

# World War II Timeline

*Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few*—Winston Churchill, on the Battle of Britain, the first major defeat for the Nazi war machine



US soldiers hoist American flag on the island of Iwo Jima—a 20 km<sup>2</sup> island that took the 100,000 US soldiers 5 weeks to capture, at the cost of 25,000 American casualties; of the more than 22,000 Japanese soldiers there, only 1,000 prisoners were taken.

Europe		Pacific
	<b>1931</b>	Japan occupies Manchuria (northeast China)
Hitler instates the draft, signs Anglo-German Naval Agreement	<b>1935</b>	
Hitler re-occupies Rhineland	<b>1936</b>	
	<b>1937</b>	Japan initiates full-scale war with China
Hitler annexes Austria, part of Czechoslovakia	<b>1938</b>	
Hitler signs Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, a non-aggression treaty, dividing Poland with Russia; and also trade agreements	<b>1939</b>	
Hitler invades Poland (Sep 1); England and France declare war		
Germany conquers France; Evacuation at Dunkirk	<b>1940</b>	Japan invades French Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos)
Battle of Britain (Germany bombs Britain) (July-Oct 1940)		
Operation Barbarossa (Germany invades USSR)	<b>1941</b>	Roosevelt freezes Japanese assets in the US, and stops oil sales to Japan; Japan invades Dutch East Indies (Indonesia)
		Japan attacks Pearl Harbor; and also Hong Kong, and other British naval targets
Battle of Stalingrad (Aug 42-Feb 43)	<b>1942</b>	Battle of Midway
D-Day—Allied invasion of Normandy, France (June 6)	<b>1944</b>	
Germany surrenders unconditionally	<b>1945</b>	Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Japan surrenders unconditionally