

SONKALMUN'26

JCC

Study Guide

Agenda Item:

Soviet Union vs German Reich

Under-Secretary

Generals: Alisa Uluk & Arda Tuna



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Letter from the Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

It's my ultimate pleasure to welcome you as the secretary general of the very first edition of ŞÖNKALMUN. We as the ŞÖNKALMUN'26 Team are very thrilled to see our participants in our conference since each and every member of this team showed an extraordinary effort to organize the best potential conference. All our efforts are aimed at providing our participants with an enjoyable time. We can't wait to see the result of our unbelievable effort, sleepless nights, tears and unbelievable team work.

In ŞÖNKALMUN we expect our delegates to speak up, raise their voice for those who can't, examine and carry the problems of others. This is not just an event. We are aiming to raise awareness about our global problems. The agenda items of this year were selected with great care and attention to detail to give our delegates the opportunity to speak about the problems we need to be worried about. We highly encourage our delegates to defend their ideas and not be afraid to express themselves. No matter your country or your role, everyone's ideas are important and worth listening to. In events like this it's true that everyone has their own ideas and everyone tries to support their ideas but it doesn't mean that they are judging your ideas. MUN is about collaborating with communities and finding common solutions. Remember the problems you talk about this committee are real problems in daily life.

In order to achieve the conference's objectives, the delegates' contributions are just as important as our own efforts. This conference will be meaningful when you actively participate, share your ideas, and strive to gain something from the experience. My words are not sufficient to tell you how excited we are to see you in our event. We have planned these 3 days for a long time to give you an unforgettable experience. The friendships we've formed here, the debating skills we've developed, and the diplomatic solutions you've found form the core of these events. Speaking for all the ŞÖNKALMUN team I want to thank all of you for not leaving us alone in our journey.

Best Regards
Asya Kökce
Secretary-General

Letters from the Under-Secretary-Generals

Dear delegates,

I am Alisa Uluk and I will be one of your Under-Secretary Generals for this committee. I'm 17 years old and in 11th grade. It is my pleasure to welcome you to our engaging and challenging crisis committee. This committee will explore critical historical events, and your active participation will be essential for shaping outcomes and understanding complex decision making processes.

Enclosed in this study guide, you will find essential background information, historical context, and key issues relevant to the committee's topic. Please read it thoroughly, as it will prepare you to engage in debating within the committee, writing directives and responding to evolving crises effectively.

This committee was one of my dream committees so I hope that this journey will be a fun ride for both of us. We look forward to your contributions and anticipate a productive and fun experience. Please prepare elaborately and be ready to engage fully in the unfolding crisis. If you have any questions or suspense about anything, feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,
Alisa Uluk
Under-Secretary-General
Historical Joint Crisis Committee

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Esteemed delegates,

I am Arda Tuna, one of the Under-Secretary Generals of the committee who is a 10th grade student in Kadikoy Anatolian High school. This committee will bring you to the most acute conflicts of all time, the Eastern Front where there is nothing except bombs and pure chaos. I wish you all a wonderful three days and hope that we manage to get through the war without having any issues. There is no doubt that you are going to do a very good job during the committee. If you have any questions or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Arda Tuna
Under-Secretary-General
Historical Joint Crisis Committee

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1. Crisis Committee Procedure

JCC (Joint Crisis Committee) does not follow the same procedure with normal Model United Nations committees, which is the GA (General Assembly) procedure. In crisis committees, delegates must write directives for the functioning of the committee. There are no motions, no GSL (General Speakers List) or resolution papers. You are only going to write directives to maintain the committee. In crisis committees, actions speak louder than words and to take action, directives are written.

What is a Directive?

Directives are the main documents for a crisis committee which include explanation of an order, a plan or an operation. A directive's writer appoints someone or a group of people to put the operation into reality. Therefore, delegates are capable of shaping and styling the future of the committee with these several papers of directives where you state your plans and send it to the crisis team of the committee. Afterwards, you receive updates from the crisis team, to learn about the result of your directive. There are two outcomes for your directives, they will either pass or be rejected. In order to make your directive pass, you need to follow certain rules. There are 6 types of directives and 2 main rules in order to write a directive.

Types of a Directive

1. 1. Personal Directive

A personal directive is one of the most popular directive types that delegates prefer using, since most of the directives are written personally in a crisis committee most of the time. A personal directive is when a delegate writes it by themselves without collaborating with other delegates. You can use this type of directive when you want to work on your own or write a short directive.

1. 2. Joint Directive

A joint directive is also one of the popular directives in a crisis committee. However, it's different from the personal directive as delegates collaborate with each other in order to write this directive without writing it by themselves. You can utilize this type of directive when you want to collaborate with other delegates (which you should) as you need to share the parts of a long directive in order to earn time. Group work is also essential.

1. 3. Committee Directive

A committee directive is analogous with the joint directive, but it needs approvals of all the members of the committee/cabinet to be sent to the crisis team. You can use this type of directive when you are writing a full-scale attack or defense directive which is extremely significant regarding the fate of the committee.

1. 4. Press Release

A press release is a specific type of directive which you can write on your own or you can collaborate with other delegates, it does not matter. Its content includes the message that you want it to be sent to the public. The message and the explanation of the release are enough to be written to the directive. For instance, you can utilize this type of directive when you want to make a 'call to arms' or make a public speech to your people.

1. 5. Top Secret

Top Secret directive is a directive type that you should write on your own and do it secretly. This directive can be used while assassinating, poisoning someone or doing something secretly without wanting the other delegates to find out. Additionally, since we are in a JCC, you can use it in order to betray your own side. However, while writing and trying to send this type of directive, you should be very careful. If you get caught by your Chairboard Members while writing a top secret, you will face the negative consequences. They can read your directive to the committee out loud and reveal your secret plans to others so that your directive isn't just rejected, but your committee also knows your plans and can be against you. Therefore, you should deliver the directive to the crisis team secretly, without being seen. This directive type is not generally recommended because it needs to be

written very neatly in order to pass. If it gets rejected, you may face real negative consequences.

1. 6. Information Directive

Information directives are utilized to learn something that you want to know. Basically, you will write this directive in order to learn the required information for writing your other directives. For example, you can ask your army's current location, situation, magnitude etc. However, you can not ask the enemy army's situation since you need to write another directive for gathering intel about the enemy side.

Main Rules to Write a Directive

1. 2. 1. Being Over-Specific

While writing a directive, you need to be over-specific about what you are writing. Because your subjects can go to a wrong region, can kill the wrong person, can do the wrong thing if the region, person or thing is not mentioned with adequate details in the directive, which is a non-specific directive. Your directive must be able to answer WH questions (Turkish: 5N1K) (who, what, where, when, why, which, whose, how, how many). Additionally, explanation of sources is exceedingly pivotal as you have better mention about the fulfillment of required sources such as money, oil, water.

1. 2. 2. If Clauses

In your directive, you must not make “storytelling”. Storytelling means that you state your all plans are going to excellently be successful, which is an impossible thing. In every plan, there may be hitches. And if you do not add if clauses which explain what you will do when there is a hitch, you will make “storytelling” and your directive will go wrong. Furthermore, you can use “I am planning to do...” instead of “I am going to do” in order to avoid storytelling. For example, if you want to write a directive about crossing a bridge, you need to make plans A,B,C,D etc. Like, I will try to cross the bridge by walking on it from this point to this point (plan A). If the bridge collapses, I will try to swim from this point to this point (plan B). If I don't know how to swim, I will try to hold onto something so that I don't drown (plan C). This goes on like this. If you don't have enough or detailed if clauses, your directive will most probably be rejected.

2. Historical Background

2. 1. Rise of Nazi Germany

After World War I, the Treaty of Versailles punished Germany harshly. The effects of the treaty were even harsher, causing an economic collapse, national humiliation and a desire for revenge. The German empire had collapsed, and the Weimar Republic had taken its place. However, democracy was weak because it had; too many political parties, frequent elections and a lack of trust. Therefore, the people wanted a strong leader instead of weak coalitions.

On January 30 1933, President Paul von Hindenburg appointed Adolf Hitler as Chancellor, which began the rise of the Nazi Germany. He was the head of the government at first, not a total ruler yet. The Nazis were popular but did not control everything.

In Berlin on February 27 1933, The Reichstag Fire happened. It was an arson attack on the German parliament building. It became a decisive turning point in the establishment of the Nazi dictatorship, allowing Adolf Hitler to suspend constitutional rights and consolidate power under emergency decrees. He blamed communists for this act, telling it was a communist revolution plan, although Van der Lubbe said that he planned and acted the attack by himself.

One month later, The Enabling Act of 1933 went into effect. It was a law that gave Hitler the power to make laws without parliament. By allowing the chancellor to override the checks and balances in the constitution, it was a pivotal step in the transition from the democratic Weimar Republic to the totalitarian dictatorship of Nazi Germany. Therefore, democracy was basically destroyed.

Later, he eliminated all opposition and removed internal threats. He banned the other political parties, took control of the media and police and used military fear. Germany was now a one party state, under NSDAP. In June 1934, the Night of the Long Knives happened. It was a purge that included a series of extrajudicial executions intended to consolidate Hitler's power and alleviate the German military's concerns about the role of Ernst Röhm and the Sturmabteilung (SA), the Nazis' paramilitary organization.

At last, in August 1934, President Paul von Hindenburg died and this gave Hitler the chance to become a total dictator. He combined the president and chancellor roles, declaring himself as Führer.

After coming to power, Hitler pursued an aggressive expansionist policy designed to secure Lebensraum (living space) for Germany. In 1938, The Annexation of Austria and Occupation of Czechoslovakia happened. Later, in 1939, The Invasion of Poland happened, which basically triggered World War II. Germany continued to rapidly defeat France and much of Western Europe by 1940, leaving Britain as its primary opponent in the west.

2. 2 Nazi-Soviet Relations

Adolf Hitler and the Nazis were strongly anti-communist while Joseph Stalin led a communist state based on marxism. Nazis believed that communism was jewish conspiracy and a major threat. Simultaneously, Soviets saw fascism as a danger to workers and socialism. Consequently, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union were enemies in ideology.

Despite ideological hostility between Nazism and communism, Germany and the Soviet Union signed the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact in August 1939. It was a non-aggression pact that would later be violated. The pact also included a secret protocol, which was dividing Eastern Europe into spheres of influence and splitting Poland between themselves. This shocked the world because they were supposed to be enemies, however, Hitler always intended to eventually invade the Soviet Union. Additionally, Germany and the USSR were still cooperating for economical matters.

Trade agreements included the USSR supplying oil, grain and raw materials; while Germany was supplying machinery and military technology. This cooperation helped Germany to survive the British blockade. Nevertheless, both sides still distrusted each other and intelligence reports suggested an eventual war.

2. 3 The Eastern Front Before Barbarossa

Eastern Europe was a tense, shifting zone shaped by uneasy cooperation, hidden conflict, and strategic preparation between Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin. The pre Eastern Front effectively begins with the Invasion of Poland, in which Germany had invaded from the west and USSR from the east. Thus, Germany and the USSR became temporary neighbours, a direct border now existing between the two powers. This was crucial because it created the future front line for Operation Barbarossa. Germany controlled most of Europe, including: France, Norway, Poland and the Balkans; meanwhile the Soviet Union had been expanding its borders and strengthening its military. However, the Red Army had serious weaknesses, such as: officer corps weakened by Stalin's purges, logistical

challenges and outdated command structures. Therefore, Germany believed the Soviet Union could be defeated within months.

By early 1941, both sides were secretly preparing, at different levels, for a war. Germany secretly concentrated millions of troops along the Soviet border and developed detailed invasion plans for Operation Barbarossa while the Soviet Union increased troop presence, but was unprepared for immediate war because Joseph Stalin ignored warnings of a German attack and the Red Army was still reorganizing after purges. The USSR expected an eventual war, but not immediately.

2. 4 Operation Barbarossa

On 4:00 AM June 22 1941, Germany launched Operation Barbarossa. It was the largest land invasion in history. The goal was the destruction of the Soviet Union before winter. For this, they had 3 sub goals. First of all, the German doctrine relied on Blitzkrieg tactics: fast-moving Panzer groups, close air support, and encirclement to overwhelm the enemy. Secondly, they aimed to capture the major cities, such as: Moscow (center), Leningrad (north) and Kiev (south). These three objectives divided the front and intended to collapse Soviet command and control. Thirdly and lastly, they wanted to secure resources and planned to seize Ukraine's agriculture and the oil fields in the south. When the German army first moved into action, Stalin, despite numerous intelligence warnings about a possible German invasion, refused to act immediately. He believed Hitler would honor the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. This delay left the Red Army vulnerable and unprepared, with many troops in border positions, exposed to Luftwaffe attacks. Thus, German air strikes destroyed a huge portion of Soviet aircraft on the ground in the first few days.

Subsequently, German forces initially overran Belarus, Lithuania, and Latvia with incredible speed. Although Hitler intended a quick victory and aimed to capture Moscow by autumn, as the Panzer divisions advanced, Hitler began to interfere directly with military strategy; insisting on diverting forces to secondary objectives like Leningrad and Ukraine. Concurrently, Stalin issued a series of harsh directives ordering Soviet troops to hold positions at all costs, even when encirclement was imminent. This caused the Soviets massive losses early in the war.

On June 22, Bialystok–Minsk Pocket occurred. German forces encircled large Soviet armies. Stalin refused calls for tactical retreats; this led to approximately 300,000 Soviet soldiers to be captured. Later, on July 10, the Battle of Smolensk happened. German forces faced stiff resistance. Stalin's insistence on defending cities and counterattacking led to chaotic, disorganized Soviet operations but the Red Army's stubborn defense slowed the Germans, giving time to strengthen Moscow.

By mid summer, Hitler changed strategy. He intervened and split Army Group Center, diverting northern forces toward Leningrad and southern forces toward Ukraine.

This decision reflected Hitler's obsession with ideology over strict military logic and rules. Military advisors warned that this would delay the drive on Moscow but Hitler ignored them. Army Group Center weakened and struggled to maintain its advance on Moscow as autumn approached.

From August to September 1941, Germans were still fast and successful. In the south, they captured Kiev, one of the largest encirclements of the war, trapping over 600,000 Soviet troops. In the north, they reached the outskirts of Leningrad.

However, the city wasn't captured immediately. The Germans laid siege instead, tying down forces that could have helped in the central push toward Moscow.

Meanwhile, Stalin reorganized command and moved officers around, but still underestimated the German's advanced speed and overestimated the Red Army's ability to recover quickly.

On 2 October 1941, Operation Typhoon happened. Germans restarted the push toward Moscow and the initial progress was rapid; Soviet forces were retreating. However, Hitler's strategic micromanagement slowed operations. He often overruled generals who wanted to encircle Moscow from multiple directions to consolidate supply lines. At the same time, Stalin, learning from early disasters, relocated factories to the Urals and called for total mobilization of civilians to support the army, while sending new troops from Siberia once he realized the threat to Moscow was critical.

From October to November, the tides began to shift. German troops reached the Moscow suburbs, but faced increasingly stiff Soviet resistance and counterattacks. Also, supply problems became critical: extended lines, fuel shortages and poor road infrastructure slowed German armor and mechanized units. Still, Hitler refused to allow strategic withdrawals to shorten supply lines, insisting on advancing despite the logistical chaos.

Finally in December 1941, the outcome of the war was determined. The Soviet counteroffensive, using reserves from Siberia and reinforced winter units, struck the German flanks. Thus, German forces; exhausted, low on supplies and unprepared for winter combat, were pushed back several dozen kilometers from Moscow.

Weather conditions, equipment failures due to extreme cold and low morale also led to this outcome. In addition, Soviet units entrenched defensive positions around Moscow and strengthened key suburbs like Mozhaisk. Stalin coordinated a counterattack plan, deliberately luring German troops into overextended positions. Their strategy was to attack the overstretched German lines from the north and south simultaneously and use the fresh Siberian troops and winter-hardened units to exploit Germans' weakness. They also launched massive infantry attacks supported

by artillery, surprising Germans who had expected a stalemate until spring and coordinated counterattacks caused panic among isolated German units, who were already exhausted and lacking supplies. Ultimately, the Soviet Union won Operation Barbarossa, as they successfully prevented the collapse of their government and military and repulsed the German forces.

3. Timeline of Major Events

3.1 Beginning of World War I

World War I began on 28 July 1914 with the declaration of war on the Serbians by Austria-Hungary following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand on 28 June 1914. The war involved major European powers and resulted in huge destruction and loss of lots of lives which led the second biggest war in world history to occur.

3.2. Russian Revolution

Revolution was a series of major events which started with the “February Revolution (February-March, 1917)” that forced Tsar Nicholas II and so his family, House of Romanov, to abdicate due to the unstable situation of the Russian Empire. Afterwards, a provisional government was set up and Russia withdrew from the war by signing the agreement “Brets-Litovsk”. It continued with “October Revolution (November, 1917)” and the “Russian Civil War (1918-1921) which was caused by Bolsheviks with the leadership of Vladimir Lenin. It ended with the declaration of absolute dominance of Bolsheviks and the formation of the USSR in 1922.

3.3 End of World War I and Signature of Treaty of Versailles

By the beginning of 1918, major states of Europe had already started to exhaust and face domestic instability due to the hardship of war. Following the attendance of the USA to the war on the side of the Allied Powers, the German Empire’s situation started to collapse. Consequently, the German Empire surrendered on 11 November 1918 two days after the abdication and escape of Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Peace negotiations took place in Paris where the victorious Allied Powers shaped the future of Europe and certified it under the name of “Treaty of Versailles”. It imposed strict terms on the defeated side, especially the German Empire, by forcing it to take the full economic and political responsibility of the war including paying

war compensations and losing territories. As a result of the German Empire's defeat and revocation of monarchy, a new republic under the name of 'Weimar Republic' was established, but it faced economic depression and political instability because of the hard terms of the treaty.

Meanwhile, the League of Nations was created in order to maintain global peace and prevent possible wars. It first gathered in Paris on 16 January 1920.

3.4 Establishment of National Socialist German Worker's Party

Nazi Party, or officially NSDAP (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei), was a far-right extremist party which had been established in the aftermath of World War I. It originated from a small group called "German Workers' Party (DAP)", that was founded in 1919 in Munich by Karl Harrer and Anton Drexler. The party promoted national socialist, anti-communist and anti-semitic idealism as its appeal was enough to convince people who were not pleased with obstructive terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

The German Workers' Party was reorganized under the name of NSDAP, starting to follow a more structured program that included extremist nationalism, expansionism. Adolf Hitler attended the party in 1919 and quickly became its most influential figure by taking advantage of his powerful speeches and leadership skills. By 1921, he took full control of the party, before transforming it into a massive political movement. The NSDAP later grew rapidly, especially during the period that the government had been struggling with managing the country and facing economic crises.

3.5 Lenin's Death and Stalin's Accession to Power

After Vladimir Lenin's death on 21 January 1924, a power struggle emerged within the Bolsheviks about who would succeed him under the title of leader of the USSR. Lenin had warned about some political figures, including Joseph Stalin, who had been said to concentrate too much power. However, Stalin utilized political pressure, alliances and elimination of rivals in order to secure his position as the Secretary General of the Communist Party, which was the ruling party. After his succession, he established a totalitarian regime in order to annihilate any kind of opposition. He implemented a centralized economic system and collectivization of agriculture.

3.6. NSDAP's Accession to Power

The rise of the Nazi Party mostly depended on Germany's depressive economic status and political instability. Combination of the harsh conditions of the Treaty of Versailles, hyperinflation that was due to the Great Depression in 1929, created full-scale unemployment and so unhappiness. Afterwards, the NSDAP became able to gain support by promising to restore national pride and rebuild the economy. By taking advantage of his strong leadership including massive rallies and propaganda, Adolf Hitler made the party transform into a major political force.

As the Weimar Republic had been weakening day by day, more seats were being gained by NSDAP in parliament and it became the largest party by 1932. Political instability and fear of communism led conservative elites to support Hitler. On 30 January 1933, Adolf Hitler was appointed as the Chancellor of Germany. Soon after, he utilized events such as the Reichstag Fire in order to eliminate the opposition and make laws be ratified that give him dictatorial powers, which end up with the end of democracy and establishment of Nazi rule.

3.7. Italo-Soviet Pact

Italo-Soviet Pact or officially Pact of Friendship Neutrality and Non-Aggression Between Italy and the Soviet Union was an agreement that was signed on 2nd September 1933. Its main goals included guaranteeing non-aggression, reducing political isolation and contributing maintainment of European political balance. Therefore signatories would have remained neutral if another country had been in a war with another country. Its impact had reduced with Italy becoming closer with Nazi Germany.

3.8. Starting of German Rearmament

The process of rearmament began just after the Nazi Party came to power in 1933. It challenged the military restrictions of Treaty of Versailles which limited the German Army to 100.000 soldiers; prohibited production and utilization of tanks, submarines, and air force. The process became transparent by the increase of the German Army's size to 500.000, establishment of the Luftwaffe and development of new weapons, which would boost the success of Nazis regarding World War II.

3.9. Remilitarization of the Rhineland

On 7 March 1936, Führer Adolf Hitler ordered German troops to enter the Rhineland which is such a region that bordered France and Belgium. Considering the terms of Treaty of Versailles, German forces were forbidden from posing any kinds of military force to this area which was specified as the "Demilitarized Zone". By assigning troops there, German forces openly violated international agreements.

The move was a great symbol that Adolf Hitler strictly ignored the existence of the Treaty of Versailles. Additionally, it was risky that the German army was not strong enough. Therefore, Hitler had ordered German forces to withdraw if France and the United Kingdom responded aggressively. However they did not, so that situation encouraged German forces, increased the popularity of Hitler and boosted national pride.

3.10. Anti-Comintern Pact

It was an agreement that was signed on 25th November 1936 by the foreign ministers of Nazi Germany and Japan in order to oppose the influence of Third International or ComIntern (*COM*munist *INTER*National). Signatories became capable of collaborating against the communist countries especially the Soviet Union by accepting to establish a military cooperation against the member states of Comintern. In 1937, Italy attended the pact as a result of the progress of improving relationships with Nazi Germany. So, they informally broke the Italo-Soviet Pact. In other words, they signed the pact to be against the Soviet Union but the Italian government did not officially declare a war upon them.

3.11. Anschluss

Anschluss means union in English, as it refers to Austria's political participation in Nazi Germany on 12 March 1938. It was promoted as "unification of German-speaking states" by Adolf Hitler and Austrian Nazis who had already been pushing for the unification with Germany. Adolf Hitler utilized both the threat of German invasion and the pressure with an excellent political movement in order to convince the Austrian government that he would become successful. However, the Anschluss violated the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. Although, the international

community, especially France and the United Kingdom, hardly reacted to the situation.

By the Anschluss, Austrian territories' control and so the army's became owned by Nazi Germany. The event was a significant step and a great symbol of Adolf Hitler's expansionist idealism.

3.12. Munich Agreement

The Sudetenland Crisis was a major prelude to World War II, which occurred in 1938 due to the claims of Adolf Hitler. Those claims included that Czechoslovakia was host to a large German-speaking population, and the population had been oppressed by the Czechoslovakian government. By taking advantage of utilizing these claims, Hitler demanded Czechoslovakian government to cede Sudetenland to Germany.

The crisis escalated tensions in Europe, as Czechoslovakian government refused to cede the territory. In order to avoid war; United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy negotiated with Czechoslovakia and thus they signed the Munich Agreement on 30 September 1938, which let Germany annex the Sudetenland without Czechoslovakian assent. However, Germany promised that there would be no more demand for territory. That policy of reconciliation which was obeyed by the United Kingdom and France was criticized because it spirited Hitler, weakened Czechoslovakia, and demonstrated that aggressive actions could remain responseless.

3.13. German Invasion of Czechoslovakia

The occupation started on 16 March 1939, when Adolf Hitler ordered German troops to invade the remaining territories of Czechoslovakia. It occurred after the signature Munich Agreement which had already forced Czechoslovakia to give the Sudetenland to Germany. After losing its border defenses and industrial areas, the country became unstable and vulnerable by any measure.

By the beginning of the invasion, Hitler pressured Czechoslovakian President Emil Hácha to accept German control. German forces entered Prague without major resistance, and the country became divided: Bohemia and Moravia became a German protectorate, while Slovakia was turned into a German-aligned puppet

state. This action demonstrated that Hitler broke his early promises that he would have demanded no further territories.

3.14. Pact of Steel

Pact of Steel or officially Pact of Friendship and Alliance between Germany and Italy was a military and political agreement which was signed on 22th May 1939 in order to set up a full scale alliance between Italy and Nazi Germany. It was initially drafted as a tripartite alliance including Japan. However, the Japanese government wanted the focus of the pact to be aimed at the Soviet Union and the Comintern while Italian and Nazi governments wanted it to be focused on the United Kingdom and Japan. Due to the aforementioned disagreement, the pact did not include Japan. The pact forms the basis of the Axis alliance which would include Japan also.

3.15. Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, or officially Treaty of Non-Aggression between Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was an agreement which was signed on 23 August 1939 as a non-aggression pact between the Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. It surprised the international community because states had exceedingly different, even opposite ideologies. The agreement also included a secret section which was about division of Europe into two spheres as each sphere would be controlled and influenced by each country. Consequently, the agreement encouraged Adolf Hitler to invade Poland without worrying about possible Soviet attack as well as it encouraged Stalin to invade parts of Eastern Europe.

3.16. Invasion of Poland and Beginning of World War II

Invasion of Poland was an end of a progress which had been started by the ultimatum. The ultimatum was sent by Nazi Germany to the government of Poland as Poland was demanded to cede the Polish Corridor which was hindering the territorial integrity of Nazi Germany. The Polish government rejected it, because they were frightened of sharing the same fate with Czechoslovakia and they trusted the support of the United Kingdom and France. Afterwards, Nazi Germany declared war upon Poland on 1st September 1939. On 3rd September, France and the United Kingdom declared war upon Nazi Germany, without starting a hot conflict but

supporting Poland politically and militarily. On 17th September 1939, the Soviet Union declared war upon Poland according to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. On 6th October 1939, Poland capitulated due to the overwhelming military force of the joint attack. In the literature, this event would be considered as the outbreak of World War II.

3.17. Winter War

The Winter War occurred between the Soviet Union and Finland which started on 30 November 1939, approximately three months after the outbreak of World War II. It started with the Soviet declaration of war upon Finland. In spite of the fact that Soviets are militarily more powerful than Finland, they suffered a massive amount of loss of lives and equipment because of harsh conditions of climate. Hostilities ceased in March 1940 with the signing of the Moscow Peace Treaty in which Finland ceded 9% of its territory to the Soviet Union whilst the Soviet Union's international reputation was suffered as they were expelled from the League of Nations.

3.18. Operation Weserübung

It was launched in the early morning of 9th April 1940 with the German declaration of war upon Denmark and Norway as a preventive manoeuvre against a planned Anglo-French occupation of Norway. Since the government of Denmark has not officially declared war upon Nazi Germany, Danish soldiers were ordered to stand down. Therefore, German representatives told the occupied governments of Norway and Denmark that Germany's forces had come to protect both countries from possible Anglo-French invasion. Operation was completed by the fall of Narvik which was one of the last non-occupied cities of Norway on 10th June 1940.

3.19. Manstein Plan (Fall Gelb/Case Yellow)

It was the war plan of Nazi Germany which was aimed to occupy *BENELUX* (a region consisting of *Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg*) and France during World War II. The strategy included attacking Ardennes which was considered as a natural fortress by Allied forces with Panzer(tank) divisions as one of them would be led by Erwin Rommel. Therefore, they would be able to flank Allied powers in northern France. Nazi Germany launched the plan on 10th May 1940. Luxembourg

capitulated on the same day as Netherlands did on 15th May and Belgium did on 28th May. Afterwards, Nazi Germany forces advanced on Paris as Paris would fall on 10th June 1940. Consequently, Nazi Germany established a new puppet state under the name of “Vichy France” as its territories would include southern France.

3.20. Soviet Invasion of Bessarabia

Between 28th June and 3rd July 1940, the Red Army occupied Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina, following an ultimatum made to Romania on 26th June 1940. The Soviet Union had planned to accomplish the annexation with a full-scale invasion, but the Romanian government, responding to the Soviet ultimatum delivered on 26 June, agreed to withdraw from the territories to avoid a military conflict. The invasion was accorded to Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and its secret sections which were about dividing Europe into two spheres of influence. The invasion harmed the relationship between Soviet Union and Nazi Germany because occupation of Northern Bukovina broke the secret code of Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

3.21. Soviet Occupation of Baltic States

The Baltic states, which were Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, were occupied and annexed by the Soviet Union in the summer of 1940. The Soviet Union sent ultimatums to those three states according to the secret sections Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact as the Soviet Union would politically control the Eastern sphere of the divided Europe. All states ratified the ultimatums regarding the annexation between 15th June and 17th June 1940 and the political progress of those states' participation into the Soviet Union started.

3.22. Battle of Britain

Battle of Britain was a military campaign regarding the defence of the United Kingdom by the Royal Air Force against the large-scale attacks of Nazi Germany by the Luftwaffe which started on 10th July 1940. . After the fall of France and Benelux, the United Kingdom became threatened by German invasion. However the English Channel, which is the most suitable way for a Naval German Invasion, was virtually controlled by the Royal Navy (naval force of the United Kingdom). Therefore, German forces tried to dissuade the United Kingdom to surrender by

using the Luftwaffe as German air forces would mainly target coastal-shipping convoys, as well as shipping centres such as Portsmouth. On 16th July 1940, Adolf Hitler ordered the preparation of Operation Sea Lion in order to launch an amphibious attack on the United Kingdom as it would be just after the German gaining of air superiority. However, the Luftwaffe (German Air Force) failed to acquire air superiority so the Battle of Britain was won by the United Kingdom on 31st October 1940 as it was the first major failure of Nazi Germany during World War II.

3.23. Tripartite Pact

Tripartite Pact, also known as the Berlin Pact, was an agreement between Germany, Italy and Japan which was signed in Berlin on 27th September 1940. It created a full-scale military cooperation and alliance between signatories against the international community, especially Allied powers. It can be considered as the extended version of the Pact of Steel, as their main goals are virtually the same. However, the Axis alliance gained formality and seriousness thanks to the Tripartite Pact. Subsequently, several European states also joined the pact such as Hungary (on 20th November 1940), Romania (on 23rd November 1940), Slovakia (on 24th November 1940), Bulgaria (on 1st March 1941), and Yugoslavia (on 25th March 1941).

3.24. Greco-Italian War and Operation Marita

This aggressive conflict began on 28 October 1940, when the Greek government rejected the ultimatum about demanding the cession of Greek territory which was sent by the Italian government. After the rejection, Italy declared war upon Greece and appointed divisions, which were badly armed, poorly commanded and located in Albania, to invade Greece. However, the Greek army resistingly stopped them thanks to the British material and military support. Following the failure of the Italian offensive, Nazi forces prepared to launch Operation Marita. However, they needed a land border with Greece in order to pass German soldiers. So, Nazi Germany forced Bulgaria and Yugoslavia to join the Tripartite Pact. Bulgaria joined on 1st March and Yugoslavia joined on 25th March 1941. 2 days later, a successful military coup occurred against the Yugoslavian government by a pro-British commander, Dušan Simović. Following this, Yugoslavia left Axis forces and joined Allied forces. But then, Nazi Germany army attacked and invaded Yugoslavia by

cooperating with the Italian army in April 1941. After the annexation, a government under the title of ‘‘Independent State of Croatia’’ was set up as a puppet of Axis forces. After the annexation of Yugoslavia, Nazi Germany occupied Greece in May, 1941. In this way, Romanian oil was ensured to be secured so the basic source of Panzers which was one of the main offensive forces of Nazi Germany.

3.25. Operation Barbarossa

It was the operation that was launched on 22nd June 1941 in order to start an offensive against the Soviet Union by Nazi Germany. It broke the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact which was a non-aggression pact between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany. The attack became the biggest and the costliest offensive in world history, as it opened one of the biggest fronts, the Eastern Front. During World War II, approximately 4 million German troops attempted to invade the Soviet Union.

4. Characters

4.1. German Side:

Hermann Göring: Prime Minister, Chief of the Luftswaffe (German Air Force) and Chairman of the Parliament who had served as war pilot during World War I

Heinrich Himmler: Chief of the German Police and SS (SchutzStaffel) which was a paramilitary organisation aimed to ensure internal security

Joseph Goebbels: Chief of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, whose goal was to increase public’s war support and faith to the Führer

Wilhelm Keitel: Chief of the Armed Forces (Wehrmacht)

Alfred Jodl: Chief of the Operations Staff of the Wehrmacht High Command

Heinz Guderian: Major General at German Army (Heer) and Inspector of Motorized Troops

Erich von Manstein: Senior General at German Army (Heer) known for his outstanding strategy skills

Friedrich Paulus: Major General at German Army (Heer)

Karl Dönitz: Supreme Commander of the Kriegsmarine's (German Naval Force) submarines

Albert Speer: General Building Inspector for the Capital, who designed the official buildings of the Berlin, who was responsible for war productions

Reinhard Heydrich: Former Chief of the Gestapo, Director of the Reich Security Main Office and Sicherheitsdienst (Intelligence Service)

Erwin Rommel: Field Marshal in German Army (Heer), mastered managing Panzer divisions with having the nickname of "Desert Fox"

4.2. Russian Side:

Vyacheslav Molotov: Minister of Foreign Affairs

Georgy Zhukov: Chief of the General Staff of the Red Army, known for his bad relationship with Stalin

Semyon Timoshenko: Chairman of High Command of the Red Army

Kliment Voroshilov: Former Chairman of High Command of the Red Army, Member of the Soviet State Defense Committee

Lavrentiy Beria: Chief of the Internal Affairs, whose goal was ensuring internal security of Soviet Union

Nikolai Vatutin: Front Commander of the Red Army

Konstantin Rokossovsky: Front Marshal of the Red Army

Aleksandr Vasilevski: Chief of General Staff

Anastas Mikoyan: Officer who are responsible for ensuring logistics and supplies

Nikolai Kuznetsov: Chief of the Soviet Naval Force

Andrey Vlasov: General who are assigned in Red Army

Alexander Novikov: Chief Marshal of Aviation and Air Force

5. Key Terms

Red Army: The Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, often referred to by its shortened name as the Red Army, was the unified armed forces including army and air force of the Soviet Union.

Wehrmacht: Wehrmacht was the unified armed forces of Nazi Germany from until 1945. It consisted of the Heer (army), the Kriegsmarine (navy) and the Luftwaffe (air force).

Puppet Government: a state or country whose actions shall be controlled by some other country or state.

Non-Aggression Pact: A pact where signatories promise to avoid fighting each other.

Occupation: a situation in which an army or group of people moves into and takes control of a place.

Annexation: possession taken of a piece of land or a country, usually by force or without permission.

Bolshevik: a supporter of the group led by Lenin that took power in Russia in 1917.

Revolution: a change in the way a country is governed, usually to a different political system and often using violence or war.

Expansionism: increasing the amount of land ruled by a country, or the business performed by a company.

Cession: the act of allowing someone else to have or own something, especially land or property, or the land, property, etc. that is given in this way.

Blitzkrieg: a German military strategy meaning “lightning war,” focused on fast, coordinated attacks using tanks, infantry, and air power to break enemy lines quickly.

Encirclement (Kesselschlacht): a tactic where forces surround enemy troops, cutting them off from supplies and forcing surrender. This was a key German method early in Barbarossa.

Front: a major military formation of the Soviet Union, equivalent to an army group, responsible for a large section of the battlefield.

Army Group: a large German formation controlling multiple armies (e.g., Army Group North, Center, South).

Operational Depth: a Soviet concept of fighting in layers, allowing forces to absorb attacks and counterattack deeper into the battlefield.

STAVKA: the supreme military command of the Soviet Union, led by Joseph Stalin.

OKW / OKH: German High Command structures. OKW: Overall command, OKH: Army command.

NKVD: The Soviet internal security and intelligence agency led by Lavrentiy Beria. Responsible for: internal security, counterintelligence, arrests and surveillance.

Abwehr: German military intelligence organization responsible for espionage and sabotage.

Rasputitsa: Seasonal mud in the Soviet Union that makes roads nearly impassable, severely slowing military movement.

Axis Powers: Alliance led by Germany during World War II, such as Italy and Japan.

Allied Powers: Opposing alliance, including the Soviet Union, Britain and later the United States.

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