

DOWNLOAD PDF THE BALTIC AND THE OUTBREAK OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Chapter 1 : Top 11 Causes of 2nd World War

The Baltic and the outbreak of the Second World War makes an important contribution to the perennial debate on the immediate causes of the conflict, and should interest specialists in a variety of fields within international relations, modern European and diplomatic history.

Top 11 Causes of 2nd World War Article shared by: The peace settlement made by Treaty of Versailles was faulty and contained the germs of the Second World War. Both the manner in which the treaty was concluded as well as the specific provisions that it contained led the defeated nations, particularly Germany, to feel humiliated as a forcibly suppressed nation. This treaty was imposed by the victors on the defeated and was not negotiated in a spirit of give and take. It had the germs of a new war. The provisions of the Treaty of Versailles were harsh. The major terms of the Articles of the Treaty were aimed at destroying the power of Germany. Far reaching territorial changes had been affected by this Treaty. France had got back Alsace and Lorraine. Dazing had been made a free city. Saar valley had been placed under the control of an international commission and France had been given the right of exploiting the coal mines of the valley. Memel had been given to Lithuania in Union of Austria and Germany had been forbidden. Germany had been made to renounce all her overseas possessions and colonies, which were later on placed as mandates under the victorious powers. In short, Germany had been deprived of nearly a million square miles of its area. The treaty had considerably reduced the military strength of Germany. The economic clauses of the Treaty were directed to make Germany pay for the war losses and damages. Above all, it was burdened with reparation payments which were beyond its capacity. Even politically Germany was made to accept Weimer Republic Constitution. It was designed to make Germany accept western political institutions and practices which however, were not in tune with the past political experience and values of the people of this state. It was indeed a dictated constitution destined to get buried in the years to come. Thus, the Treaty of Versailles contained the germs of a future war. The developments of inter-war period helped these germs to grow and lead the world towards the second global war, just 20 years after the end of the first one. Rise of Nazism in Germany: The humiliating terms of the Treaty of Versailles made the German love for nationalism stronger. The problems faced by Germany made the people more conscious of the need for unity and strength. For this purpose, they willingly accepted the dictatorship of Hitler and his policy of restoring the prestige of Germans by taking revenge upon those responsible for humiliating Germany at the Paris Peace Conference. Rise of Fascism in Italy: The failure of Italy to secure the desired gains at the Paris Peace Conference made it thoroughly dissatisfied and annoyed with the role of Britain and France. It was under these circumstances that Mussolini and his Fascist Party came to power and held out the promise to make Italy rich and powerful. The fascists advocated extreme nationalism, war and imperialism as the means for securing the interests of Italy. The people of Italy found fascism a very attractive ideology because it promised to them a glorious future. Italy under Mussolini began making attempts to expand its power and secure new territories. Thus paved the way for the development of Rome-Berlin Axis in international relations—a development that became responsible for the outbreak of World War II. Emergence of Militarism and Expansionism in Japan: The ambitions of Japan had increased during World War I. At the Paris Peace Conference, Japan had been quite successful in securing several advantages vis-a- vis China but these got almost negotiated by the Washington Conference. Japan, thereafter, decided to expand its military power with a view to secure more territories of China. By , Japan was in a position to develop its military might and Japanese Imperial War Council started playing an active and powerful role in Japanese politics. Militarism and imperialism came to be accepted as the ideal means for expanding Japanese power in the world. In , Japan started an undeclared war against China. Being a partner in the Rome-Berlin Axis, Japan found it essential to enter the war. In , it attacked Pearl Harbour and made the Second World War a bloodier and more devastating war. Failure of the League to act as an International Peace Keeper: The League of Nations was created in for securing international peace. However, due to several

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structural defects, like the provision for unanimous decisions, lack of adequate resources etc. It lacked the strong organisation needed to command respect among the nations. Its Covenant was observed more in breach than in compliance. The failure to act during Manchurian and Abyssinian crises proved its failure. The small nations were quick to develop a lack of confidence in the League. Even the great powers made no attempt to put into practice the provisions of the Covenant. Both Britain and France tried hard to use the League for promoting their own self-interests. The march of events in the post period proved the inadequacy of the League of Nations to play its designated role as peace-keeper through collective security. The collective security provisions of the Covenant were never really put into practice by the members. Each nation sought to use the League as an instrument of its own national policy. The rigid rule of unanimous decisions also acted as a major hindrance and prevented collective security action on the part of the League. The unscrupulous behaviour of Japan and Italy, the French obsession with its security and the British apathy, made things worst. Under the circumstances, the collective security system of the League failed to provide protection against aggression. The result was disastrous for all. Failure of efforts towards Disarmament: Another cause of the war was the failure of the disarmament efforts. The Treaty of Versailles provided for the virtual disarming of Germany. Article 8 of the Covenant of the League called upon the members to take steps for the reduction of national armaments to the lowest point consistent with national safety. But the net effect was almost nil. Many conferences were held, both inside and outside the League for securing disarmament, but practically nothing came out of these. The British and French policies of keeping up the development of armaments provided Hitler the much needed handle to justify the arming of Germany. Arming of Germany under Hitler intensified the armament race and it came to be a major cause of the Second World War. Problem of National Minorities: The Paris Peace Conference failed to solve the problem of settling the minorities. US President Wilson had advocated the need to base the peace treaty on the principle of self-determination. But due to several social, cultural, religious, economic and military factors, it was found difficult to operationalize this principle. Consequently, in many states minorities opposed to each other were left under an alien rule. For example, a large number of Germans were left in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria. As a result a fierce discontent developed among the minorities in many states. Hitler took full advantage of the situation and exhorted these minorities to overthrow their governments. For helping the German minorities living in other states, Hitler used war, aggression and intervention as the means. The occupation of Austria and Sudetenland was the result of this policy. The attack on Poland was also justified in the name of helping the German brotherhood. The problem of national minorities acted as a factor of the outbreak of Second World War. The Harmful Politics of Secret Alliances: The European states continued to depend upon secret military pacts and alliances as means for strengthening their security. France entered into a number of alliances with other states. This compelled Germany, Italy and Japan to follow suit by entering into mutual security pacts and treaties. A large number of defence and security pacts, secret as well as public, were concluded by most of the European states. Such security pacts, however, proved to be counterproductive in as much as these strengthened the sense of insecurity and mutual distrust among the nations. By , the world stood virtually divided between two rival alliance systemsâ€”The Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis of the in satiated states and the anti- Axis alliance system of several other states. Economic Depression of s: Another important factor which indirectly led to the collapse of the inter-war system and to the outbreak of World War II, was the economic depression of s. The pressure caused by this development gave rise to the emergence of centralized and dictatorial regimes in Germany, Italy and several other states of Europe. Such states resorted to imperialist and expansionist policies. Most of the interventions and invasions which took place during period were guided by economic motives. The Fascist rulers sought to solve their economic problems through military conquests and expansion of their military power. Another cause of World War II was the ideological conflict between dictatorships on the one hand and democracies on the other. The ideological conflict between the former and the latter prevented the adoption of a peaceful and balanced approach to the settlement of their disputes. Western Policy of Appeasement: Britain, during the interwar years was more concerned with the growing Red Menace Communism than Fascism and

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Nazism. The British statesmen were interested in making Germany a bulwark against Soviet communism. They felt that after achieving his desired goals in East Europe, Hitler would try to expand towards Russia. Led by such a feeling, the Anglo-French powers adopted a policy of appeasement towards Hitler.

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Chapter 2 : Aircraft of the Baltic States | Let Let Let - Warplanes

The Baltic and the Outbreak of the Second World War by John Hiden This book is the first to highlight the importance of the Baltic region in the approach to war in Amid the welter of publications on the origins of the Second World War none has sought hitherto to focus on the Baltic region, where peace finally and irrevocably broke down.

The war in Europe, 1939-41 The campaign in Poland, The German conquest of Poland in September was the first demonstration in war of the new theory of high-speed armoured warfare that had been adopted by the Germans when their rearmament began. Poland was a country all too well suited for such a demonstration. It would have been wiser for the Polish Army to assemble farther back, behind the natural defense line formed by the Vistula and San rivers, but that would have entailed the abandonment of some of the most valuable western parts of the country, including the Silesian coalfields and most of the main industrial zone, which lay west of the river barrier. The economic argument for delaying the German approach to the main industrial zone was heavily reinforced by Polish national pride and military overconfidence. When war broke out the Polish Army was able to mobilize about 1,000,000 men, a fairly large number. The Polish Army was woefully outmoded, however, and was almost completely lacking in tanks, armoured personnel carriers, and antitank and anti-aircraft guns. Yet many of the Polish military leaders clung to the double belief that their preponderance of horsed cavalry was an important asset and that they could take the offensive against the German mechanized forces. In the south, facing the main avenues of a German advance, the Polish forces were thinly spread. The odd infantry divisions employed by the Germans in the invasion counted for much less than their 14 mechanized or partially mechanized divisions: The Germans attacked with about 1,000,000 troops in all. It was the deep and rapid thrusts of these mechanized forces that decided the issue, in conjunction with the overhead pressure of the Luftwaffe, which wrecked the Polish railway system and destroyed most of the Polish Air Force before it could come into action. On September 1, 1939, the German attack began. Much stronger in troops and in tanks, however, was the army group in the south under General Gerd von Rundstedt, attacking from Silesia and from the Moravian and Slovakian border: At the same time, the 3rd Army tanks, led by Guderian, were across the Narew attacking the line of the Bug River, behind Warsaw. All the German armies had made progress in fulfilling their parts in the great enveloping maneuver planned by General Franz Halder, chief of the general staff, and directed by General Walther von Brauchitsch, the commander in chief. The Polish armies were splitting up into uncoordinated fragments, some of which were retreating while others were delivering disjointed attacks on the nearest German columns. German soldiers breaking down a barricade at the Polish border at the outbreak of World War II, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. The Polish defense was already reduced to random efforts by isolated bodies of troops when another blow fell: The next day, the Polish government and high command crossed the Romanian frontier on their way into exile. The Warsaw garrison held out against the Germans until September 28, undergoing terror-bombings and artillery barrages that reduced parts of the city to rubble, with no regard for the civilian population. The last considerable fragment of the Polish Army resisted until October 5; and some guerrilla fighting went on into the winter. The Germans took a total of 2,000,000 prisoners, and about 80,000 Polish soldiers escaped over neutral frontiers. Approximately 70,000 Polish soldiers were killed and more than 1,000,000 wounded during the battle, whereas the Germans sustained about 45,000 total casualties. Poland was conquered for partition between Germany and the U. S. S. R. On September 28 another secret German-Soviet protocol modified the arrangements of August:

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Chapter 3 : Naval history of World War II - Wikipedia

This book is the first to highlight the importance of the Baltic region in the approach to war in Amid the welter of publications on the origins of the Second World War none has sought hitherto.

In order to see this content you need to have both Javascript enabled and Flash installed. I have to tell you that no such understanding has been received and that consequently this country is at war with Germany. Neville Chamberlain Only eleven months before, Chamberlain had returned from Munich convinced that there would not be a war. Why did the situation change so quickly? Have a look at this typical exam question about the outbreak of World War II. Why did Britain declare war on Germany on 3 September ? The question looks daunting but you can use the information on this page to plan an essay answer. Chamberlain - So why did Chamberlain make this speech? March - Hitler occupied the rest of Western Czechoslovakia. This broke the Munich Agreement. Chamberlain realised that Hitler could not be trusted. April - The British government promised to defend Poland if a foreign country attacked it. This was an agreement between Germany and the Soviet Union that they would not go to war with each other. This was obviously to avoid a conflict when Germany invaded Poland. There were also secret agreements to divide up Poland between the two countries and to allow the Soviet Union to occupy the Baltic States of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. The British government replied by sending a note to the German government demanding that German forces should withdraw. The big difference between the situation in September and that in September was that Britain had made a promise to defend Poland. Chamberlain could not avoid declaring war. The British government was in exactly the same situation as it had been in August when Germany had invaded Belgium. Click the audio for a debate about the causes of the second world war.

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Chapter 4 : World War II | Facts, Summary, Combatants, & Causes | www.nxgvision.com

Nazi German policy towards the Baltic states on the eve of the Second World War Rolf Ahmann; 4. The role of Danzig in Polish-German relations on the eve of the Second World War Anita Prazmowska; 5. Great Britain, the Soviet Union and Finland at the beginning of the Second World War Patrick Salmon; 6.

Administered by the League of Nations Annexed or transferred to neighboring countries by the treaty, or later via plebiscite and League of Nation action Weimar Germany The Treaty of Versailles was neither lenient enough to appease Germany , nor harsh enough to prevent it from becoming the dominant continental power again. The treaty provided for harsh monetary reparations , separated millions of ethnic Germans into neighboring countries, territorial dismemberment , and caused mass ethnic resettlement. In an effort to pay war reparations to Britain and France, the Weimar Republic printed trillions of marks, causing extremely high inflation of the German currency see Hyperinflation in the Weimar Republic. The treaty created bitter resentment towards the victors of World War I, who had promised the people of Germany that U. Many Germans felt that the German government had agreed to an armistice based on this understanding, while others felt that the German Revolution of 1918 had been orchestrated by the "November criminals" who later assumed office in the new Weimar Republic. The German colonies were taken during the war, and Italy took the southern half of Tyrol after an armistice had been agreed upon. The war in the east ended with the defeat and collapse of Russian Empire , and German troops occupied large parts of Eastern and Central Europe with varying degree of control , establishing various client states such as a kingdom of Poland and the United Baltic Duchy. After the destructive and indecisive battle of Jutland and the mutiny of its sailors in 1918, the Kaiserliche Marine spent most of the war in port, only to be turned over to the allies and scuttled at surrender by its own officers. The lack of an obvious military defeat was one of the pillars that held together the Dolchstoßlegende "Stab-in-the-back myth" and gave the Nazis another propaganda tool at their disposal. Ginsberg argues, "France was greatly weakened and, in its weakness and fear of a resurgent Germany, sought to isolate and punish Germany French revenge would come back to haunt France during the Nazi invasion and occupation twenty years later. The Paris Peace Conference of 1919 was their chance to punish Germany for starting the war. The War Guilt Clause was the first step towards a satisfying revenge for the victor countries, namely France, against Germany. France understood that its position in 1919 was "artificial and transitory". The two main provisions of the French security agenda were reparations from Germany in the form of money and coal and a detached German Rhineland. The French government printed excess currency, which created inflation, to compensate for the lack of funds in addition to borrowing money from the United States. Reparations from Germany were necessary to stabilize the French economy. Because France feared for its safety as a country, the French demanded an amount of coal that was a "technical impossibility" for the Germans to pay back. This gave France a physical security barrier between itself and Germany. Germany also fell behind in their coal payments. They fell behind because of a passive resistance movement against the French. At this point the majority of Germans were enraged with the French and placed the blame for their humiliation on the Weimar Republic. Although this failed, Hitler gained recognition as a national hero amongst the German population. The demilitarized Rhineland and additional cutbacks on military infuriated the Germans. Although it is logical that France would want the Rhineland to be a neutral zone, the fact that France had the power to make that desire happen merely added onto the resentment of the Germans against the French. In addition, the Treaty of Versailles dissolved the German general staff and possession of navy ships, aircraft, poison gas , tanks, and heavy artillery was made illegal. Grew, in a formal address to the America-Japan Society stated: American rights and interests in China are being impaired or destroyed by the policies and actions of the Japanese authorities in China. Lengthy talks were held between the U. The intended consequence of this was the halt of oil shipments from the U. The Netherlands and Britain followed suit. With oil reserves that would last only a year and a half during peace time much less during wartime , this ABCD line left Japan two choices: The

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Japan government deemed it unacceptable to retreat from China. The diplomatic philosophy behind the League represented a fundamental shift in thought from the preceding century. The old philosophy of "concert of nations", growing out of the Congress of Vienna, saw Europe as a shifting map of alliances among nation-states, creating a balance of power maintained by strong armies and secret agreements. Under the new philosophy, the League was a government of governments, with the role of settling disputes between individual nations in an open and legalist forum. The official opening of the League of Nations, 15 November 1918. The League lacked an armed force of its own and so depended on the members to enforce its resolutions, uphold economic sanctions that the League ordered, or provide an army when needed for the League to use. However, they were often very reluctant to do so. After numerous notable successes and some early failures in the 1920s, the League ultimately proved incapable of preventing aggression by the Axis powers in the 1930s. The reliance upon unanimous decisions, the lack of an armed force, and the continued self-interest of its leading members meant that this failure was arguably inevitable. Mason had contended that a "flight into war" had been imposed on Adolf Hitler by a structural economic crisis, which confronted Hitler with the choice of making difficult economic decisions or aggression. Mason had argued that the German working-class was always loyal to the Nazi dictatorship; that in the over-heated German economy of the late 1920s, German workers could force employers to grant higher wages by leaving for another firm that would grant the desired wage increases; that this was a form of political resistance and this resistance forced Adolf Hitler to go to war in 1933.

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Chapter 5 : BBC - Standard Grade Bitesize History - Outbreak of World War Two : Revision

The Baltic and the outbreak of the second one international warfare makes an immense contribution to the perennial debate at the fast factors of the clash, and will curiosity experts in a number of fields inside diplomacy, sleek ecu and diplomatic heritage.

Visit Website Did you know? As early as , in his memoir and propaganda tract "Mein Kampf" My Struggle , Adolf Hitler had predicted a general European war that would result in "the extermination of the Jewish race in Germany. In the mids, he began the rearmament of Germany, secretly and in violation of the Versailles Treaty. After signing alliances with Italy and Japan against the Soviet Union , Hitler sent troops to occupy Austria in and the following year annexed Czechoslovakia. Hitler had long planned an invasion of Poland, a nation to which Great Britain and France had guaranteed military support if it was attacked by Germany. The pact with Stalin meant that Hitler would not face a war on two fronts once he invaded Poland, and would have Soviet assistance in conquering and dividing the nation itself. On September 17, Soviet troops invaded Poland from the east. Under attack from both sides, Poland fell quickly, and by early Germany and the Soviet Union had divided control over the nation, according to a secret protocol appended to the Nonaggression Pact. In fact, the Germans broke through the line with their tanks and planes and continued to the rear, rendering it useless. Hitler now turned his attention to Britain, which had the defensive advantage of being separated from the Continent by the English Channel. To pave the way for an amphibious invasion dubbed Operation Sea Lion , German planes bombed Britain extensively throughout the summer of , including night raids on London and other industrial centers that caused heavy civilian casualties and damage. Arguments between Hitler and his commanders delayed the next German advance until October, when it was stalled by a Soviet counteroffensive and the onset of harsh winter weather. World War II in the Pacific With Britain facing Germany in Europe, the United States was the only nation capable of combating Japanese aggression, which by late included an expansion of its ongoing war with China and the seizure of European colonial holdings in the Far East. On December 7, , Japanese aircraft attacked the major U. Germany and the other Axis Powers promptly declared war on the United States. After a long string of Japanese victories, the U. Pacific Fleet won the Battle of Midway in June , which proved to be a turning point in the war. On Guadalcanal, one of the southern Solomon Islands, the Allies also had success against Japanese forces in a series of battles from August to February , helping turn the tide further in the Pacific. In mid, Allied naval forces began an aggressive counterattack against Japan, involving a series of amphibious assaults on key Japanese-held islands in the Pacific. The approach of winter, along with dwindling food and medical supplies, spelled the end for German troops there, and the last of them surrendered on January 31, Soviet troops soon advanced into Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Romania, while Hitler gathered his forces to drive the Americans and British back from Germany in the Battle of the Bulge December January , the last major German offensive of the war. An intensive aerial bombardment in February preceded the Allied land invasion of Germany, and by the time Germany formally surrendered on May 8, Soviet forces had occupied much of the country. Hitler was already dead, having committed suicide on April 30 in his Berlin bunker. Post-war Germany would be divided into four occupation zones, to be controlled by the Soviet Union, Britain, the United States and France. Heavy casualties sustained in the campaigns at Iwo Jima February and Okinawa April-June , and fears of the even costlier land invasion of Japan led Truman to authorize the use of a new and devastating weapon—the atomic bomb—on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in early August. On August 10, the Japanese government issued a statement declaring they would accept the terms of the Potsdam Declaration, and on September 2, U. World War II proved to be the most devastating international conflict in history, taking the lives of some 35 to 60 million people, including 6 million Jews who died at the hands of the Nazis. Millions more were injured, and still more lost their homes and property. The legacy of the war would include the spread of communism from the Soviet Union into eastern Europe as well as its eventual triumph in China, and

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the global shift in power from Europe to two rival superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—that would soon face off against each other in the Cold War. Start your free trial today.

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Chapter 6 : Russia accuses Poland of starting Second World War - Telegraph

The Baltic and the outbreak of the second one international warfare makes an incredible contribution to the perennial debate at the rapid factors of the clash, and may curiosity experts in quite a few fields inside diplomacy, glossy eu and diplomatic historical past.

It also played a major supporting role, alongside the Royal Navy, in the European war against Germany. The December surprise attack on Pearl Harbor did knock out the battle fleet, but it did not touch the aircraft carriers, which became the mainstay of the rebuilt fleet. Naval doctrine had to be changed overnight. King, the head of the Navy, to place primary emphasis on the small number of aircraft carriers. Navy grew tremendously as it faced a two-front war on the seas. Navy was operating 6, ships on V-J Day in August, including 28 aircraft carriers, 23 battleships, 71 escort carriers, 72 cruisers, over submarines, destroyers, and thousands of amphibious, supply and auxiliary ships. It assumed that the United States was allied with Britain and France and provided for offensive operations by American forces in Europe, Africa, or both. The assumptions and plans for Rainbow 5 were discussed extensively in the Plan Dog memo, which concluded ultimately that the United States would adhere to a Europe first strategy, making the war against Germany a higher priority than the war against Japan. However President Roosevelt did not approve the plan—he wanted to play it by ear. It had stocks that would last a year or two. It had to compromise or fight to recapture British and Dutch wells to the South. Army Chief of Staff George Marshall explained the American air war strategy to the press—it was top secret and not for publication: We are preparing for an offensive war against Japan, whereas the Japs believe we are preparing only to defend the Philippines. We have 35 Flying Fortresses already there—the largest concentration anywhere in the world. Twenty more will be added next month, and 60 more in January Flying fortresses will be dispatched immediately to set the paper cities of Japan on fire. There wont be any hesitation about bombing civilians—it will be all-out. After Japan captured the Philippines in early, American strategy refocused on a naval war focusing on the capture of islands close enough for the intensive bombing campaign Marshall spoke about. In, the Navy captured Saipan and the Mariana Islands, which were within range of the new B bombers. London and Washington both believed in Mahanian doctrine, which stressed the need for a unified fleet. However, in contrast to the cooperation achieved by the armies, the Allied navies failed to combine or even coordinate their activities until mid Tokyo also believed in Mahan, who said command of the seas—achieved by great fleet battles—was the key to sea power. Therefore, the IJN kept its main strike force together under Admiral Yamamoto and won a series of stunning victories over the Americans and British in the 90 days after Pearl Harbor. Outgunned at sea, with its big guns lying at the bottom of Pearl Harbor, the American strategy for victory required a slow retreat or holding action against the IJN until the much greater industrial potential of the US could be mobilized to launch a fleet capable of projecting Allied power to the enemy heartland. Battle of Midway The Battle of Midway, together with the Guadalcanal campaign, marked the turning point in the Pacific. The Japanese fleet lost four aircraft carriers to the U. Military historian John Keegan called the Battle of Midway "the most stunning and decisive blow in the history of naval warfare. Battle of Guadalcanal Guadalcanal, fought from August to February, was the first major Allied offensive of the war in the Pacific Theater. This campaign saw American air, naval and ground forces later augmented by Australians and New Zealanders in a six months campaign slowly overwhelm determined Japanese resistance. Guadalcanal was the key to control the Solomon Islands, which both sides saw as strategically essential. Both sides won some battles but both sides were overextended in terms of supply lines. Enormous effort went into recruiting and training sailors and Marines, and building warships, warplanes and support ships in preparation for a thrust across the Pacific, and to support Army operations in the Southwest Pacific, as well as in Europe and North Africa. Not every Japanese stronghold had to be captured; some, like the big bases at Truk, Rabaul and Formosa were neutralized by air attack and then simply leapfrogged. The ultimate goal was to get close to Japan itself, then launch massive strategic air attacks and

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finally an invasion. The US Navy did not seek out the Japanese fleet for a decisive battle, as Mahanian doctrine would suggest; the enemy had to attack to stop the inexorable advance. The climax of the carrier war came at the Battle of the Philippine Sea. The Japanese launched an ill-coordinated attack on the larger American fleet; its planes operated at extreme ranges and could not keep together, allowing them to be easily shot down in what Americans jokingly called the "Great Marianas Turkey Shoot. The carrier Zuikaku center and two destroyers under attack June 20, Main article: Battle of Okinawa Okinawa was the last great battle of the entire war. The goal was to make the island into a staging area for the invasion of Japan scheduled for fall. Marines and soldiers landed on 1 April , to begin an day campaign which became the largest land-sea-air battle in history and was noted for the ferocity of the fighting and the high civilian casualties with over , Okinawans losing their lives. Japanese kamikaze pilots exacted the largest loss of ships in U. The fierce combat and high American losses led the Navy to oppose an invasion of the main islands. An alternative strategy was chosen: US vs Japan[edit] Technology and industrial power proved decisive. Japan failed to exploit its early successes before the immense potential power of the Allies could be brought to bear. In the Japanese Zero fighter had a longer range and better performance than rival American warplanes, and the pilots had more experience in the air. High tech innovations arrived with dizzying rapidity. Entirely new weapons systems were invented—like the landing ships, such as the 3,ton LST " Landing Ship, Tank " that carried 25 tanks thousands of miles and landed them right on the assault beaches. Furthermore, older weapons systems were constantly upgraded and improved. Obsolescent airplanes, for example, received more powerful engines and more sensitive radar sets. One impediment to progress was that admirals who had grown up with great battleships and fast cruisers had a hard time adjusting their war-fighting doctrines to incorporate the capability and flexibility of the rapidly evolving new weapons systems. Ships[edit] The ships of the American and Japanese forces were closely matched at the beginning of the war. By the American qualitative edge was winning battles; by the American quantitative advantage made the Japanese position hopeless. Thus the Imperial Navy was further handicapped in the technological race with the Allies who did cooperate with each other. Above all, American admirals adjusted their doctrines of naval warfare to exploit the advantages. The quality and performance of the warships of Japan were initially comparable to those of the US. The Americans were supremely, and perhaps overly, confident in Pacific commander Admiral Chester W. Nimitz boasted he could beat a bigger fleet because of " No ship except another battleship had the thick armor that could withstand that kind of firepower. When intelligence reported that Japan had secretly built even more powerful battleships, Washington responded with four Iowa-class battleships. Their doctrine was utterly out of date. A plane like the Grumman TBF Avenger could drop a 2,pound bomb on a battleship at a range of hundreds of miles. An aircraft carrier cost less, required about the same number of personnel, was just as fast, and could easily sink a battleship. During the war the battleships found new missions: Their smaller 5-inch guns, and the 4, 3-inch to 8-inch guns on cruisers and destroyers also proved effective at bombarding landing zones. After a short bombardment of Tarawa island in November , Marines discovered that the Japanese defenders were surviving in underground shelters. It then became routine doctrine to thoroughly work over beaches with thousands of high-explosive and armor-piercing shells. The bombardment would destroy some fixed emplacements and kill some troops. More important, it severed communication lines, stunned and demoralized the defenders, and gave the landing parties fresh confidence. After the landing, naval gunfire directed by ground observers would target any enemy pillboxes that were still operational. The sinking of the battleships at Pearl Harbor proved a blessing in deep disguise, for after they were resurrected and assigned their new mission they performed well. Absent Pearl Harbor, big-gun admirals like Raymond Spruance might have followed prewar doctrine and sought a surface battle in which the Japanese would have been very hard to defeat. However the Navy nearly abolished aviation in when Admiral William S. Roosevelt reversed the decision because he believed aviation might someday be "the principal factor" at sea with missions to bomb enemy warships, scout enemy fleets, map mine fields, and escort convoys. Grudgingly allowing it a minor mission, the Navy slowly built up its aviation. With Roosevelt now in the White House, the tempo soon

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quickened. One of the main relief agencies, the PWA , made building warships a priority. In the U. Navy with 8 carriers, 4, pilots and 3, planes had more airpower than the Japanese Navy. Kriegsmarine The german Kriegsmarine didnt have any carriers. Rather than focusing in having carriers they focused on the tank warfare Blitzkrieg Main article: Although they were hampered initially by the lack of well placed ports from which to operate; that changed when France fell in and Germany took control of all the ports in France and the Low Countries. The U-boats had such a high success rate at first, that the period to early was known as the First Happy Time. The Kriegsmarine was responsible for coastal artillery protecting major ports and possible invasion points, and also handled anti-aircraft batteries protecting major ports. The British anti-submarine ships and aircraft accounted for over kills. At the end of the war, U-boats surrendered to the Allies, while the crews scuttled others, chiefly in German ports. In terms of effectiveness, German and other Axis submarines sank merchant ships totaling The use of convoys dramatically reduced the number of sinkings, but convoys made for slow movement and long delays at both ends, and thus reduced the flow of Allied goods. German submarines also sank Allied warships, mostly British, with 52, Royal Navy sailors killed.

Chapter 7 : Causes of World War II - Wikipedia

The devastation of the Great War (as World War I was known at the time) had greatly destabilized Europe, and in many respects World War II grew out of issues left unresolved by that earlier conflict.

Chapter 8 : www.nxgvision.com | The Baltic and the Outbreak of the Second World War | | John Hiden | Bo

Outbreak of World War Two. On 3 September , Neville Chamberlain, the British Prime Minister, made the following announcement on the radio.

Chapter 9 : World War II - Wikipedia

This book is the first to highlight the importance of the Baltic region in the approach to war in About This Item Paperback, Cambridge Univ Pr, , ISBN13 , ISBN10