

# Sides of World War II

World War II was fought between two major groups of nations who became known as the Axis and Allied Powers.

## Allied Powers

The major Allied Powers were Britain, France, Russia, and the United States. They formed mostly as a defense against attacks from the Axis Powers. The original members of the Allies were Great Britain, France, and Poland. Great Britain, Russia, and the United States were sometimes referred to as the Big Three. When China joined, they were known as the Four Policemen. They later founded the United Nations.

## Russia

At the beginning of World War II, Russia and Germany were friends, but this ended when Hitler, Germany's leader, ordered a surprise attack on Russia on June 22, 1941. Hitler went back on the Nazi-Soviet Pact, stating Germany and Russia would not attack one another for ten years. This shocking attack led Russia to switch sides from the Axis to Allied Powers.






## United States

The United States hoped to remain neutral during World War II, just as they had desired in World War I. Unfortunately, the U.S. was attacked unexpectedly at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii by the Japanese. This attack united the nation against the Axis Powers and turned the tide of the war in the favor the Allies.

## Other Nations

Poland and China were also part of the Allied Powers. In 1939, Poland was invaded by Germany, sparking World War II. China was invaded in 1937 by Japan and became a member of the Allies after the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor in the United States. Other Allied nations were Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the Netherlands, Yugoslavia, Belgium, and Greece. There were eventually more countries on the Allies, mostly because they were taken over by the Axis nations.




# Leaders of the Allied Powers

Person	Country	Description
Winston Churchill	 Great Britain	Prime Minister of Great Britain during most of WWII; Country was the last fighting the Germans in Europe; Known for famous speeches when Germans were bombing
Franklin D. Roosevelt	 United States	Considered one of the greatest U.S. Presidents; Led the country out of the Great Depression and through World War II
Joseph Stalin	 Russia	Title: General Secretary of the Communist Party; Led Russia through devastating battles with Germany where millions died; After winning the war, set up the Eastern Bloc of Soviet-led Communist states
Charles de Gaulle	France	Leader of the Free French; led the French resistance against Germany

## Axis Powers

The major Axis Powers were Germany, Italy, and Japan, who began forming in 1936. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1936, Germany and Italy signed a friendship agreement forming the Rome-Berlin Axis. Italian dictator, Benito Mussolini, used the term Axis to refer to their alliance after the treaty was signed. Japan and Germany signed the Anti-Comintern Pact on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1936, a treaty against communism. A stronger alliance called the Pact of Steel was created on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1939. The name was originally the Pact of Blood, but changed because they felt the public may not like it. Later, it was called the Tripartite Pact when Japan signed on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1940.

## Leaders of the Axis Powers

Person	Country	Description
 Adolf Hitler	Germany	Chancellor of Germany starting in 1933; became the Fuhrer (leader) in 1934; Ruthless dictator who hated Jews and wanted to purge Germany of anyone weak; wanted to control Europe
Benito Mussolini 	Italy	Supreme dictator of Italy, called the "Duce" or leader; founded the concept of a fascist government (one leader and one party has total power); inspired Hitler
Emperor Hirohito	Japan 	Remained Emperor of Japan after the war; the first time subjects heard his voice was when he announced the surrender of Japan on the radio

Other members of the Axis Powers were Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, and Finland. Hungary, who played a large role in the invasion of Russia, became the fourth member of the Tripartite Pact. Bulgaria began on the Axis side, but joined the Allies after they were invaded by Russia. Romania was in a similar situation, starting on the Axis Powers, helping invade Russia, but changing sides by the end of the war. Finland never signed the Tripartite Pact, but fought with the Axis countries against Russia.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**Identify:** Use the word bank to identify each description.

Winston Churchill	Benito Mussolini	Allied Powers	Russia
Axis Powers	Emperor Hirohito	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Charles de Gaulle

1.	I was the dictator of Italy during World War II
2.	I was the leader of Japan during World War II
3.	I was the Prime Minister of Great Britain during World War II
4.	The major countries on this side were Britain, France, Russia, and the United States
5.	I was the leader of France during World War II
6.	This nation was originally on the Axis Powers, but joined the Allied when they were invaded
7.	I was President of the United States during World War II
8.	The major nations on this side were Germany, Italy, and Japan

**Odd One Out:** Circle the term that does not belong with the others. Then state the common factor between the other three.

9. Germany                      Poland                      Italy                      Japan

Common Factor: \_\_\_\_\_

10. United States                      Great Britain                      France                      Finland

Common Factor: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Russia                      Poland                      Bulgaria                      Romania

Common Factor: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Churchill                      Mussolini                      Hirohito                      Hitler

Common Factor: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Roosevelt                      Churchill                      Mussolini                      Stalin

Common Factor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Identify the Side:** Check whether each description is related to the Allied or Axis Powers at the END of the war.

Description	Allied	Axis
14. Joseph Stalin		
15. United States		
16. Pact of Steel		
17. Big Three		
18. Tripartite Pact		
19. Australia		
20. Finland		
21. Emperor Hirohito		
22. Pact of Blood		
23. Four Policemen		
24. Nazi-Soviet Pact		
25. Charles de Gaulle		
26. Anti-Comintern Pact		
27. Fuhrer		
28. Poland		



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