

The War Against Germany

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When the United States entered the war, **Hitler controlled most of Europe and North Africa.**

Roosevelt decided to **commit most U.S. forces to defeating Nazi Germany** first, because he believed that Germany was **a greater military threat than Japan.**

Hitler's Plan

Hitler planned to reorganize Europe along racial lines. Germans were to be the new ruling class, and other peoples would be turned into slaves.

Jews, Gypsies, Poles, the elderly, the disabled and mentally ill people would be exterminated through mass murder.

These plans led to the Holocaust – the murder of six million Jews and six million other people in concentration camps, where they were tortured, starved, gassed and their bodies burned in large ovens.

The War in Europe

Hitler had defeated France and was in control of western Europe. He had also signed a pact of non-aggression with the Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Soviet Union. Hitler went back on his word when he suddenly **invaded the Soviet Union in 1941.** He hoped to use the **rich resources of the Soviet Union** to win the war. This proved to be **one of Hitler's greatest mistakes.** The German invasion was **stopped by the bitter cold of the Russian winter and the refusal of the Russian people to surrender.**

Churchill, Roosevelt and the Second Front

After two years of fierce fighting, **Soviet troops started pushing the Germans back in 1943.**

Meanwhile, **Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill promised Stalin that they would open a second front against Germany in the west,** to relieve the pressure on the Soviet army. **Late in 1942, British and American troops landed in North Africa.**

The Collapse of Nazi Germany

After defeating German forces in North Africa, the **Allies landed troops in Italy.**

Finally, on **D-Day (June 6, 1944)** Allied troops **landed on the French coast (Normandy).**

They advanced quickly to **free Paris** from Nazi control. **American, British and French forces then invaded Germany from the west, while the Soviets attacked from the east.** By **spring 1945**, the **Soviet army captured Berlin**, the German capital.

Hitler committed suicide and **Germany surrendered.**