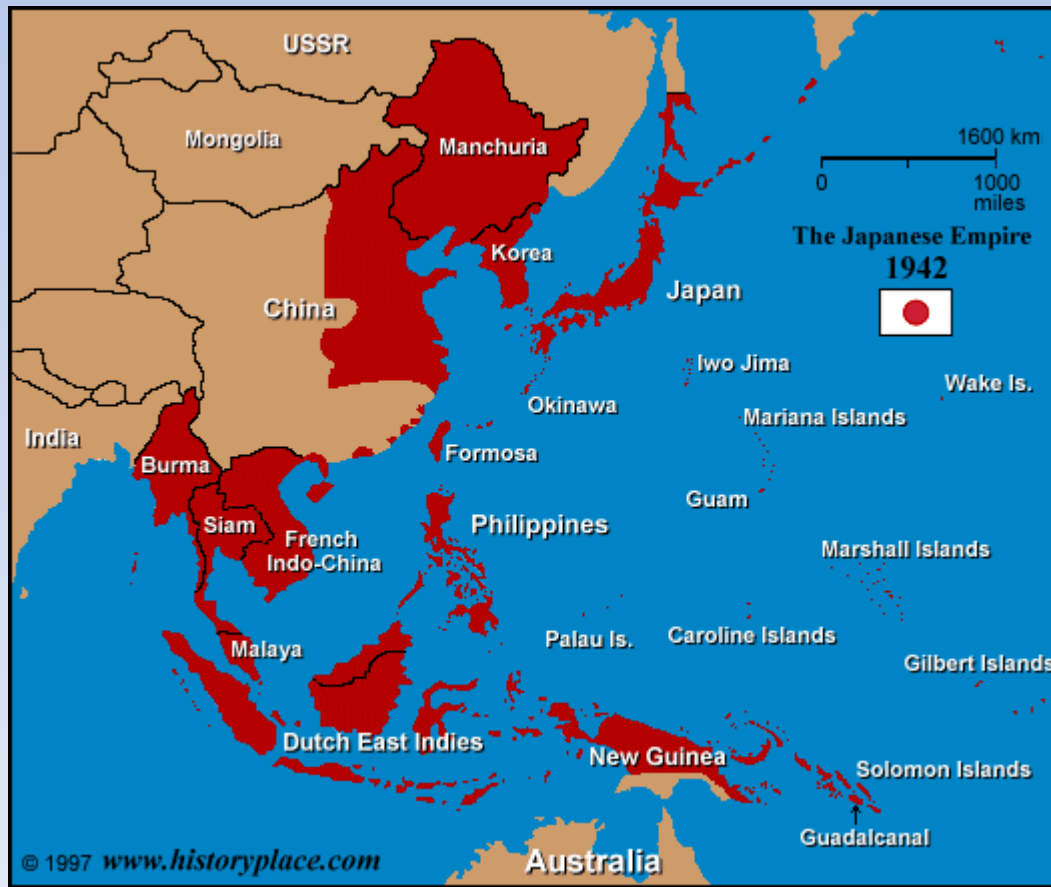


THE AXIS POWERS ADVANCE

The Axis powers advanced, attacking countries in eastern and western Europe.



In the Pacific, Japan captured countries and colonies on the islands and the mainland of Asia. The Axis powers brought misery to the peoples they conquered.



Blitzkrieg

The German air force, the **Luftwaffe**, bombed airfields, factories, and cities in Poland.

Then, fast-moving tanks and troops pushed their way in from the west.

Meanwhile, Stalin's forces invaded Poland from the east.

Within a month, Poland ceased to exist.

Hitler waited out the winter. Then in the spring of 1940, German forces attacked Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Belgium.

Next, German troops poured into France, trapping the retreating British forces at **Dunkirk**.

British vessels crossed the English Channel and ferried more than 300,000 British troops to safety.

This rescue was called the **Miracle of Dunkirk.**



There is a good 2017 movie to watch based on these events: **Dunkirk**

Germany continued to attack Western Europe.

- German forces headed to Paris. With Italy attacking from the south, France was forced to surrender.



Germany continued to attack Western Europe.

- Next Hitler set his sights on Britain, calling this target **“Operation Sea Lion.”**
- In September of 1940, the Luftwaffe began **57 straight nights** of showering high explosives and firebombs on London.





London did not break under **the blitz**. Citizens carried on their daily lives, seeking protection in shelters and subways. The Luftwaffe could not gain superiority over Britain.

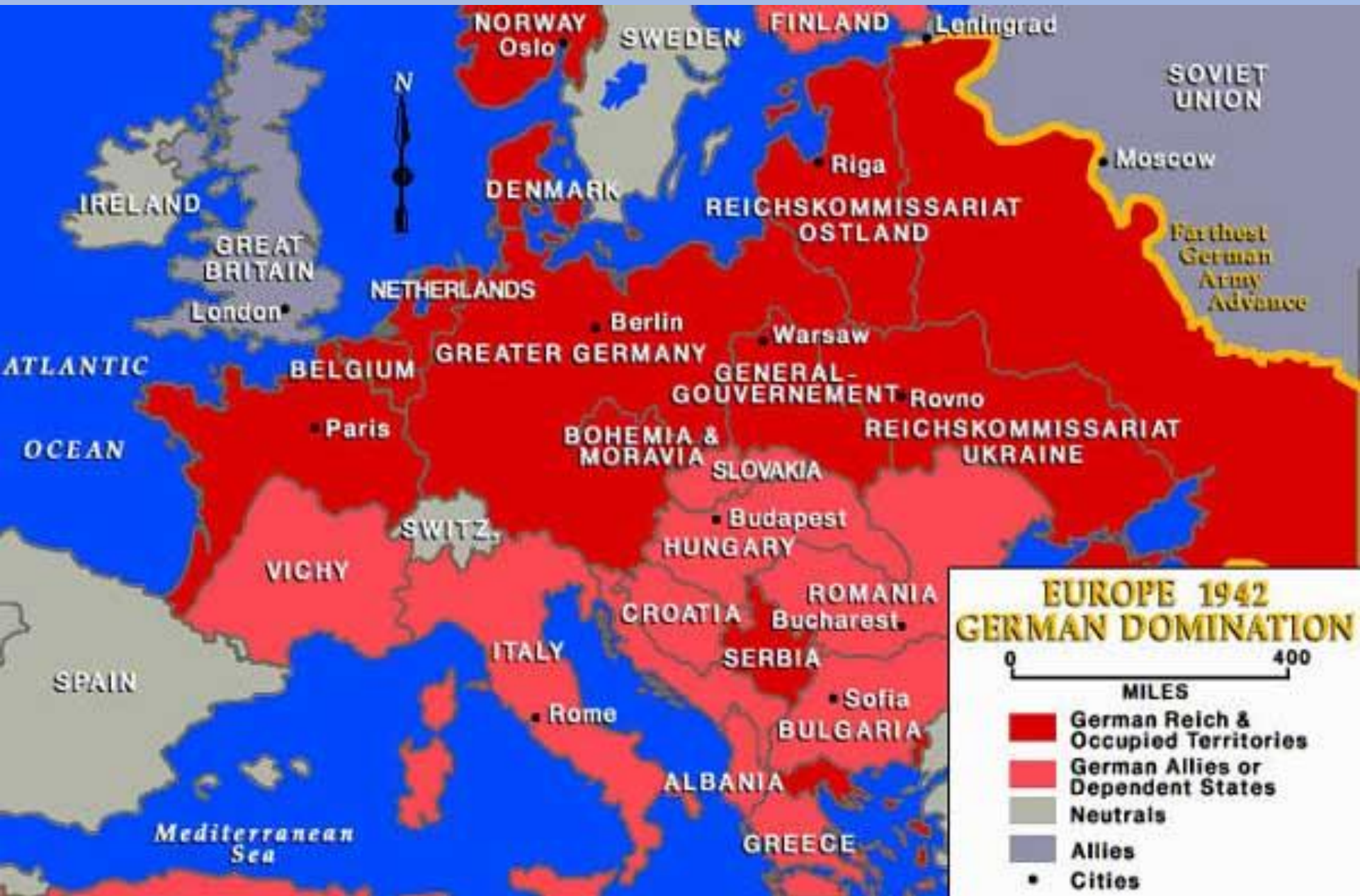
Operation Sea Lion was a failure.




Hitler seemed unstoppable.

- Axis armies also pushed into North Africa and the Balkans.
- In addition, they invaded Greece, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Hungary.
- By 1941, the Axis powers or their allies controlled most of Europe.

Hitler seemed unstoppable.



In June 1941, Hitler broke the Nazi-Soviet Pact when
he attacked the Soviet Union.

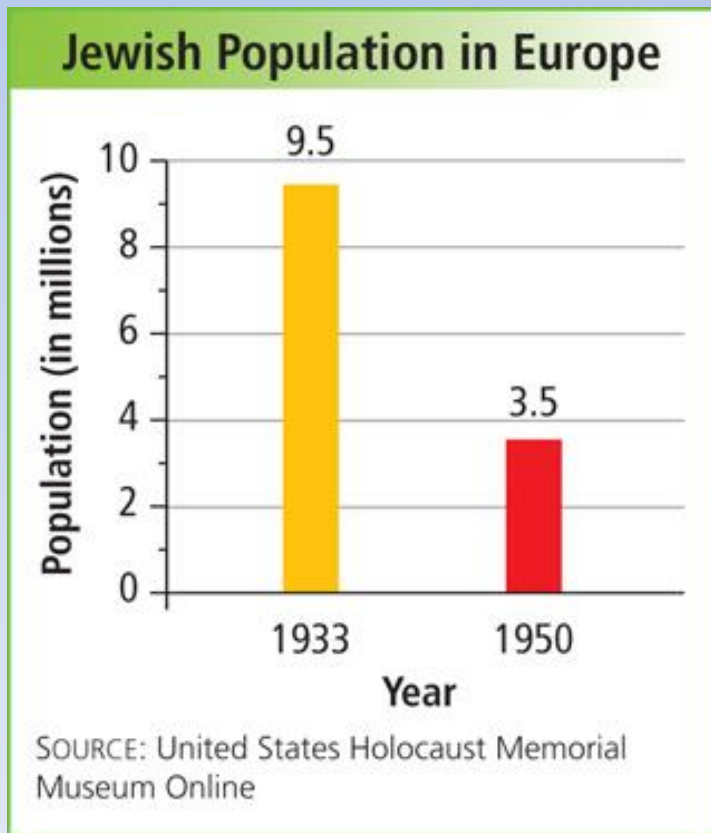


The attack stalled during the winter when thousands
of unprepared Germans froze to death.



Leningrad withstood the attack.
Stalin made an agreement to work with Britain.

As Hitler's forces conquered most of Europe, the Nazis sent millions of Jews and political opponents to **concentration camps.**



They also targeted Slavs, Gypsies, homosexuals, and the disabled as “racially inferior.” The scale and savagery of the **Holocaust** are unequalled in history.



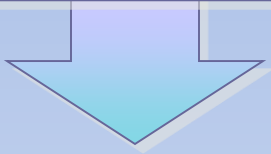
The Nazis ran labor camps and death camps throughout their conquered territory in Europe.

At the beginning of the war, the United States declared its neutrality.




- However, in August 1941, President Roosevelt met secretly with Britain's Churchill.
- They created the Atlantic Charter, which established the goal of destroying the Nazi reign.
- Meanwhile, tensions between the United States and Japan grew.

The United States declared war on Japan after Japanese airplanes bombed the American fleet in Hawaii at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.



On December 11, Germany and Italy, Japan's allies, declared war on the United States.



Japan's thirst for expansion led them deeper into Asia as the United States mobilized for war.

Damage at Pearl Harbor

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| U.S. ships sunk or damaged | 19 |
| U.S. aircraft destroyed | 188 |
| Americans killed | 2,348 |
| Americans injured | 1,109 |

SOURCE: *Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition*

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II.