

WORLD WAR II STRATEGIES - AXIS

GERMANY –

Phase 1 -- preparations

- 1) enter into defensive military alliances with Japan and Italy (AXIS alliance)
- 2) military build-up, especially focusing upon aircraft, tanks, and naval vessels (especially submarine), in furtherance of the anticipated use of *blitzkrieg* tactics
- 3) enter into a non-aggression agreement with the Soviet Union

Phase 2

- 1) invade eastern Europe (with the exception of the Soviet Union)
- 2) invade neutral Belgium and France, while Italians moved against southeast Europe
- 3) invade North Africa (Field Marshal Erwin Rommel – “Desert Fox)
- 4) launch air assaults on Great Britain (“Battle of Britain”)

Phase 3

- 1) invade the Soviet Union (“Operation Barbarossa”)
- 2) send U-Boats on Allied shipping lanes (“Battle of the Atlantic”)

JAPAN –

Phase 1 -- preparations

- 1) enter into a defensive alliance with Germany
- 2) seize areas in Asia which would provide raw materials Japan needed for economic self-sufficiency (e.g. iron from Manchuria, oil and tin and rubber from Southeast Asia)

Phase 2

- 1) if the U.S. resisted part 2 of phase 1 (which Japan felt the U.S. did when it cut off trade with Japan in 1941), attack and cripple the U.S. fleet
- 2) attack the Philippines, the Dutch East Indies, India, Malaya and Singapore

Phase 3

- 1) create a defensive “ring” of island chains in the western Pacific

WORLD WAR II STRATEGIES - ALLIES

EUROPEAN THEATER –

Phase 1 -- (1941-1943)

- 1) gain naval control of the Atlantic
- 2) gain control of the skies, neutralizing the German Luftwaffe
- 3) retain control of the Mideast, including Egypt and the Suez Canal
- 4) provide material support to the Soviet Union

Phase 2 – 1943-1944

- 1) U.S. and British invasion of Italy (“soft underbelly” of Europe)

Phase 3 – 1944-1945

- 1) U.S. and British invasion of France across the English Channel
- 2) Soviet counter-offensive against German army in the east
- 3) saturation bombing air attacks in Germany

PACIFIC THEATER –

Phase 1 -- 1941-1943

- 1) concentrate ground forces (the U.S. Army) and American supplies on the European theater of operations
- 2) gain superiority on the seas in the Atlantic and in the skies

Phase 2 -- 1943-1944

- 1) “island-hopping” strategy: two-pronged movement by the U.S. Navy and Marines to gain control of key island chains, moving progressively closer to Japan

Phase 3 – 1944-1945

- 1) launch massive saturation bombing air strikes against Japan
- 2) Soviet invasion of Manchuria and China (controlled by the Japanese army).
- 3)
- 4) use Okinawa as a launching site for the U.S. Army and Marines invasion of Japan

