Thank you for supporting OLLI ☺

Why WWII?

The Doolittle raiders

Walking across the Pacific

The Battle of Peleliu

Darrel VanDyke

One of the many Allies cemeteries at Normandy, France

Iwo Jima Cemetery

Iwo Jima

U.S.

- *committed 110,000 troops*
- *Joint Navy and Land force program*
- ***27,071 killed**, including 6,102 Marines*
- *1 Carrier sunk*
- *1 Carrier severely damaged*
- *153 aircraft lost*

Japan

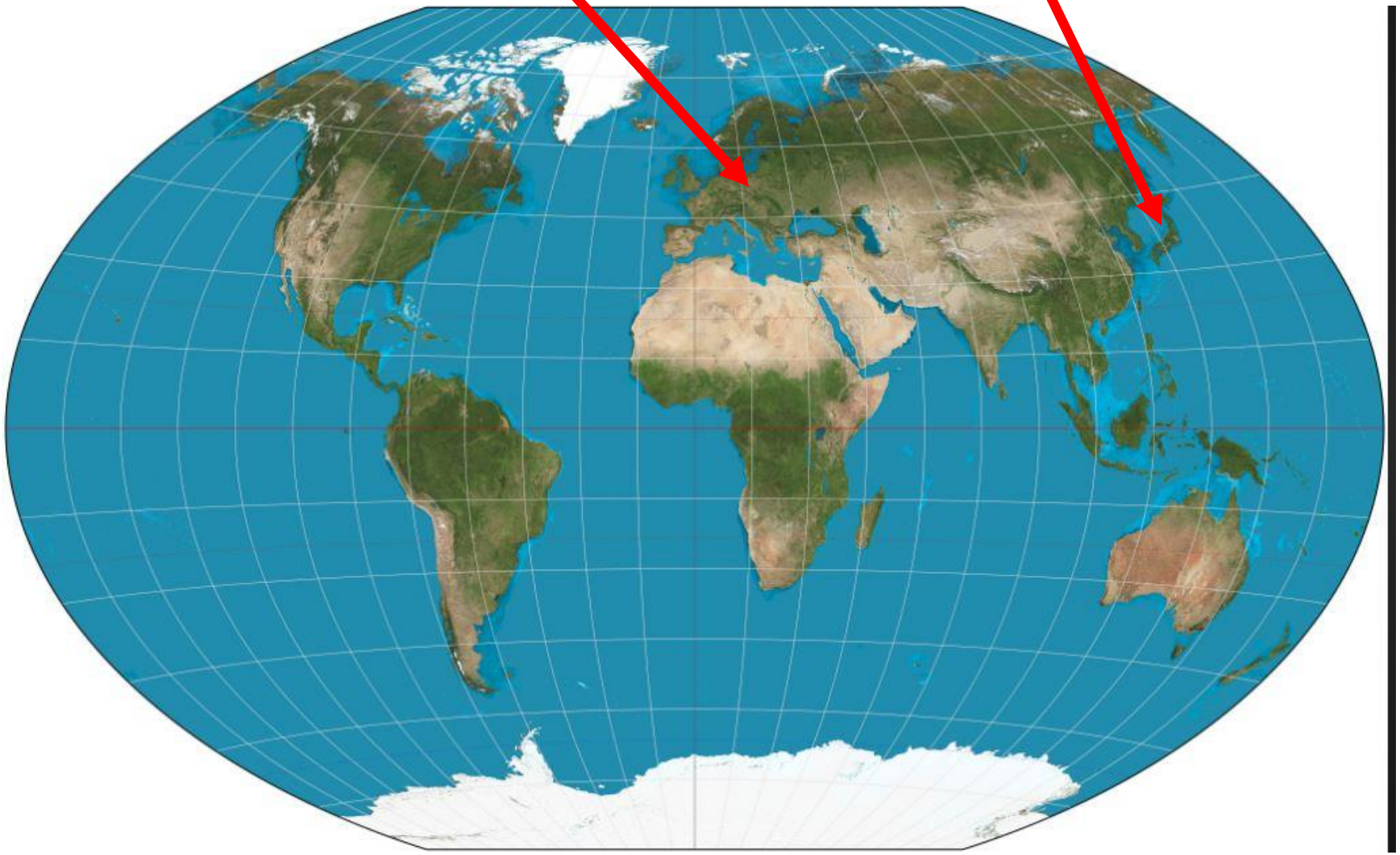
- **~21,000** troops killed
- **216** taken as prisoners

When did WWII start?

Tempting to split the world into power two pieces:

Germany

Japan



A list of the major players (for various reasons, not just GDP) on the world stage:

- United States
- Great Britain
- Germany
- Russia
- Turkey
- France
- China
- Japan
- Italy
- “middle east”
- Spain
- Northern Africa
- Australia

It is important to understand Germany AFTER WWI

- Great War ended November 11, 1919
- Truce signed
- Occupation force sent home January 24, 1920
- What happened to Hitler and Tojo after WWII?
- What happened to Germany Emperor Willheim II?
- What happened to Germany and Japan during WWII?
- What happened to Germany during WWI?

Europe

WW1 Photos & Info.
June 28 at 12:00 PM ·

Drawing depicting French Marshal Foch presenting the terms of the Treaty of Versailles to German Paul von Hindenburg, 1919.

The Great War happens in July 28 1914 – November 11, 1918

- France, U.S., England sent a $56,000,000,000 bill to Germany

- Gave rise to a “new” Russia*

*
- Russia/England ruled by cousins; Russia is threat to Germany’s eastern front
- 1917 October Revolution – Czar overthrown
- Lenin signs “Leave us alone – we have enough to worry about at home” agreement with Germany
- Lenin and Stalin over next 40 years will change the world order
- End of WWII will give rise to China just like end of WWI gave rise to Russia

League of Nations formed after WWI becomes a joke – dissolves ~1930

1920 Greece invades Turkey

Mirabeau, 18th century: “ Germany was an army in search of a country”.

- Germany military staff not destroyed after WWI – they just changed names: *Truppenamt*

- In 1920, Germany's von Seeckt (head of Truppenamt) contracted with Russia (away from prying supervision of allies):
  1. A place to test new weapons
  2. A place to manufacture guns, planes, ammo, even poison gas

- Von Seeckt tells Russia they missed their opportunity in 1919 and 1920

- America was a land of opportunity
- October 24, 1929 – panic sets in – Wall Street crashes
- 1933 – 12 million unemployed in U.S.
- Inflation ripples around world
- It takes a barrel of currency to pay a German worker

- German bigots played psychological games telling people:
  1. How bad it must feel to be defeated
  2. Don't you want revenge?
- Hitler originally part of "brown shirt" voices
- Hitler thrown in jail for 9 months; writes Mein Kampf (my struggle)
- Hitler (over a span of a mere 6 years from 1933):
  1. Becomes chancellor of Germany
  2. Rids country of democracy
  3. Puts unemployed and discontented into uniforms and pays them a wage
  4. Displays military might to Europe and dares them to get into their way
  5. Runs crusade against Jews
  6. Saarland (western edge of Germany) retaken (was ceded as a neutral area after WWI)
  7. 1938 moves in Austria
- Hitler knew that France and England could be placated; was more worried about Italy and Russia (Hither considered Stalin a madman!)

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EGYPT

Italy

- 1921 **Benito Mussolini** establishes a renegade socialist group
- Dressed unemployed in black shirts
- Dreamed big – wanted to be an emperor
- Moves troops into Ethiopia, December 1934
- As Hitler moved into Austria, he dared Mussolini to stop him
- Mussolini backed down, and on September 29, 1938 Hitler and Mussolini sign *Munich Agreement*

Spain

- July 18, 1936, **Franco** revolts/attacks government
- Russia backs government: supplies, planes, tanks, ammo
- Germany backs Franco: supplies, planes, tanks, ammo, 10,000 men
- Italy backs Franco: supplies 75,000 men
- The whole country becomes a testing ground for new weapons

Picasso paints Guernica 1937

Meanwhile … back in Germany

- England worried about Hitler, sends PM **Chamberlain** to sign “treaty”
- (**Winston Churchill** writes, “You have gained shame, and you will get war.”
- ~1938 Germany signs purchase deal with Mexico to accept their refined gasoline
- 1938 Germany rolls into Czechoslovakia

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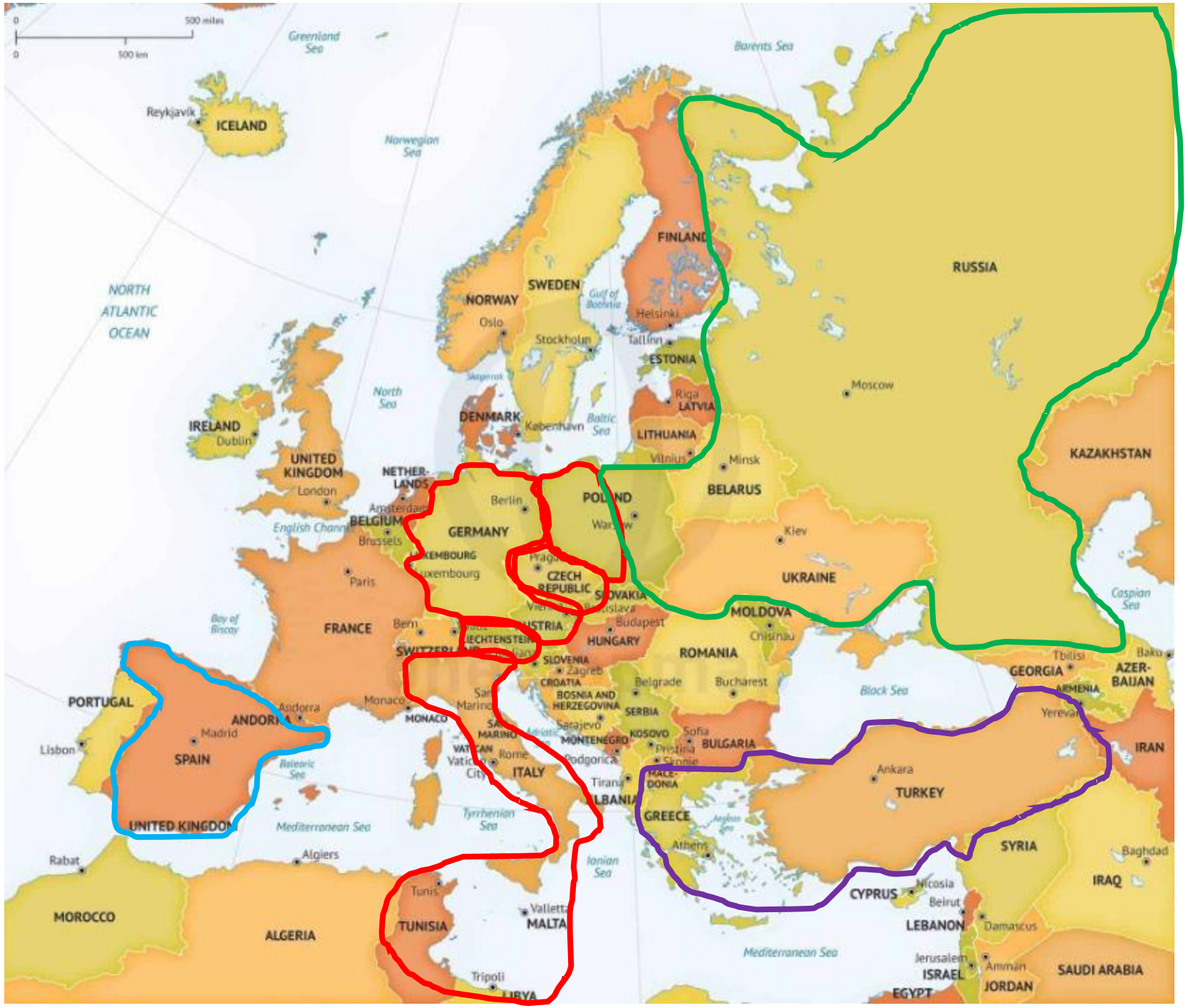
Meanwhile … back to Russia

- **Stalin** has established a solid dictatorship
- Scared that “West” will back Hitler (especially since England signed treaty with Hitler)
- Solidifies Russian forces and borders.
- Signs pact with Germany to divide Poland as a “buffer zone”; *
  - ❑ Germany free to move into western half
  - ❑ Russia free to move into eastern half
- Japan taking more territory in China (Russia’s back door)
- Stalin wants Japan to knock it off – invites Japanese delegation to Moscow

* No one cared to ask the Poles if they minded



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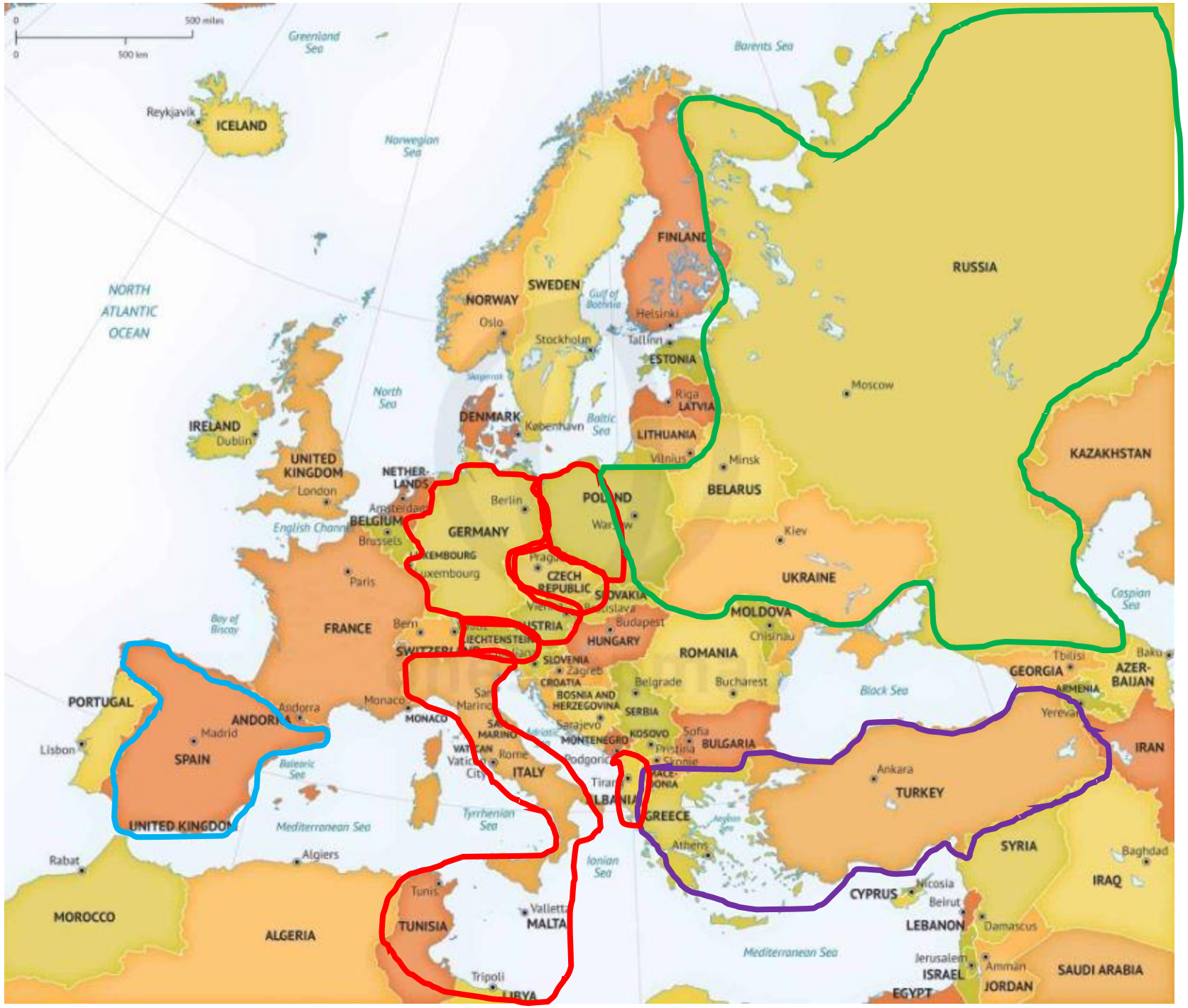
Meanwhile … back in Italy

Mussolini invades Albania (giving foothold into Balkans)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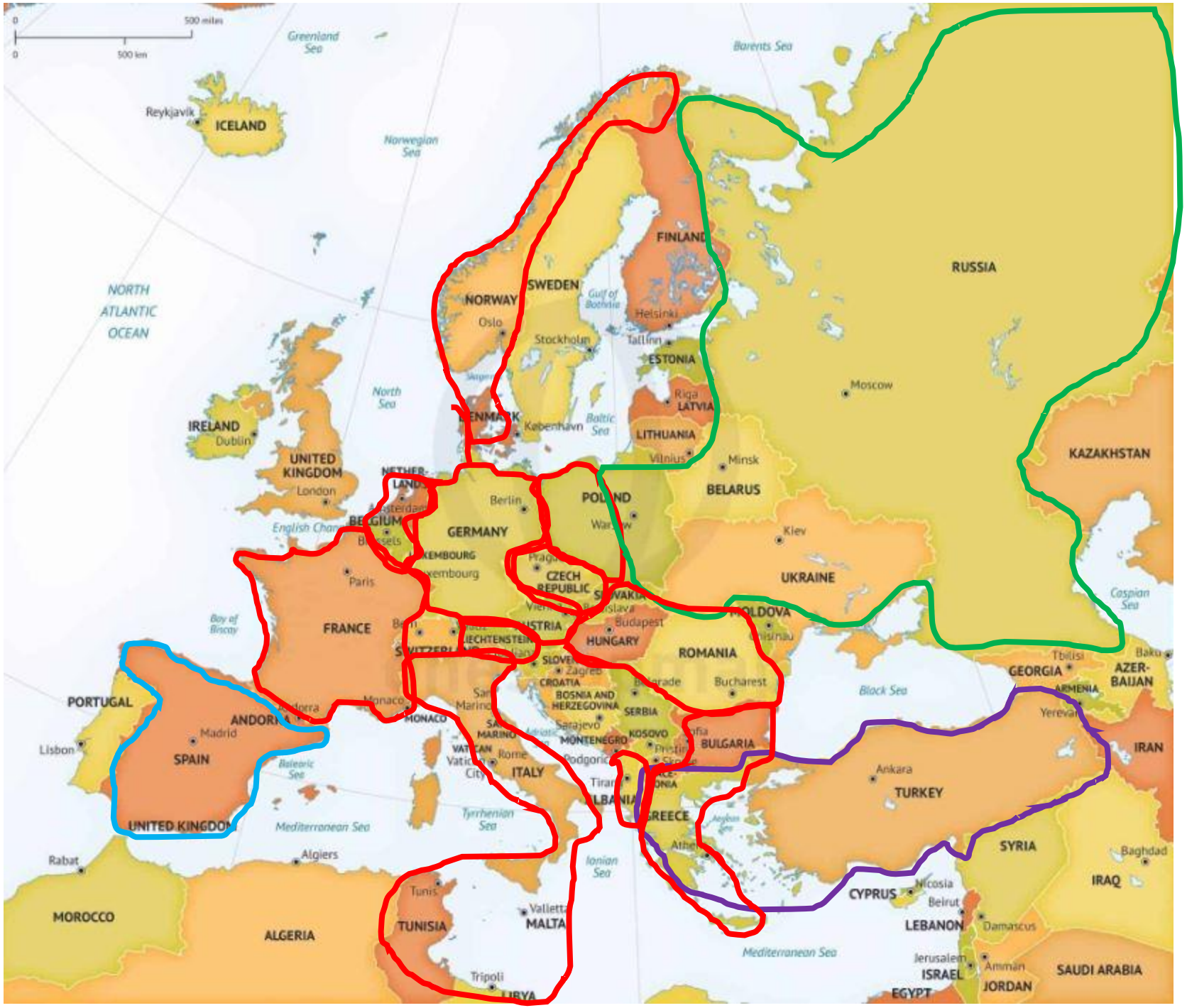
Meanwhile … back in Germany

- April 1940; Germany invades Norway and Denmark
- May 1940; Germany invades The Netherlands
- May 1940; Germany invades Belgium
- July 1940; Germany invades France
- November 1940; Germany invades Rumania and Hungary
- September 1940; **Tripartite Pact** signed (Germany, Italy, Japan)
- March 1941; Germany invades Bulgaria
- April 1941; Germany invades Crete and Greece



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- **May 1, 1941** – **Stalin** invites Germany to annual parade in Red Square and both sign non-aggression pact
- **June 22, 1941** – Germany attacks Russia with no warning
- **July 1, 1941** – Stalin makes speech to rally Russia
- **November 1, 1941** – Germany bombs Moscow
- **December 7, 1941** – Japan bombs Hawaii

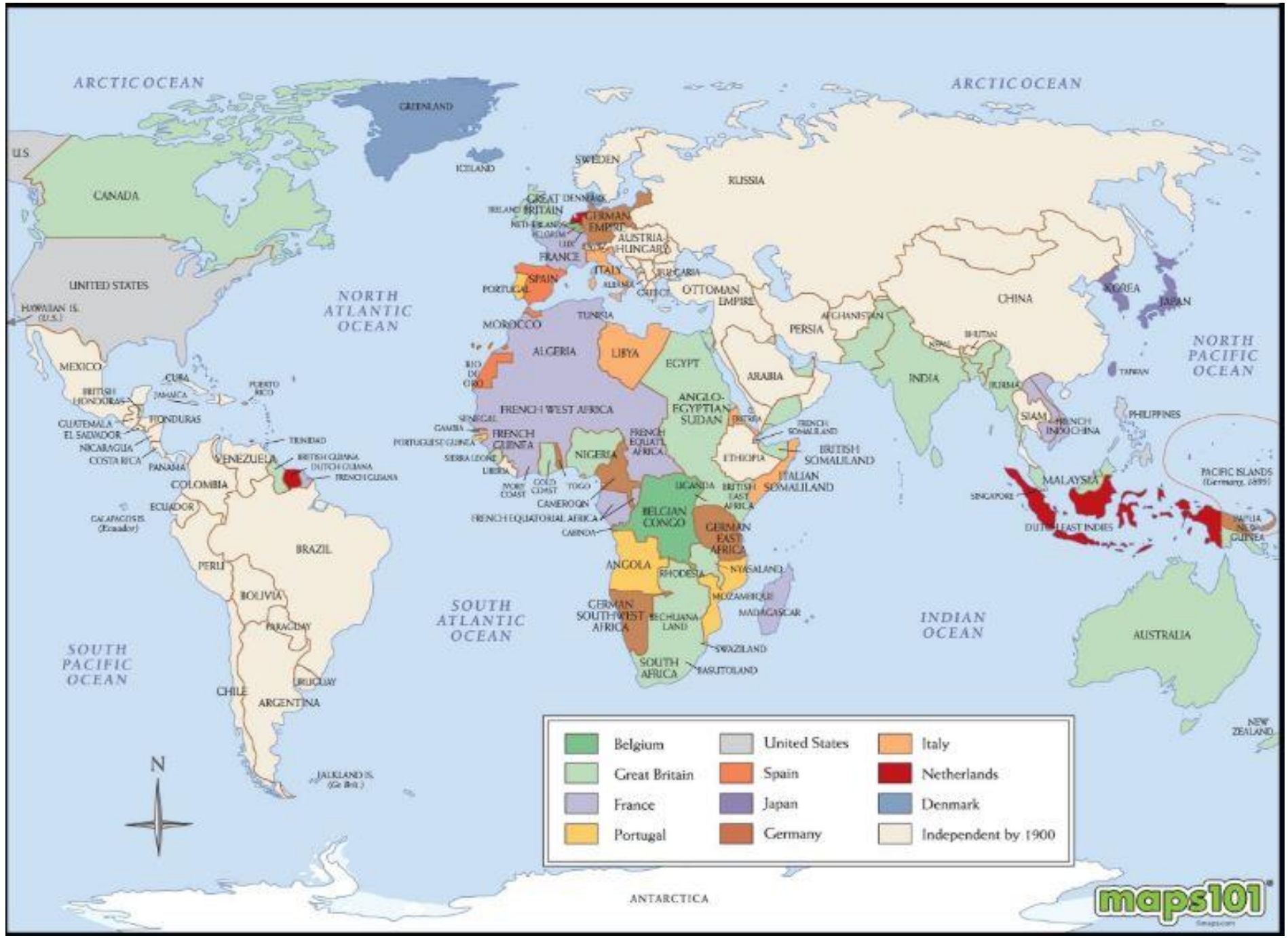
Germany’s overall game-plan

1. Take over Western Europe
2. Take over oil fields and crops in Ukraine
3. Take over oil fields in middle-east
4. Take over England
5. Take over Canada
6. Take over United States
7. Take over Russia completely
8. World domination

United Kingdom

- Commits troops, ships, aircraft against Germany
- Worried about invasion “any day” from Germany
- Churchill pleads over and over to U.S. for not support, but declaration of war
- September 3, 1939, out of an agreement/pact with Poland, both France and Great Britain declare war on Germany

Japan / Asia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maps101

Colonizing was a way of life

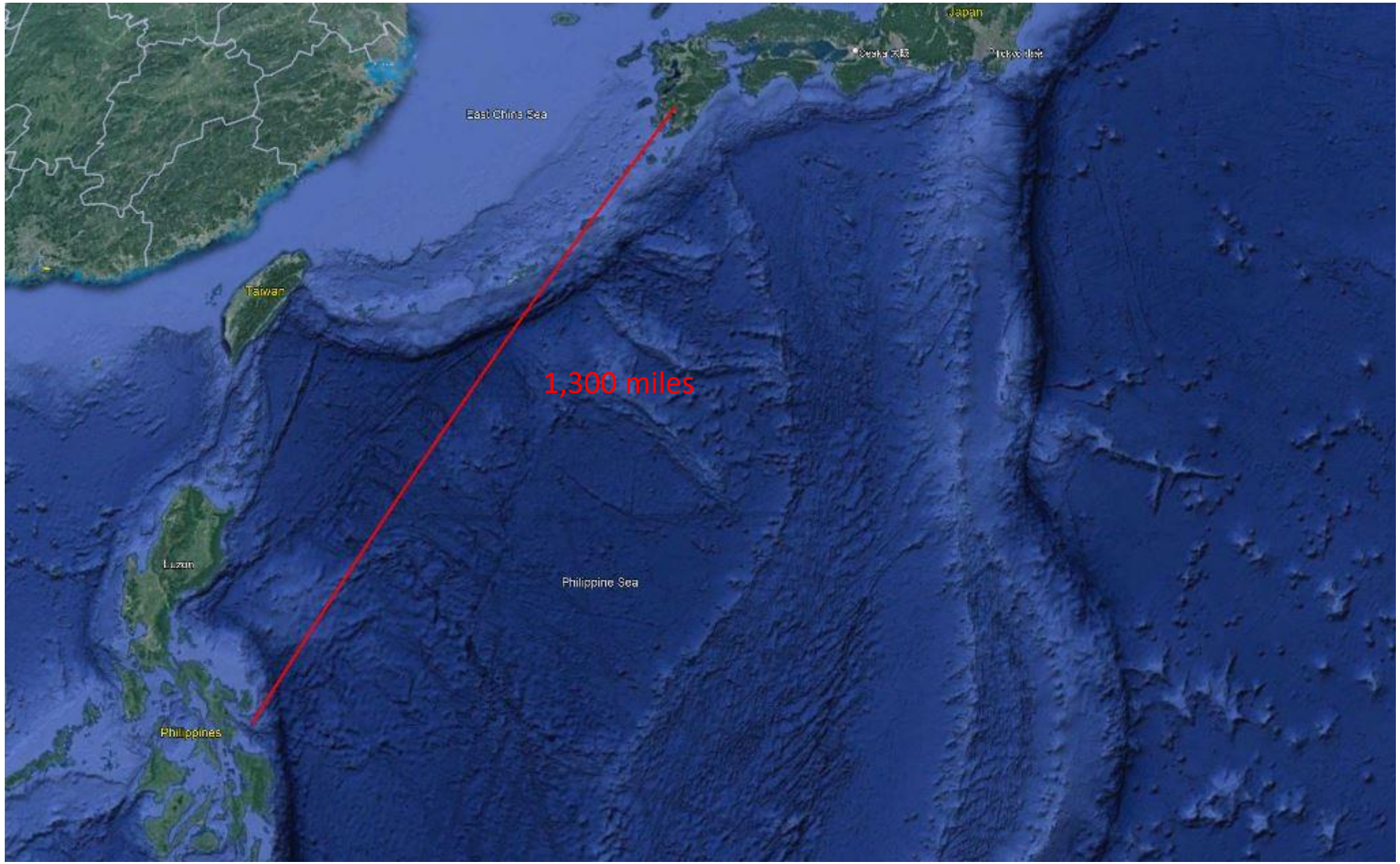
- At the turn of the century, Spain “owned” Cuba and the Philippines.
- U.S. was meddling in Cuba politics by demanding Cubans be free from Spanish
- U.S.S. Maine (with ambassadors) sent to Cuba harbor for discussions
- Feb 15, 1898 an explosion sinks the Maine*
- 251 sailors die; U.S. declares war on Spain
- U.S. attacks Cuba and Philippines (Spanish troops and ships)

* either from mine or furnaces overheating; whichever the case, the explosion was directly under were munitions were stored

Cuba continued …

- U.S. signs treaty ; Spain gives Cuba AND Philippines to U.S.
- Philippinos didn't want Spain and certainly doesn't welcome the U.S.; war breaks out all over the Philippines
- U.S. takes over Hawaii deposing Queen Liliuokalani; cleans out a bay for ships to be anchored; calls it Pearl Harbor
- **The United States has now planted our flag in Japan's backyard**
- In the 1930's, General Douglas MacArthur establishes the Philippines as his headquarters and increases U.S. military presence throughout the area

in Cuba, more U.S. soldiers died from Yellow Fever and other diseases than got killed in battle; in Philippines, 4,200 American soldiers killed; over 20,000 Filipinos killed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Asia in early 1900s - 1940

- Japan wanted their fair share of colonization
- Japan wanted to grow their economy
- Most Asian countries (except China) passive – no strong army
- Japan waring heritage
- Japan had made themselves at home in Korea
- Japan making themselves at home in China
- **May 31, 1933 – signs "peace treaty" with Chiang Kai-shek (Chinese nationalist general)**
- **June 1935, tears up "peace treaty"**
- February 26, 1936, coup attempted against Hirohito (crown prince of Japan since 1926)
- November 3, 1938, Japan creates "New East Asian Order" doctrine
- 1938 U.S. declares oil/gas, metals, airplanes, airplane parts embargo on Japan to try and stop their aggression

- September 18, 1931 - Mukden, China
- July 1937 Japan fully invades China
- Sept 1937 Japan attacks Nanking (currently Nanjing) massacring thousands
- December 1937, Japan sank U.S.S. Panay in Nanking, China (escort to 3 Standard Oil tankers)

1. Joseph Stalin
2. Mao Zedong
3. Chiang Kai-shek

Uh oh

- Stalin does not need or want to fight a war on two fronts:
  1. Western front against Hitler
  2. Eastern front against Japan
- August, 1938, Stalin wines and dines Japanese envoys in his private quarters in Moscow
- September 27, 1938, Japan signs Tripartite Pact with Italy and Germany
- February 11, 1941, Japanese ambassador Nomura Kichisaburo arrives in Washington, D.C.

https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/a_people_at_war/prelude_to_war/articles_prelude_to_war/news_editorial.html

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CAN PLANES RUIN OUR CITIES?

Newspaper and magazine commentators anxious to persuade the United States to put most of its defense money into airplanes have often horrified their readers with word and pencil pictures of airplanes leveling our cities in the next war. Subways gashed open, the Empire State Building beheaded, Brooklyn Bridge chopped neatly in two, thousands of people crushed like ants in toppling skyscrapers—remember the stories and the pictures that went with them?

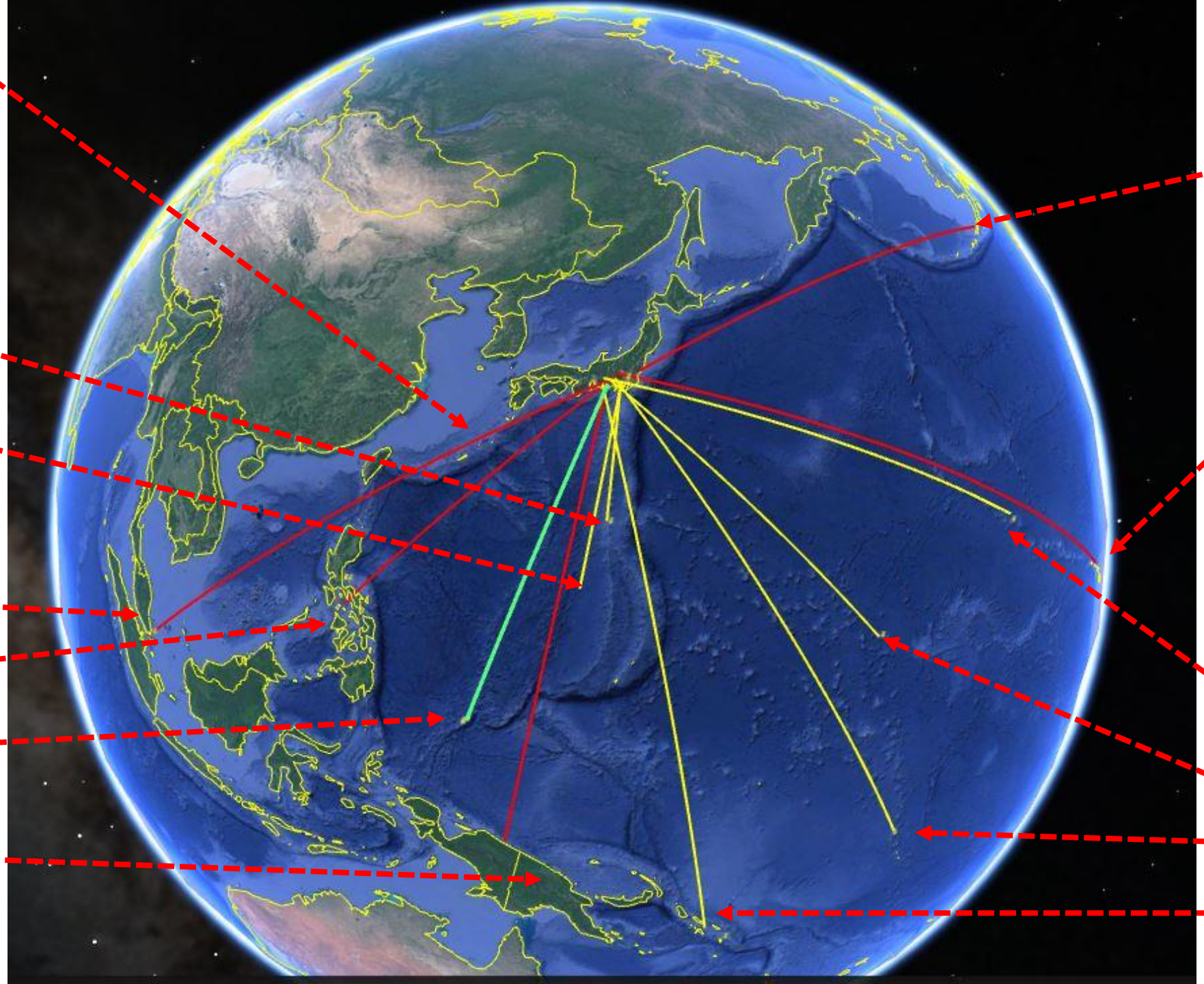
Lieut. Commander Logan C. Ramsey, U. S. N.

These fears have been deflated somewhat by the fact that life goes on in Madrid after more than a year of persistent air raids by the Rebels, though Madrid has been punctured in many places. Shanghai has suffered more in a shorter time than Madrid has; but the bulk of Shanghai's population is still holding on, and swearing vengeance against the Japanese airmen some day, somehow.

• • •

1937 Lt. Commander Ramsey published article on how silly it was to park battleships next to each other, as aircraft to could sink two ships with one shot

December 7, 1941 "AIR RAID PEARL HARBOR . . . This is no drill."


Okinawa
Aleutians
2,500 miles
Iwo Jima
Hawaii
3,500 miles
Guam
Singapore
Philippines
Midway
Peleliu
Wake Island
Tarawa
Papua New
Guinea
Guadalcanal
3,200 miles

December 6, 1941

- Japanese launch attacks on Hong Kong, Thailand, Guam, Philippines

- 6:26 AM December 7, 1941, Captain Grannis USS Antares spots cigar shaped object off of Pearl Harbor
- 6:45 AM, USS Ward sinks submarine
- 6:53 AM blips seen on new-fangled radar coming from NW over Oahu
- 7:48 AM Japanese planes reach and attack Pearl Harbor

Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki

Pearl Harbor losses: 2,403 killed
Japan: ~10

- Within 1-3 days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan invaded China, Philippines, Burma, British Borneo, Hong Kong, Dutch Borneo, Solomon Islands, Java, Singapore, Sumatra, Bali, Midway, Aleutian Islands, and on and on and on.

December 8, 1941, 4:10 PM – U.S. declares war on Japan

December 11, 1941 – U.S. declares war on Germany

December 10, 1941

- HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Impulse sunk by Japanese submarine

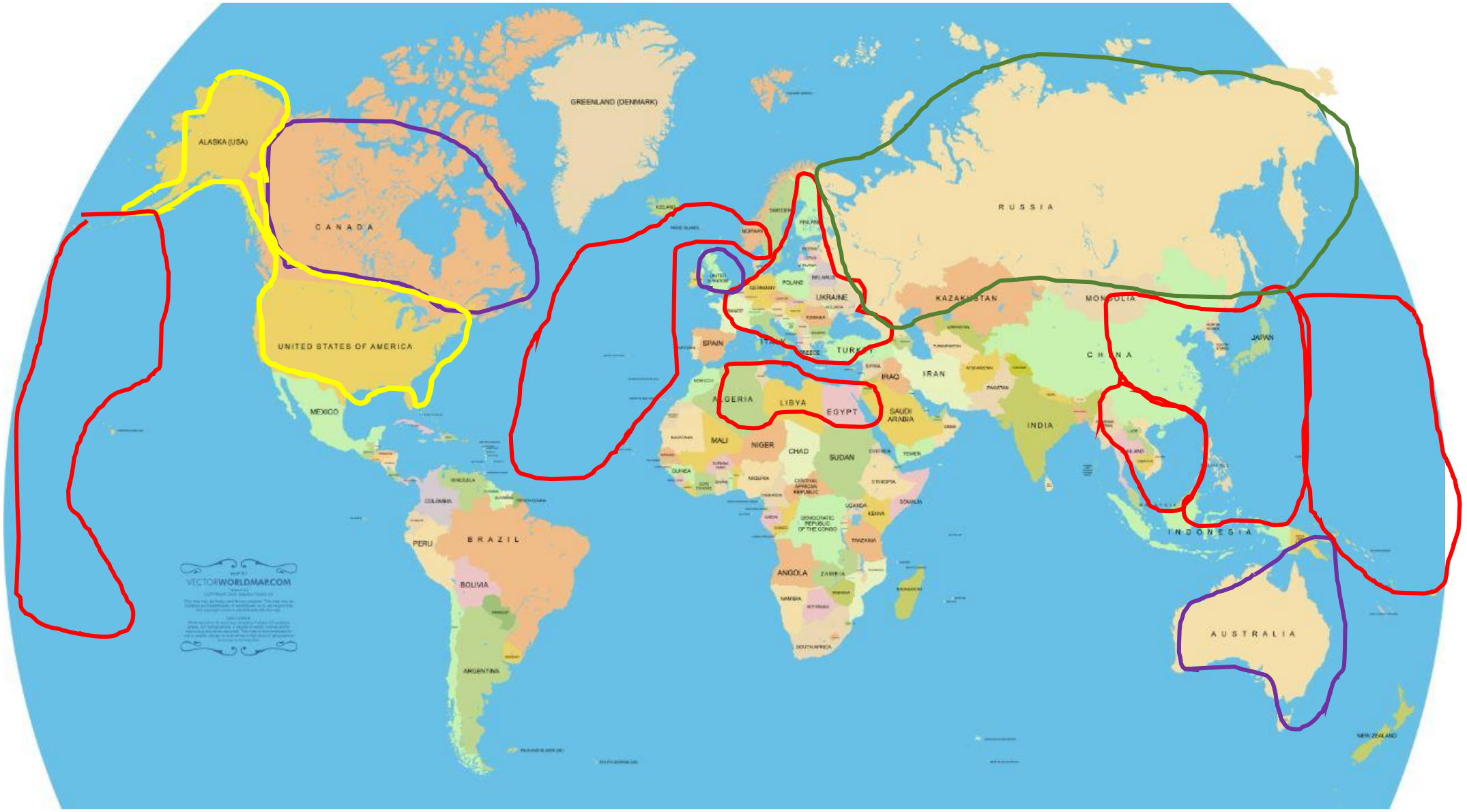
(Japan and U.K. now formally at war)

Everyone picks a side

- Sept 1, 1939, Slovak Republic declares war on Poland
- Sept 3, 1939, U.K, France, Australia, NZ, India, Tonga, Transjordan, Morocco, Tunisia declare war on Germany
- Sept 4, 1939, Nepal declares war on Germany
- Sept 6, 1939, South Africa declares war on Germany
- Sept 10, 1939, Bahrain, Canada, Oman declare war on Germany
- Sept 17, 1939, Soviet Union declares war on Poland
- Nov 9, 1939, Kuwait declares war on Germany
- Nov 30, 1939, Soviet Union declares war on Finland
- April 9, 1940, Germany declares war on Denmark, Norway
- *April 12, 1940, U.K. declares on war on the Faroe Islands*
- May 10, 1940, Germany declares war on Belgium, The Netherlands
- May 10, 1940, Germany declares war on Luxembourg
- *May 10, 2940, U.K. declares war on Iceland*
- Jun 10, 1940, Italy declares war on France, U.K.
- Jun 10, 1940, Canada declares war on Italy
- Sep 9, 1940, Italy declares war on Egypt
- Sep 28, 1940, Italy declares war on Greece

Everyone picks a side – part 2

- Nov 23, 1940, Belgium declares war on Italy
- Apr 6, 1941, Germany declares war on Greece
- April 6, 1941, Germany declares war on Yugoslavia
- April 6, 1941, Italy declares war on Yugoslavia
- April 7, 1941, Yugoslavia declares war on Hungary
- April 14, 1941, Germany declares war on Egypt
- May 2, 1941, U.K. declares war on Iraq
- Jun 22, 1941, Tuva (small country in Ukraine area) declares war on Germany
- Jun 25, 1941, Finland declares war on Germany
- Jun 27, 1941, Hungary declares war on Soviet Union
- Aug 25, 1941, Soviet Union, Australia, U.K. declare war on Iraq
- Dec 5, 1941, U.K. declares war on Finland, Romania, Hungary


GREENLAND (DENMARK)
ALASKA (USA)
CANADA
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MEXICO
RUSSIA
KAZAKHSTAN
MONGOLIA
CHINA
JAPAN
UKRAINE
SPAIN
TURKEY
IRAQ
IRAN
ALGERIA
LIBYA
EGYPT
SAUDI ARABIA
INDIA
MALI
NIGER
CHAD
SUDAN
INDONESIA
AUSTRALIA
PERU
BRAZIL
BOLIVIA
ARGENTINA
ANGOLA
ZAMBIA
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So… when did WWII start?

Further reading:

- “The Pacific War 1941-1945”, John Costello
- “Stalin: Waiting for Hitler 1929-1941”, Stephen Kotkin
- “Lords of Finance”, Liaquat Ahamed
- “World War II”, The American Heritage press
- “The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II”, Iris Chang
- “Japan 1941”, Eri Hotta
- “The New History of World War II”, Stephen Ambrose

Signed by
Author + Vets
History of 81st Wildcats WWII
'25

Thank you

Please go OLLI online and leave comments

https://olli.unt.edu/evaluations