

World War II

1939-1945

list of combatants

Axis Powers	Allied Powers
Germany – <i>Adolf Hitler</i>	Great Britain – <i>Winston Churchill</i>
Italy – <i>Benito Mussolini</i>	USSR – <i>Joseph Stalin</i>
Japan – <i>Hideki Tojo</i>	United States – <i>FDR</i>
others	others:
Rumania	France
Bulgaria	Poland
Finland	China
Hungary	Canada
	Australia
	India
	New Zealand
	South Africa
	Denmark
	Norway
	Belgium
	Holland
	Greece
	Yugoslavia

Germany: Began the war in Europe with the invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939.

Italy: As the ally of Germany, Italy declared war on G.B. and France in June 1940 and invaded Albania and Greece in October. With the invasion of Italy by the western allies in 1943, a new government switched allegiance and declared war on Germany. **Japan:** Began her war in Asia in 1937 after years (since 1931) of border clashes and occupation of parts of northern China. Widened her war with the attack on the U.S. in December 1941. As well as prime minister Tojo also held the posts of minister of war, home minister and foreign minister. From February 1944 he was also Commander in Chief of the General Staff.

Rumania: Participated with Germany in the invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941. Occupied by the Soviet Union in late 1944 and switched sides to declare war on Germany and Hungary. **Bulgaria:** Pressured by Germany into a friendship agreement in February 1941 and participated in the invasion of Greece and Yugoslavia, though refrained from joining in the invasion of the Soviet Union. Occupied by the Soviet Union in 1944 and changed sides to declare war on Germany. **Finland:** Attacked and defeated by the Soviet Union in the brief Russo-Finnish winter war of 1939-40. Ally of Germany in the invasion of the Soviet Union; signed armistice with the latter in September 1944. **Hungary:** Joined with Germany in the attack on the Soviet Union. Attempts to conclude peace with the latter in 1944 foiled by the German occupation of the country and the setting up of a puppet regime that fought alongside the Germans until the closing weeks of the war.

Great Britain declared war on Germany following the latter's invasion of Poland in September 1939. After withdrawing her expeditionary force from France in June 1940, she continued the war on other fronts, chiefly by the long-drawn-out Battle of the Atlantic against the German submarine menace and the see-saw battles against the German Afrika Corps in the Western Desert of North Africa before the joint Anglo-American invasion of Italy and the final D-Day invasion of Nazi-held Europe.

U.S.S.R.: In September 1939, after concluding the nefarious Non-Aggression Pact with Nazi Germany in the previous month (thereby facilitating Hitler's aggression against Poland), she proceeded to occupy the eastern part of the country allotted to her in the Pact's secret protocol. For the next 22 months, food supplies and raw materials were delivered to Germany in accordance with trade agreements. However, the Soviet Union was herself invaded by Germany in June 1941 in fulfillment of Hitler's long-held pledge to "destroy Bolshevism"

The United States. Declared war on Japan in December 1941 after the latter's attack on Pearl Harbor.

France: Like Britain, declared war on Germany on September 1, 1939. After invasion by Germany in May 1940, the so-called Vichy government signed an armistice in the following month that consigned the northern half of the country to German occupation but this became a full occupation in late 1942 as pressure from the Allies mounted. Meanwhile, a French underground resistance movement developed in France which, coupled with volunteers from the colonies, culminated in the proclamation (from London) of the Committee of National Liberation. The resulting Free French force participated in the Allied D-Day invasion and subsequent liberation of France.

Poland: Suffered a double death-blow in the unleashing of war by Hitler in September 1939. She was rapidly defeated by the German army, all military resistance collapsing within five weeks, while the Soviet Union executed a brutal occupation of the eastern part of the country.

Others: Only the main combatants are listed. Nine of the Central American and Caribbean states sided with the U.S. in December 1941, providing assistance to the U.S. in the form of transit facilities and sea and naval bases, with Mexico as the only one to provide token military assistance in the Philippines. In addition to those, nine of the ten South American republics (Argentina excluded), with an eye to membership of the United Nations or Lend-Lease privileges, declared war on the Axis though, with the exception of Brazil, only in 1945. Brazil joined the allies in August 1942 and was the only one to send military contingents (25,000 troops) to fight in Europe. Other stragglers included Saudi Arabia and Turkey, both of whom entered in February 1945. The British Commonwealth members (Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa) joined with Britain in September 1939, as did the latter's Asian dependency, India.

Source: <http://web.jjay.cuny.edu/jobrien/reference/ob62.html>