



# WWII Begins



# European Axis Leadership



**Benito Mussolini**  
Duce of Fascism  
(Italy)  
December 24, 1925 – July 25, 1943



**Adolf Hitler**  
Führer of Germany  
April 20, 1889 – April 30, 1945

## Allied Leaders



**Winston Churchill**  
Prime Minister of  
the United Kingdom



**Franklin D. Roosevelt**  
President of the US



Konferenz von Yalta - Die Zukunft Europas



**Joseph Stalin**  
General Secretary of the  
Communist Party  
of the Soviet Union

## General Dwight Eisenhower 1st Supreme Allied Commander Europe



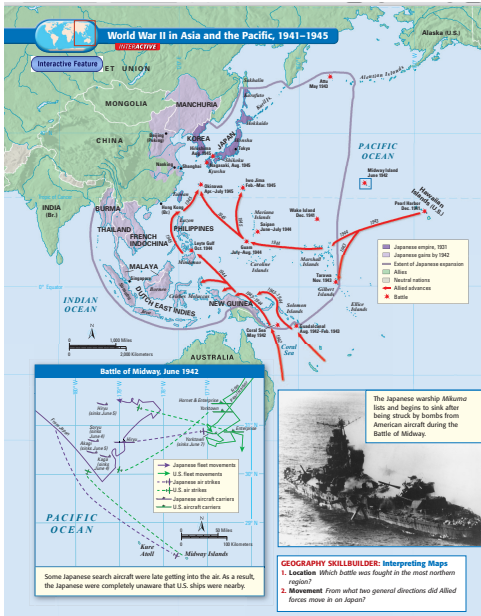
Eisenhower with U.S. paratroopers of the  
502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st  
Airborne Division on June 5, 1944



**British Field Marshal  
Bernard Montgomery**  
nicknamed "Monty"



# Japan Eyes the Pacific



Japan's military leaders had dreams of empire

1931: Japanese troops took over Manchuria  
(in northeastern China)

1937: Japanese armies attack the heartland of China,  
expecting a quick victory

Chinese resistance placed a strain on Japan's economy

Japanese eyed the rich European colonies of Southeast Asia

1940: Americans cracked Japanese code:  
learned the Japanese wanted colonies in Southeast Asia  
worried they might take Philippines and Guam  
(American-controlled at that time)

US sent aid to the Chinese

1941: Japanese overran French Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos)

Roosevelt cut off oil shipments to Japan

the Japanese planned massive attacks on European and American interests in Southeast Asia

Japanese naval strategist Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto called for an attack on the U.S. fleet in Hawaii

# Surprise Attack on Pearl Harbor



December 7, 1941: Japanese attacked the American Naval Base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
U.S. military leaders knew from a coded Japanese message that an attack might come but didn't know when or where it would occur.

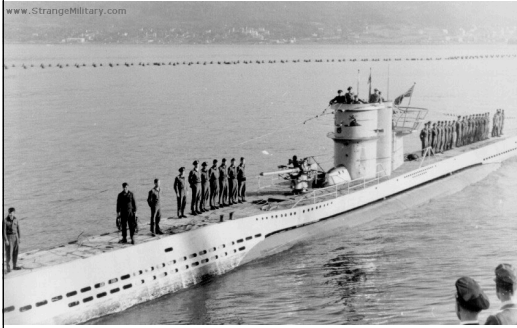
within two hours, the Japanese had sunk or damaged 19 ships, including 8 battleships

more than 2,300 Americans were killed and over 1,100 were wounded

On December 8, President Roosevelt addressed Congress, declaring the 7th as  
"a date which will live in infamy"

Congress quickly accepted his request for a declaration of war on Japan and its allies

# Halting Hitler's Advance



German u-boats traveled in what they called "wolfpacks" and were proving to be very effective in locating and destroying British and American vessels.

The German "enigma code" was broken thanks to spies' actions and lives sacrificed to get an enigma machine to decode messages. These messages helped locate German u-boat wolfpacks.

German Gen. Erwin Rommel  
nicknamed the "Desert Fox" because he was so clever  
was having great success in North Africa  
was almost to the Suez Canal in Egypt  
(this would link Italy and Germany to Japan through the  
Mediterranean and the Indian & Pacific Oceans)



the Battle of Stalingrad (Sep. 1942)  
Soviets stopped the German westward advance

the Battle of El Alamein (Oct. 1942)  
Brit. Gen. Bernard Montgomery stopped the Germans in Egypt

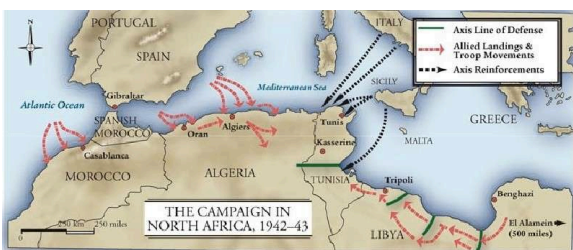
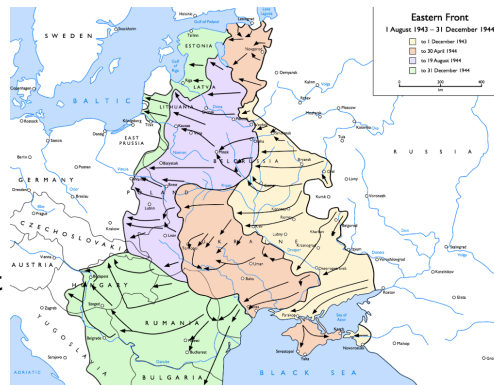
# The Fighting Continues

the Soviet Union wanted the Allies to start a second front against Germany

Russia had been paying a heavy share of the fighting  
(20 million Russians would die by the end of the war)

America wanted to attack the Nazis through France

Britain wanted to lure the war away from England  
Winston Churchill suggested they hit Germany's "soft underbelly:" up from North Africa and through Italy



Gen. Eisenhower attacked North Africa (Nov. 1942)

Casablanca Conference (Jan. 1943)

Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to seek the "unconditional surrender" of Germany

Germans were pushed out of Africa (May 1943)

Allies moved across North Africa and up to Sicily  
Mussolini overthrown; Italy surrenders (Sept. 1943)

the Tehran Conference, November-December 1943

Joseph Stalin, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Winston Churchill met in Tehran, Iran  
Britain and the US agreed to the open a second front against Nazi Germany

