

War in Europe

Slide 1:

1. 1937 Hitler met with his military advisers and said they needed the land of its neighbors to grow and become more prosperous
2. plan was to absorb Czechoslovakia and Austria into the third reich.
3. knew this would start war
4. Hitler's first target was Austria
5. majority of Austria's population was German and favored unification of Germany.
6. German troops marched in.
7. The U.S. and its allies did nothing

Slide 2:

1. Hitler then turned his attention to Czechoslovakia. He wanted it because its close to Germany and could provide more land for Germans and natural resources
2. France and Britain promised to help Czech, but Hitler said it would be the last conquest of land they needed, so the British and French did nothing hoping to avoid war.
3. They signed the Munich Agreement giving Czech to Germany
4. This is known as appeasement: giving up principles to pacify an aggressor

Slide 3:

1. Hitler sends his troops into Czechoslovakia and takes the rest of the country overnight
2. They then turned their attention to Poland.
3. Poland thought Germany wouldn't attack, because it would draw Russia into conflict, along with France and Britain.
4. However, Russia signs a nonaggression pact with Hitler.
5. This meant that neither Germany nor Russia would attack one another

Slide 4:

1. Soviet Union helped attack Poland toward the end, but for most of the battle Germany used blitzkrieg tactics (lightning warfare) to defeat Poland.
2. Soviet Union took some of the eastern territory, Germany annexed western Poland.
3. Poland ceased to exist.

Slide 5:

1. After the fall of Poland, French and British troops sat on the Maginot Line
2. a system of fortifications built along France's eastern border.
3. They stared at the Siegfried line a few miles away
4. this was known as Sitzkrieg, because not much was going on.

Slide 6:

1. Soviet Union started annexing the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
2. Also sent troops into Finland and defeated the Finns in a few months

Slide 7:

1. Hitler launches a surprise invasion on Denmark and Norway in order to “protect their freedom and independence”
2. Hitler planned to use their bases close to the ocean to attack Britain
3. He then turned his attention against the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, which were overrun by May

Slide 8:

1. France's Maginot line was ineffective
2. Germany bypassed the line during the invasion of Belgium by going through the Ardennes, which the French and British thought were impossible
3. Germans then marched on Paris

Slide 9:

1. Germany trapped 400,000 British and French troops as they fled to the beaches of Dunkirk on the French side of the English Channel
2. A makeshift fleet of fishing trawlers, tugboats, river barges, pleasure craft, more than 800 vessels, ferried 330,000 troops to safety across the channel
3. Few days later Italy would enter the war on the side of Germany

Slide 10:

1. They invaded France from the south as the Germans closed in on Paris from the north
2. 1940 Hitler handed French officers his terms of surrender. Germans would occupy the northern part of France and a Nazi controlled puppet government, headed by Marshal Philippe Pétain would be set up at Vichy, in southern France
3. After France fell, Charles de Gaulle fled to England, where he set up a government in exile

Slide 11:

1. Germany could not take on Britain's navy alone, so they did a naval and air attack simultaneously in the summer of 1940.
2. Luftwaffe began bombing runs over Britain. Their goal was to gain control of the skies by destroying Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF)
3. Hitler had 2600 planes at his disposal and used them to conduct night raids over London for two solid months

Slide 12:

1. This is known as the Battle of Britain. Germans concentrated on airfields and aircraft before targeting cities.
2. RAF fought back with the help of a new device known as radar
3. Now they could spot German planes, even in the dark

Slide 13:

1. 1940 British shoot down 185 German aircraft, while losing 26.
2. This made Hitler to call off the attack
3. British also were bombing German cities