

# **WAR-LORD: 1939-45**

## **Chapter 10**

### **The Inconclusive Victory: 1939-40**

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# Are We Human, or Are We War-Lord?

- pg. 321

WARM-UP: Based on this quotation, take two minutes to draw a figurative representation of Hitler during his War-Lord years.



# Internal Opposition

- Hitler 10 Oct. memorandum because knew opposition from professional soldiers
  - quick west strike against French occupation and uncertain Russian intentions
- not convincing because opposition not confident in German Army superiority over French (322)
- pg. 325

# Internal Opposition Cont.



- putsch organized against Hitler
- Commander-in-Chief Brauchitsch choose defensive he believed disastrous or organizing coup against Hitler
  - crumbles against Hitler's fury
- army only body capable of coup (323)
- weather delays Hitler's plans
- staged assassination attempt

# Foreign Relations

- Hitler realizes Italian alliance rests on Mussolini
- annexation of Poland → creation of Reich Commissariat for the Strengthening of German Folkdom (R.K.F.D.V.)
- prioritize equipment shipment to Soviets
- pgs. 328-329
- strengthens Axis relationship around U.S.  
Sumner Welles visits

# Foreign Relations Cont.

- Mussolini terrible timing declaring war in June 1940, Hitler happy but not people
- Hitler and Mussolini discuss terms of surrender less than six weeks in



# The Norwegian Project

- Commander-in-Chief of German Navy, Admiral Raeder
- Norway vulnerable link in Germany's war economy
- pg. 331
- successful battle against Britain
- pg. 334



# Military Things



- owed Battle of France success to long delay (334)
- support for risky General von Manstein's plans
  - almost believes thought of plans himself
- encirclement foiled by Dunkirk evacuation
- disastrous mistake of pausing ground advance (337)
- if Hitler takes blame, also takes credit for 1940 victories (338-339)



# Axis War Goals

- Hitler fighting Britain and France because they won't give him free hand
- Mussolini wants French empire
- pg. 339
- French armistice (340)
  - reached peak goal (341)



# Problems with Britain

- Hitler keeps hoping for British cooperation
- mostly wants to destroy France
- switch from attacking R.A.F. to bombing London  
major mistake



# Not So Quiet on the Eastern Front

- June 1940 Soviets annex Baltic States without warning
- several months of Hitler planning
- 18 Dec. directive about invading Russia



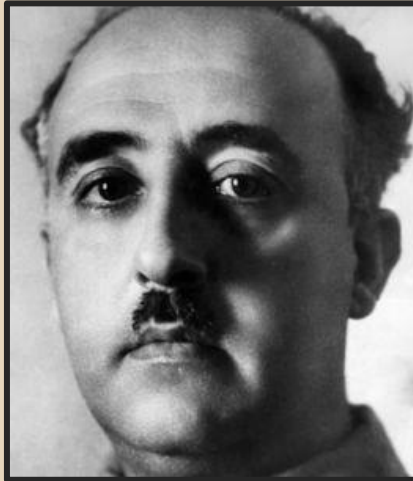
# Raeder's Third Possibility



- Mediterranean
- Britain chief enemy
- use of Italian and Spanish alliances
  - Sp. stays out of war by not being too close
  - Hitler meetings with Sp. are terrible (347-349)
- more within German strength than Russia
- importance of sea power
- Hitler still set on invading Russia

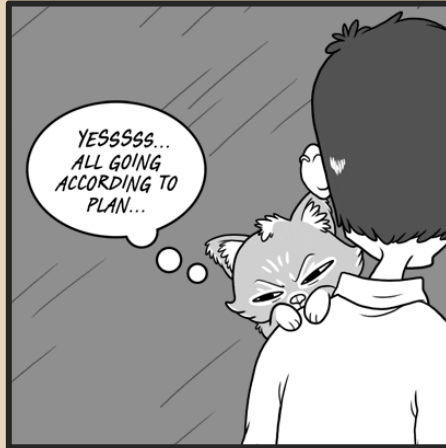
# Trouble in What Already Wasn't Paradise

- 28 Oct. Italy attacks Greece
- Franco refuses Hitler's pressure to enter war



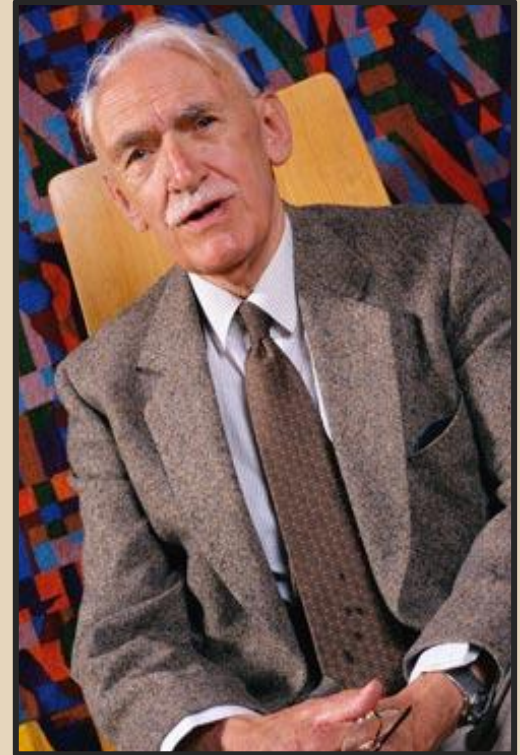
# Re-Rejected and it Feels So Good

- 6 Feb. 1941 Hitler writes to Mussolini & Franco
- Franco response protests loyalty but polite evasion
- pg. 352



# Bullock's Thesis

- desire for power led to downfall:  
shown in decision to invade  
Soviet Union



# Socratic Seminar Question

What was Hitler's main inconclusive victory from 1939-40?

- Italian/Spanish Alliances
- Beginning of the R.K.F.D.V.
- Armistice with France
- Control of Internal Opposition

