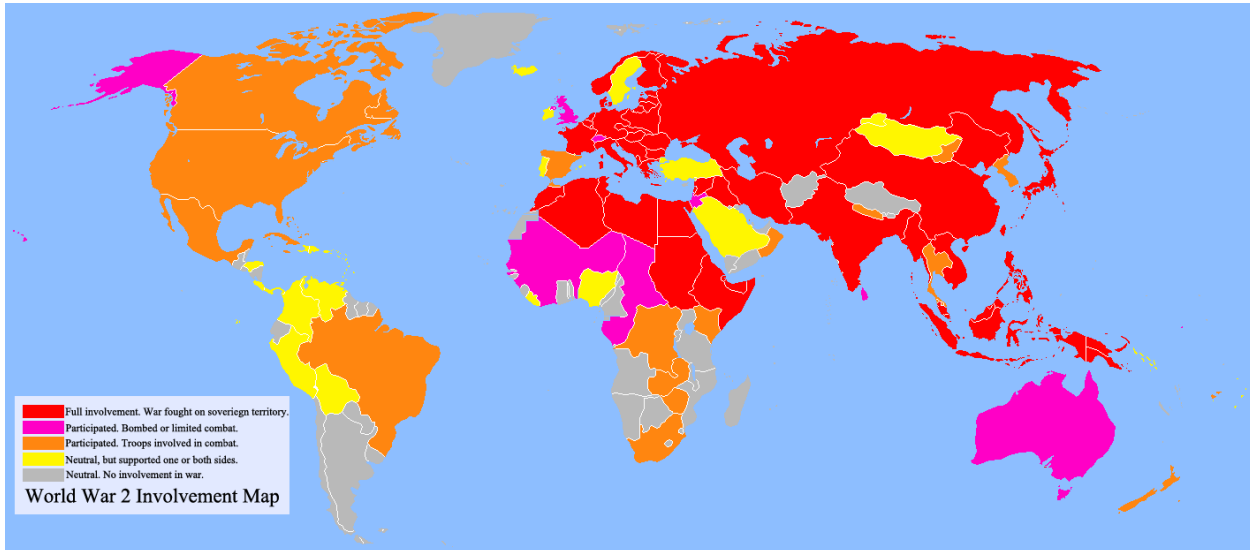




Context

World War 2, also known as the Second World War, was a war which involved almost every part of the world between 1939 and 1945.



Who was involved?

Although most of the world had some involvement in World War 2, the main participants were the allies and the axis powers.

Axis powers – Germany, Italy and Japan.

Allies – France, Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union (made up of several countries including Russia) and China (for a small part).

Key vocabulary

Allies – the armed forces which fought against Germany, Italy and Japan in the war.

Axis – the Axis were the armed forces that fought against the UK, France and the USA.

Border – the line that separates one country, state, province etc. from another

Atlantic Ocean – an ocean between North and South America and Europe and Africa

Pacific Ocean – ocean bordered by North America, South America, Asia and Australia

Occupation – the act of occupying, settling or taking control of a land

Invasion – entering a land as an enemy in order to take possession

Ordnance Survey – a map of the lands around an area, usually a UK map

Aerial photograph – photo taken from the air

Soviet Union – group of 15 republics which included the likes of Russia, Ukraine and Latvia.

Maginot Line – a line of concrete fortifications, obstacles and weapon installations built by France to put Germany off invading.

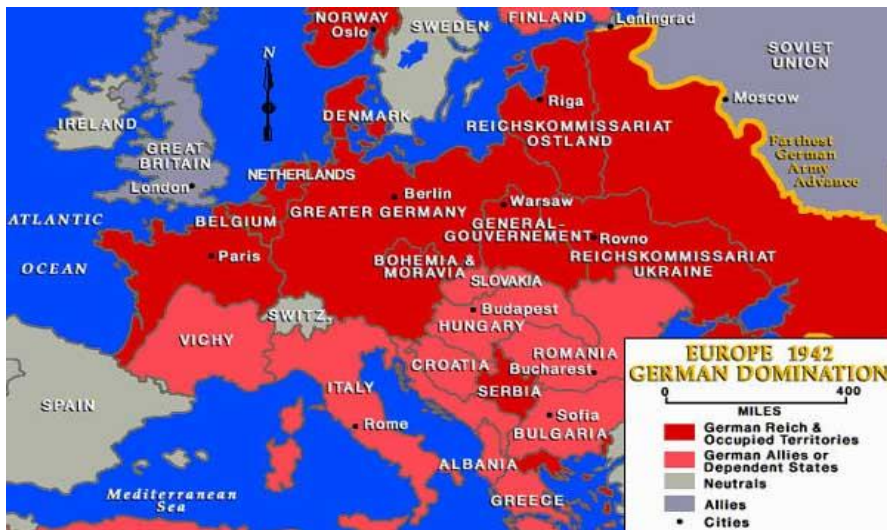


Figure 2 Map of Occupied Europe during WW 2

Changing borders

The war resulted in several changes in the location of borders. During the war Germany, along with its allied powers, occupied several countries including:

- Czechoslovakia (now Slovakia and the Czech Republic),
- Austria,
- Poland,
- Denmark,
- Norway,
- Belgium,
- The Netherlands,
- France
- Greece,
- Monaco,
- Lithuania,
- and Ukraine.

After the war, many of the countries occupied were returned to their sovereign status (back to who they belonged to), however some countries were divided up between the Allies.

The Soviet Union took control of several countries including parts of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and Eastern Germany. East and West Germany were split by the construction of the Berlin Wall.

Physical geography

- **Arctic Ocean** – ocean located to the north of Europe
- **Atlantic Ocean** - ocean located to the west of Europe
- **English Channel** – body of water separating the United Kingdom from France.

Human geography

- **Maginot line** – a line of concrete fortifications, obstacles and weapon installations built by France to put Germany off invading. Named after the French Minister of War, Andre Maginot.
- **Berlin Wall** – wall built after the Second World War to divide the German Capital of Berlin into zones
- **Concentration camps** – a camp where a large group of people were kept, often against their own freewill.
- **Migration** – the movement of people from one place to another.

Capitals

Axis powers –
Germany – Berlin
Italy – Rome
Japan - Tokyo

Allies

France – Paris
England- London
Wales – Cardiff
Scotland – Edinburgh
Northern Ireland – Belfast.

The United States –
Washington D.C.

The Soviet Union (now
Russia) – Moscow

China – Beijing.