

World War II in Europe and the Pacific

I. European Theater

- 1939 — German and Soviet armies invade Poland (September 1 and 17, respectively)
 - England and France Declare War on Germany (September 3, 1939)
 - Sitzkrieg (Phony War), September 1939–May 1940
 - German occupation of France (June 1940)
 - Molotov Visit to Berlin, November 12, 1940
 - Soviet-Japanese Non-Aggression Pact (April 13, 1941)
 - German army invades the Soviet Union (June 22, 1941)
 - What Led Hitler to Attack the Soviet Union?
 - What Led Hitler to Declare War on the U.S. on December 11, 1941?
- 1940 — Battle for France (May–June)
 - Battle of Britain (summer)
 - German bombing of London and Coventry
- June 22, 1941 — German army invades the Soviet Union (June 22)
- September 1941–January 1943 — siege of Leningrad
- 1942 — *Endlösung* (Final Solution) – Wannsee Conference (January 20)
 - Bombing of Cologne (May 30–31)
 - General Arthur T. Harris, Commander-in-Chief of Bomber Command (1942)
 - Air Chief Marshal (1943)
 - Beginning of battle for Stalingrad (August 19)
 - Battle of El Alamein (October 23–November 4)
- 1943 — Capture of von Paulus’ forces at Stalingrad (February 2)
 - Capture of Rommel’s forces in North Africa (May 12)
 - Western Allies invade Sicily (July 9–10); Italy surrenders (September 8)
 - Bombing of Hamburg (July 24–August 3)
- 1944 — D-Day (June 6)
 - Warsaw Uprising (August–September)
- 1945 — Yalta Agreement (February 4–12)
 - Bombing of Dresden (February 13–14)
 - Death of FDR; Truman becomes president (April 12)
 - Hitler commits suicide in bunker in Berlin (April 30)
 - Fall of Berlin to Soviet Army (May 2)
 - V-E Day (May 8/9)

- Potsdam Conference (July 17–August 2)
- Nuremberg Trials (November 1945 to October 1946)

II. Pacific Theater

- July 26, 1941 — FDR announces full-scale economic war on Japan (1 month and 4 days after Germany attacks Soviet Union)
- November 25, 1941 — Stimson notes in his diary FDR's raising the question how to get Japan to fire the first shot
- December 7, 1941 — Japanese attack on U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor
- December 8, 1941 — Japanese attack the Philippines
- December 25, 1941 — Hong Kong surrenders to Japanese
- February 15, 1942 — Singapore surrenders to Japanese
- April 18, 1942 — Doolittle raid on Kobe, Nagoya, Osaka, and Tokyo,
- June 6, 1942 — Battle of Midway
- March 9, 1944 — 200 Super Fortresses drop 1600 tons of incendiary bombs on Tokyo
- June 15, 1944 — Saipan falls to U.S. forces
- February 19–March 27, 1945 — Battle for Iwo Jima
- July 2, 1945 — Okinawa falls to U.S. forces
- August 6, 1945 — atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima
- August 8, 1945 — Soviet Union enters war against Japan
- August 9, 1945 — atom bomb dropped on Nagasaki
- August 10, 1945 — Japanese offer of surrender (accepted 4 days later)
 - a. attempted military coup (August 14–15) — Major Kenji Hatanaka
 - b. Hirohito's radio address to the nation (August 15)