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WORLD AT WAR

#WorldWar2 key events and their timeline with visual references.

Long ■

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November 11, 1918
WORLD WAR I ENDS

Britain, France, the US, and other allies defeat Germany, bringing an end to World War I, billed as “the war to end all wars.”



January 30, 1933

HITLER APPOINTED GERMAN LEADER

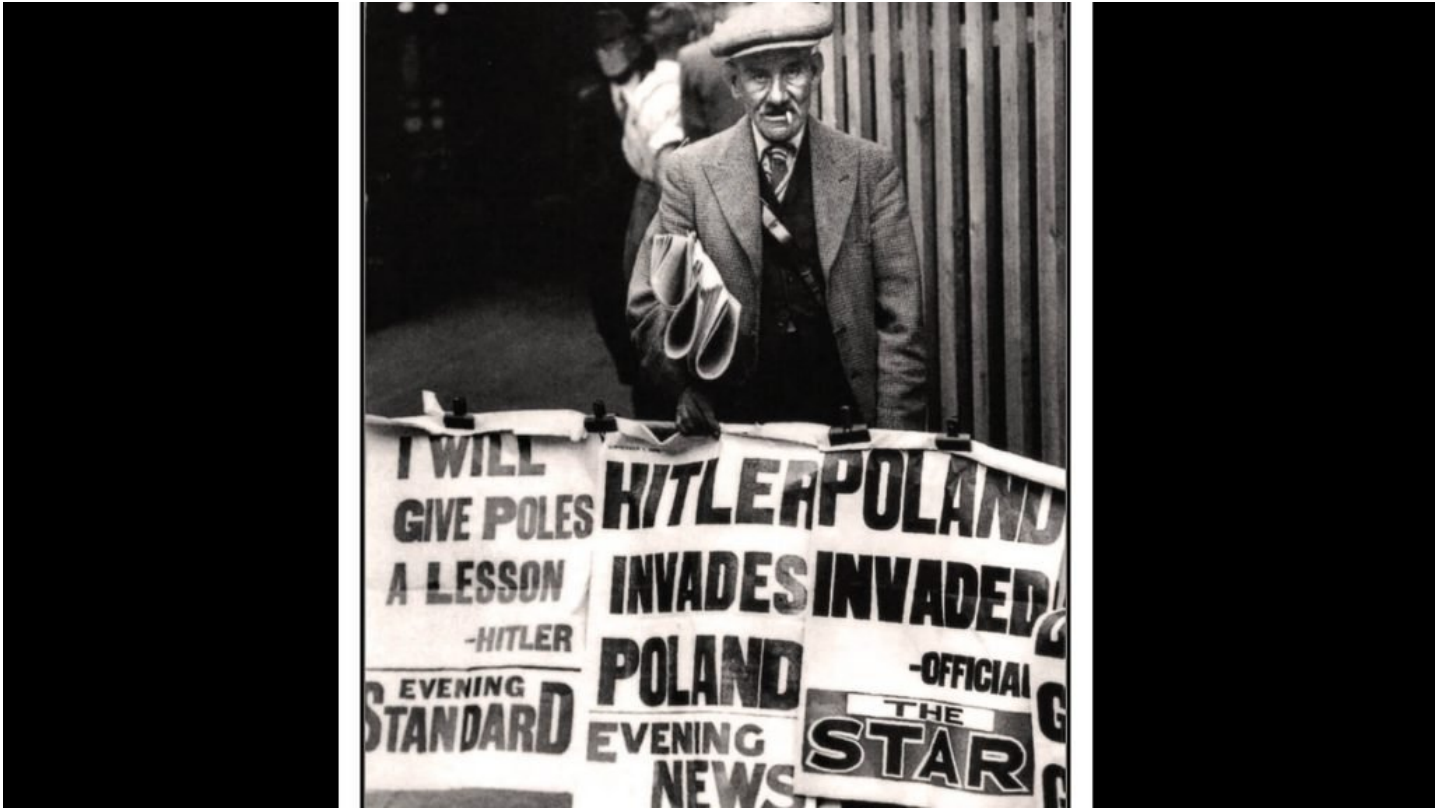
Adolf Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany and later assumes dictatorial powers. German rearmament takes off.



September 1, 1939

WORLD WAR II BEGINS

Germany invades Poland, inciting Poland's allies Britain and France to declare war on Germany.



September 17, 1939
SOVIET UNION INVADES POLAND

Working in concert with Hitler, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin orders the invasion of Poland, securing a share of Polish territory.



September 27, 1939
WARSAW CAPTURED

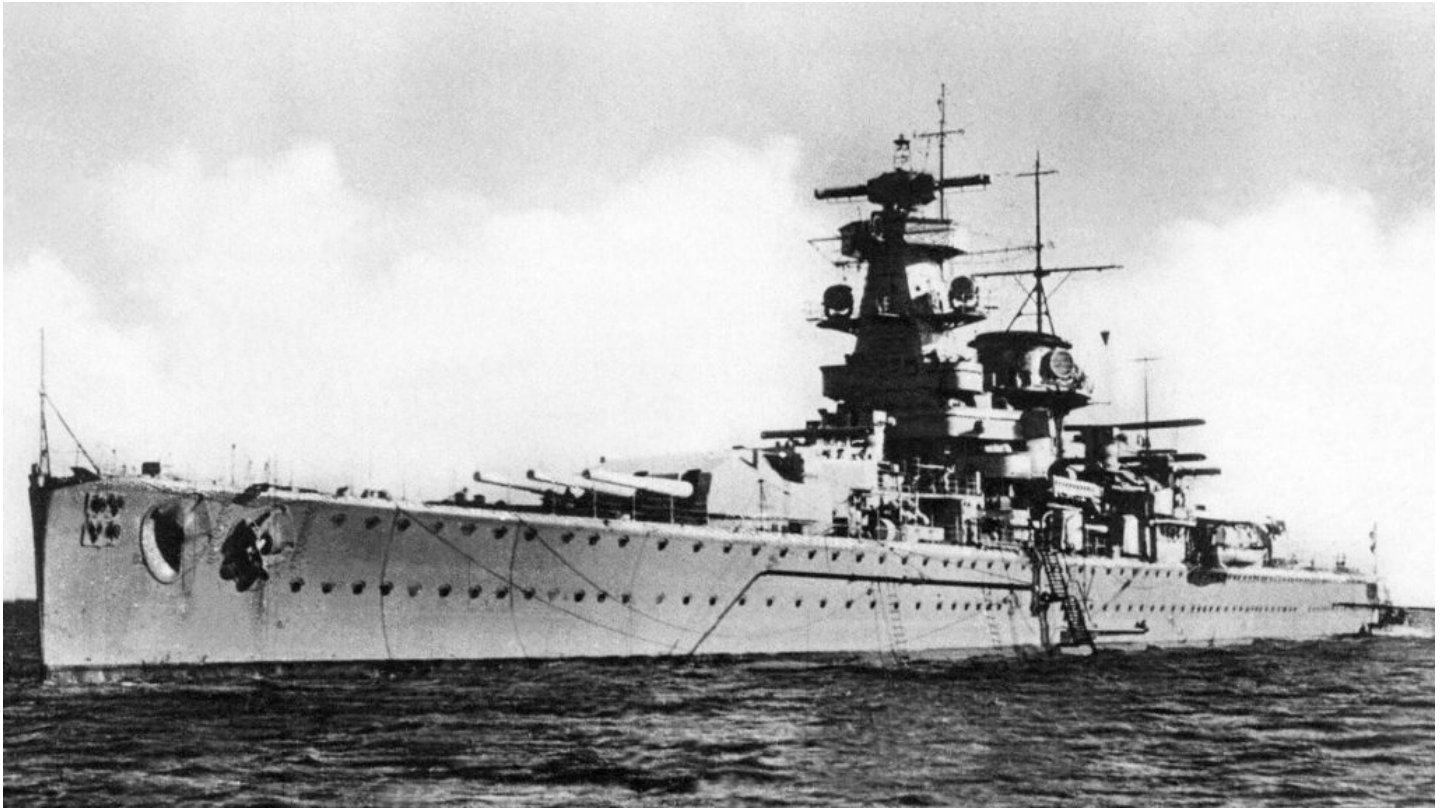
Warsaw surrenders to German troops. Poland holds out for another 9 days before capitulating.



December 13, 1939

UK WINS WAR'S FIRST SEA BATTLE

British cruisers defeat a German pocket battleship at the Battle of the River Plate, the first major naval engagement of World War II.



April 8, 1940
NORWAY INVADED

Germany invades Norway, ending a 6-month period of limited land operations called the “Phony War.”



May 10, 1940
CHURCHILL BECOMES PRIME MINISTER

Winston Churchill replaces Neville Chamberlain as British Prime Minister. The same day, Germany invades Belgium.



May 26-June 4, 1940
MIRACLE OF DUNKIRK

The trapped British army evacuates to England from Dunkirk, France, surviving to fight another day.



June 14, 1940

PARIS FALLS TO NAZIS

Paris falls to German forces. France capitulates 11 days later.



July 10-October 31, 1940

BRITAIN FIGHTS FOR ITS LIFE

The Battle of Britain pits German bombers against British fighters in a thwarted German prelude to invasion.



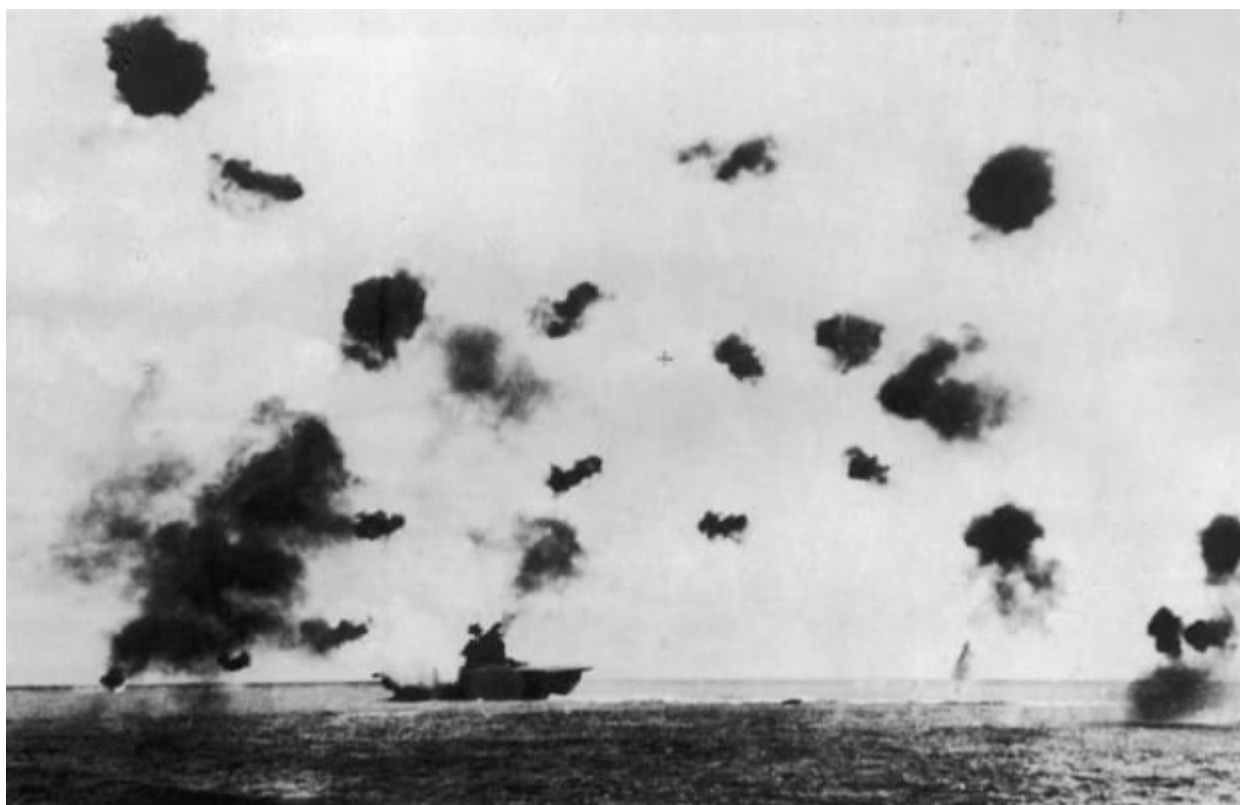
December 7, 1941
U.S. PLUNGED INTO WAR

Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, starting a war with the US. Sensing weakness, Hitler declares war on America 4 days later.



June 4, 1942
THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY

USA defeated the Japanese navy at the Battle of Midway. Following this victory, the US navy was able to push the Japanese back.



Oct 23, 1942

BATTLE OF EL ALAMEIN

Montgomery attacked the German-Italian army in North Africa with a massive bombardment followed by an armoured attack. He then proceeded to chase the routed enemy some 1500 miles across the desert.



Nov, 1942

BATTLE OF STALINGRAD

The Russians won their first victory against Germany at the Battle of Stalingrad.



May 12 1943

AXIS SURRENDER NORTH AFRICA

The British and American forces managed to defeat the Axis forces in North Africa.



September 3, 1943

ITALY SURRENDERS

Italy surrenders to the Allies, however, Germany helps Mussolini to escape and set up a government in Northern Italy.



June 6, 1944

D-DAY

Allied forces invade France from Normandy and push back the Germans.



Aug 25, 1944
PARIS LIBERATED

The French capital of Paris was liberated from the Germans.



December 16, 1944
BATTLE OF BULGE

The Germans launch a large attack in the Battle of the Bulge. They lose to the Allies sealing the fate of the German army.



February 19, 1945
INVASION OF IWO JIMA

US Marines invade the island of Iwo Jima. After a fierce battle they capture the island.



March, 1945
ALLIES CROSS THE RHINE

The Allies crossed the Rhine while Soviet forces were approaching Berlin from the East.



April 12, 1945
DEATH OF ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt died. He was succeeded by President Truman.



April 30, 1945

HITLER COMMITS SUICIDE

The German leader, Adolf Hitler committed suicide in his bombproof shelter together with his mistress, Eva Braun, who he had, at the last minute, made his wife.

HITLER DEAD

Fuehrer Fell at CP, German Radio Says; Doenitz at Helm, Vows War Will Continue

German radio announced last night that Adolf Hitler had died. Gen. Karl Doenitz, former commander-in-chief of the German Navy, has succeeded him as ruler of the Reich, the radio announced last night.

Doenitz made a radio speech immediately after the announcement, Hitler said, and declared that Germany would continue to wage war. His statement up-held peace efforts which had been prevailing for more than a week in all world capitals.

Churchill Hints Peace Is at Hand

Winston Churchill, British prime minister, said today that peace is at hand. He said that the German people are now in a position to make a decision for peace. He said that the British people are now in a position to make a decision for peace. He said that the British people are now in a position to make a decision for peace.



The announcement did not give any details of how the Reich Fuehrer died. The news was broadcast after a radio address by Doenitz, which included the "Fuehrer's Last Words," which was played.

"Adolf Hitler," a voice said, "In a few minutes you will hear a solemn and important message to the German people. We are now going to play a message of Roosevelt's speech to the people." Finally, the report of Hitler's death was given.

Hitler's death came three days after his capture by Soviet forces. He was killed by Italian partisans near the village of Obersiebenbrunn near Lake Neusiedl.

Doenitz, in his speech, said that Hitler "had fallen at his command post" while standing with his back to the enemy. He said that he had been shot in the back of the head by a Soviet soldier.

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May 7, 1945

GERMANY SURRENDERS

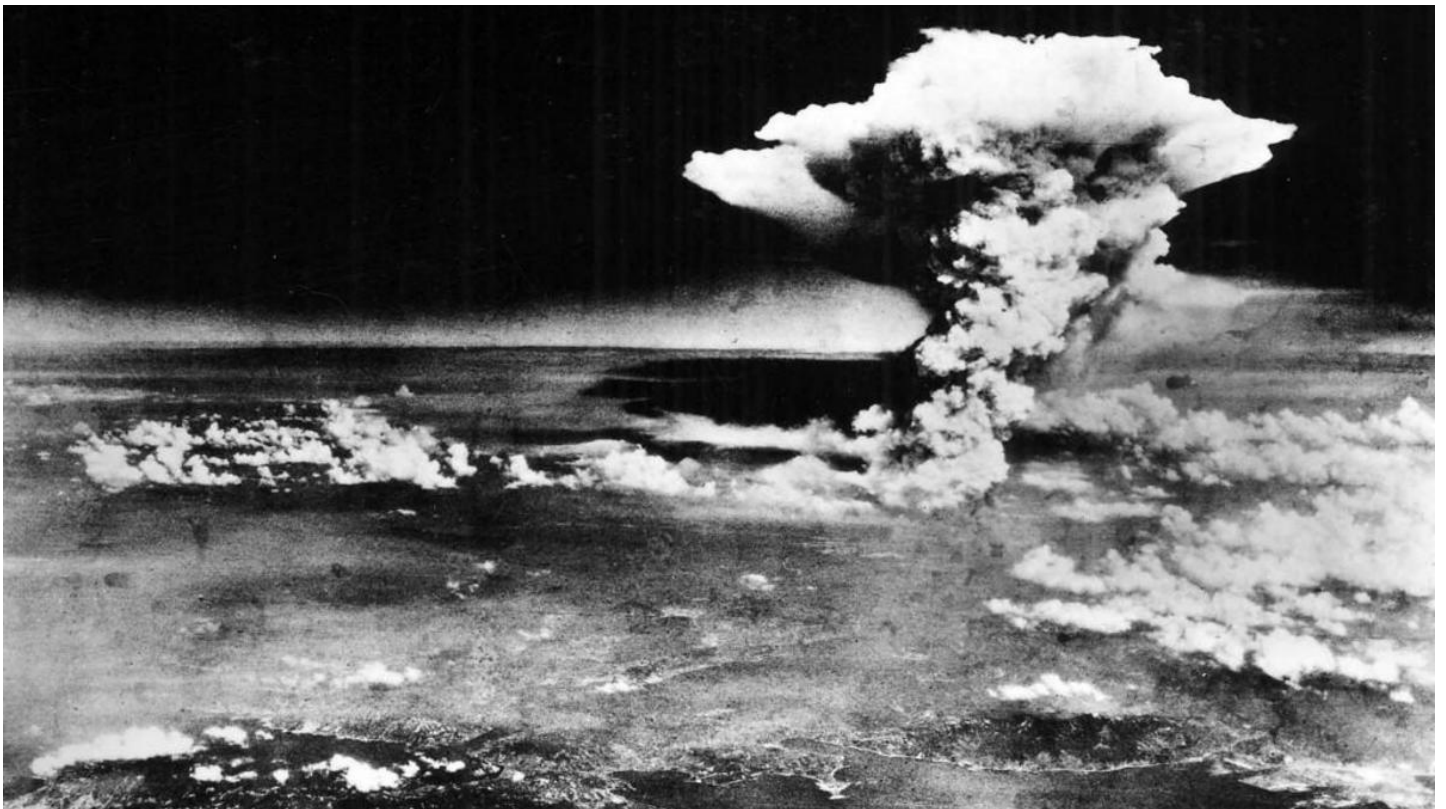
Germany surrenders to the Allies.



Aug 6, 1945

ATOMIC BOMB DROPPED ON HIROSHIMA

The Japanese generals refused to surrender. The US dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima.



Aug 8, 1945

RUSSIA DECLARES WAR ON JAPAN

Russia declared war on Japan and invaded Japanese-ruled Manchuria.



Aug 9, 1945

ATOMIC BOMB DROPPED ON NAGASAKI

The US dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki as the Japanese had not surrendered following Hiroshima.



Sept 2, 1945

JAPANESE SURRENDER

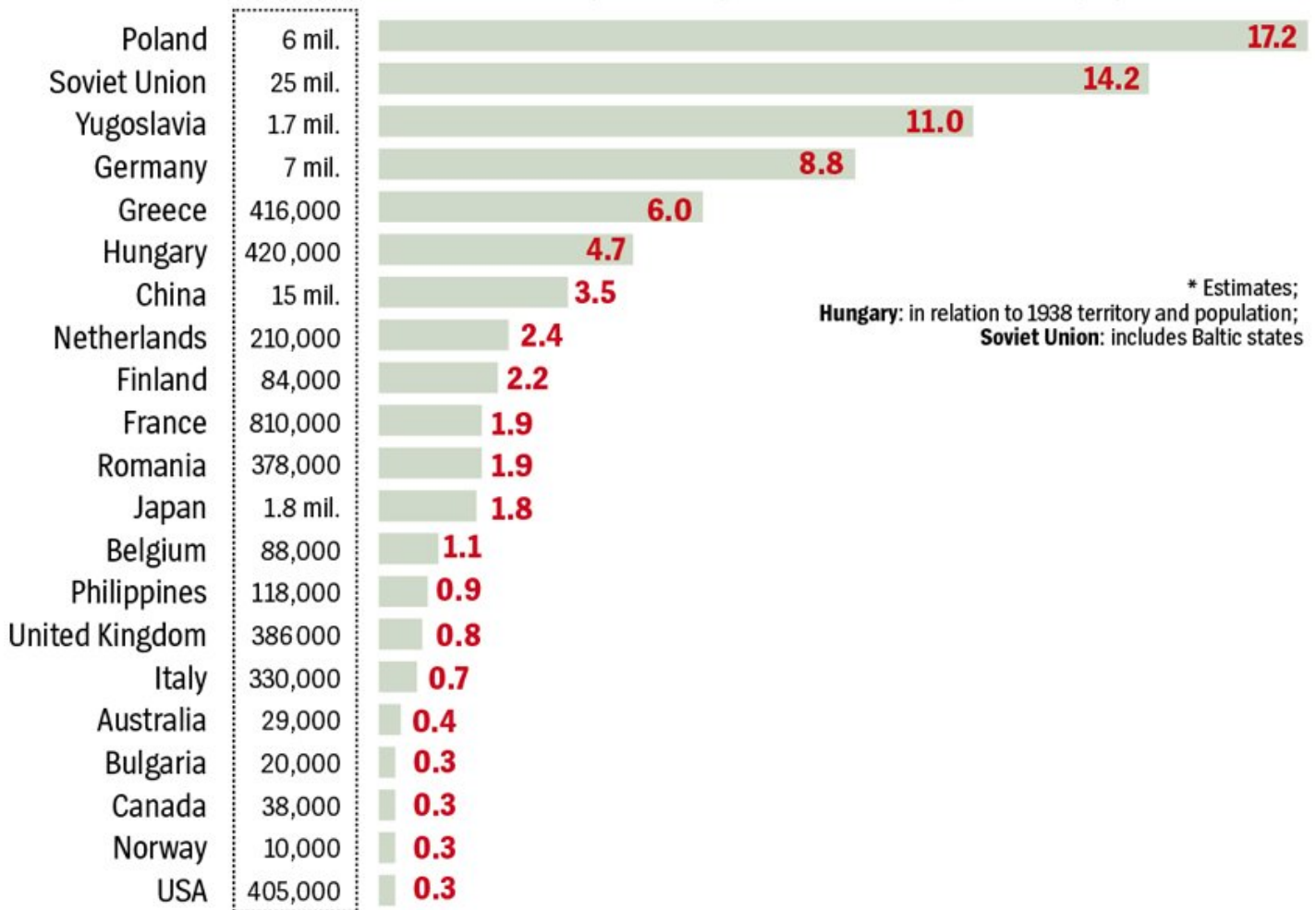
The Japanese unconditionally surrendered to the allies. US General, Douglas MacArthur, accepted Japan's surrender thus formally ending the second world war.



More than 75 million people died in World War II, including about 20 million military personnel and 40 million civilians, many of whom died because of deliberate genocide, massacres, mass-bombings, disease, and starvation.

World War II Casualties

Death toll as a percentage of each country's 1939 population*



* Estimates;
Hungary: in relation to 1938 territory and population;
Soviet Union: includes Baltic states