

Hitler's Lightning War

I. Germany Sparks a New War in Europe

A. Germany's Lightning Attack

1. Months after the signing of the nonaggression pact between the Soviet Union and Germany; Germany invaded in Poland on Sept. 1, 1939
2. As a result France and Britain declared war on Germany two days later



A. Germany's Lightning Attack

3. German's used a new military strategy as blitzkrieg-
“lightning war”



B. Soviets Make Their Move

1. As the agreement from their pact with Germany the USSR annexed the Eastern part of Poland
2. Then they moved on the northern countries of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Finland



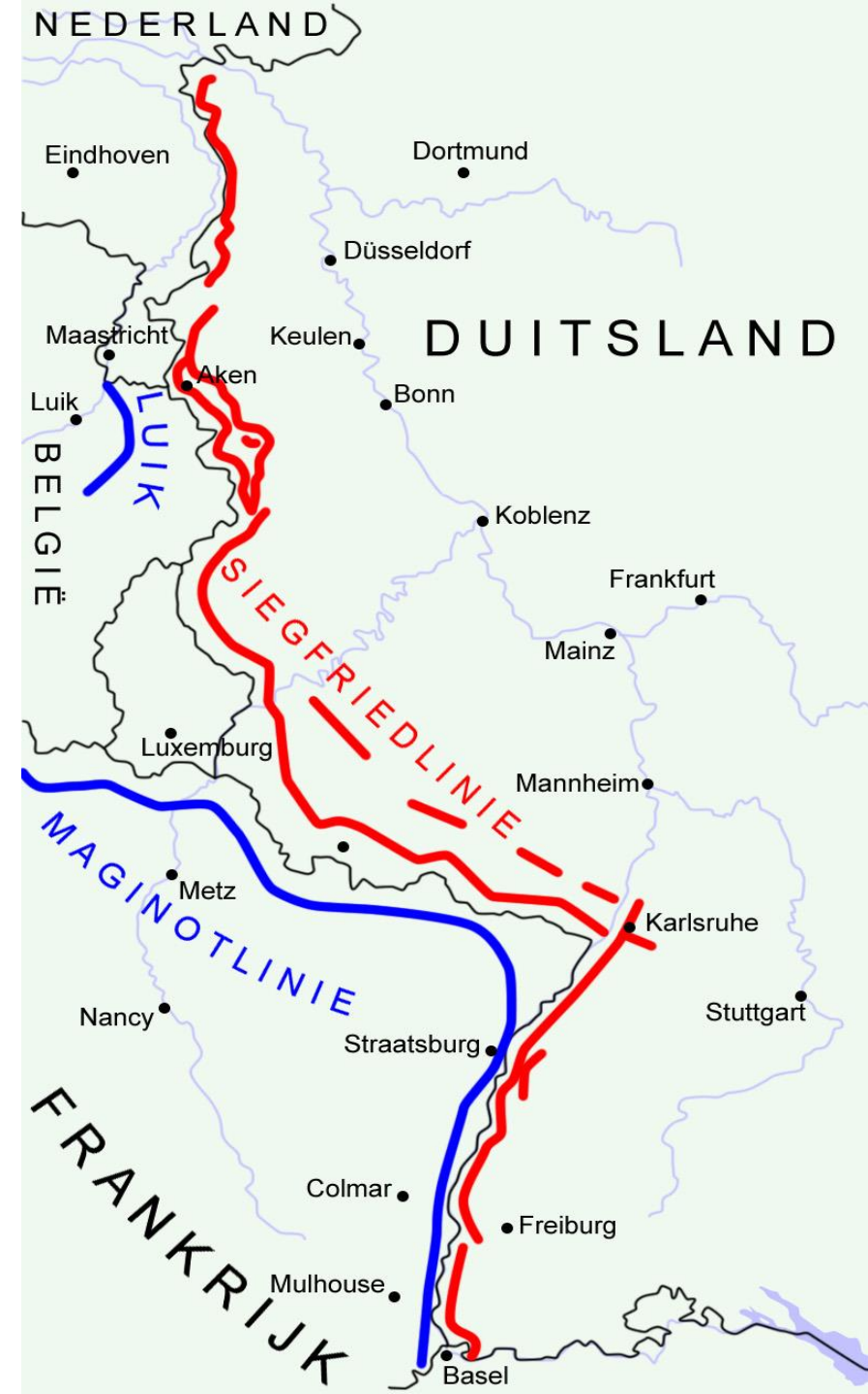
B. Soviets Make Their Move

3. The Fins fought fiercely but large amounts of USSR soldiers forced a surrender



C. The Phony War

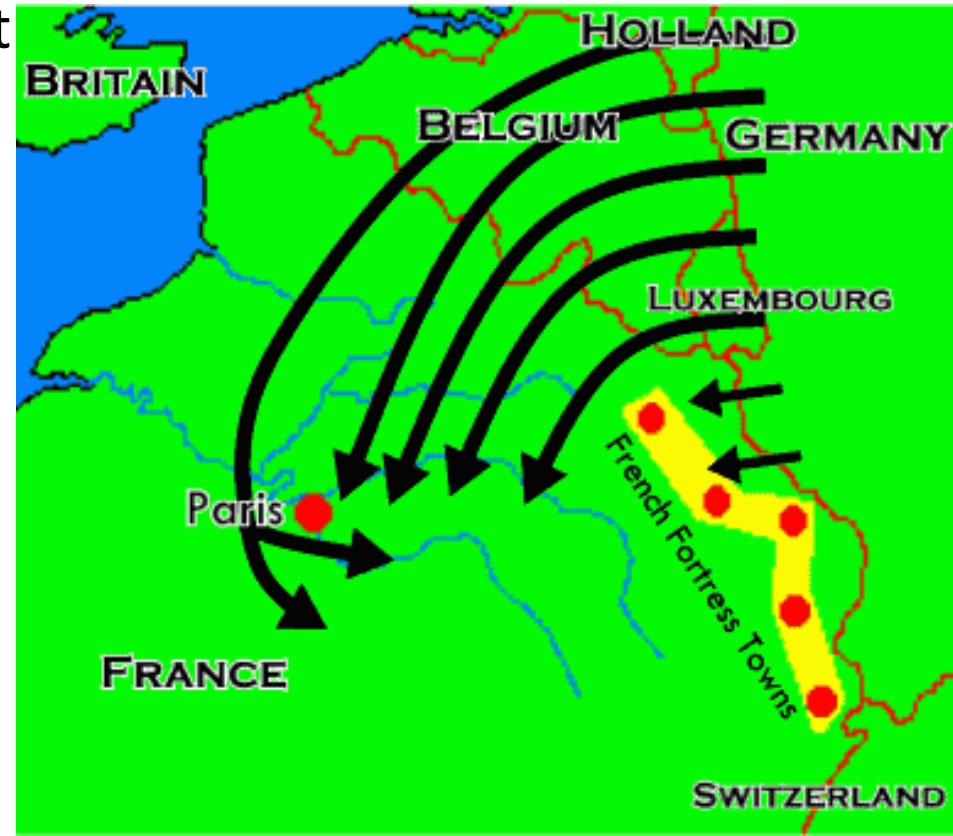
1. The French and British mobilized along the Maginot Line waiting for a German attack while the Germans waited along the Siegfried Line
2. April 9, 1940 Hitler launched a surprise attack on Denmark and Norway; Denmark surrendered in 4 hours and Norway took two months



II. The Fall of France

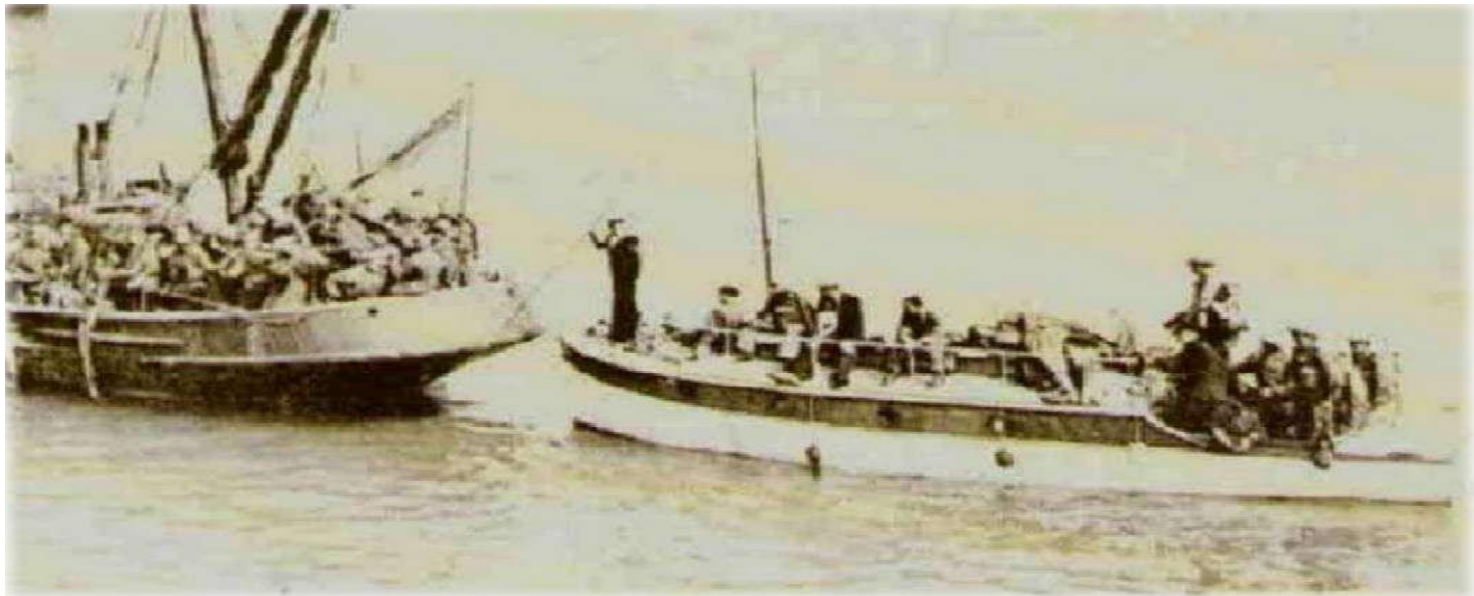
A. Rescue at Dunkirk

1. Germany used the attacks on the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg as a diversion for the key invasion of France
2. Germans squeezed between the Maginot Line by going through the Ardennes Forest



A. Rescue at Dunkirk

3. By the end of 1940 the Germans had trapped the Allied forces in the Lille and forced them to the beaches of Dunkirk trapping them against the ocean
4. In a heroic act Britain sent Naval, Ocean liners, tanker, yachts, sailboats, and fishing boats to transport 338,000 troops back to Britain; May 26-June 4



B. France Falls

1. June 22, 1940 France surrendered and Germans took control of the country
2. **Charles de Gaulle** set up a French govt.-in-exile in London and he also set up the Free French military forces which fought the Nazis throughout the war



I. The Battle of Britain

A. Germany Attacks Britain Through the Air

1. Winston Churchill is the new British Prime Minister who disagreed with Chamberlain's appeasement policy with Hitler
2. Hitler's plan was to destroy the Royal Air Force (RAF) and invade Britain with 250,000 soldiers



A. Germany Attacks Britain Through the Air

3. Summer of 1940 the Luftwaffe (Germany's air force) began bombing
4. Britain used a new invention called radar to help fight the air attacks and they also smuggled a code machine called the Enigma which let them decode messages



A. Germany Attacks Britain Through the Air

5. The Battle of Britain continued until May 10, 1941 when Hitler gave up on his plan



III. The Mediterranean and the Eastern Front

A. Axis Forces Attack North Africa

1. Germany & Italy invade North Africa and in September of 1940 the Italians attack the British who occupy the Suez Canal and push them 60 miles into Egypt



B. Britain Strikes Back

1. By February 1941 the Brits were on the offensive in North Africa and had taken over 130,000 Italian soldiers prisoners.
2. Hitler helps the Italians by sending General Erwin Rommel aka “Desert Fox” who catches the British by surprise and forces the Brits to retreat to Tobruk, Libya



