

Two Julys: 1943-4

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Warm-Up Activity

WWHD?

Current Situation

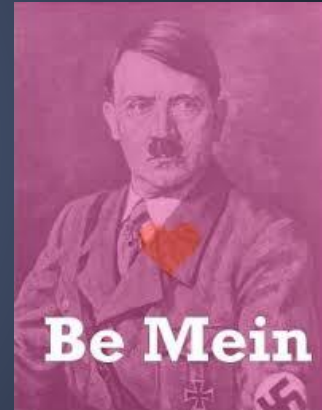
- the immediate consequences of Stalingrad didn't lead to the collapse of German front (oh good)
- Hitler faced with a large problem with Italy
 - decides to take Tunisia and stalls Ally victory

The Italian Situation

- Duce was ill, they hated the Germans, and wanted to not be at war
- Hitler's Solution?

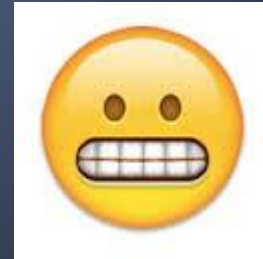
send Ribbentrop to Rome with
loving letter and agrees to

let Italian workmen in Germany to return
home



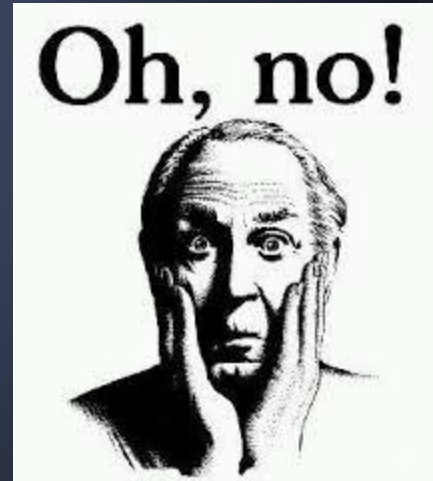
Hitler and Mussolini Meet

- “He succumbed and sat silent while Hitler talked [...] no longer able to convince himself of the part he had to play” (412)
- May 7, Allies take 250,000 Axis men as prisoner



What Next?

- Allies plan to land on northern shore and with new loss of troops it will be hard to defend
- Ally attack on July 10 in Sicily



LOL Hitler and Mussolini Meet Again

- Hitler “talked, talked, and talked” and decides that fighting must go on
- Mussolini isn’t able to even get Hitler’s promise of reinforcements

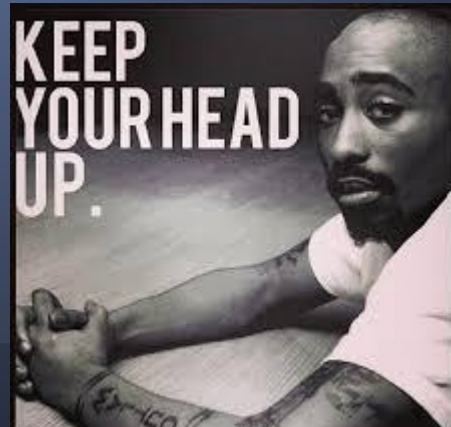


Italy Has Issues

- The Fascist Grand Council Meets and Mussolini has to listen to criticism
- **July 25, The Duce is dismissed by the King and placed under arrest**
- Marshal Badoglio forms non-Fascist government and Party dissolved

Hitler Hears the News

- he calls a conference with all the Nazi leaders
- he is actually **RELIEVED** that it finally happened even though it was embarrassing to him



The Next Steps

1. Deal with the new Italian government(they were definitely not going to be loyal anymore)
2. Move in every man he could in order to seize control and hold Italy when the time came

His Plans

1. rescue Mussolini → v important
2. Occupation of Rome and Restoration of Fascist regime
3. Military occupation of Italy
4. Capture/Destruction of Italian Fleet

But How?

- Hitler, Goring, and Goebbels want to act at once
- Rommel and soldiers want to wait because they thought it would drive Badoglio into the Allies arms

Italian Armistice

- took Hitler by surprise
- Hitler sends word to Kesselring
- The King and Badoglio flee the capital and Germans are masters of most of the country

Hitler Wears Pants in Relationship

- Hitler took close personal interest in Mussolini's movements and planned a spectacular rescue
- He wanted to re-establish the Fascist regime in Italy
- but Mussolini just wanted to go home and watch Netflix



The Italian Social Republic

- pathetic
- reduced to rank of a puppet dictator
- Hitler was happy b/c it enabled appearances to be preserved
- Germans able to take over zones in Balkans, Yugoslavia, Albania, and Greece

In the West

- Allies still hadn't attempted invasion, but U-boats were defeated and air war had severely increased
- Hitler gets mad at Raeder(current) and appoints Donitz who is forced to withdraw anyway
- pg 419

Hitler's 55

- began to suffer from trembling in left arm and leg
- under stress of war began to take increasing quantities of drugs
- personal physician, Morell, was a quack



A Day in the Life of 55-Yr Old Hitler

- he woke up late, attended noon conference, ate lunch, resumed talks, and then ate dinner
- no exercise and no forms of relaxation
- he like to go see films after dinner or listen to gramophones



Why So Sad, Hitler?

- Bullock says he was able to live in a private world where the ugly facts about GER's situation are excluded
- refused to accept the fact

Reputation

- Nazi leaders began to try to disappear
- Hitler was fighting to preserve intact that image that he had created of himself as a “world-historical” individual
- he didn't want to fail as Mussolini had

Hitler's Hopes

- he still had dreams
- He was confident in the secret weapons of the V1, the flying bomb and the V2, the rocket
- Allies had more manpower, economic resource, and strength

Goebbels

- Goring had lost Hitler's confidence
- Goebbels slowly rose to power as he campaigned to mobilize Germany
- He had great passion to fight and stayed with Hitler 'til the end (how sweet)

The Other

- **Himmler**
 - gains control of police state
 - concentration of power even Hitler couldn't ignore
- **Bormann**
 - Head of Party Chancery
 - kissed up to Hitler
- **Speer**
 - Minister for Armament Production → war economy

Opposition

- Hitler took the offensive, reversing decisions of his senior commanders
- What were the two institutions that still had some independence in Germany?



Counter-Intelligence

- Beck, Goerdeler, von Hassel, Colonel Hans Oster
- discussed how GER and EUR should be organized and governed AFTER the overthrow of Hitler
- there were six assassination attempts on Hitler's life

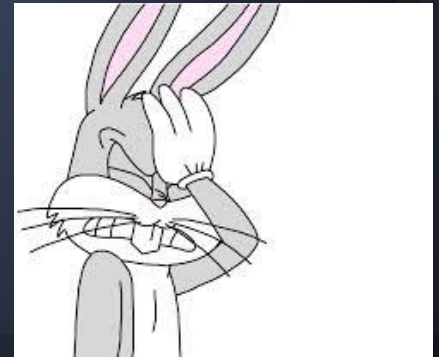
German Failures

- Allied air forces continue to bomb GER towns
- BRI and US begin assault from west
- German Intelligence isn't able to foreshadow events
- Hitler is sad and now understand “war on two fronts”



Another Stauffenberg Attempt

- Stauffenberg arrives at Hitler's conference in middle of July with a time-bomb in his briefcase which he sets next to Hitler's leg
- It blows up and Hitler is still alive



Operation Valkyrie

- The plan: announce that Hitler is dead and that an anti-Nazi government was formed in Berlin
- HOWEVER, this depended on the successful assassination of Hitler and prompt action in Berlin
- F for failure

The Fuhrer Speaks

- “I am unhurt and well”
- he knows people are against him
- an estimated total of 4,980 executions were made and thousands of others were sent to concentration camps



V for Vendetta

- this was all he could do for now b/c war
- **On July 29, the Nazi salute was made as “a sign of the Army’s unshakeable allegiance to the Fuhrer and of the closest unity between Army and Party”**
- **DISTRUST**

Which of the following do you believe contributed the most to the start of Hitler's decline?

- A. Mussolini's Fall
- B. Psychological conditions
- C. Strengthening of the Allies
- D. Ignorance of opposition