasions



The Modern Age

- German invasions
 - Three wars
 - Germany vs France and Britain
 - Germany vs Soviet Union
 - Leningrad (with Finland)
 - Stalingrad (143,296 Germans, 220,000 Romanians, 200,000 Italians, 40,000 Hungarian)
 - Caucasus (with Romania)
 - Northern Africa
 - Overextended German empire
 - Weak allies (Italians, Romanians)
 - Unsustainable supply lines



Japan



Germany

The Modern Age

- World War II
 - Hitler’s vision: German expansion to the East (Soviet Union), a medieval mission, plus elimination of Jews/Bolsheviks, plus liberation of the Slavic people from the Bolshevik oppression
 - “Operation Barbarossa” included 12 divisions from Romania, 3 from Hungary, 2 from Finland, 3 from Slovakia, 3 from Italy, 1 from Spain, many Ukrainians
 - Germany treats Western subjects according to treaties (except Jews), but treats Soviet citizens like animals (“Einsatzgruppen” exterminate civilians)

The Modern Age

- World War II
 - Britain's weakness: air, naval and military power thinly stretched over a vast area, i.e. vulnerable everywhere
 - Britain's advantage: able to draw manpower and resources from five continents (e.g., largest oil reserves in the world)

The Modern Age

- World War II
 - World War I: a static war
 - World War II: a war of mobility (sea, land, air)
 - The German army that invaded the Soviet Union counted on 600,000 motor vehicles
 - The main goal of Germany's Soviet invasion was not Moscow but the Caucasus
 - A war of mobility depends more on fuel than on men

The Modern Age

- World War II
 - Hitler's oil source: Romania + synthetic oil
 - Japan's oil source: USA
 - Russia's oil source: Caucasus
 - Britain's oil source: USA and colonies
 - Japan-USA war: the first oil war
 - 1944: Britain controls 2.2 billion tons of oil reserves, the USA controls 1.8 billion
 - USA oil embargo (july 1941)
 - Japan plan to invade oil-rich countries in Southeast Asia
 - Only one impediment: Pearl Harbor fleet (Dec 7, 1941)

The Modern Age

- World War II
 - A war in which motor vehicles and mass production matter more than the army (the USA leads in both, Britain alone produces more motor vehicles than Germany+Japan+Italy)

The Modern Age

- World War II
 - A new war strategy: using air power to destroy the military industrial base of the enemy, i.e. the enemy's ability to wage war
 - Air power in World War I: to kill troops, basically a machine gun from the air
 - How to destroy the enemy's capability to wage war before World War II: acts of sabotage
 - After World War II: air bombing and missiles

The Modern Age

- World War II
 - German blitzkrieg
 - The limits imposed to Germany by the Treaty of Versailles force Germany to invest in new technology (tanks, airplanes, radios) and invent a new form of warfare, the blitzkrieg
 - Panzer war
 - Air force
 - U-boat
 - More modern weapons and vehicles

The Modern Age

- World War II
 - Battle of Britain (aug 1940 - may 1941)
 - First battle fought entirely in the air
 - Radar
 - Battle of the Coral Sea (May 1942)
 - Deciphering the Japanese code
 - First battle fought entirely by aircraft carriers

The Modern Age

- World War II
 - Hitler's mistakes
 - Not to finish Britain when he could have
 - Invading Russia
 - Declaring war to the USA
 - Not coordinating the war with Japan
 - Not investing in high technology
 - Insufficient war economy to maintain armed forces of 13 million people
 - Expelling and killing Jewish scientists, thus destroying Germany's lead in Physics and giving Jewish scientists abroad a motivation to build the atomic weapon

The Modern Age

- World War II
 - USA and Britain use advanced technology to fight the global war (computers, radar, weapons of mass destruction, advanced manufacturing), whereas Germany and Japan use old technology (men, tanks, planes, submarines, artillery)
 - USA and Britain coordinate the global war, whereas Germany and Japan act independently
 - USA and Britain belong to a new era of warfare, Germany and Japan belong to an old era

The Modern Age

- World War II
 - USA economy applies Ford's model to the military industry
 - One B24 bomber every 63 minutes
 - One freighter every 42 days
 - Total of 6,500 ships, 296,400 airplanes, 86,330 tanks, 3.5 million vehicles, etc manufactured in four years
 - GNP increases 56% from 1940 to 1945
 - Unemployment virtually 0%
 - Mass emigration of black families to the northern cities

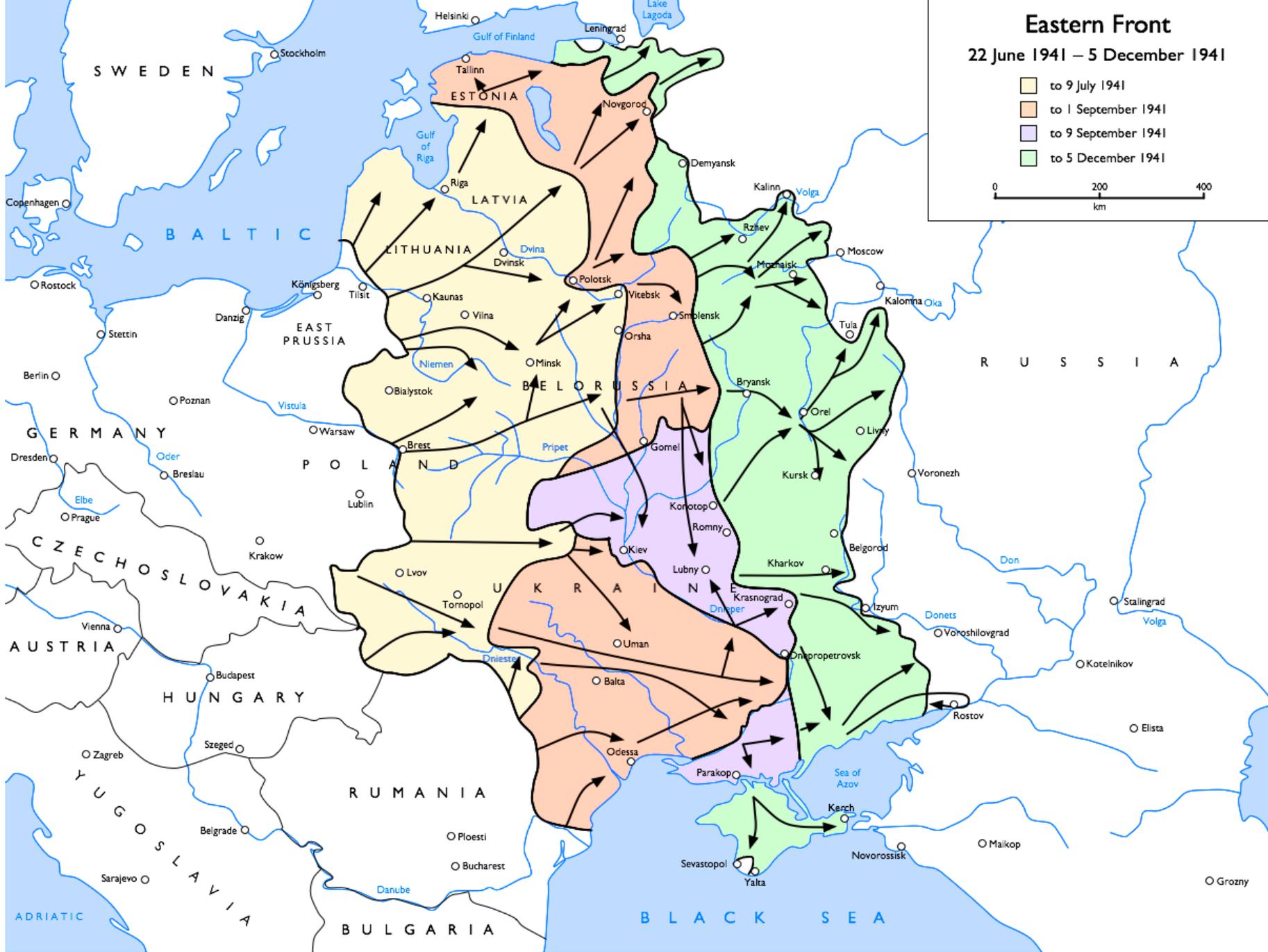
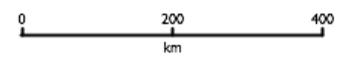
The Modern Age

- World War II
 - Leningrad (jul 1941 - jan 1944)
 - More than one million casualties
 - Finnish army alongside the Germans
 - Stalingrad (sep 1942 - jan 1943)
 - Largest production base of the Soviet Union
 - Secondary objective: oil fields of the Caucasus
 - Kursk (jul 1943 - sep 1943)
 - First battle almost entirely fought by tanks (Germany loses 100,000 men and 1,000 tanks)
 - American aid through Gulf and Bering
 - Tehran conference (1943) between Roosevelt, Stalin, Churchill

Eastern Front

22 June 1941 – 5 December 1941

- to 9 July 1941
- to 1 September 1941
- to 9 September 1941
- to 5 December 1941



The Modern Age

- World War II
 - Bombing of Germany (jun 1943 - 1945)
 - Britain and USA prefer air bombings over land invasions because it maximizes the benefits of high-tech industrial productivity and destroys Germany's war economy
 - UK Air Force: night bombing (carpet bombing, feb 1942 on Luebeck)
 - US Air Force: daylight surgical strikes (aug 1942)
 - Combined effect: round-the-clock bombing
 - 40,000 dead in Hamburg (jul-aug 1943)
 - 135,000 dead in Dresden (feb 1945)
 - Germany: V1 (jun 1944) and V2 (sep 1944) rockets

The Modern Age

- World War II
 - Guadalcanal (feb 1943): first major USA victory
 - Capture of Saipan (jul 1944) allows USA use it as a base for B-29 bombers to bomb Japan's mainland cities
 - Iwo Jima (mar 1945)
 - Okinawa (jun 1945): final land battle of World War II, 110,000 Japanese and 12,000 American troops dead (meant to serve as a staging area for an invasion of Japan)

The Modern Age

- World War II/ China: The Flying Tigers

See <monument/china/chongqin.html>

The Modern Age

- A war of extermination
 - Never before in human history were so many people killed by so few.
 - Treblinka: 25 Germans and 100 Ukrainian volunteers killed 800,000 Jews and gypsies between July 1942 and August 1943

The Modern Age

- A war of extermination
 - Germany
 - Genocide (1941-45)
 - Jews 5.7m out of 9.7m
 - Gypsies 250,000 out of 1.25m (20%)
 - Untermensch (the Slavs)
 - Russians 3.3m (57% of Soviet prisoners died in German prison camps, versus 3.5% of USA/UK prisoners Ukrainians 3m)
 - Poles 2.4m
 - Belarus 1.4m
 - Leningrad siege (1941-43)
 - Russians 1.5m

The Modern Age

- A war of extermination
 - Ustasha (1941-44)
 - More than 300,000 Serbs, Bosnians and Jews

The Modern Age

- A war of extermination
 - Jewish holocaust

Country	Pre-war Jewish Population	Estimated Murdered
Austria	185,000	50,000
Belgium	66,000	25,000
Bohemia/Moravia	118,000	78,000
Bulgaria	50,000	0
Denmark	8,000	60
Estonia	4,500	2,000
Finland	2,000	7
France	350,000	77,000
Germany	565,000	142,000
Greece	75,000	65,000
Hungary	825,000	550,000
Italy	44,500	7,500
Latvia	91,500	70,000
Lithuania	168,000	140,000
Luxembourg	3,500	1,000
Netherlands	140,000	100,000
Norway	1,700	762
Poland	3,300,000	3,000,000
Romania	609,000	270,000
Slovakia	89,000	71,000
Soviet Union	3,020,000	1,000,000
Yugoslavia	78,000	60,000
Total:	9,793,700	5,709,329

The Modern Age

- A war of extermination/ Jews
 - Anti-semitism all over Europe
 - Step 1: Hitler favors mass expulsion of Jews, but the rest of Europe does not welcome new immigrants (high unemployment) and Britain limits the number of Jews admitted to Palestine (Arab opposition)
 - Step 2: Hitler uses Jews as slave labor, but soon he has so many prisoners of war that he doesn't need the Jews
 - Step 3: Since he doesn't want Jews and doesn't need their slave labor, the "ultimate solution" is to kill them all

The Modern Age

- A war of extermination/ POWs
 - 57% of Soviet prisoners of war died in German captivity
 - 37% of German prisoners of war died in Soviet captivity
 - Almost half of the population of Leningrad perished in the 900-day siege

The Modern Age

- A war of extermination/ German racist imperialism
 - Self-fulfilling racist ideology of the
Untermenschen: reduce the "inferior" races to
animals through starvation
 - Starvation as a weapon of mass destruction and as
a method of ethnic cleansing
 - Ethnic cleansing via transfer/deportation of
populations
 - Slave labor in concentration camps

The Modern Age

- A war of extermination/ Japan
 - 13/12/1937 - 3/1938: Rape of Nanking or "Nanjing Datusha" (369,366 Chinese killed, and 80,000 women raped)
 - 18/4/1942: 250,000 Chinese civilians murdered in retaliation for Chinese help to USA airmen
 - 23/12/1943 - 14/2/1944: Rape of Manila (all male Filipinos 14 and older condemned to die, 100,000 killed)
 - 1937-45: Forced prostitution or "jugun ianfu" (400,000 Chinese women, 250,000 Korean women, 90% death rate, largest and most deadly mass rape recorded in history)
 - 1933: Shiro Ishii's medical experiments in Manchuria (victims vivisected while still alive)

The Modern Age

- A war of extermination/ Japan
 - Only nation that used biological weapons in WW II
 - 1939: Shiro Ishii's biological experiments in Harbin, China (10,000 prisoners died)
 - 1940: Air bombing of Chinese villages with germs of bubonic plague (october 1940, Quzhou), cholera (1940, Yunnan), anthrax, etc (200,000 die)
 - Only nation that used chemical weapons in WW II

The Modern Age

- A war of extermination/ Japan
 - POW camps
 - 10 million Asians were used as slaves and only 5,000 or so survivors may still be alive.
 - Death rate in Japanese prisoner camps: 38.2 %
 - 25/4/1943-6/44: 16,000 PoWs and 80,000 Asian slave labourers died constructing the Thai-Burma railway

The Modern Age

- A war of extermination/ Japan



The Modern Age

- A war of extermination/ Japan
 - Japan is responsible for the casualties of more than 20 millions in Asia
 - Germany let 3 million Russian prisoners of war die of starvation, disease, etc
 - Russia killed or let die 300,000 German POWs
 - Germany: program to exterminate a people
 - Japan: exercise in terror to subjugate a people

The Modern Age

- A war of extermination/ Japan
 - Dehumanization of the army
 - Japanese citizens indoctrinated since elementary school that the Chinese are animals
 - A single unit of the 16th Japanese division killed 15,000 Chinese prisoners during the Rape of Nanjing
 - New recruits forced to watch Chinese prisoners tortured to death
 - Women killed with bamboo poles in their vaginas after gang rapes
 - Gang rapes encouraged (up to 30 soldiers per Chinese woman)
 - Military brothels ("comfort women" from China and Korea)

The Modern Age

- A war of extermination/ Japan
 - Indonesia: Japanese troops kill most white males and gang rape white females
 - Indonesian and Dutch women forced to have sex (daily quota of 20 soldiers and senior officers at night)
 - More than 100,000 women forced into sex slavery by the Japanese (mostly Koreans, but also Malays, Singaporean Chinese, Filipina and Javanese)

The Modern Age

- A war of extermination
 - Area bombing
 - Warsaw (1939)
 - Hamburg (july 1943): 45,000
 - Dresden (feb 1945): 135,000
 - 593,000 civilians killed by Allied bombings
 - Tokyo (may 1945): 80,000
 - Hiroshima (aug 1945): 150,000
 - Nagasaki (aug 1945): 100,000

The Modern Age

- A war of extermination
 - Area bombing

Selected bombing campaigns of the second world war

Target	Estimated deaths	Date	Perpetrator
Warsaw, Poland	25,800	Sep 1939	Germany
Britain <i>(of which London)</i>	40,000 <i>(20,000)</i>	Sep 1940-May 1941	Germany
Dresden, Germany	18,000	Feb 13th-15th 1945	Britain & US
Japan* <i>(of which Tokyo†)</i>	300,000 <i>(100,000†)</i>	Nov 1944-Aug 1945	United States
☢ Hiroshima, Japan	140,000	Aug 6th 1945	United States
☢ Nagasaki, Japan	74,000	Aug 9th 1945	United States

Source: *The Economist*

*Excludes atomic bombs †March 9th-10th 1945

The Modern Age

- World War II
 - The first information war
 - Germany: Enigma machine
 - US & UK: the computer

The Modern Age

- World War II
 - WW1: End of the multi-ethnic empire within Europe (notable exception: Soviet Union)
 - WW2: End of the European empires outside Europe
 - Cold War: End of the Soviet Union (last multi-ethnic empire run by Europeans)

The Modern Age

- World War II
 - Reversal of fortunes
 - USSR: Caucasus (nov 1942)
 - UK: Northern Africa (may 1943)
 - UK and USA: 30% of U-boats destroyed at sea (may 1943)
 - US: Pacific (jun 1943 -): American long-range bombers
 - UK+US: Italy (jul 1943 - may 1945)
 - UK+US: France (jun 1944): Allied air superiority
 - USSR: Romania (aug 1944)
 - USSR: Bulgaria (sep 1944)
 - USSR: Finland (sep 1944)
 - USSR: Yugoslavia (oct 1944)
 - USSR: Hungary (nov 1944)
 - USSR+UK+US: Germany (oct 1944 - apr 1945)
 - US: Philippines (oct 1944 -): kamikaze (jan 1945)
 - US: Bombing of Japan (nov 1944 -)
 - USSR: Poland (dec 1944)
 - Yalta conference (feb 1945)

The Modern Age

- World War II Casualties (military+civilian):
 - Soviet Union 13m + 7m (Ukraine 7m, Belarus 2.2m)
 - Indonesia 4m
 - China 3.5m + 10m
 - Germany 3.25m + 3.8m (2m Jews)
 - Japan 1.75m + 380,000
 - Vietnam 1m
 - Poland 600,000 + 5.3m (3m Jews)
 - British Empire 452,000 + 60,000
 - U.S.A. 400,000 + 0
 - Italy 330,000 + 80,000
 - Yugoslavia 300,000 + 1.3m
 - France 250,000 + 360,000
 - Romania 200,000 + 465,000
 - Hungary 120,000 + 280,000
 - Philippines 120,000
 - Finland 100,000
 - Malaysia 100,000

Allies: 44m

Axis: 11m

Military: 25m

Civilian: 30m

The Modern Age

- A war of wars
 - Western front: Germany vs Britain
 - Eastern front: Germany vs Soviet Union
 - Pacific war: Japan vs USA and Britain
 - Chinese war: Japan vs China
 - Ethnic civil wars (ethnic cleansing) all over Eastern Europe
 - Serb communists (Tito) vs Croatian fascists (Ustasha)
 - Greek communists (ELAS) vs nationalists (Zervas) + Crete partisans are strongly anticommunist

World War II

- New borders/ Poland



World War II

- Sharing the responsibility
 - Britain: Britain had one of the largest crowds of Hitler sympathizers in the world
 - France: very few French volunteered to fight against Hitler
 - France: French agriculture and industry worked for the German army and people
 - Italy: there were no partisans fighting Mussolini before he started losing the war
 - Poland: anti-semitism was already rampant before Hitler invaded Poland
 - Romania: Romania was second only to Germany in killing Jews and Gypsies (200-300,000)

World War II

- Sharing the responsibility
 - Soviet Union: many Soviet citizens (e.g., in Ukraine) welcomed Hitler's army and enrolled to fight Stalin
 - A million Soviet citizens served in the German army (including the Galician Division of the SS and general Andrey Vlasov's Russian Liberation Army)
 - Most European monarchies collaborated with Germany and Italy
 - Denmark provided 20% of Germany's needs in butter, pork and beef
 - Croatia: Ustasha killed more than 300,000 Serbs, Muslims and Jews
 - Sweden was told of the extermination camps in 1942 by Baron von Otter but decided to hide the information

World War II

- **Sharing the responsibility**
 - Sweden and the Soviet Union kept supplying Germany even after the invasion of Poland
 - Soviet Union: unprovoked invasion of Poland (1939), Finland (1939), Lithuania (1940), Latvia (1940), Estonia (1940), Bulgaria (1944), Japan (1945)
 - Mao saw Chiang as his #1 enemy, not the Japanese
 - France: After the war, France did to Algeria and Vietnam what Germany wanted to do to France
 - Very few rebellions by Jews, who were mostly obedient

World War II

- **Sharing the responsibility**
 - All of Europe: Poland was the only country in which very few people collaborated with the German occupation troops and from the beginning there was a strong anti-Nazi resistance movement
 - Polish resistance (1939): nationalist
 - Serbia and Albania (1941): communist
 - Greece (1942): communist

World War II

- **Sharing the responsibility**
 - USA: opposition to the war against Hitler was always high
 - The USA did not condemn Japanese expansionism until 1939
 - Belgium and Holland remained neutral until invaded (Holland had been neutral also in WWI)

World War II

- **Sharing the responsibility**
 - Many corporations benefited from the war
 - IG Farben
 - used Auschwitz prisoners as slave labor for its Buna Werke
 - manufactured the poison gas used in concentration camps
 - employed doctor Helmut Vetter who conducted experiments on Auschwitz prisoners
 - launched a project to invent chemical castration of the conquered Slavs

World War II

- On the other hand...
 - Germany: many German officers, intellectuals and politicians plotted to overthrow Hitler throughout his reign, with two major assassination attempts in 1939 and 1944 (and one involving Rommel himself)

World War II

- Sharing the responsibility
 - Europe did not forgive Hitler for “the fact that he applied to Europe the colonial practices that had previously only be applied to the Arabs of Algeria, the coolies of India, and the Negroes of Africa” (Aime Cesaire, “Discourse on Colonialism”, 1951)

World War II

- Sharing the responsibility
 - The German invasion of France in 1940 caused minimal destruction to historical buildings and few civilian casualties, but the Allied invasion of Germany killed about one million German civilians and destroyed thousands of monuments
 - The German blitz on Britain of 1939-40 killed 40,000 civilians, but the Allied bombing offensive of 1943-45 killed about 500,000 German civilians (British concentrated on night-time carpet bombing of German cities, which killed mostly civilians, whereas Americans concentrated on daytime bombing of industrial and military targets)

World War II

- Sharing the responsibility: where are the innocents?
 - Italy: ally of Hitler
 - Finland: ally of Hitler
 - Hungary: ally of Hitler
 - Romania: ally of Hitler
 - Bulgaria: ally of Hitler
 - Slovakia: ally of Hitler
 - Croatia: ally of Hitler
 - France: ally of Hitler
 - Switzerland: banker of Hitler, deported thousands of Jews
 - Spain: did not participate, but supported Hitler
 - Portugal: did not participate, but supported Hitler
 - Sweden: let Germany use its territory to avoid an invasion
 - Ireland: declared netutrality after Germany started war
 - Soviet Union: secret pact with Hitler to split Poland
 - USA: declared netutrality after Germany started war

World War II

- The viewpoint of the colonies
 - Japan's propaganda is credible: liberation of Asia from European oppression
 - Britain's propaganda is hypocritical (defense of the empire means continued oppression of colonies, it asks to fight in the name of freedom and democracy but refuses to promise them to its own colonies)
 - Germany and Italy miss the opportunity to denounce Britain's hypocrisy (except to the Arab world)
 - Russia's propaganda is credible internally to defend from aggressor
 - USA's propaganda is consistent: a war for freedom and democracy against fascism

World War II

- The viewpoint of the Asian colonies
 - The elite is motivated but incapable of war
 - The masses are capable of war but not motivated (except the Philippines that have been promised full independence)
 - The masses are indifferent because it is a war between two evils: European oppression (that has pros) and Japanese “liberation” (that has cons)
 - Compare with China, that is both motivated and capable

World War II

- British Empire
 - Britain mortgaged to the USA to pay for armament
 - Britain subcontracts the defense of the colonies to the USA
 - Britain's goal: preservation of the empire (not freedom)
 - USA's goal: freedom
 - Mood of British public: the war in Europe is a war against (German) oppression, the war in Asia is a war in defense of (European) oppression
 - Mood of USA public: endemic anti-imperialism

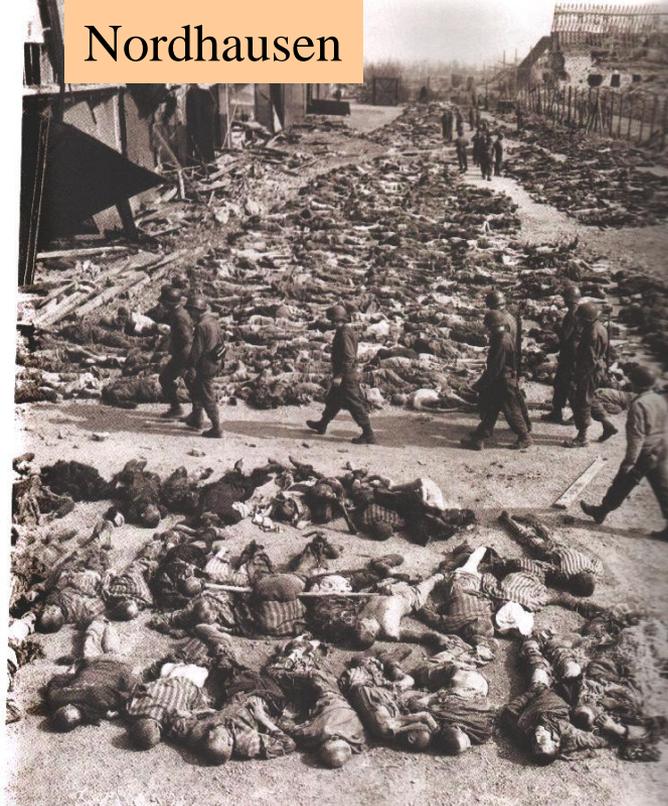
World War II

- Unfinished business
 - The Soviet occupation of Eastern Europe causes the Cold War
 - Japan's occupation of Asia leads to the anticolonial wars (eg Vietnam) and to the Chinese civil war
 - The relocation of Jews to Israel causes the Middle Eastern wars
 - Yugoslavia's civil war
 - Millions of Soviet deserters and "traitors" end up in the Soviet gulags

World War II

- Terrorism cures militarism
 - The British and US bombing campaigns destroyed Germany and Japan
 - Before the war: Germany and Japan were the most militaristic countries in the world
 - After the war: Germany and Japan become the most pacifist countries in the world

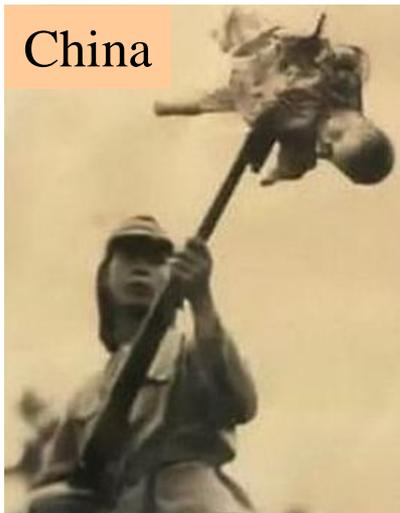
Nordhausen



Auschwitz



China

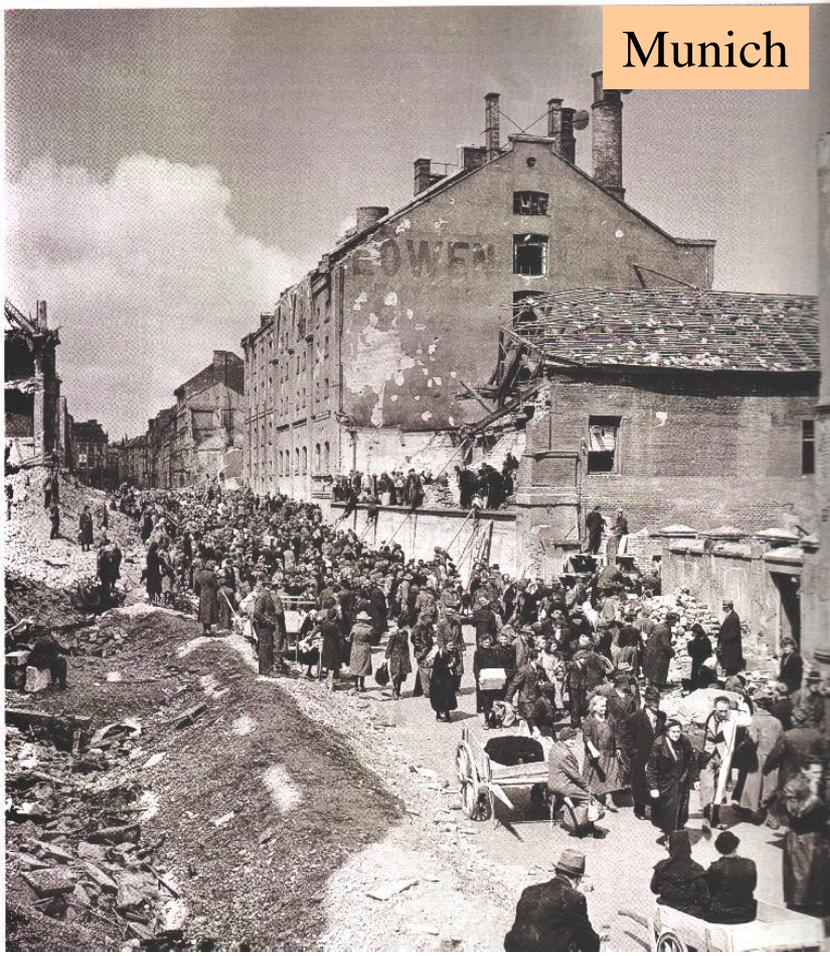


Nanking



Mizocz, Ukrain, october 1942
(mostly naked women)

Munich



Dresden



Chinese and Koreans buried alive by the Japanese



Ustasha sawing the head of a prisoner (Croatia)

Nagasaki



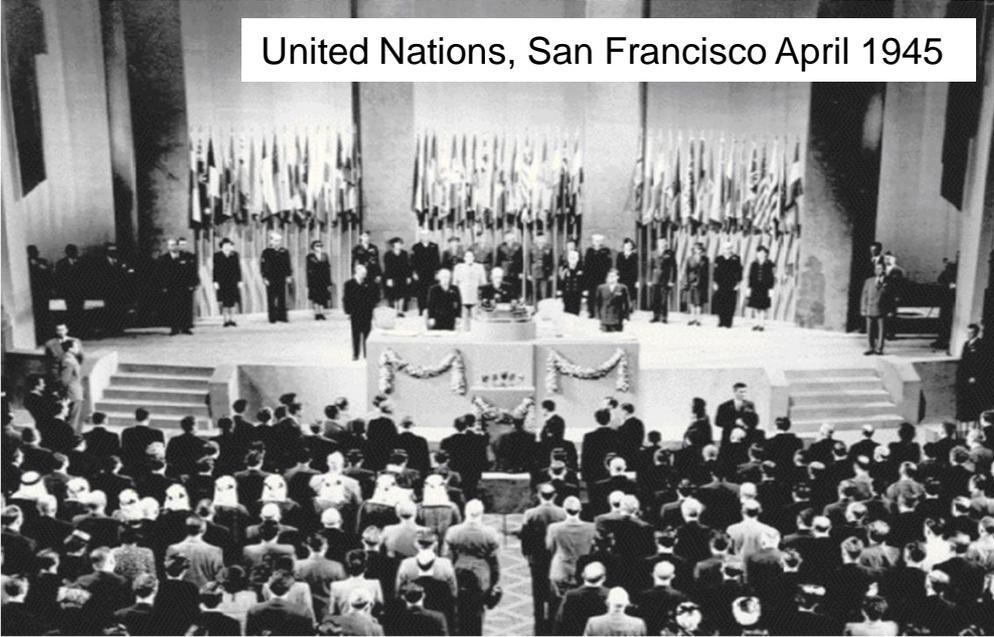
Hiroshima





Photo # USA C-1861 The "Big Three" at Potsdam, ca. late July 1945

United Nations, San Francisco April 1945



Modern World

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