

- The Unachieved Empire (1941-1943)



● The Key Players:

- Adolf Hitler (GER)
 - Benito Mussolini (ITA)
 - Franklin Roosevelt (US)
 - Winston Churchill (GB)
 - Joseph Stalin (RUS)
-
- Walter von Brautisch (German C.-in-C.)
 - Franz Halder (German General Staff Chief)
 - Alfred Jodl (German Chief of Op. Staff)
 - Joseph Goebbels (Reich Min. of Propaganda)
 - Heinrich Himmler (Reichsführer of the SS)
 - Herman Göring (Lead member of Nazi Party)

● Bullock's Main Points

- Hitler's desire for conquest and prestige led to the end of his reich
- He assumed main military control, but made decisions based on prestige over military tactic, and was unwilling to listen to other chiefs and generals
- The dispersal and lack of coordination in the German Armed Forces resulted in a lost in both the Eastern Front and Mediterranean Theater

● Why Russia, Hitler?

- Hitler's two reasons:
 - Russia is preparing to attack Germany
 - Britain wouldn't accept defeat (hoping for Russian intervention)
- According to Bullock, real reason: Hitler wanted to annex the territory between the Vistula and the Urals
- Hitler essentially disregarded Britain as a real threat to his reich (381)
- Thought the German Armed Forces were invincible ("kick in the door")

Map





Adolf Hitler

@DictatorHitler

Pshhh.. We can take down those Russians
[#invincible](#) [#SovietHaters](#)

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● The Russian Campaign

- July 5th- German troops had reached the Dnieper, July 16- Smolensk
- Hitler vs. his Army High Command:
 - Brauchitsch (comm-in-chief) and Halder want to focus on directing the German force towards Moscow
 - Hitler wants to spread the forces out, some to the southern agricultural areas, some to Leningrad
 - But Hitler gets HIS way

Map



● Hitler can't make up his mind

- Hitler soon loses interest in Leningrad, wants to push for Moscow now
- Insists that the battle of encirclement in Ukraine happen though
- Halder thinks Hitler is throwing away a good chance at defeating the Russians for a prestige victory
- Bullock: waste of time, increased tensions between Hitler and his generals (383)
- Who would Hitler have made proud by choosing prestige over military tactic?
(Think Germany, WWI)



Adolf Hitler

@DictatorHitler

Started from Germany, now we're here
[#newEmpire](#) [#thatwaseasy](#)

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● Hitler can't make up his mind again

- Hitler becomes a bit greedy, wants to conquer in all directions (North towards Leningrad, South towards the coast, East towards the Volga, etc.)
- Winter arrives, Germans still haven't taken over either Leningrad or Moscow
- Hitler gets ahead of himself, wants to achieve his "historical destiny", conquer Russian lands and populate it with Germans
- Mistakenly assumes Russians are defeated

● Hitler and Mussolini

- Hitler and Mussolini meet up, Mussolini offers Italian troops to help out in Russia, Hitler declines (what a surprise)
- The two visit Ukraine on a propaganda trip
 - “European New Order”: counter demonstration
 - Original Atlantic Charter w/ Churchill and Roosevelt
- “The dictators pledged [...] of Europe”(386).



Benito Mussolini
@BenitoMussolini

@DictatorHitler Quit acting so tough and just accept my help, they don't call me **#IlDuce** for nothing

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● Hitler's fault... whoops

- Hitler makes almost no provisions for winter clothing for his troops
- Russians on home ground, have clothes and equipment
- Hitler repeatedly refuses to admit his own fault, the Russians launch a major counter-offensive
- Most serious military crisis for the Germans thus far
- 1941 ends with no victory for the Germans

● Global Affairs

- Boom! Surprise. The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, Hitler decides to jump on board and declare war against the United States too
- He wants to prevent US aid to Britain, and also achieve his “historic destiny”
- “Knowing nothing of the United States, Hitler disastrously underestimated American strength” (388).
- Hitler gives a speech abusing Roosevelt, calling him a creature of the Jews
- Why do you think Hitler publicly denounced Roosevelt?

● Russians vs. the Germans (again)

- Hitler works to strengthen German forces in the Eastern campaign (Hitler is NOT the guy you want to play Risk with)
- He removes his high command officers/general staff, orders C.-in-C. to confine themselves in the Eastern region
- Hitler places himself in Supreme Command, in charge of the strategy and operations for his troops
- “The winter crisis [...] for the future” (390).



Adolf Hitler

@DictatorHitler

I'm the best military leader there ever was, what is everyone's problem? #NoMoreHighCommand #GoodRiddance

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● Hitler the Military Guy?

- Bullock: Hitler was well-read in military tactics and weapon design, his political side and psychological expertise made him a bold leader
- His weaknesses as a military leader:
 - Too opinionated and dogmatic
 - Limited experience during WWI
 - Lacked proper training for commanding troops
 - Bad at turning his goals into concrete military plans
 - Obsessed with figures (no analysis)

● Our Benevolent Dictator

- Hitler reaffirms faith on the Home Front through his speeches (April 26th speech is the most successful, renews faith in German victory)
- Hitler requests arbitrary power for the military, allows him to take much more decisive and drastic action
- Goebbels and Hitler blame the German Civil Service for a lot of the problems in Germany (war-profiteering, black market, manpower shortage, etc.)
- “The Nazis remained [...] great state” (395).



Joseph Goebbels

@JoeGoebbels

Whose fault is the black market?
[#GermanCivilService](#) Whose fault is the worker
shortage? [#GermanCivilService](#) RT if you agree it's
not Adolf's fault

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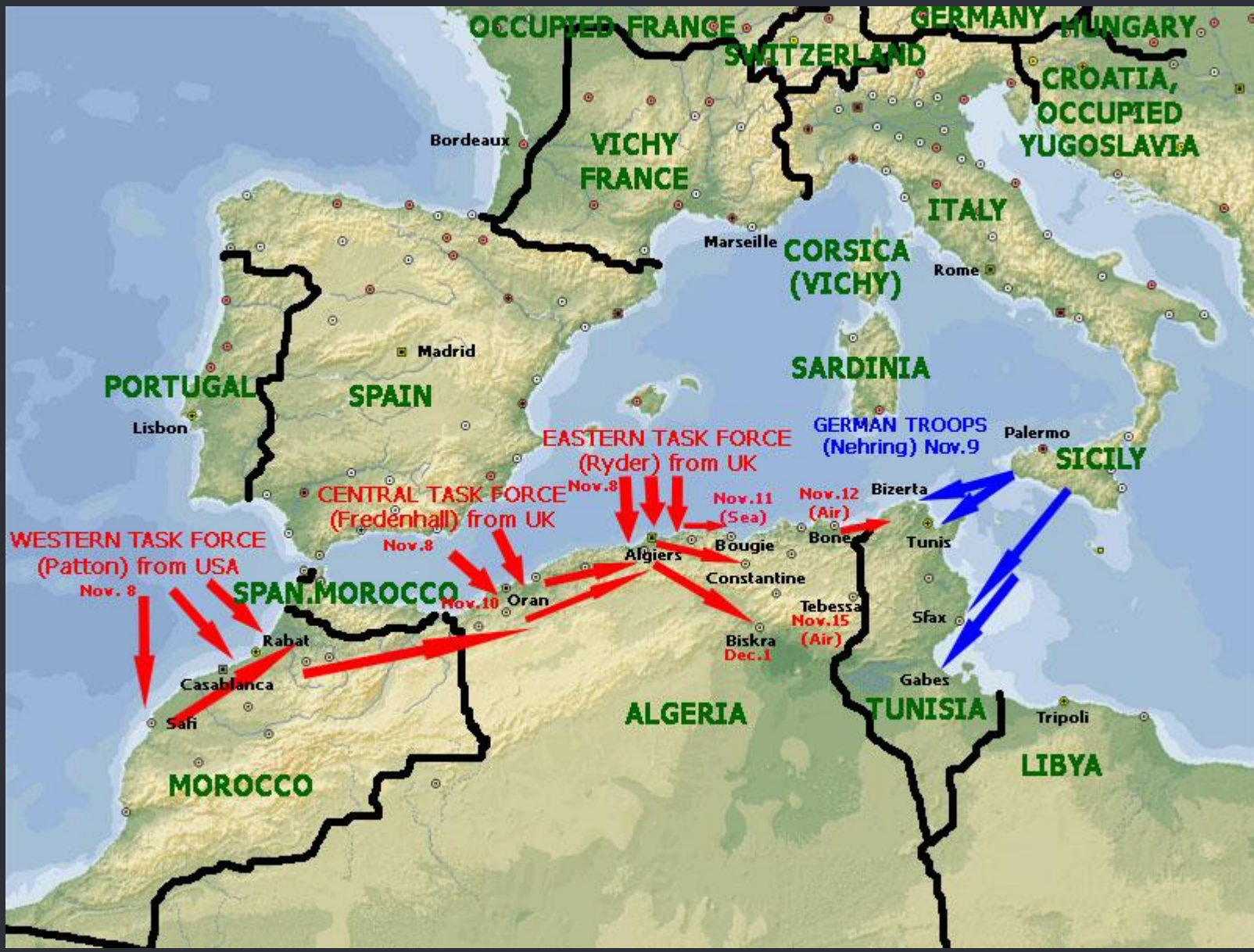


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● And the war goes on...

- Hitler starts demanding support of the satellite states, Italian armed forces (which he had refused earlier)
- He sends forces to the Mediterranean theater, primarily to support Mussolini in North Africa
- Hitler backs out of two-fold operation
 - Britain builds up forces in Malta and Egypt
- Hitler doesn't know much about seapower, essentially puts Navy on hold until Russia's defeat
- He decides later to pursue U-boat construction, but it's too late



● Hitler's faux pas

- Hitler wrongly prepares for Norwegian battle (doesn't want to admit his error)
- Western forces move towards Germany, R.A.F. bomber raids begin in Cologne
- Hitler is confident in Russian defeat, moves to southern theater, but spreads his troops out too much again (does not take over Stalingrad or Moscow)
- Germany losing control of Eastern and Mediterranean theaters
 - British attack at El Alamein in Egypt

● Hitler on the losing end

- The Allies take Hitler by surprise in French North Africa
 - Hitler panics and meets with Laval and Ciano, wants to occupy Tunisia
- Russians capture the 6th and 4th armies, HUGE blow to Hitler's prestige
 - Hitler blames all his commanders
 - "Totally oblivious [...] their Führer" (405).
- Göring tries to remedy the situation with his Four-Year Economic Plan (exploiting Eastern territories to support the German economy)



Adolf Hitler

@DictatorHitler

@GaleazzoCiano @PierreLaval Guys, I need your help, I need to occupy #Tunisia

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● “The horror! The horror!”

- German loss of manpower → occupied territories become labor camps for German industry
- Shift towards targeting minority groups within Germany
- Himmler speech: “anti-tank ditch”
- S.S concentration camps: flogging, torture, execution, medical experiments, factory labor
 - Auschwitz (largest): use of Cyclon B gas chambers, crematoria
- Hitler estimated to have killed between 4,200,000 and 4,600,000

● Socratic Seminar

Which of the following weakened Hitler's "empire" the most?

- A.) Geographic dispersal of armed forces
- B.) Weak alliances/relations with other countries
- C.) Hitler's dogmatism and overconfidence
- D.) Industrial and economic struggles in Germany