

Chronology

30th January 1933	Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany
1938	Anschluss between Germany and Austria
1939	German invasion of Czechoslovakia Munich Conference German Invasion of Poland and the outbreak of Second World War
1940	Battle of France Battle of Britain
1940-1	The Blitz
7th December 1941	Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor
1941	Battle of Stalingrad
6th June 1944	D-Day
8th May 1945	VE Day
6th and 9th August 1945	Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
15th August 1945	VJ Day

Key discoveries / ideas

Far more than the First World War, the Second World War can be seen as a battle between different ideologies, democracy versus dictatorship.
The failure of appeasement and isolationism has led to a far more interventionist approach in the modern world.
Technological advances made during the Second World War, like the atomic bomb have shaped the world today.

Key People

Key People	Role
Adolf Hitler	Chancellor and then dictator of Germany, 1933-45
Neville Chamberlain	British Prime Minister, 1937-40. Associated with the policy of appeasement.
Franklin D. Roosevelt	USA's longest ever serving President, 1933-45.
Winston Churchill	British Prime Minister, 1940-5. He would later become Prime Minister again, 1951-5.
Joseph Stalin	Communist dictator of the USSR from the late 1920s until 1953.
Dwight D. Eisenhower	US five-star general and Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in Europe. Would later go on to become President of the USA, 1953-61.
Bernard Montgomery	British Field Marshall. Was in command of all Allied ground forces during the Battle of Normandy under General Eisenhower.
Erwin Rommel	German Field Marshall. In command of the German forces during the Battle of Normandy.
Harry S. Truman	US President, 1945-53. Made the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan.

Key Words

Key Words	Definition
Appeasement	To pacify or placate someone by acceding to their demands (particularly to avoid conflict)
Isolationist	A policy of remaining apart from the affairs of interests of other countries
Fascism	A right-wing nationalist political ideology
Dictatorship	A country led by a ruler with total power, usually obtained by force.
Phoney War	An eight month period after war was declared in which very little land based fighting took place
Maginot line	A line of fortifications built by the French along their border with Germany
Blitzkrieg	"Lightning War" – The German tactic of fighting an intense military campaign designed to bring about a swift victory
Radar	A system using radio waves to detect aircraft
Blitz	"Lightning" – coined by the British press to describe the German bombing campaign on British cities
Blitz Spirit	The determination of the British public in the face of the German bombing campaign. The reality of the spirit has been debated.
Operation Barbarossa	The code name for the German invasion of the USSR
Guerrilla warfare	Irregular warfare, using hit and run tactics to attack the enemy
Amphibious landing	An assault from the sea onto enemy controlled land
Hobart's Funnies	Specially adapted tanks used on D-Day. Named after Major General Hobart.
Manhattan Project	The code name for American research into producing an atomic bomb

History WW2 & Holocaust Knowledge Organiser



Key words and concepts

Anti-Semitism	hostility to or prejudice against Jews.
Holocaust	The word 'Holocaust' comes from ancient Greek: 'holos' means 'completely' and 'kaustos' means 'burnt'.
Shoah	Hebrew word 'Shoah', which means 'catastrophe'
Aryan	(in Nazi ideology) a person of Caucasian race not of Jewish descent.
Synagogue	A Jewish place of worship.
Sterilisation	Surgery to make a person or animal unable to produce offspring.
Concentration camp	A place in which large numbers of people are deliberately imprisoned in a relatively small area with inadequate facilities, sometimes to provide forced labour or to await mass execution.
Death camp	a concentration camp in which large numbers of prisoners are systematically killed.
Euthanasia	The act of deliberately ending a person's life
Ghetto	A part of a city, especially a slum area, occupied by a minority group
Final solution	the Nazi policy of exterminating European Jews. Introduced by Heinrich Himmler and administered by Adolf Eichmann, the policy resulted in the murder of 6 million Jews in concentration camps between 1941 and 1945.
Einsatzgruppen	Paramilitary death squads of Nazi Germany that were responsible for mass killings, primarily by shooting, during World War II
Gestapo	The official secret police of Nazi Germany and in German-occupied Europe.
Propaganda	Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.

Key People

Role

Adolf Hitler	Leader of Germany 1933-1945
Heinrich Himmler	A leading member of the Nazi Party of Germany. Himmler was one of the most powerful men in Nazi Germany and a main architect of the Holocaust.
Goebbels	Minister of Propaganda of Nazi Germany
Johann 'Rukeli' Trollmann	German Sinto boxer , who was discriminated against, marginalised, sterilised, and finally deported to a concentration camp, where he was murdered.
Hans and Sophie Scholl	A brother and sister who were members of the White Rose, a student group in Munich that was active in the non-violent resistance movement in Nazi Germany

Chronology

1290	Edict of Expulsion
1933	Hitler comes to power
1935	Nuremberg Laws
1938	Kristallnacht
1939	Germany invades Poland
1941	Germany invades Russia
1942	Wannsee Conference
1943	Sobibor uprising
1945	End of WW2

Common misconceptions

European Jewry made up a very small proportion of Europe's population. On the eve of the Holocaust, some 9 million Jews lived in continental Europe, or 2% of the total population. Of these, the largest Jewish community was in Poland – about 3,250,000 Jews or 9.8% of the Polish population. Germany's approximately 565,000 Jews made up only 0.8% of its population.

Hitler was not the only perpetrator of the Holocaust. SS officers, The Police, SA officers, civilians etc. can all be implicated in this event.

The Holocaust did not trigger Britain's entry into WW2.

6 million Jews died during the Holocaust.

Useful Websites/books/films/documentaries

- <https://www.theholocaustexplained.org/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zkfk7ty/revision/1>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4W3yzYG6DzPBH08Ld0H9L9j/six-stories-of-children-who-survived-the-holocaust>
- The Book Thief by Markus Zusak – Narrated by death. Fostered, with parents taken away, a young book thief called Liesel lives in a community in Germany that death is visiting.
- Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank. The most famous diary from the Second World War.