# THE USA AND GREAT BRITAIN DURING THE TWO WORLD WAR

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#### **WORLD WAR II**

- World War II also known as the Second World War, was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945, although related conflicts began earlier. It involved the vast majority of the world's nations—including all of the great powers—eventually forming two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis. It was the most widespread war in history, and directly involved more than 100 million people from over 30 countries.
- In a state of "total war", the major participants threw their entire economic, industrial, and scientific capabilities behind the war effort, erasing the distinction between civilian and military resources. These made World War II the deadliest conflict in human history.



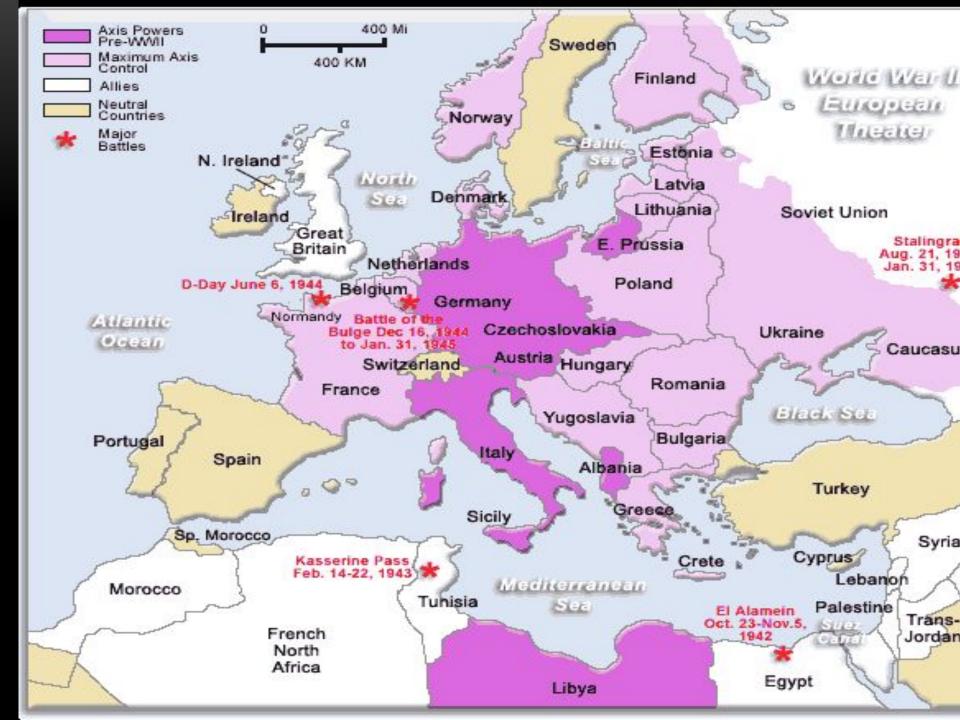
#### THE USA IN THE WORLD WAR II

The military history of the United States in World War II covers the war against Japan, Germany and Italy starting with the 7 December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. After the war began in Europe in 1939, people in the Americas were divided on whether their countries should take part or stay out. Most Americans hoped the Allies would win, but they also hoped to keep the United States out of war. The isolationists, wanted the country to stay out of the war at almost any cost. Another group, the interventionists, wanted the United States to do all in its power to aid the Allies. Canada declared war on Germany almost at once, while the *United States shifted its policy from neutrality to preparedness. President Franklin D.* Roosevelt called upon the United States to be "the great arsenal of democracy," and supply war materials to the Allies through sale, lease, or loan. The Lend-Lease bill became law on March 11, 1941. During the next four years, the U.S. sent more than \$50 billion worth of war material to the Allies. Factories in the United States converted from civilian to war production with amazing speed. Firms that had made vacuum cleaners before the war began to produce machine guns. As men went into the armed forces, women took their places in war plants. By 1943, more than two million women were working in American war industries. In shipyards and aircraft plants, Rosie the riveter became a common sight. Officials discovered that women could perform the duties of eight of every 10 jobs normally done by men. World War II cost the *United States an estimated \$341 Billion in 1945 dollars – equivalent to 74% of America's* GDP and expenditures during the war. In 2015 dollars, the war cost over \$4.5 Trillion.



#### GREAT BRITAIN IN THE WORLD WAR II

- Great Britain participated in world war II from its inception on 1 September 1939 to end 2 September 1945. Great Britain was one of the creators of the international political system after world war. At the same time as the strongest European "great power", it has traditionally sought to maintain the parity of forces on the continent, alternately supporting one or the other country. A new full-scale war on the European continent has been for the Great Britain is extremely undesirable both from economic and political points of view. Considering the "Soviet threat" serious enough, in the second half of the 1930-ies, the British government of Neville Chamberlain made concessions to Nazi Germany, which led to its strengthening as a "counterweight" of the USSR. The pinnacle of this policy was the Munich agreement (1938). It was assumed that the efforts of Germany, however, will remain under the control of "great powers" and, primarily, Britain.
- A crucial role in the announcement by Britain of war with Germany played USA, by the UK pressure in case of failure of Britain to fulfill its obligations towards Poland, the United States will abandon its commitments to support the Britain. The conflict of great Britain with Germany meant an exposure of the spheres of British interests in Asia, the Japanese aggression, deal with that without the help of the US seemed unlikely. Joseph Kennedy (Joseph P. Kennedy), U.S. Ambassador to great Britain in the years 1938-1940, later recalled: "neither the French Nor the British would never have made Poland a cause of war, if not for the constant instigation of Washington". Faced with the fact of the conclusion of the Molotov Ribbentrop Pact, under pressure from the United States, threatening in case of refusal of England fulfil its obligations towards Poland to deprive it of its support, UK went on a Declaration of war on Germany.



#### THE USA HELPED BRITAIN IN WORLD WAR II

• After the defeat in France, the UK, in fact, lost the land army. The main losses were incurred in heavy weapons. Beginning in July 1940, Britain began to receive weapons from the United States in large numbers. England also needed to help in the battle of the Atlantic and was also forced to ask the US 50 old destroyers in exchange for lease for 99 years, the air and naval bases in the West Indies and Newfoundland.





### CONCLUSION

- World War II was the largest and most violent armed conflict in the history of mankind. However, the half century that now separates us from that conflict has exacted its toll on our collective knowledge.
- World War II was affected most countries in the world. Also USA and the Great Britain. Despite all the losses USA and Great Britain are managed to stay on his feet. And nowadays these two countries are the biggest, leaders and best countries in the world.

## **GLOSSARY**

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