

Germany

Before WWII: Suffers the effects of its defeat in WWI during the 1920s and early 30s. The subsequent economic collapse and depressed national morale enabled the fanatical Nazi party to rise to power. The Nazi party turns Germany around during the 1930s, providing the political currency necessary to expand its power throughout Central Europe. Nazi Germany annexed Austria in 1938 (with approval of Austrian voters), then invaded Czechoslovakia and Poland in 1939, occupying both.

During WWII: Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland represents the line in the sand for the Allied powers, provoking declarations of war from the UK and France. In 1940, Germany invades Denmark, Norway (to protect neutrality against Allies, capitalize on their resources, sea access for U-boat attacks). They also invade Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg for staging grounds needed for the pending invasion of France. Germany then proceeds to invade France in 1940 as well, controlling the entire nation (the north by direct occupation, and the south via a puppet regime). Unsuccessfully invaded Britain in 1940. Began exterminating Jews and other "undesirables" en masse in 1940. In 1941, Germany invades Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Greece, occupying each. Hitler then decides to launch an invasion against the Soviet Union in 1941, conquering most of Eastern Europe, including a large chunk of Western Russia. Compromised and thinly-spread supply lines would prove to be the downfall of Nazi army, as the Soviets would chase the German army all the way back to Germany by 1944/45. The Western Allies would enter Germany from the west in 1945, bringing the Nazi era to an abrupt end as Allies closed in on Berlin.

After WWII: Germany was utterly devastated. Allied fighter jets carpet bombed cities, killing many, including civilians. Many were forced to fight to defend nation, leading to high loss of life. The nation was financially destroyed, due to the Nazi's desperate spending to feed the war machine, even down to the final days. Its captors partitioned the nation, tightly controlling all aspects of life in Germany, while also implementing punitive sanctions. The nation was also disgraced due to the atrocities carried out, especially the Holocaust. Germany and its citizens basically had to start over from less than nothing. Germany would not be unified again until 1990.

WWII Affiliation: Axis Powers

Casualties:

Total Deaths: 7,393,000 (Rank = 2 / 27)

Total Deaths % of Pop.: 10.6% (Rank = 5 / 27)

Military Deaths: 5,533,000 (Rank = 2 / 21)

Military Deaths % of Pop.: 7.9% (Rank = 1 / 21)

Civilian Deaths: 1,860,000 (Rank = 3 / 27)

Civilian Deaths % of Pop.: 2.7% (Rank = 10 / 27)

Jewish Holocaust Deaths: 160,000 (Rank = 6 / 21)

Jewish Holocaust Deaths % of Jewish Pop.: 28.3% (15 / 21)

http://www.worldology.com/Europe/world_war_2_effect.htm