

Operation Barbarossa

German invasion of USSR

Operation Barbarossa

- Planned for May 15, 1941
- Instead, Germany attacked unprepared Red Army (USSR) on June 22, 1941, following a blitzkrieg strategy
- Germany won many small victories and occupied significant areas of USSR
- Germany reached Moscow, but couldn't move past the Red Army
- German begin retreat on December 5, 1941





German troops crossing USSR border

OVERALL:



Operation Barbarossa

Operation Barbarossa, 1941

-  Areas of fierce fighting
-  Front line, Dec. 1941



- Germany & USSR signed a (secret) Treaty of Non-Aggression (only TWO years before)
- Stalin unprepared for blitzkrieg attack by German forces
- Hitler wanted to take over USSR and secretly prepared for almost a year



Political Cartoon

CAUSES:

Operation Barbarossa

Operation Barbarossa

Operation Barbarossa (video)



Link to video site by clicking image.
Scroll half-way down page.

- Watch for vast open land (USSR landscape)
- German Blitzkrieg strategy

VIDEO CLIP:

Operation Barbarossa

- Germany conquered vast areas of USSR
- USSR stalled Germany by briefly fighting and then retreating a small amount... awaiting the winter season
- This forced an unprepared Germany into a war of attrition (wearing down the enemy) with USSR
- USSR launched a counter-attack in December 1941



Winter 1941, USSR

EVENT:

Operation Barbarossa

- Germany conquered vast areas of the USSR, inflicting heavy losses on the Red Army (USSR)
- USSR forced German army away from Moscow (capital)
- Germany failed it's overall goal of defeating the USSR

NOTE:

- Hitler was so confident of a quick campaign, he failed to send winter clothing or equipment with his army

RESULTS:

- Its failure was a turning point, as USSR became a member of the Allied Forces
- USSR spend two years forcing Germans back to the border
- This was the largest military operation in history (in terms of manpower and casualties)

**LONG-TERM
RESULTS:**
