

From the rise of Hitler to the start of the Cold War

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Part I: Toward the Great Patriotic War, 1933-1941

- Hitler triumphant (1933), and Hitler's plan.
- The Soviet Union and the search for Collective Security, 1933-1941.
- Cautionary Tales: What about the "appeasement" debate?
- The Unthinkable Happens: The "Hitler-Stalin" Pact, 1939.
- "World War II begins (IX.1939): the end of Poland, and the Baltic States.
- Back in the USSR: Waiting for Armageddon.

Part II: The Great Patriotic War begins, 1941-1943

- Armageddon Unleashed, 21 June 1941. Hitler invades the USSR.
- Rapid Nazi gains in the USSR: Allied Expectations, and the Soviet response.
- Stalin digs in, as do Soviet citizens: the case of Zoya Kosmodemskaya.
- Popular Soviet responses: From Eisenstein to Shostakovitch to the legalization of religion.
- The Appeal to Mother Russia (not Karl Marx!).

Part III: At the Dawn of the Cold War, 1943-1949

- The One Thing Stalin wants from his new allies after June 1941.
- Nazi Germany's advance halted, December 1941.
- Stalemate, 1942.
- The One Thing Hitler wants from his allies in 1942 and 1943.
- Three War-time Conferences: Tehran, Yalta, Potsdam.
- The rise and fall of the Morgenthau Plan, and who cares.
- Nazi Defeat, the future of Germany, and the Start of the Cold War.
- Working into the Worst-Case Scenario: Churchill's Iron Curtain, The Truman Doctrine and the formation of West Germany.

Possible Further Reading:

Eisenberg, Carolyn. **The American Decision to Divide Germany, 1944-1949.**
Kirschenbaum, Lisa. **The Legacy of the Siege of Leningrad.**
Stites, Richard, ed. **Culture and Entertainment in Wartime Russia.**