Blitzkrieg

Indiana World History Standards

WH.8.1 Trace and explain the causes, major events and global consequences of World War I.

WH.8.3 Compare the totalitarian ideologies, institutions and leaders of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Germany and Italy in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s.

WH.8.4 Identify and analyze the causes, events and consequences of World War II.

WH.8.5 Explain the origins and purposes of international alliances in the context of World War I and World War II.

Today’s Objectives

- To understand the alliances that defined the second world war

- To understand the initial advance of the Axis
• The Wrong War

→ Hitler believes invasion of Poland will bring USSR into the war
  ...signs the Nazi-Soviet Pact in 1939
  - split Poland in half
  - For Hitler, avoids two-front war
    ...but only a delay, he wants the USSR
  - For Stalin, delay the war until the USSR is ready
→ Why was it the “wrong war”?
  ...Hitler was fighting against the country he admired: Great Britain
  - British dominance of “inferior races”
  ...allied with the country he despised: USSR

Nazi-Soviet Pact
• Axis vs Allies (1939-1945)

→ Axis Powers

Germany ........... Adolf Hitler
Italy ................ Benito Mussolini
Japan ............ Hirohito

→ Allied Powers

Great Britain ........ Winston Churchill
France ............ Charles de Gaulle
USSR (1941) ........ Joseph Stalin
USA (1941) ........ Franklin Roosevelt & Harry S. Truman
...

...China, Poland, Canada, Belgium, Australia, Greece, Netherlands... et al
• Lightning War

→ Germany uses “blitzkrieg” captures 6 nations in 4 months…
  …including France
  …Germany secures western front

→ Britain is the only remaining European Power, but will not negotiate with Germany
  …Germany launches “The Blitz” to destroy British will to fight and to take London in 1941
  …ultimately fails

[Hitler in Paris]
“We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches. We shall fight on the landing grounds. We shall fight in the fields and in the streets. We shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender!”
Essential Question

Why was World War II the “wrong war”?

Target Questions

• What was the Nazi-Soviet Pact?
• Who were the main combatants on each side of the WWII?
  • What was the “Blitz”?

Required Reading Question(s)

1) Why did Hitler feel justified in taking over Austria and the Sudetenland?