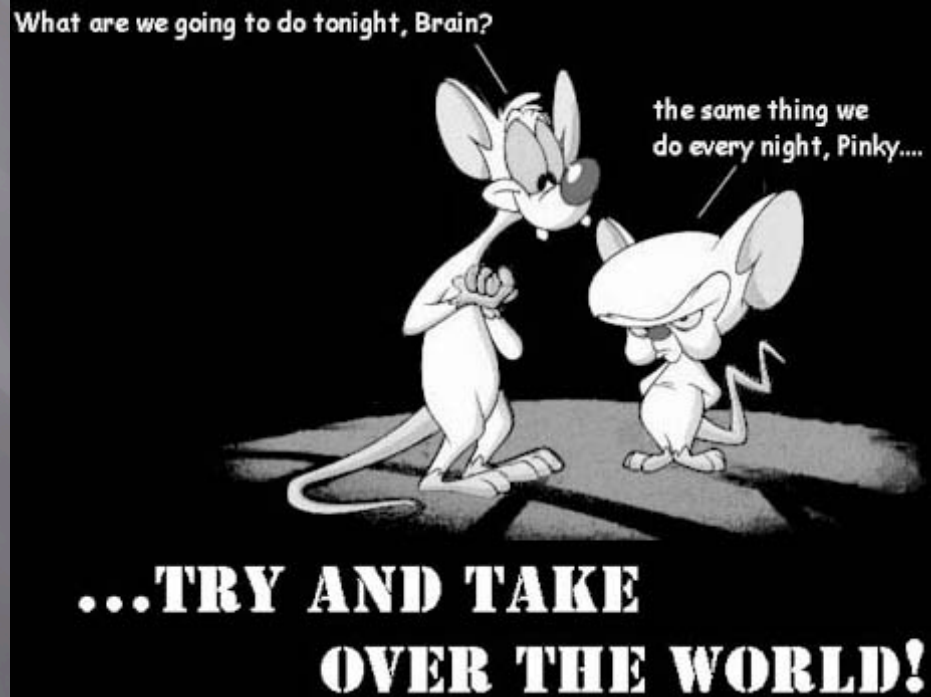


THE WORLD WILL HOLD ITS BREATH

1940-1

By Melissa Levine





The Balkans

- ▣ Summer of 1940
- ▣ Conflict in Balkans from attempted imperialism
- ▣ Why is that a problem?
- ▣ Ribbentrop goes to Vienna to settle conflict between Hungary and Rumania

Feat. Bad Stock
Photo of the Day



The Balkans

- ▣ Hitler supporter comes to power in Rumania, “requests” help from Hitler’s troops → Hitler makes Rumania a satellite state



- ▣ Russia protests, Germany completely ignores them
 - But Italy protests too...

Relations with Italy

- ▣ Italy wanted influence in the Balkans, Hitler advises Ciano not to move
- ▣ Italy upset but doesn't do anything, Germany relaxes a little (355)
- ▣ Relations not affected: Tripartite pact with Germany, Italy, and Japan signed September, 1940

A sign of things to come...



Italy and Greece

- ▣ Hitler securing control over Rumania, Mussolini flips, threatens to occupy Greece
- ▣ Italian Prestige → invaded October 28, 1940
- ▣ Why does this upset Hitler? (2 reasons)
 - Story time
- ▣ Hitler angry with Mussolini but can't risk alienating him
 - Too late to stop him, so Hitler offers support
- ▣ Ready for trouble – prepares troops to send to North Africa, Rumania, Greece

Russia's Suspicions

- ▣ Russia suspicious of German agreements with Rumania and Finland – asks to be informed, Germany complies
 - Molotov not satisfied, agrees to visit Berlin
- ▣ Arrives November 12, Hitler starts a speech about cooperation, but Molotov insists on straight answers (359)
 - Hitler “taken aback”, breaks off discussion because of “possible air raid”



Day 2

“But...But Britain”

- ▣ Hitler justifies German actions, wants to talk about division of the British empire
- ▣ Hitler and Molotov take shelter from air raid→ Ribbentrop: “Great time to mention the new Tripartite Pact” (361)
 - Lays out spheres of influence for Axis keeping Russia out of Balkans and Mediterranean
 - 2nd protocol offered to win over Turkey as an ally
 - Vague promises to encourage non-aggression between Russia and Japan
- ▣ Molotov unimpressed – wants influence in Europe
- ▣ Ribbentrop goes back to talking about Britain

Russia is sooooo last week

- ▣ November 25, Molotov agrees to four-power pact, with more conditions:
 - Immediate withdrawal of German troops from Finland
 - Mutual assistance pact between Russia and Bulgaria
 - Russian base on Bosphorus/Dardanelles
 - Japan's renunciation of rights to coal and oil concessions in northern Sakhalin
- ▣ Hitler doesn't even reply – why?



THE BIG MOMENT

- ▣ Page 363
- ▣ Hitler convinces himself that Russia is going to attack him, gives him reason to invade Russia (even though Russia actually wanted to avoid war with Hitler)



Meanwhile in Greece...

- ▣ Mussolini having trouble
- ▣ Hitler's fix-it plans:
 - Get Spain involved
 - Get Russia and Turkey out
 - Get Yugoslavia on board as ally
 - Make Rumania accept German troops
- ▣ Mussolini accepts: "He has really smacked my fingers."
- ▣ BUT things are going downhill fast – Italy loses position in Africa



December 1940 Timeline

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New Year, New You (New invasions...)

- ▣ But first: Mussolini goes to Germany (366)
- ▣ Hitler told no one of his plans
 - Wanted Japan to attack Singapore to hurt Britain
- ▣ Good strategy, bad diplomacy (368)
 - Overbearing, too overt, deceptive
 - Japanese essentially ended alliance with Germany
- ▣ No time for public appearances



He's sad because he hasn't seen Hitler in weeks

The Path to Greece

- ▣ Easily crossed Hungary and Rumania
- ▣ Crossed Bulgaria after defeating the Russians
- ▣ Bribes Yugoslavia to accept Tripartite pact → some Yugoslav officers carry out a coup d'état
- ▣ Hitler furious → postpones attack on Russia to get revenge – reveals Hitler's character (370)
 - Political and military preparations to attack: gets support from Italy, Hungary, and Bulgaria, creates conflict within Yugoslavia and with neighboring countries



Operation Punishment

- ▣ Bombings begin April 6th, same day as invasion of Greece – both successful
- ▣ Effect on relationship with Italy?
 - Italian invasion eventually completed by Germany – Mussolini humiliated
 - Division of Yugoslavia – Italy given the same consideration as other German satellites
 - Same deal in Africa: Germany takes over and wins by April 12th

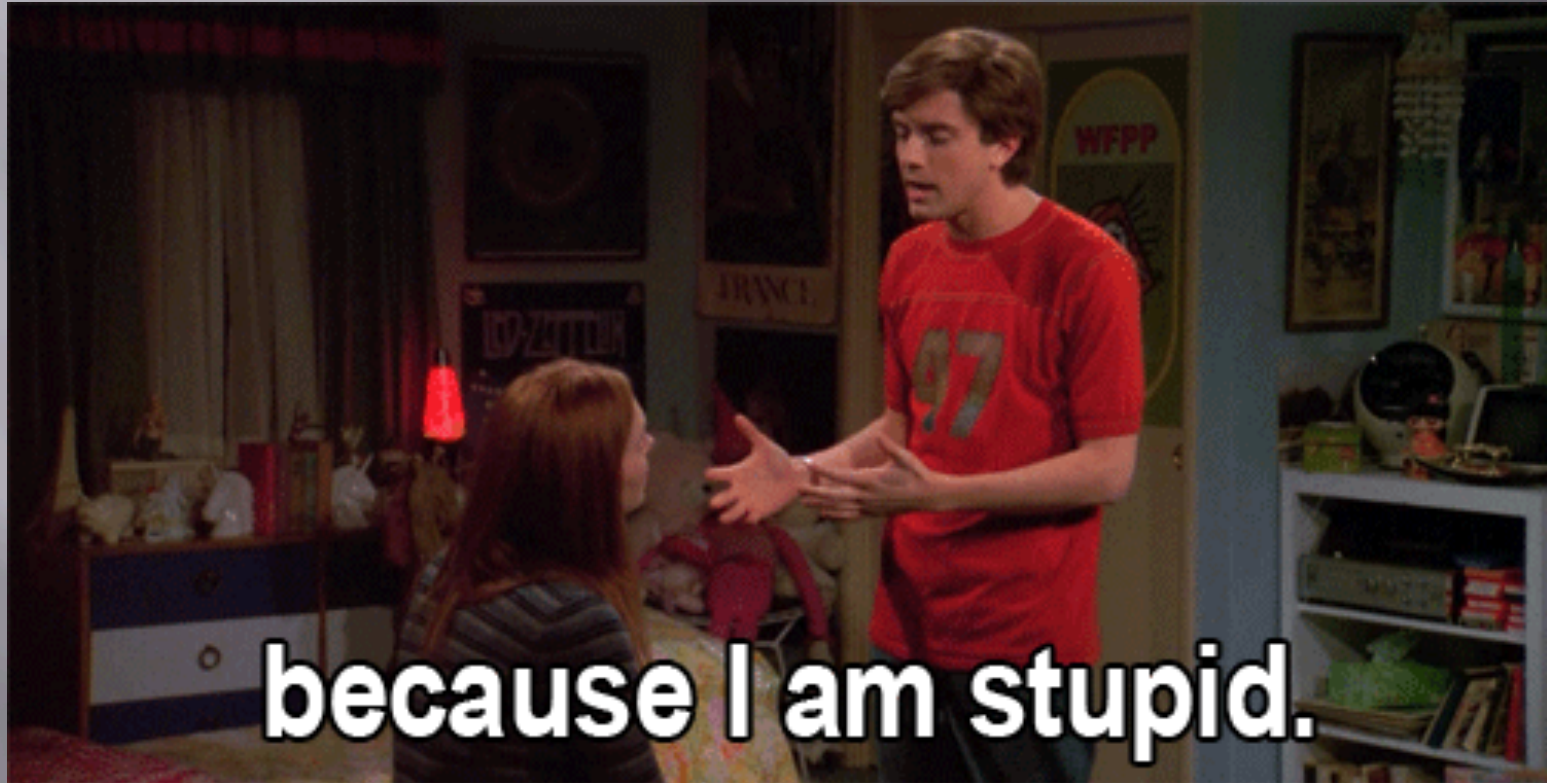


Britain

- British quickly losing influence in Eastern Mediterranean, Germans gaining
- British resources stretched thin in the East (at least in the short term) victory in

RUSSIA!!!!

But why, Hitler?



because I am stupid.

Hitler's Plans for Russia

- ▣ Plan: encircle Russian troops near the Russian frontier, get help from allies at the last minute
- ▣ Pitches Russian invasion to generals as self-defense...but encourages harshness
 - Himmler and SS given a free hand in occupied territories, territories to be controlled by administrators appointed by Hitler and economically exploited immediately
 - Needed land to produce food – people need not be considered
 - ▣ Process accelerated by gas chambers

The Invasion (Final Preparations)

- ▣ Finished in the Balkans, June 22 set as new attack date
- ▣ Germany ordered goods from Russia until the last minute, Russians kept giving it, trying to appease
 - Meanwhile, Russia is trying to hide the problem (377)
 - Still no evidence of Russian attack on Germany
- ▣ Rumania and Finland on board with attack, Hungary informed, Turkey agrees to non-aggression with Germany, nobody tells Mussolini until the night before

The Invasion

- ▣ Over 150 divisions attack, supported by over 2,700 aircraft
- ▣ Hitler's apparent self-fulfilling prophecy (379-380)

Discussion Question

Which of the following phrases best describes Hitler in this chapter?

- ▣ My way or the highway
- ▣ Tunnel vision
- ▣ Weaving through traffic
- ▣ Four-car pileup