

The timeline below is a condensed version. Visit the [Olive-Drab timeline](#) for a more detailed and interactive version.

Headline History of World War II

1939

- Sept. 1 Germany invades Poland. Ultimatum from Britain and France.
Sept. 3 Britain and France declare war.
Sept. 17 Soviet troops enter Eastern Poland.
Sept. 27 Warsaw surrenders.
Sept. 28 Poland partitioned by Germany and Russia.
Nov. 30 U.S.S.R. invades Finland.
Dec. 17 *Graf Spee* is scuttled at Montevideo.

1940

- March 12 Peace signed in Moscow between U.S.S.R. and Finland.
April 9 Nazis invade Denmark and Norway.
May 10 Nazis invade Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxemburg.
 Chamberlain resigns as British Prime Minister.
 Churchill takes office.
May 12 Germans cross French frontier.
May 15 Dutch army capitulates.
May 16 French line broken at Sedan.
May 28 King Leopold of Belgium capitulates.
May 26–June 4 Dunkirk evacuation.
June 10 Italy declares war on Britain and France. Italy invades France.
June 14 Germans enter undefended Paris.
June 15–16 Russians occupy Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.
June 22 France and Germany sign armistice at Compiègne.
June 27 Rumania cedes Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina to Soviet Russia.
July 3 British attack French capital ships at Oran.

- July 10 Beginning of Battle of Britain.
- Sept. 3 U.S.—Great Britain destroyer-base exchange.
Abdication of King Carol of Rumania.
- Sept. 7 Opening of London *Blitz*.
- Sept. 16 Selective Service Act in U.S.
- Sept. 27 German-Italian-Japanese Tripartite Pact, 10-year agreement,
signed in Berlin (Pact of Berlin).
- Oct. 28 Italy invades Greece.
- Nov. 11–12 Royal Air Force attacks Taranto.
- Nov. 14–16 Germans raid Coventry.
- Nov. 20–25 Hungary, Rumania, Slovakia join Tripartite Pact.

1941

- Jan. 6 President Roosevelt's speech on the Four Freedoms.
- Jan. 10 Lend-Lease Bill introduced into Congress.
Soviet-German trade pact.
- March 1 Bulgaria joins Tripartite Pact.
- March 11 Lend-Lease Bill signed by President.
- March 27 Revolution in Yugoslavia.
- March 28 Battle of Cape Matapan.
- March 30 German counteroffensive in North Africa.
- April 6 Germans invade Greece and Yugoslavia.
- April 11 Russo-Japanese Neutrality Treaty.
- May 2–31 Revolution in Iraq suppressed by British.
- May 10–11 Rudolf Hess flies to Scotland.
- May 20 Germans invade Crete.
- May 27 German battleship *Bismarck* sunk.
- June 1 British withdraw from Crete.
- June 8 Allies enter Syria.
- June 14 Roosevelt freezes Axis funds in U.S.
- June 18 Germany and Turkey sign treaty of friendship.
- June 22 Hitler attacks Soviet Union.
- July 12 British-Soviet mutual aid pact.
- Aug. 14 Atlantic Charter. Roosevelt and Churchill meet at sea and
agree on war aims.
- Aug. 25 British and Russian troops enter Iran.
- Sept. 19 Germans occupy Kiev.
- Oct. 11 General Hideki Tojo becomes Premier of Japan.

- Nov. 18 Eighth Army's desert offensive in Libya.
 Nov. 26 Strong U.S. note to Japan.
 Nov. 28 Russians retake Rostov.
 Dec. 1 Russians counterattack at Tula.
 Dec. 7 Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. Pacific Fleet crippled.
 Japan declares war on Britain and U.S.
 Dec. 8 Japanese landings in Thailand and Malaya.
 Great Britain and U.S. declare war on Japan.
 Dec. 9 H.M.S. *Prince of Wales* and H.M.S. *Repulse* sunk by Japanese air attacks off Malayan coast.
 Dec. 10–11 Germany and Italy declare war on U.S. U.S. declares war on both those countries.
 Dec. 13 Hungary and Bulgaria declare war on U.S.
 Dec. 22 Japanese begin major attack on Philippines.
 First Washington Conference.
 Churchill in Washington.
 Dec. 25 Hong Kong surrenders.

1942

- Jan. 1 Twenty-six nations sign United Nations Declaration.
 Jan. 10–11 Japanese invade Netherlands East Indies.
 Jan. 21 German counteroffensive in North Africa.
 Feb. 12 *Scharnhorst*, *Gneisenau*, and *Prinz Eugen* escape from Brest.
 Feb. 15 British surrender Singapore.
 March 7 Evacuation of Rangoon.
 March 17 MacArthur arrives in Australia.
 April 9 U.S. forces on Bataan surrender.
 April 18 Tokyo bombed by U.S. Army planes.
 May 4–9 Battle of the Coral Sea.
 May 26 German counteroffensive in North Africa.
 Twenty-year Anglo-Soviet Treaty signed in London.
 May 30–31 First R.A.F. 1,000-bomber raid on Cologne.
 June 4 Battle of Midway Island.
 June 21 Germans take Tobruk.
 June 25–27 Second Washington Conference between Roosevelt and Churchill.
 Aug. 7 U.S. Marines land on Guadalcanal.
 Aug. 12 First Moscow Conference.
 Aug. 19 Raid on Dieppe.
 Oct. 23 Montgomery strikes at El Alamein.

- Nov. 7-8 U.S. and Britain land great army in North Africa.
- Nov. 11 German troops enter unoccupied France.
- Nov. 19-22 Stalingrad counteroffensive.
- Dec. 24 Admiral Darlan, Chief of State in North Africa, assassinated.

1943

- Jan. 14-24 Casablanca Conference.
- Jan. 23 Eighth Army enters Tripoli.
- Feb. 2 German forces surrender at Stalingrad. Turning point of war in Russia.
- March 2 Battle of the Bismarck Sea.
- May 11-27 Third Washington Conference between Roosevelt and Churchill.
- May 12 Organized Axis resistance in Tunisia ends.
- May 15 Third International (Comintern) dissolved in Moscow. (Announced May 22.)
- May 18 United Nations Food Conference at Hot Springs, Virginia.
- May 20 Victory parade in Tunis.
- July 9-10 Allied invasion of Sicily.
- July 19 Bombing of Rome.
- July 25 Mussolini replaced by Badoglio as Italian Premier.
- Aug. 17-24 First Quebec Conference.
- Aug. 28 Death of King Boris III of Bulgaria. Succeeded by son, 6-year-old Simeon II.
- Sept. 3 Allied invasion of Southern Italy.
- Sept. 8 Italy surrenders.
- Sept. 9 Allied landing at Salerno.
- Sept. 10 Germans occupy Rome.
- Oct. 13 Italy declares war on Germany.
- Oct. 18-Nov. 1 Moscow Conference of foreign secretaries (Hull, Eden, Molotov).
- Nov. 6 Recapture of Kiev by Russians.
- Nov. 9 Establishment of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (U.N.R.R.A.)
- Nov. 22-26 First Cairo Conference (Roosevelt, Churchill, Chiang Kai-shek).
- Nov. 28-Dec. 1 Teheran Conference (Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin).
- Dec. 4-6 Second Cairo Conference (Roosevelt, Churchill, İnönü).

- Dec. 12 Czecho-Soviet Alliance for mutual assistance.
Dec. 26 Nazi battleship *Scharnhorst* sunk off North Cape.

1944

- Jan. 22 Allied troops land at Anzio behind German lines.
March 8 Finns reject Soviet armistice terms.
March 19 German troops cross Hungarian frontier.
April 10 Russians recapture Odessa.
May 23 Allied offensive from Anzio beachhead.
June 4 Rome captured by Anglo-American troops.
June 6 D-Day. Allied invasion of Normandy.
June 13-14 First flying bombs land in England.
June 15 First Superfortress raid on Japan.
July 1-15 International Monetary Conference at Bretton Woods.
July 3 Russians recapture Minsk.
July 20 Hitler wounded in bomb plot.
July 27 U.S. troops break through, west of St. Lô.
Aug. 11 U.S. forces complete conquest of Guam.
Aug. 15 Allied forces land on south coast of France.
Aug. 21-Sept. 29 Dumbarton Oaks Conference, Washington, D.C.
Aug. 23 Rumania accepts Russian armistice terms.
Aug. 25 Paris liberated.
Sept. 3 British liberate Brussels.
Sept. 4 End of Finnish-Russian fighting.
Sept. 5 The Soviet Union declares war on Bulgaria.
Sept. 8 First V-2 lands on London.
Sept. 9 Bulgarian armistice.
Sept. 10 Second Quebec Conference (Churchill and Roosevelt). Finnish armistice signed.
Sept. 17 Allied airborne army lands in Holland.
Oct. 9 Third Moscow Conference (Churchill, Eden, Stalin).
Oct. 14 Allies occupy Athens.
Oct. 20 Belgrade liberated by Russians and Yugoslavs.
American troops invade Philippines.
Oct. 21-22 Battle of Leyte Gulf.
Nov. 12 *Tirpitz* sunk in Tromsø Fiord by R.A.F.
Dec. 16 Germans launch counteroffensive. Battle of the Bulge.

1945

- Jan. 9 U.S. forces land on Luzon in Philippines.
- Jan. 11 Russians capture Warsaw.
- Jan. 20 Provisional Government of Hungary signs armistice.
- Jan. 27 Memel liberated.
- Jan. 31 Churchill and Roosevelt meet at Malta.
- Feb. 3 U.S. troops enter Manila.
- Feb. 4–12 Yalta Conference (Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin).
- Feb. 19 U.S. Marines land on Iwo Jima.
- March 4 Finland declares war on Germany as from September 15, 1944.
- March 7 U.S. First Army crosses Rhine on bridge at Remagen.
- April 1 U.S. invasion of Okinawa.
- April 12 Death of President Roosevelt. Truman becomes President.
- April 13 Vienna liberated by Soviet army.
- April 25 United Nations parley opens at San Francisco.
Russian and U.S. forces meet at Torgau on the Elbe.
- April 28 Mussolini executed by Partisans.
- April 30 Hitler commits suicide in bunker at Reich Chancellery in Berlin. 33,000 inmates of Dachau concentration camp freed by U.S. forces. Soviet flag raised over *Reichstag* in Berlin.
- May 1 Grand Admiral Doenitz takes command in Germany.
- May 2 Fall of Berlin to Russians.
German armies in Italy make complete surrender.
- May 3 Rangoon captured.
- May 7 Germany surrenders unconditionally to Western Allies and Russia.
- May 8 V-E Day.
- June 26 World Security Charter signed at San Francisco.
- July 17–Aug. 2 Potsdam Conference (Truman, Stalin, Churchill and later Attlee).
- Aug. 6 First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.
- Aug. 8 U.S.S.R. declares war on Japan.
- Aug. 9 Second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki.
- Aug. 14 Japanese unconditional surrender.
- Sept. 2 Japanese sign surrender terms on U.S.S. *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.