

Timeline for World War II — U.S.S.R.

1920s:

- 1920: The Soviet Union lost territory to Poland.
- 1922: April 3: Josef Stalin was appointed General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party.
- 1922: December 30: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Transcaucasia came together to form the Soviet Union.
- 1924: January 21: Vladimir Lenin died, and Josef Stalin began purging rivals to his leadership.
- 1926: April 24: The Treaty of Berlin was signed by Germany and the U.S.S.R., which declared neutrality if either country was attacked within the next five years.
- 1927: May 24: The United Kingdom severed diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.
- 1927: November 12: Leon Trotsky was expelled from the Soviet Communist Party, which left Joseph Stalin with undisputed control of the Soviet Union.
- 1928: August 27: The Kellogg-Briand Pact was signed in Paris by the major powers of the world. The treaty outlawed aggressive warfare. The Kellogg-Briand Pact went into effect July 24, 1929.
- 1929: February 9: The U.S.S.R., Romania, Poland, Latvia, and Estonia signed the Litvinov Protocol in Moscow.
- 1929: October 29: The Great Depression began.

1934:

- 1934: September: The Soviet Union joined the League of Nations.

1937:

- 1937: The Soviet Union signed a nonaggression pact with China to offer aid, which ended Chinese cooperation with Germany.

1938:

- 1938: July 29: The Soviet-Japanese Border Wars began with the Battle of Lake Khasan. The U.S.S.R. emerged victorious in August.

1939:

- 1939: The Soviet Union and Japan signed a pact and stayed at peace until 1945. The Soviet Union focused on their western border, but left more than 1 million troops to guard the frontier with Japan.
- 1939: April 18: The Soviet Union proposed a triple alliance with the United Kingdom and France. The British and French agreed to take up the offer.
- 1939: May 6: Carl Friedrich Goerdeler told the British government that the German and Soviet governments were secretly planning on dividing Eastern Europe between them. Goerdeler also informed the British of German economic problems threatening the survival of the Nazi regime, and advised that if a stand was made for Poland, then Hitler would be deterred from war.
- 1939: May 11: Battle of Khalkhin Gol began with Japan and Manchukuo against the Soviet Union and Mongolia.
- 1939: August 23: The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was signed between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union.
- 1939: August 23-September 28: Germany and the Soviet Union signed a Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact; neither Germany nor the Soviet Union was ready to go to war with the other. The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (August 23, 1939) was a non-aggression treaty between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. This "non-aggression treaty"

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included a secret provision for the division of Eastern Europe which included joint occupation of Poland and Soviet occupation of the Baltic States, Finland, and Bessarabia. This protocol gave Hitler the green light for his invasion of Poland, which began on September 1. The protocol explicitly assumed "territorial and political rearrangements" in the areas of these countries. In the next few years, all the mentioned countries were invaded, occupied, or forced to cede part of their territory to either the Soviet Union, Germany, or both. German-Soviet Boundary and Friendship Treaty was signed. The secret protocol specified the details of the partition of Poland originally defined in Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and added Lithuania to the Soviet Union sphere of interest.

- 1939: September 17: The Soviet Union invaded Poland from the east.
- 1939: September 19: Soviet Union and its ally Mongolia won the Battle of Khalkhin Gol.
- 1939: September 19: The German and Soviet armies linked up near Brest Litovsk.
- 1939: September 24: Soviet air force violated Estonian airspace. The Estonians negotiated with Molotov in Moscow. Molotov warned the Estonians that if the Soviet Union does not get military bases in Estonia, it would be forced to use "more radical actions".
- 1939: September 25: Soviet air activity in Estonia took place. Soviet troops along the Estonian border included 600 tanks, 600 aircraft, and 160,000 men.
- 1939: September 28: Soviet troops gathered by the Latvian border. Latvian air space was violated. Estonia signed a 10-year Mutual Assistance Pact with the Soviet Union, which allowed the Soviets to have 30,000-men military bases in Estonia. In return, as a gift, Stalin promised to respect Estonian independence.
- 1939: October 2: Latvian representatives negotiated with Stalin and Molotov. Soviets threatened occupation by force if they did not get military bases in Latvia.
- 1939: October 3: Lithuanians met Stalin and Molotov in Moscow. Stalin offered Lithuania the city of Vilnius, Poland in return for allowing Soviet military bases in Lithuania. The Lithuanians were reluctant.
- 1939: October 5: Latvia signed a 10-year Mutual Assistance Pact with the Soviet Union, which allowed the Soviets to have 25,000 men in military bases in Latvia. Stalin promised to respect Latvian independence.
- 1939: October 10: Lithuania signed a 15-year Mutual Assistance Pact with the Soviet Union, which allowed the Soviets to have 20,000 troops in military bases in Lithuania.
- 1939: October 12: Finland's representatives met Stalin in Moscow. The U.S.S.R. demanded that Finland give up a military base near Helsinki and exchange some Soviet and Finnish territories to protect Leningrad against Great Britain or against the eventual future threat of Germany.
- 1939: October 18: First Soviet forces entered Estonia; 12,600 Baltic Germans left Estonia.
- 1939: November 1: Parts of Poland, including the Danzig Corridor, were annexed by Germany. Soviet Union annexed the eastern parts of occupied Poland.
- 1939: November 3: Finland and Soviet Union again negotiated new borders. Finns mistrusted Stalin's aims and refused to give up territory breaking their defensive line.
- 1939: November 29: The U.S.S.R. broke off diplomatic relations with Finland.
- 1939: December 7: Norway, Sweden, and Denmark proclaimed neutrality in the Russo-Finnish quarrel.
- 1939: December 14: The U.S.S.R. was expelled from the League of Nations in response to the Soviet invasion of Finland on November 30. This would become known as the Winter War.

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1940:

- 1940: January 2: The Russian offensive in Finland was halted by several Finnish victories.
- 1940: January 17: The Russians were driven back in Finland and retaliated with heavy air attacks.
- 1940: February 10: U.S.S.R. agreed to supply grain and raw materials to Germany in a new trade treaty.
- 1940: March 5-12: Finland told the Soviets that they would agree to their terms for ending the war. The next day, they sent emissaries to Moscow to negotiate a peace treaty. In Moscow, Finland signed a peace treaty with the Soviet Union after 105 days of conflict. The Finns were forced to give up significant territory in exchange for independence.
- 1940: March 29: The Russians wanted new territories. Molotov spoke to the Supreme Soviet about "an unsettled dispute", the question of Romanian Bessarabia.
- 1940: March 30: British undertook secret reconnaissance flights to photograph the targeted areas inside the Soviet Union.
- 1940: April/May: Polish officers were massacred by Soviets at Katyn.
- 1940: May 25: Soviet Union prepared a total takeover in the Baltic States, organizing and staging conflicts between the Baltic States and the U.S.S.R. The Soviet government accused Lithuania of kidnapping Soviet soldiers.
- 1940: June 14: A total military blockade on the Baltic States by the Soviet Baltic Fleet took place. Soviet troops along the Baltic borders were ready to organize communist coups in the Baltic States. Soviet bombers shot down a Finnish passenger airplane, Kaleva, flying from Tallinn to Helsinki carrying three diplomatic pouches from the U.S. legations in Tallinn, Riga, and Helsinki.
- 1940: June 18: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were occupied by the Soviet Union.
- 1940: June 26: The Soviet Union sent an ultimatum demanding Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina from Romania.
- 1940: July: Soviets organized rigged elections in the Baltic States. The parliaments would be in the control of the Soviets. In the Baltic States, Soviet-controlled parliaments requested membership of the U.S.S.R.
- 1940: August 3-6: The U.S.S.R. formally annexed Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.
- 1940: November 15: The Soviet Union was invited to join Tripartite Pact and to share in the spoils of British Empire. The Soviet Union gave terms to join the Tripartite pact including substantial new territorial gains for Russia.

1941:

- 1941: The millions of Soviet casualties dwarfed the numbers of the Western Allies. Stalin negotiated for a "second front" in France, but was declined by both Churchill and Roosevelt.
- 1941: April: Japan and the U.S.S.R. signed the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact.
- 1941: April 12: The Soviet Union recognized Rashid Ali's "National Defense Government" in Iraq.
- 1941: April 13: Japan and the Soviet Union signed a neutrality pact.
- 1941: June: Germany attacked the Soviet Union with the aid of Finland, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia.
- 1941: June 22: June Uprising against the Soviet Union in Lithuania took place.
- 1941: June 26: Hungary and Slovakia declared war on the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union bombed Helsinki. Finland pronounced a state of war between Finland and Soviet Union. A continuation war began.
- 1941: June 28: Italian-occupied Albania declared war on the Soviet Union.
- 1941: July 3: Stalin announced a "scorched earth policy" in response to German attacks.

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- 1941: July 8: Britain and the U.S.S.R. signed a mutual defense agreement, promising not to sign any form of separate peace agreement with Germany. Great Britain formed a military alliance with the U.S.S.R. to invade Iran to secure the Persian Corridor and Iran's oil fields.
- 1941: August: U.K. and U.S. jointly issued the Atlantic Charter, to which the Allies of World War II pledged adherence on January 1, 1942. China, the Soviet Union, and 22 smaller or exiled governments issued the Declaration by United Nations, which affirmed the Atlantic Charter. By maintaining a neutrality agreement with Japan, the Soviet Union did not adhere to the declaration.
- 1941: October: German troops almost reached Moscow, but were forced to suspend their offensive; the blitzkrieg phase of the war in Europe ended.
- 1941: November 6: Soviet leader Joseph Stalin addressed the Soviet Union for only the second time during his three-decade rule. He stated that even though 350,000 troops were killed in German attacks so far, Germans lost 4.5 million soldiers (inaccurate) and that Soviet victory was near.

1942:

- 1942: September 3: The Battle of Stalingrad proper began on this date, with German troops in the suburbs; even civilian men and boys were conscripted by the Red Army to assist in the defense.
- 1942: November 19-25: At Stalingrad, the Soviet forces launched Operation Uranus aimed at encircling the Germans in the city.

1943:

- 1943: January 10: Soviet troops launched an all-out offensive attack on Stalingrad and renewed attacks in the Leningrad and in the Caucasus.
- 1943: February 2: In the Soviet Union, the Battle of Stalingrad came to an end with the official surrender of the German 6th Army. The German public was informed of this disaster, marking the first time the Nazi government acknowledged a failure in the war effort.
- 1943: March 16: The first reports of the Katyn massacre in Poland seeped to the West; reports said that more than 22,000 prisoners of war were killed.
- 1943: March 16: Stalin, for the ninth time, demanded a "Second Front," accusing his British and U.S. allies of treachery.
- 1943: April 13: Radio Berlin announced the discovery of mass graves of Poles purportedly killed by Soviets in the Katyn massacre.
- 1943: September 4: The Soviet Union declared war on Bulgaria.
- 1943: November 6: The Red Army liberated the city of Kiev. This was the anniversary of the Russian Revolution in 1917.
- 1943: November 28: U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Leader Joseph Stalin met in Teheran at The Teheran Conference to discuss war strategy; Stalin, at last, had the promise of a second front in Europe.

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1944:

- 1944: March 21: Finland rejected Soviet peace terms.
- 1944: June 9: No agreement having been reached on their mutual borders, Stalin launched an offensive against Finland with the intent of defeating Finland before pushing for Berlin.
- 1944: June 25: The Battle of Tali-Ihantala between Finnish and Soviet troops began; it was the largest battle ever to be fought in the Nordic countries.
- 1944: July 3: Minsk in Belarus was liberated by Soviet forces.
- 1944: July 13: The Soviets took Vilnius, Lithuania.
- 1944: August 19: In a radio broadcast, Jüri Uluots, the acting Head of State of Estonia, called the Estonian conscripts to hold the Soviet Armed Forces back until a peace treaty with Germany was signed.
- 1944: August 23: Romania broke with the Axis, surrendered to the Soviet Union, and joined the Allies.
- 1944: August 31: The Soviet army entered Bucharest.
- 1944: September 2: Finland agreed to an armistice with the Soviet Union and demanded a withdrawal of German troops.
- 1944: September 8: Soviet Union invaded Bulgaria.
- 1944: September 19: Armistice was signed between the Soviet Union and Finland.
- 1944: October 1: Soviet troops entered Yugoslavia.
- 1944: October 6: Soviet and Czechoslovak troops entered northeastern Slovakia.
- 1944: October 9: Allied Conference ("Tolstoy") in Moscow: Churchill and Stalin discussed spheres of influence in the postwar Balkans.

1945:

- 1945: January 17: Warsaw was liberated by Red Army troops. A government favorable to the Communists was installed.
- 1945: January 28-31: The Red Army completed the occupation of Lithuania. The Red Army crossed the Oder River into Germany and was less than 50 miles from Berlin.
- 1945: March 16: The German offensive in Hungary ended with another Soviet victory.
- 1945: March 29: The Red Army entered Austria. Other Allies took Frankfurt; the Germans were in a general retreat.
- 1945: April 2-13: Soviets launched Vienna Offensive against German forces in and around the Austrian capital city. Vienna Offensive ended with Soviet victory.
- 1945: April 4: Bratislava, the capital of the Slovak Republic, was over-run by advancing Soviet forces. The remaining members of Prime Minister Jozef Tiso's pro-German government fled to Austria.
- 1945: April 9: Battle of Königsberg ended in Soviet victory.
- 1945: April 25: Elbe Day: First contact between Soviet and U.S. troops at the river Elbe, near Torgau in Germany, took place.
- 1945: April 30: Soviet troops declared final victory over Germany.
- 1945: May 1: As one of his last acts, Reich Chancellor Joseph Goebbels sent German General Hans Krebs to negotiate the surrender of the city of Berlin with Soviet General Vasily Chuikov. Chuikov commanded the Soviet forces in central Berlin. Krebs was not authorized by Goebbels to agree to an unconditional surrender, so his negotiations with Chuikov ended with no agreement.
- 1945: May 2: The Battle of Berlin ended with unconditional surrender of the city of Berlin.
- 1945: May 5-11: The Red Army entered Prague as part of the Prague Offensive. Prague Offensive ended with the Soviet capture of the capital city, the last major city to be liberated, though the war was over. Eisenhower stopped Patton from participating in the liberation.

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- 1945: May 8: Germany surrendered again unconditionally to the Soviet Union army but this time in a ceremony hosted by the Soviet Union. In accordance with orders from Reich President Karl Dönitz, General Wilhelm Keitel signed for Germany. Soviet forces captured the Reichstag during which the Soviets installed the flag of U.S.S.R. over the Reichstag.
- 1945: May 9: The Soviet Union officially pronounced May 9 as the Victory Day.
- 1945: August 8-9: The Soviet Union declared war on Japan; the Manchurian Strategic Offensive Operation began an hour later and included landings on the Kurile Islands, which the Japanese had been evacuating in anticipation. Soviet troops also entered China and Korea.

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