

SEPTEMBER CAMPAIGN

The Invasion of Poland

VIDEO CLIP:

Brief overview of the invasion of Poland, Hitler's blitzkrieg strategy, and the beginning of WWII.



Link to video site by clicking image.

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OVERALL:

- On September 1, 1939, German troops invaded Poland
- Britain issued an ultimatum to the Germans: withdraw from Poland
- Britain and France declared war on Germany
- Canada did not automatically follow Britain into war as it had in 1914
- Canadian Parliament debated the issue, and on September 10 declared war independently.
- By October 6, 1939, Germany & USSR had taken over Poland

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CAUSES:

- Hitler came to believe that no one could stop him from taking what he wanted
- Germany & USSR signed a (secret) Treaty of Non-Aggression, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Agreement, in which they agreed to take over Poland and split the land



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Planned division of Central Europe according to Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact



- Soviet Union
- Germany
- Other countries and territories
- EP East Prussia

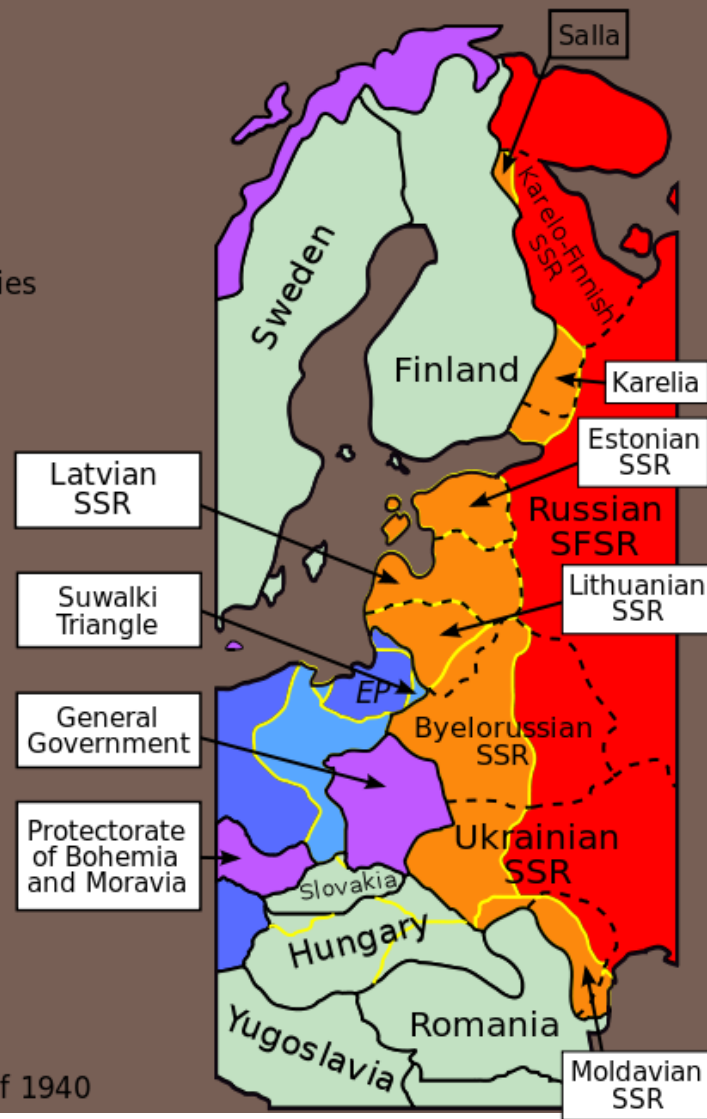
1939 ◀◀

- Soviet sphere of influence
- German sphere of influence
- National borders as of 1939
- Planned Borders
- Soviet republic borders as of 1939

1940 ▶▶

- Annexed by the Soviet Union
- Annexed by Germany
- Occupied by Germany
- National borders as of 1940
- National borders as of 1938
- Soviet republic borders as of 1940

Actual territorial changes 1939-1940

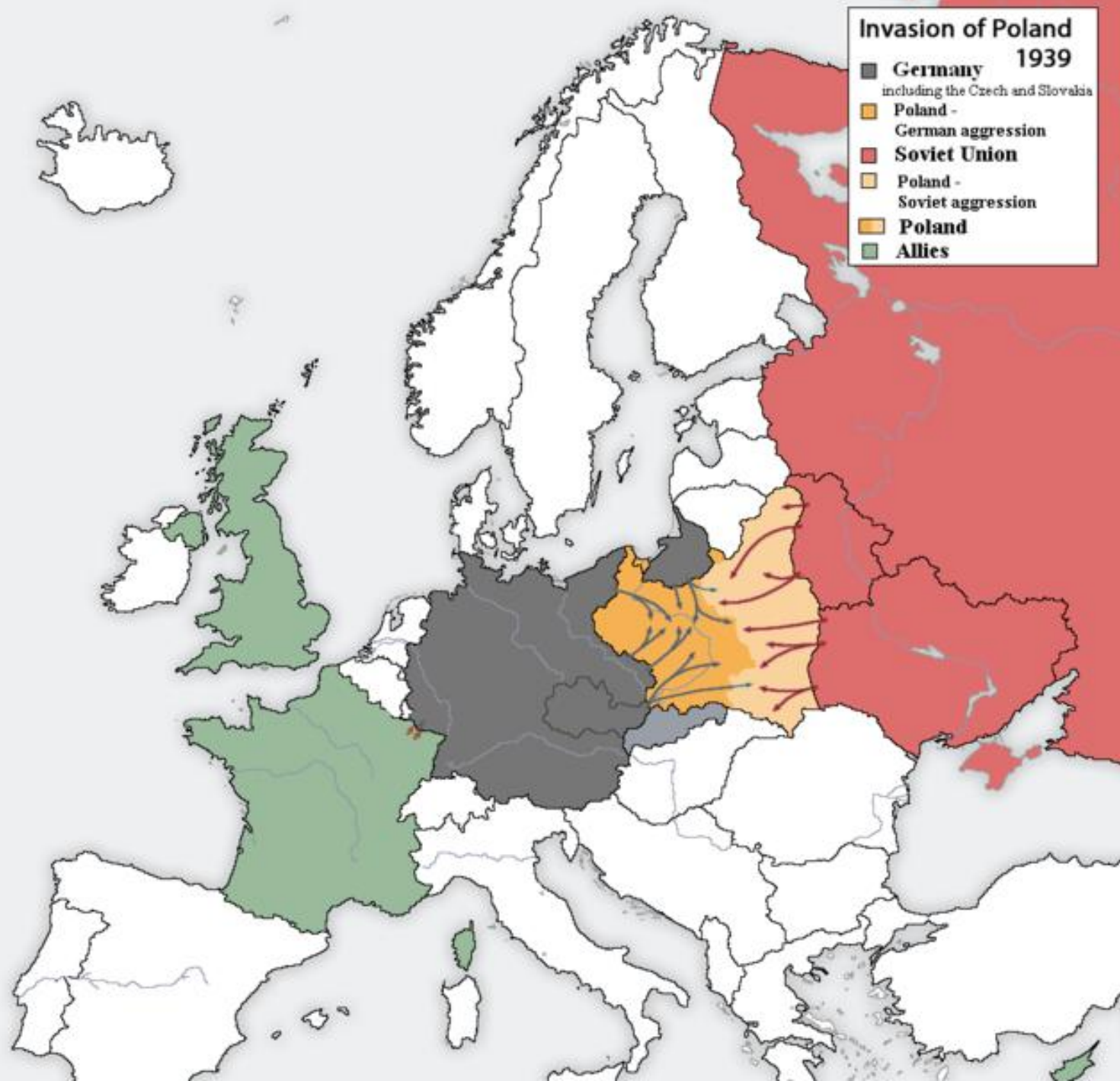


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EVENT:

- Germans invaded Poland from the North, South, and West using the blitzkrieg strategy (surprise attack and hard push)
- USSR invaded Poland from the East
- The Poles bravely fought back, but their army stood no chance against the Germans
- Poland never formally surrendered but was taken over by Germany and USSR

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RESULTS:

- Poland was divided between Germany and the USSR
- Britain and France declared war against Germany because they would not withdraw from Poland

LONG-TERM RESULTS:

- Marked the beginning of WWII

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