Mon. 2 PM - 3:50
May 5th.

World War II (Part I)

I) Beginning of war
Poland & Phoney War

II) War in West
Defeat of France

III) Battle of Britain

IV) Operation "Barbarossa".

Stalin was isolated, not invited to Munich, bought time with Ribbentrop Peace Pact.

Global war - no Distinction between home Front & battle Front. Major cities bombed. More civilian causualties than battlefield causualties. Victory by Japan or German would be horrorific for losers. Unconditional surrender was only option.

Sept. 1, 1939 - Germany attacks Poland.

Blitzkrieg - Lightning War - air strikes in sync with armored ground force. Pdes vastly outnumbered.

8 days later Russians attack From ~~en~~ west. SS units rounded up civilians, jews, intellectuals, gypsys, etc rounded up & murdered. Idealogical & racial war. Inferior people slated for death. Some Vermacht also participated. Poland falls.

Phoney War - nothing happened in the west in 1939. Sept. 3rd - Britain & France declare war against Germany. No attacks from west so Hitler was free to concentrate forces in ~~Ger~~ Poland. Hope was that Russia could be brought around to west. Hitler hoped that Britain would stay out of war. Shocked that Britain declared war on him. May 1940 - Germans attack Denmark & Norway, then Belgium & France.

Attacked Holland too. Hitler worried about Dutch blowing Dikes. Glider & parachute forces invade & protect Dikes.

Invasion of France- large French army & thousands of British troops. Two pronged attack where Maginot line was not built. Argenne Forest & Belgium. French panic. Not prepared for attack. Small air force, little anti-tank weapons, small tank force, did not cooperate well with British. Defeatist attitude on left & right. French commies support Stalin. Many on right supported Hitler. June 21st- France is defeated. British evacuate at Dunkirk. 30,000 troops left on beaches, equipment left behind. End of French/British cooperation. Hitler visited Napo. tomb & Eiffel tower in Paris. Paris & north falls under Vermacht rule. South is Vichy state- semi-independent. Collaborated with Germany headed by hero of Verdun- Petain. Laval was mayor & helped round up Jews. ↳ Wanted to rid France of Jews. Freed Hitler to fight in east. - Vichy was so cooperative few German troops were required.

Battle of Britain - Hitler hoped British would make a deal with him. Churchill was elected PM- no interest in cooperating with Nazis. Famous "Blood, sweat & tears" speech. Hitler did not want to fight ~~Britain~~. British Empire. Some ~~lol~~ Financial help from U.S. Lend/lease program initiated. Help flows to Britain. Hitler reluctant to declare

war on US. Hitler tries to knock Britain out of the war. Chooses to attack England like William the Conquerer in 1066. ~~Tries~~ Hitler tries to destroy RAF & British naval control of Channel. Called Operation Sea Lion by Germany. – invasion of England. Never happened. British defeat Luftwaffe in Battle of Britain. Spitfires outmaneuvered Messerschmitts. Home advantage too. British had primitive radar & had advance warning via primitive radar. Göring was frustrated & stretched out attacks to Coventry ~~& London~~. "So much owed to so few" Churchill. Sea Lion called off but blitz on British cities begins. Terror bombings – did not work. Increased British resolve. British determined to bomb German cities. Berlin attacked early in war. Herodotus – "Free men fight better than slaves".

Operation "Barbarossa" – attack on Soviet Union. Hitler believed that if he had control of Sov. Union then Britain would have to come to terms with him. Wished to attack early & have a quick victory. Delayed due to Mus. who was bogged down in North Africa. 4–5 week delay. Attacked Soviets on June 22, 1941. Huge force from Norway, Denmark, Spain, Romania. Stalin shocked. Thought that Hitler was provoking him to attack first. Red Army weakened by purges. Hitler made crucial mistakes. 3 Fronts weakened German Forces. Leningrad, Moscow & Stalingrad Fronts. Large army, but not big enough. Did not achieve one goal. Siege of Leningrad. Close to Moscow but could not push into city. Stalingrad – never taken. Germans provoked Ukrainians &

made them as enemies. Ukraines had no love for Russians either. Stalin finally recovers - & Drops Communist rhetoric & uses patriotism. Barbarossa = Red Beard - German emperor. Poles were only Foriegn power to occupy Kremlin!