

## Chapter 32 – Section 1 Notes

- With the non-aggression pact removing the threat of Russia to Germany – Germany decides to invade Poland
- 9/1/1939 – Warplanes, Tanks, and Military Troops bombard the Poles
- 9/3/1939 - France and Great Britain declare war on Germany. Poland falls before they can mobilize their forces.
- Hitler annexes the western half – Large German population
- New military strategy – **Blitzkrieg** – “lightning war” – fast moving airplanes and tanks followed by massive infantry
- 9/17/1939 – The Soviets send troops to the Eastern half of Poland
- Stalin then goes after Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia
- Finland was the only country who was able to resist
  - o 1 Million Russian soldiers were sent – Eventually they would defeat the Finns, but at a huge cost – The Finnish harsh winter crippled the Soviet forces.
  - o 3/1940 – Stalin forces the Finns to accept his surrender terms
- **Maginot Line** – French and British forces waited for the Germans
- **Siegfried Line** – The Germans waited for the French/British forces a few miles away
  - o Germans – Sitzkrieg
  - o Newspapers – Phony War
- Hitler ends Sitzkrieg – He attacks Norway and Denmark
  - o Denmark falls in four hours
  - o Norway surrenders – two months later
- May 1940 – Hitler swept through Holland, Belgium, and Luxemburg (South of Belgium)
- Hitler sends troops through the Ardennes – Located in France/Luxembourg
- The Germans slipped through the Maginot Line
- French/British soldiers were in trouble as the Germans surrounded them
- Allied soldiers raced to Dunkirk, a French port city
- A British fleet of 850 ships – The royal navy, civilian crafts, yachts, lifeboats, motorboats, paddle steamers and fishing boats dodged heavy bombing and saved 338,000 soldiers
- Italy joins Germany and declares war on France and Great Britain
- Italy attacks from the south
- June 14<sup>th</sup> – Paris falls to the Germans – France surrenders
  - o French General – Charles de Gualle fled to London
  - o He organized the free French military forces which battled the Nazis until its liberation in 1944
- Germany attacks Britain
  - o Winston Churchill (British Prime Minister) – Great Orator –Pg. 927
- **Operation Sea Lion** – German plans to take out the Royal air force using the Luftwaffe 0 German air force
- Germany bombs military structures first then cities – He wanted to break morale especially in London
- Britain has TWO secret weapons
  - o **Electronic Tracking System** – Radar – It told the number of planes, speed, and direction
  - o **German Code-Making Machine** – Enigma
  - o Germany was forced to give up day bombing – they used night bombing raids
  - o This bombing of Britain was called – “The Battle of Britain” – It ended May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1941
- Hitler was stunned to see British resistance and he called off the attack
- This boosted the morale of the Allied forces – Hitler’s advances could be blocked
- Hitler changes his plans – He will deal with Great Britain later – He will focus on North Africa, especially Egypt – key to the oil fields in the middle east and Russia
- Mussolini was already fighting Great Britain in Egypt
  - o He was doing well but both sides were dug in

- Britain launches an all-out attack on the Italian forces and pummels them, taking 130,000 prisoner
- Hitler steps in to save the Axis power partner (Italy)
- He sends General Erwin Rommel – “Desert Fox” to Libya to take control of Egypt and the Suez Canal
- Rommel had early success but was later pushed back to the original starting point
- Rommel regrouped and pushed harder
- Hitler wanted to focus his efforts in the Balkans – Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary joined the Axis powers (They didn’t really have any choice)
- Yugoslavia and Greece did not join. Both fell within three weeks
- Hitler focuses on Russia
  - **Operation Barbarossa** – The Blitzkrieg pounded the Russian forces
  - The Soviets practiced the **Scorched Earth policy** (again)
  - German forces were defeated by the cold Russian winter
    - The fuel froze, weapons and vehicles were rendered useless
    - 500,000 Germans die
- U.S. passes neutrality acts
  - It is illegal to sell arms or lend money to nations at war
  - Roosevelt persuaded Congress to pass **the Lend Lease Act**
    - American arms could be bought if they paid cash and carried them with their own ships
    - Also, the U.S. could lend/lease arms and supplies to anyone who was vital to the U.S.
- **The Atlantic Charter** – U.S. and Great Britain met and signed a joint declaration
  - It upheld free trade among the nations and the right of the people to choose their own government
  - German U-Boats fired on U.S. destroyer in the Atlantic Ocean – The U.S. was ordered to respond
  - The U.S. was involved in an undeclared naval war with Hitler
- Japan draws the U.S. into the war