

# World War II

## 1939-1942



### Essential Questions:

***What caused World War II?***

***What were the major events during  
World War II from 1939 to 1942?***

In the 1930s, events throughout the world led to conditions that started World War II

## The Rise of Nationalism, 1922–1941



**Adolf Hitler** offers economic stability to unemployed Germans during the Great Depression and becomes chancellor in 1933.



**Joseph Stalin** grabs control of the Soviet Union in 1924 and squelches all opposition after V. I. Lenin, founder of the communist regime, dies.



**Benito Mussolini** rises to power in 1922 and attempts to restore Italy to its former position as a world power.



**Francisco Franco** leads the rebel Nationalist army to victory in Spain and gains complete control of the country in 1939.



**Hideki Tojo**, the force behind Japanese strategy, becomes Japan's prime minister in 1941. Emperor Hirohito becomes a powerless figurehead.



High unemployment, desperation, & feelings of betrayal led to the rise of totalitarian dictators

Fascist dictators Mussolini & Hitler threatened to conquer new territories for Italy & Germany



# In the 1930s, events throughout the world led to conditions that started World War II

Extreme nationalism & a need for raw materials led to a desire to expand in Japan under Hideki Tojo



By the 1930s, the world was moving towards another war but few nations were in a position to prevent war

Britain & France were the leaders of the League of Nations but both wanted to avoid another war

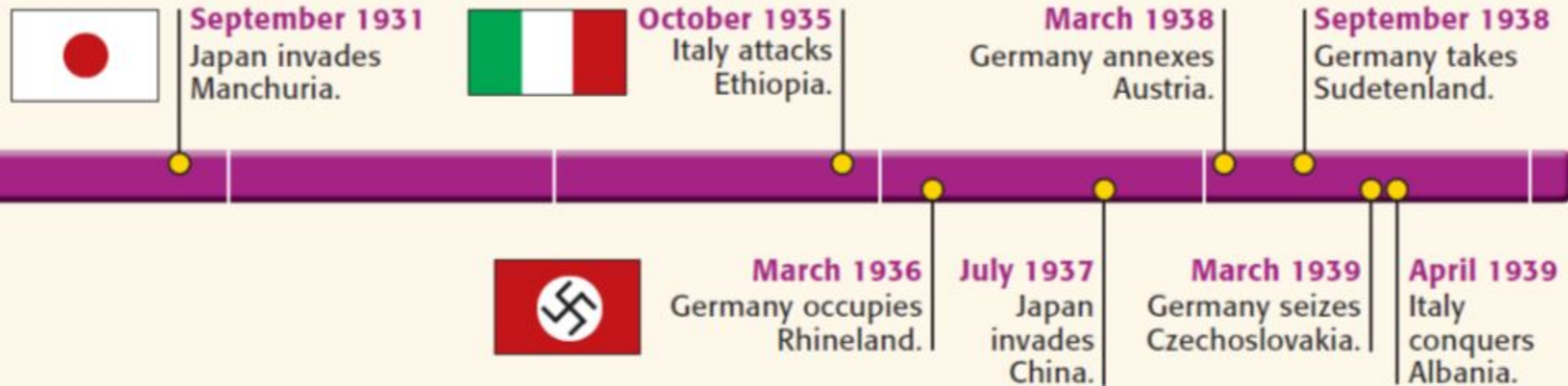
The USA was focused on the depression & wanted to avoid foreign affairs





Japan, Italy, & Germany  
aggressively expanded in Africa,  
Asia, & Europe

In 1936, Germany, Italy, & Japan  
formed an alliance called the Axis  
Coalition



**September 1931**  
Japan invades  
Manchuria.

**October 1935**  
Italy attacks  
Ethiopia.

**March 1938**  
Germany annexes  
Austria.

**September 1938**  
Germany takes  
Sudetenland.

**March 1936**  
Germany occupies  
Rhineland.

**July 1937**  
Japan  
invades  
China.

**March 1939**  
Germany seizes  
Czechoslovakia.

**April 1939**  
Italy  
conquers  
Albania.

In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria in order to seize its iron & coal mines

In 1937, Japan conquered northern China & killed 300,000 unarmed soldiers & civilians during the "Rape of Nanjing"



**D**

Japan's armed forces invaded Manchuria and other parts of China with the aim of exploiting China's natural resources.

### JAPANESE AGGRESSION

- Japan and its colonies, 1930
- Taken over by Japan, 1931-1939

0 500 1000 miles  
0 500 1000 kilometers





In 1935, Mussolini began his campaign to create an Italian Empire by invading Ethiopia

The Italian army easily defeated the Ethiopians



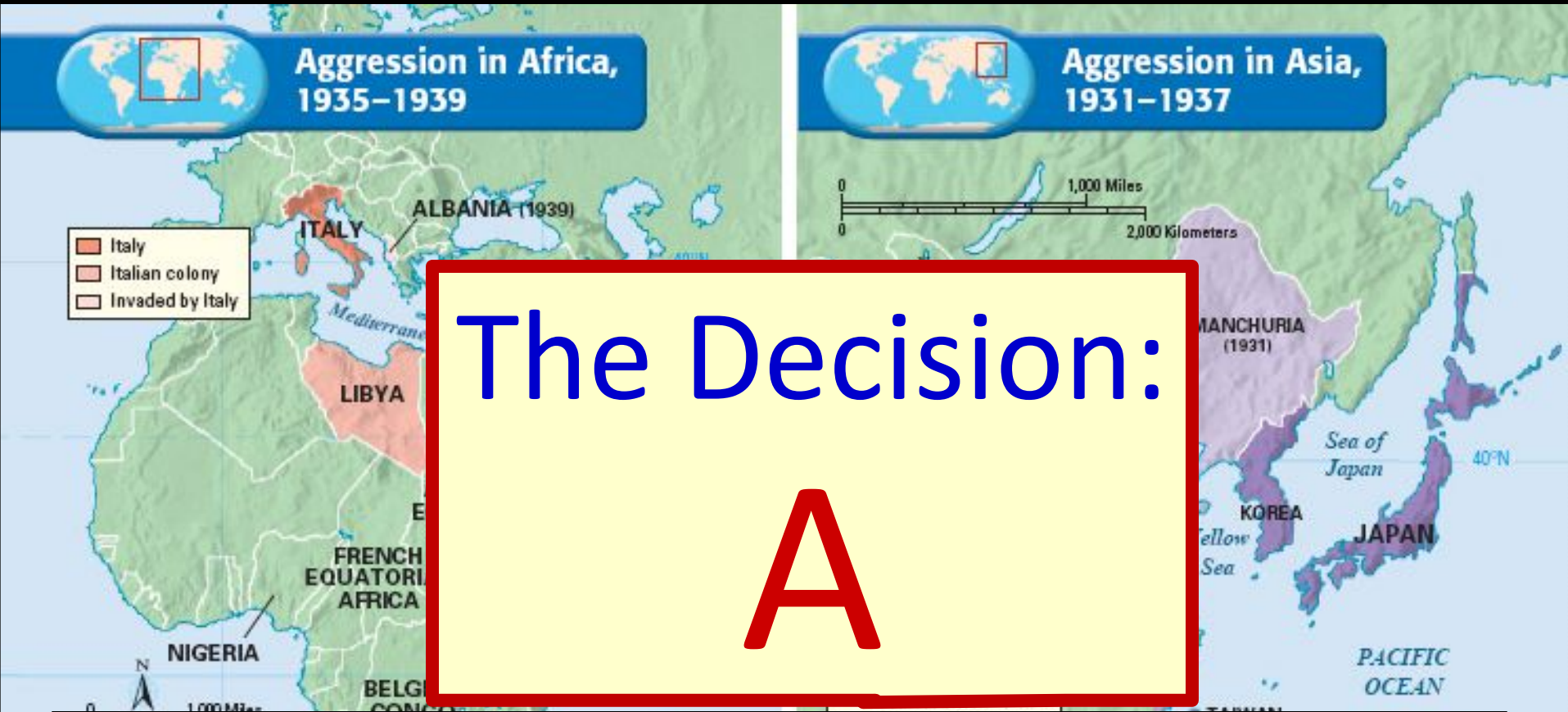
Ethiopian soldiers defending their country from the Italian military

# Critical Thinking Decision #1: How should the League of Nations respond?





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The League of Nations condemned Japanese & Italian aggression but did nothing to stop the attacks in an effort to maintain peace in the world

# The failure of the League of Nations to stop Italy or Japan, encouraged Hitler to expand Germany too

In 1935, Hitler defied the terms of the Treaty of Versailles & expanded the size of the German military

In 1936, Hitler moved his army to the Rhineland



## GERMAN AGGRESSION

- Germany, 1933
- Taken over by Germany, 1935-1939

0 250 500 miles  
0 250 500 kilometers



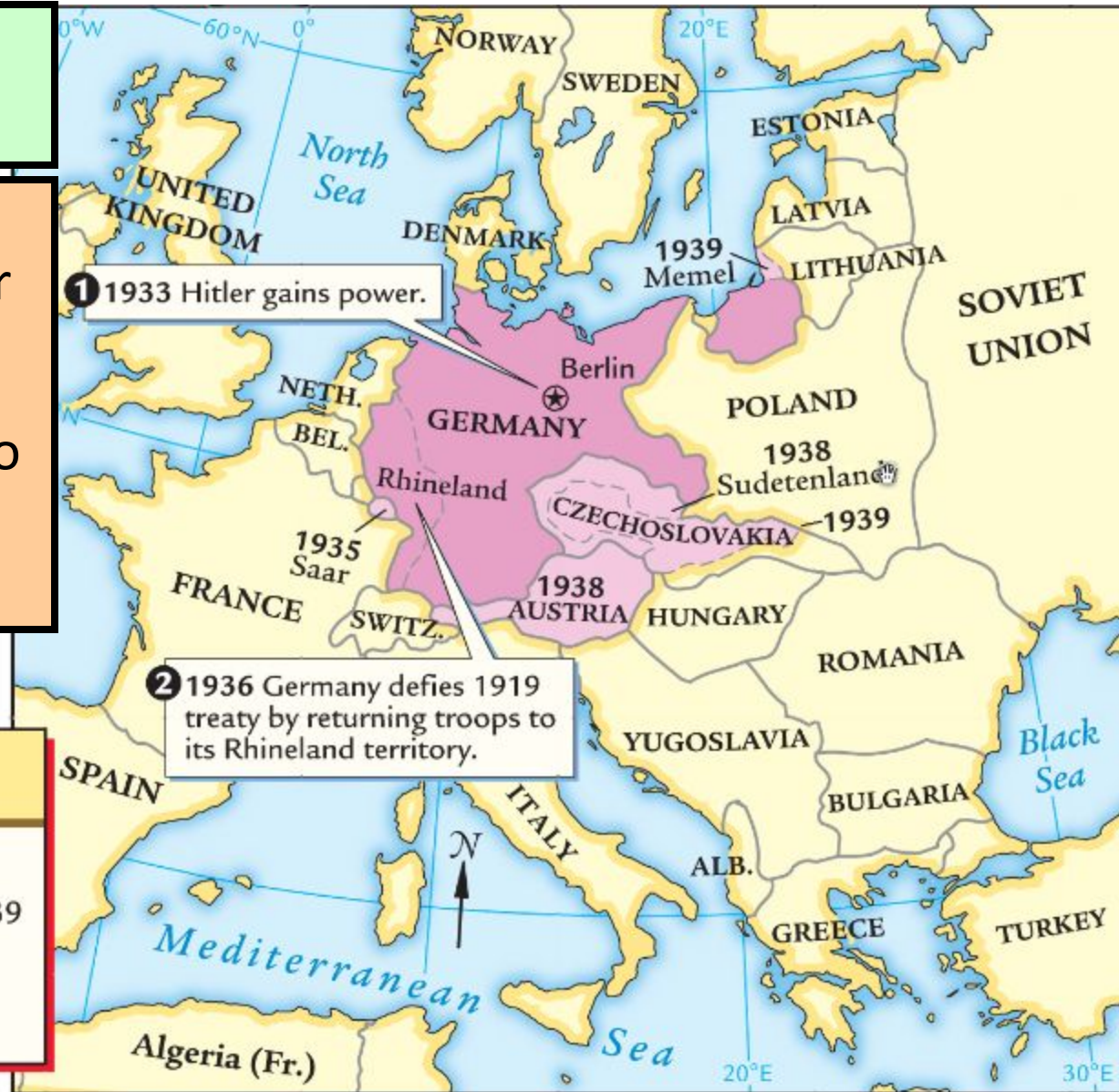
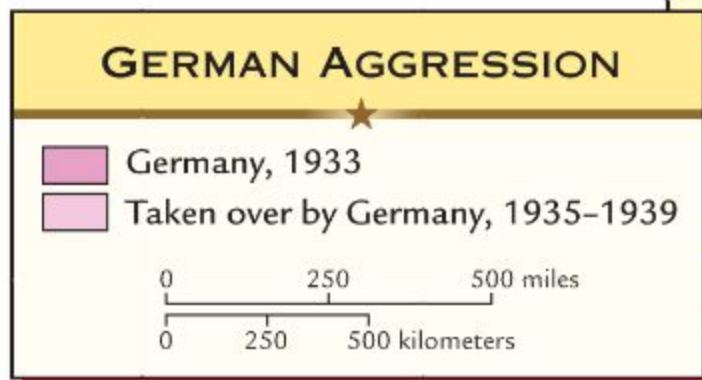
Both times, the League of Nations refused to stop Hitler in order to keep peace in Europe



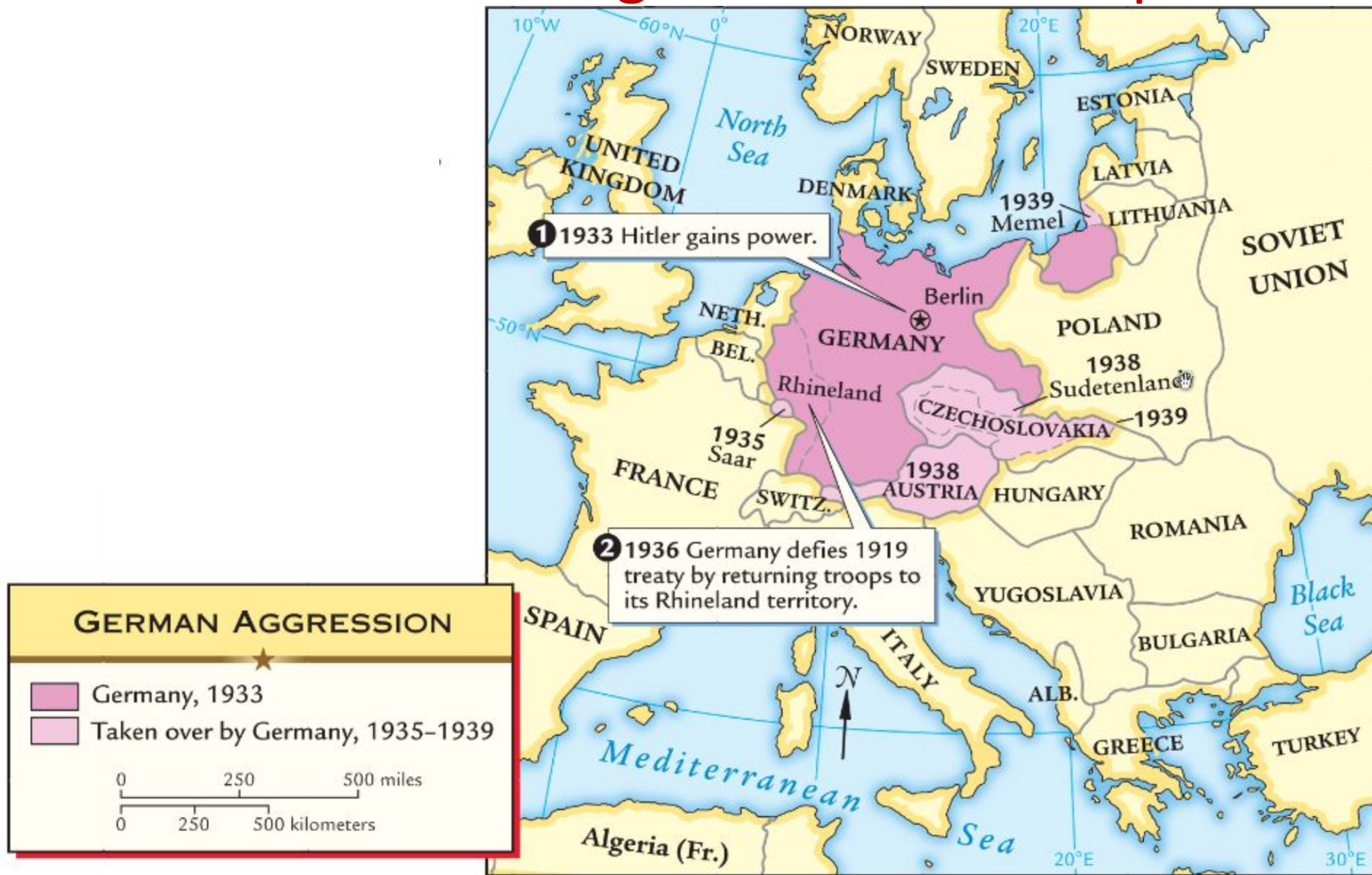
The failure of the League of Nations to stop Italy or Japan, encouraged Hitler to expand Germany too

In 1938, Hitler annexed Austria

Next, Hitler demanded that the western border of Czechoslovakia, an area known as the Sudetenland, be given to Germany



# Critical Thinking Decision #2: How should the League of Nations respond?



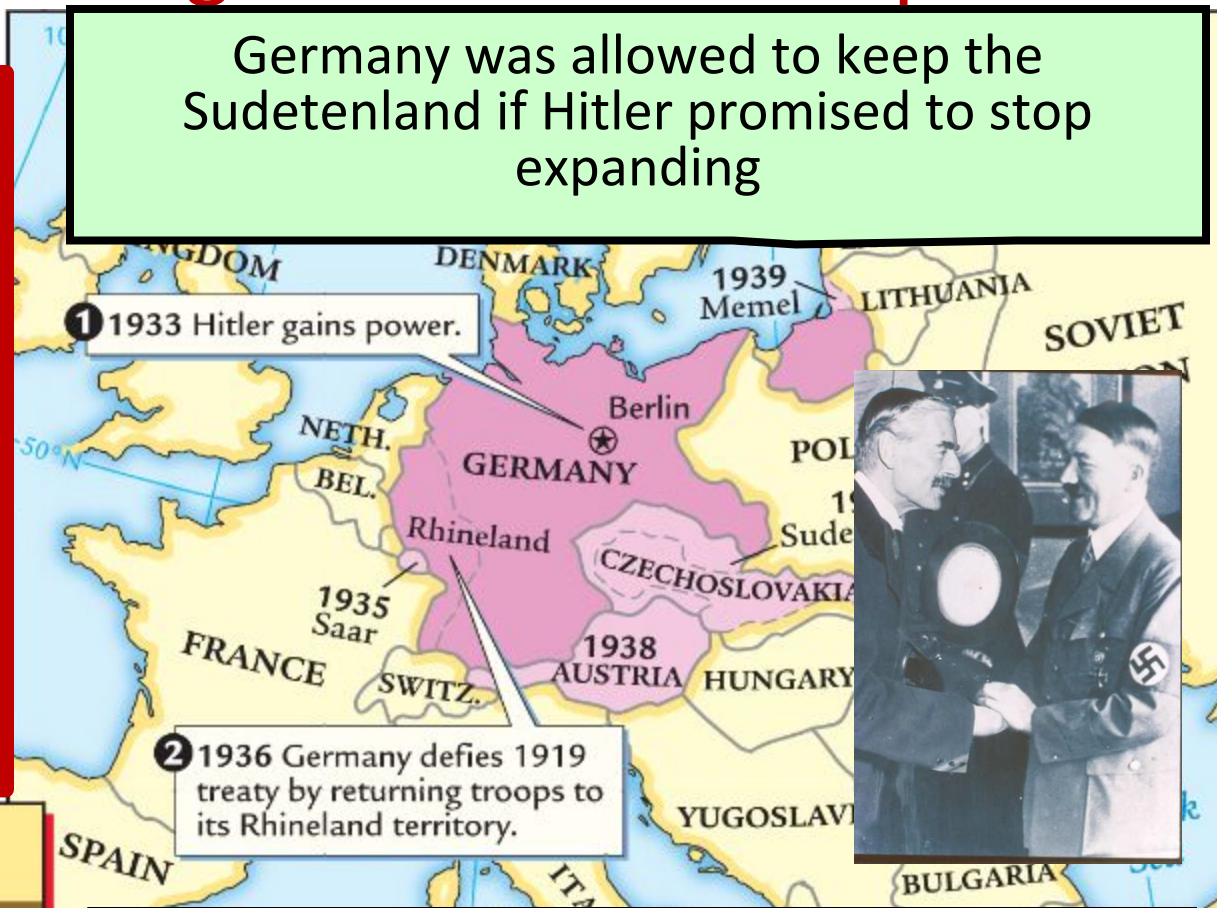


# Critical Thinking Decision #2:

## How should the League of Nations respond?

# The Decision: B

Germany was allowed to keep the Sudetenland if Hitler promised to stop expanding



### GERMAN AGGRESSION

- Germany, 1933
- Taken over by Germany, 1935-1939

0 250 500 miles  
0 250 500 kilometers

In 1938, leaders from England & France met with Hitler & Mussolini at the Munich Conference in order work out an agreement to avoid war

Britain & France used *appeasement* with Hitler: they gave in to his demands in order to avoid war

Six months after the Munich Conference, Hitler broke his promise & annexed all of Czechoslovakia

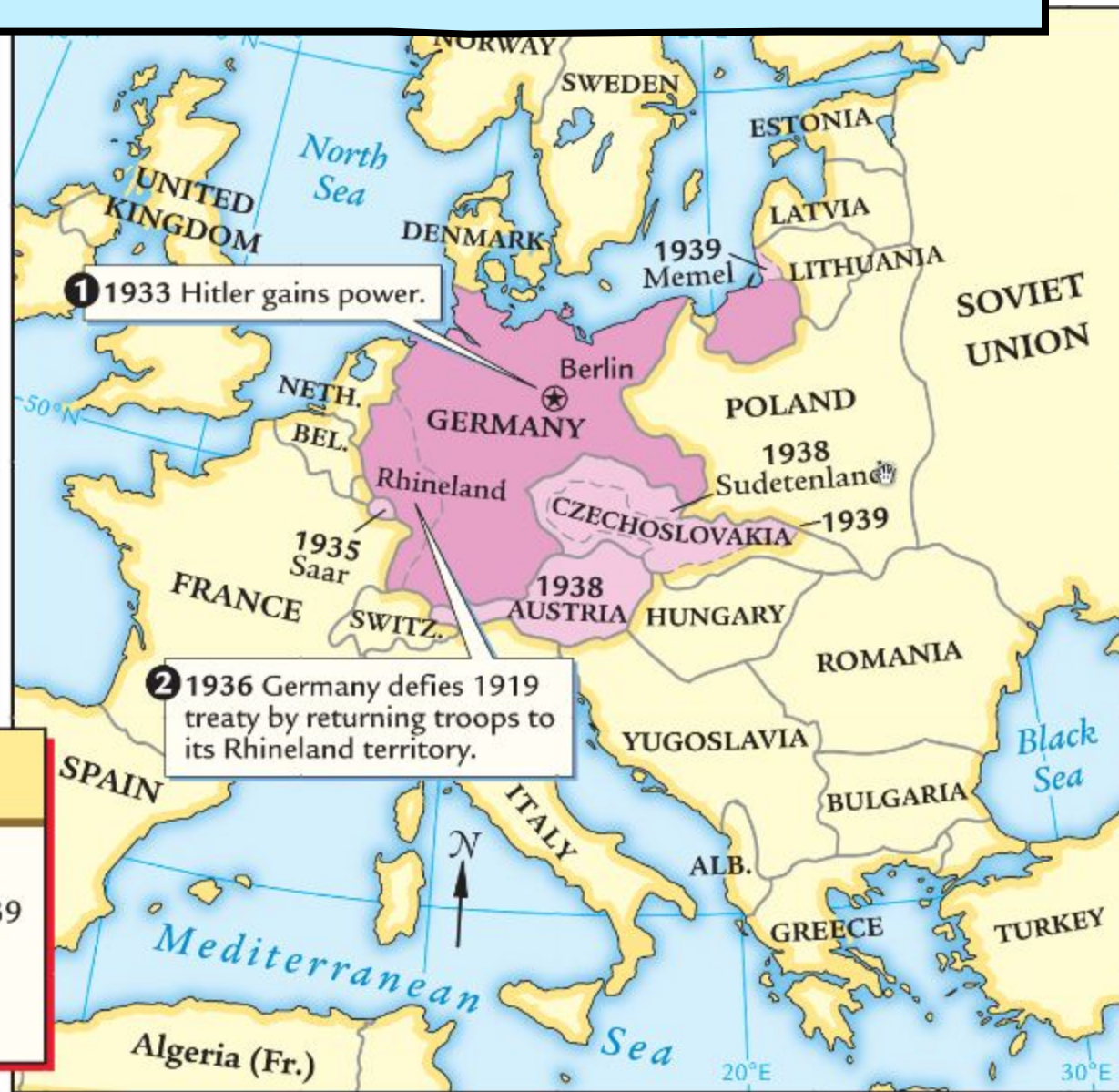


After the Munich Pact, British Prime Minister declared he had gained “peace for our time”





In 1939, Hitler demanded that western Poland be returned to Germany but he did not want to provoke a war with the Soviet Union



## GERMAN AGGRESSION

- Germany, 1933
- Taken over by Germany, 1935-1939

0 250 500 miles  
0 250 500 kilometers

Stalin & Hitler agreed to  
the Nazi-Soviet  
Nonaggression Pact,  
promising never to attack  
each other

Secretly, Germany  
& the USSR agreed  
to divide Poland



WONDER HOW LONG THE HONEYMOON WILL LAST?



THE SCUM  
OF THE EARTH,  
I BELIEVE

THE BLOODY  
ASSASSIN OF  
THE WORKERS  
I PRESUME?



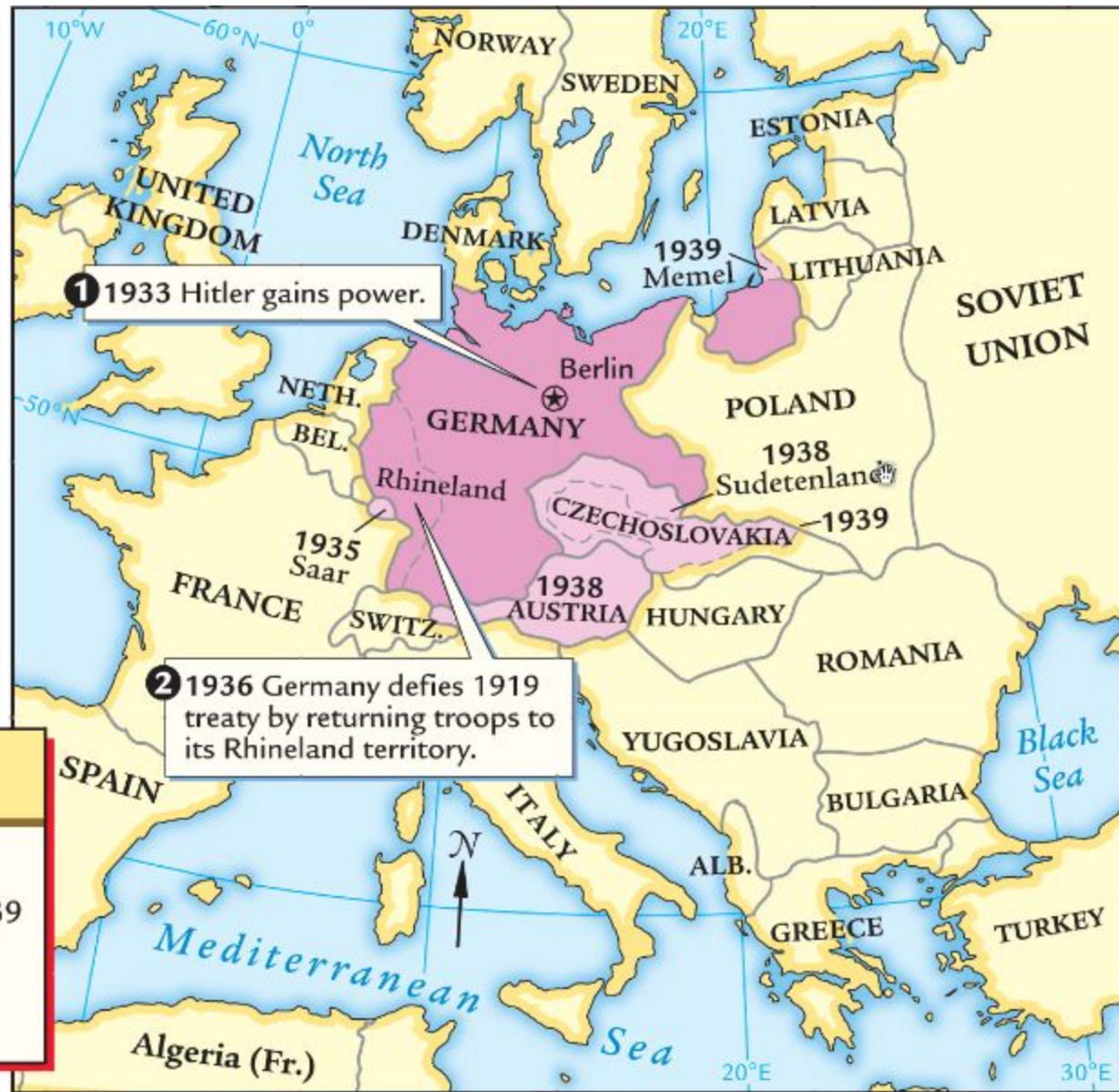
On September 1, 1939,  
Hitler ordered the  
German military to  
attack Poland



### GERMAN AGGRESSION

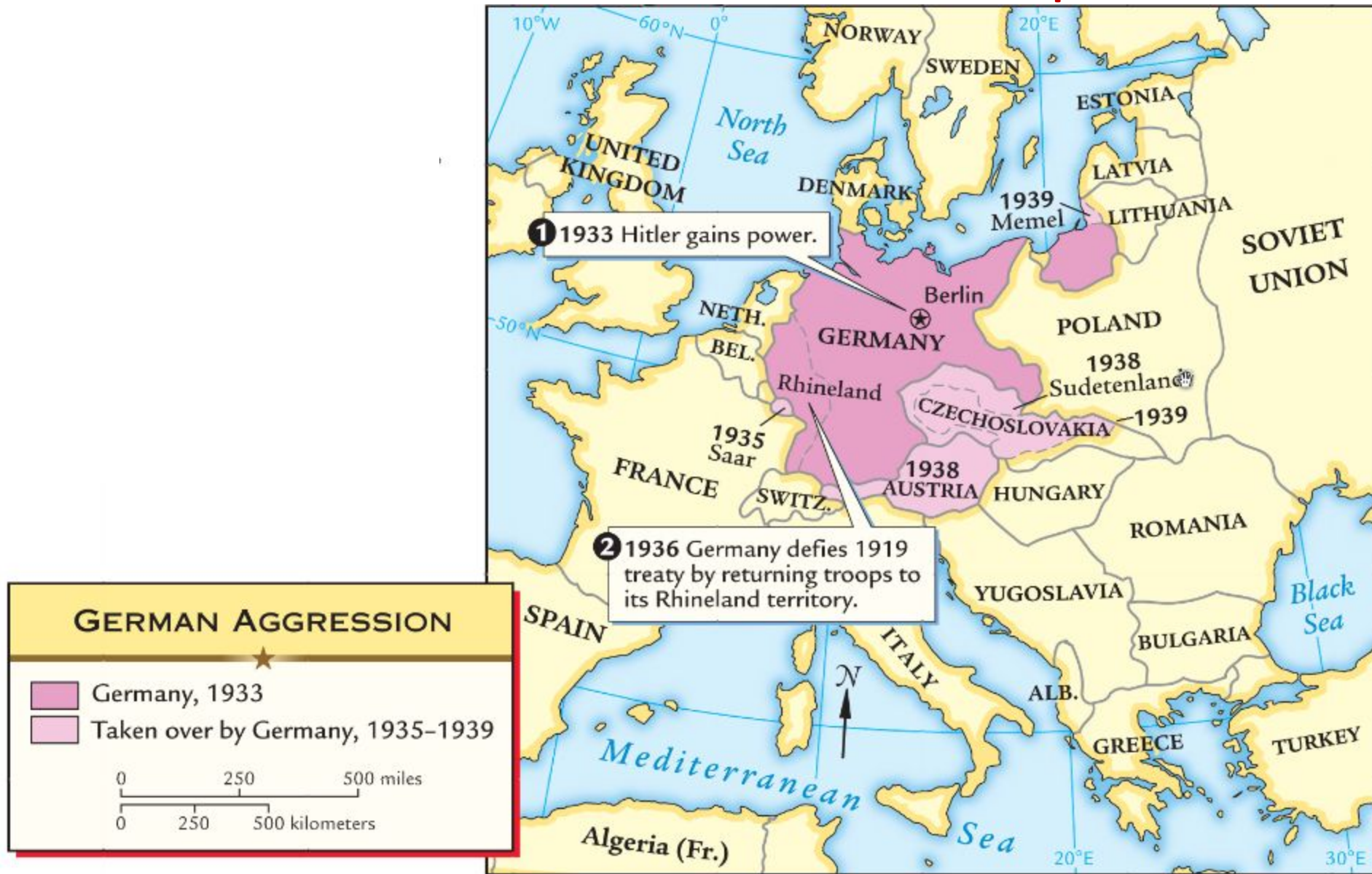
- Germany, 1933
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0 250 500 miles  
0 250 500 kilometers





# Critical Thinking Decision #3: How should Britain & France respond?





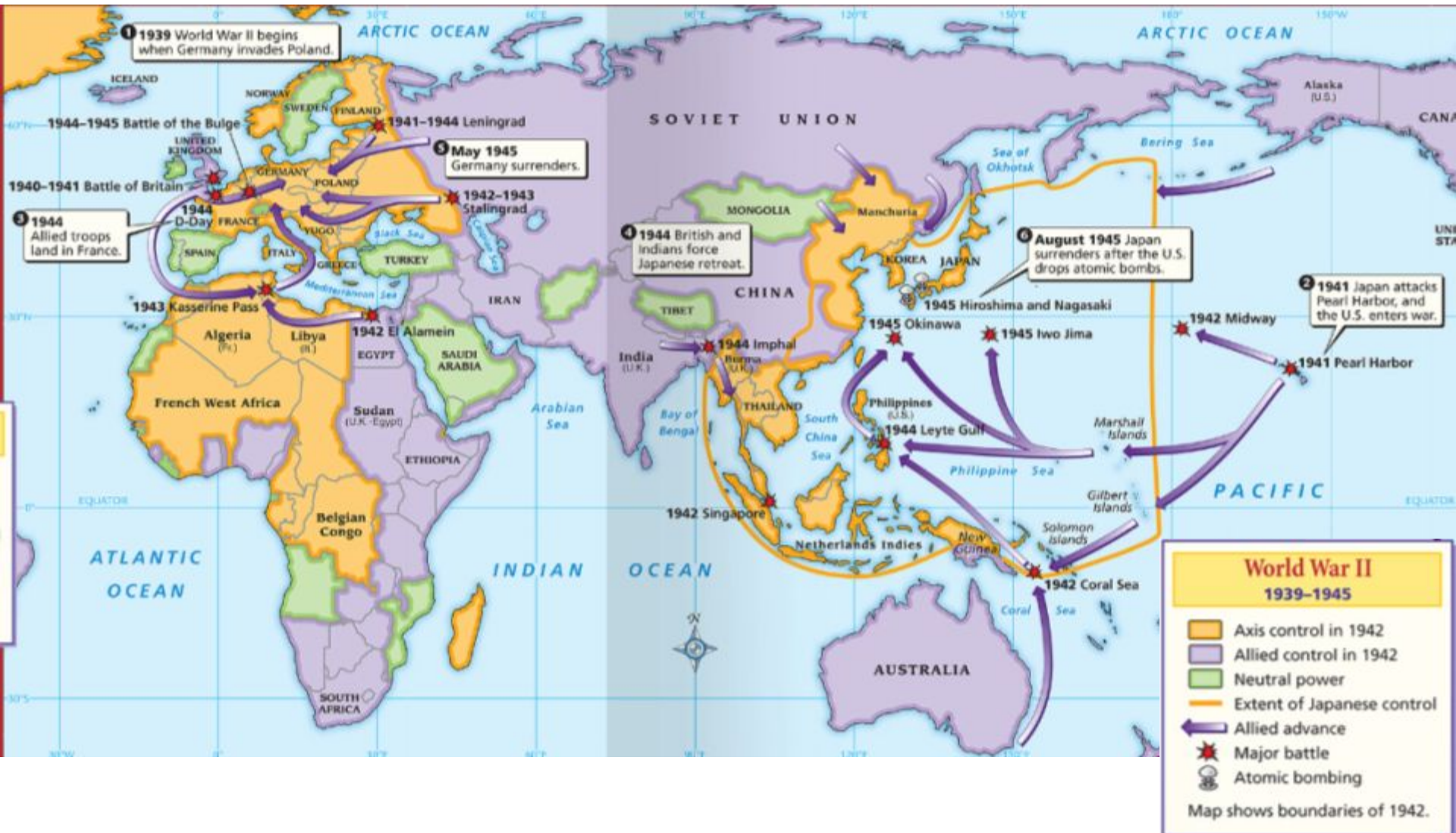
# Critical Thinking Decision #3: How should Britain & France respond?

The  
Decision:  
D



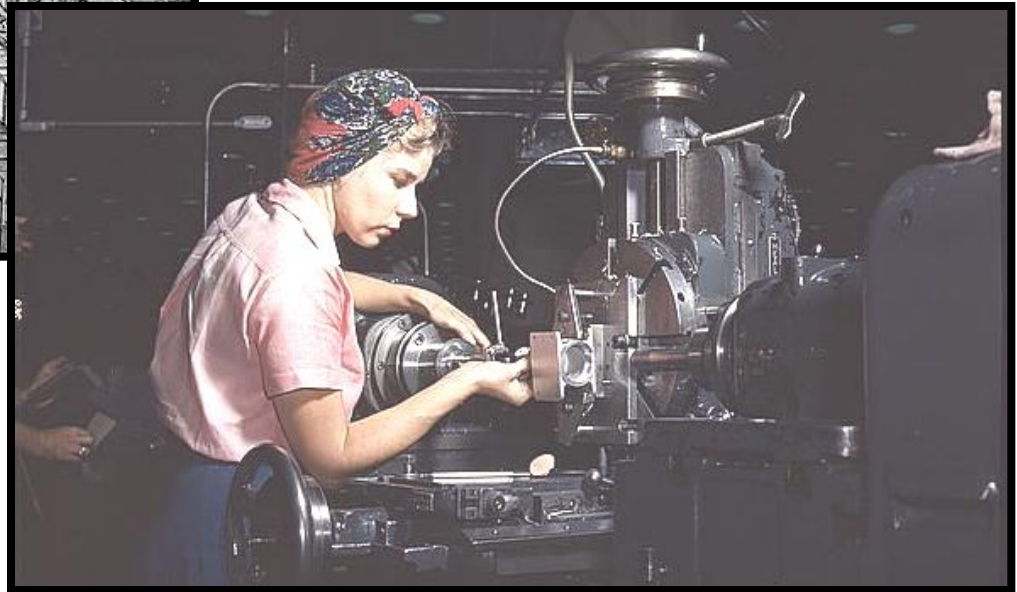
On September 3, 1939, Britain & France declared war on Germany...World War II had begun

World War II was a two “theater” war with fighting taking place in Europe & in the Pacific





The Allies & Axis Powers  
converted to total war for  
the second time in 20 years



## THE AXIS ATTACKS 1939-1942

- Axis power
- Axis-controlled area, 1942
- Allied power
- Neutral power
- Expansion of Axis control
- Axis victory
- Allied victory

0 250 500 miles  
0 250 500 kilometers

**E** Axis troops on alone. The

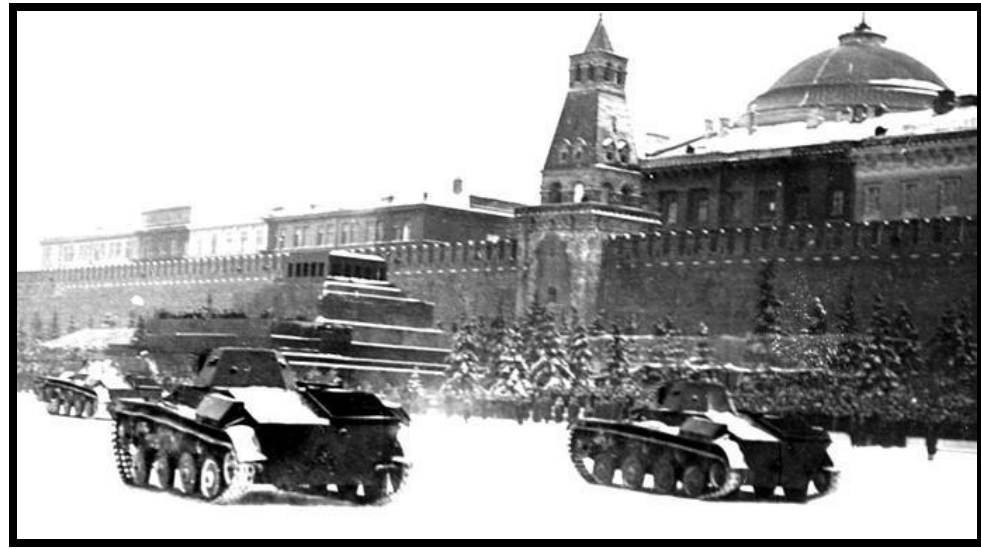
Jul. 1940-May 1941  
Britain withstands  
nationwide German  
air attacks.



When World War II began, Germany used a “lightning war” strategy called blitzkrieg that relied on fast, strong attacks using air raids, artillery, & tanks







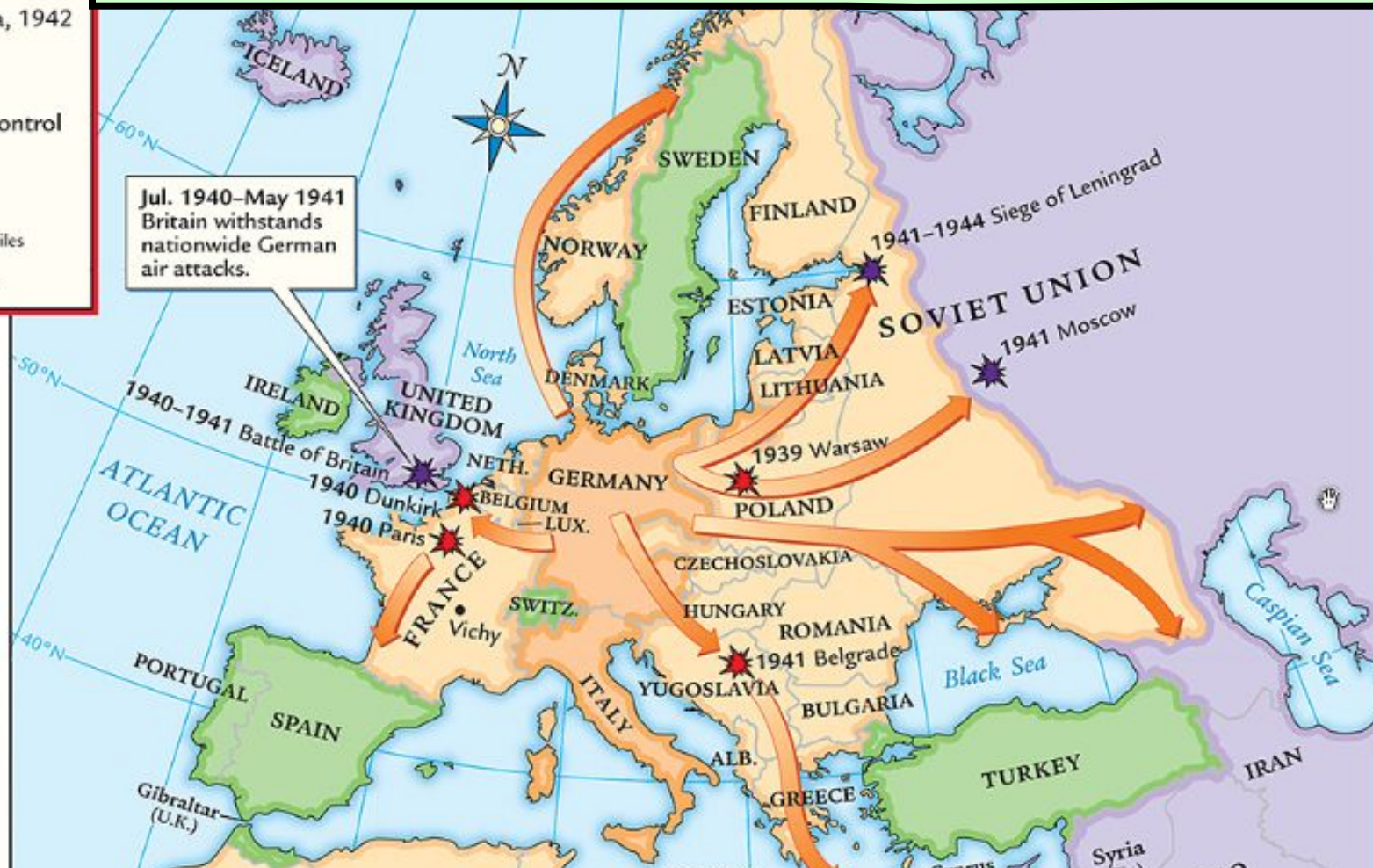
By 1940, Germany conquered Poland, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Belgium, & France

When France fell to the Nazis, Britain was the only nation at war with Germany

## THE AXIS ATTACKS 1939-1942

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In 1940, Germany began a massive bombing campaign using its air force called the Battle of Britain



The British air force fought German planes aided by radar & the ability to crack German codes

Prime Minister Winston Churchill vowed that the British would “never surrender”



**Winston Churchill**  
1874–1965

Possibly the most powerful weapon the British had as they stood alone against Hitler's Germany was the nation's prime minister—Winston Churchill. “Big Winnie,” Londoners boasted, “was the lad for us.”

Although Churchill had a speech defect as a youngster, he grew to become one of the greatest orators of all time. He used all his gifts as a speaker to rally the people behind the effort to crush Germany. In one famous speech he promised that Britain would

*... wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us ... against a monstrous tyranny.*



After 8 months, Hitler called off the attacks & focused on Eastern Europe



The United States vowed to remain neutral when World War II began

**KEEP U.S.  
OUT OF WAR  
BE  
NEUTRAL**





After the fall of France & attack on Britain, the U.S. began selling war supplies to the Allied Powers





## THE AXIS ATTACKS 1939-1942

- Axis power
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- 0 250 500 miles  
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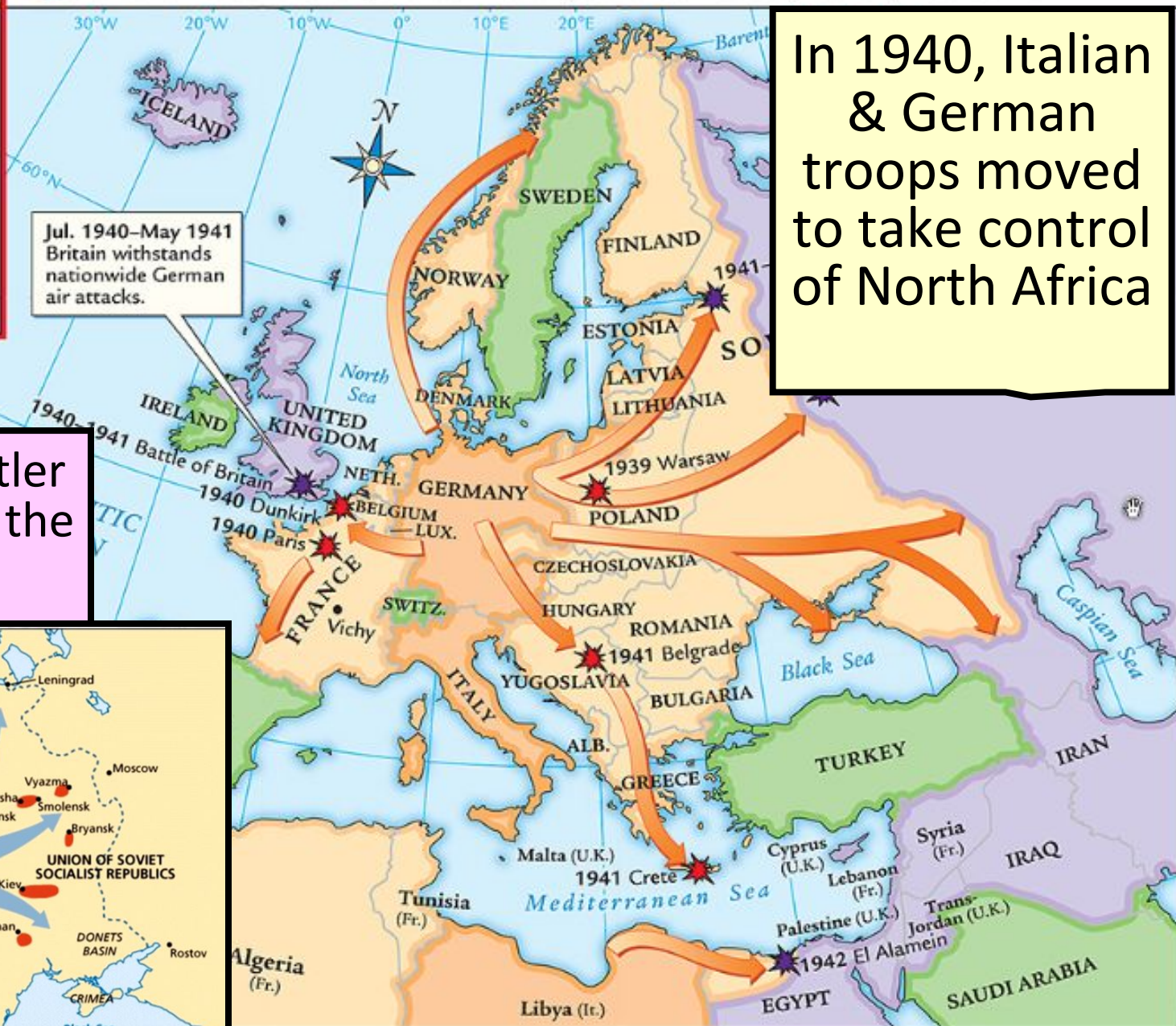
**E**

Axis troops overcame all early resistance. After Germany took France in 1940, the United Kingdom fought on alone. The Soviet Union joined the Allies only after it was invaded by Germany in June of 1941.

In 1940, Italian & German troops moved to take control of North Africa

Meanwhile, Hitler took control of the Balkans

Jul. 1940-May 1941  
Britain withstands nationwide German air attacks.





In 1941, Hitler  
broke the  
Nazi-Soviet  
Pact & invaded  
the Soviet  
Union



By 1942, the Axis Powers controlled most of Europe & North Africa but were unable to defeat Britain & the USSR

## THE AXIS ATTACKS

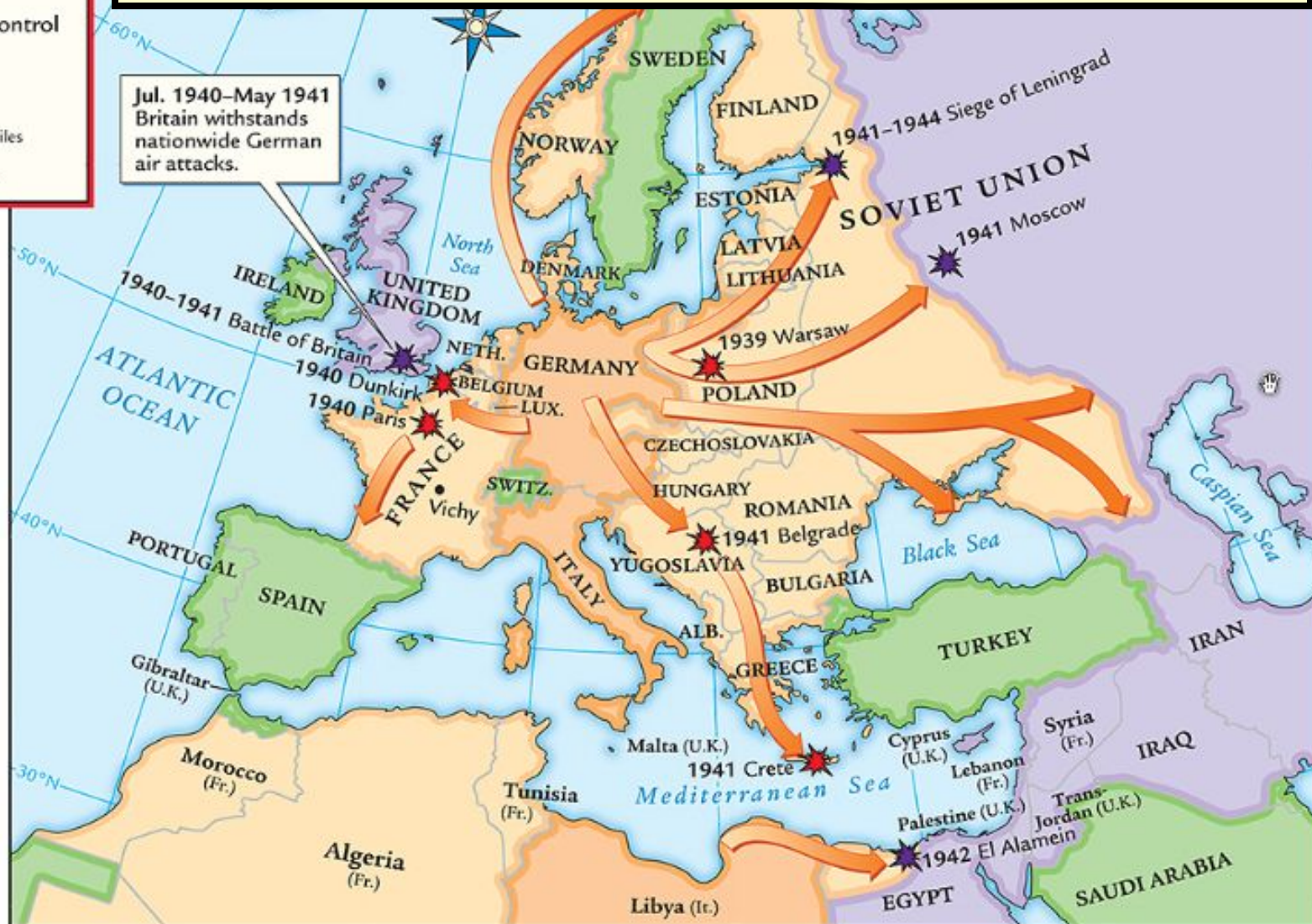
1939-1942



- Axis power
- Axis-controlled area, 1942
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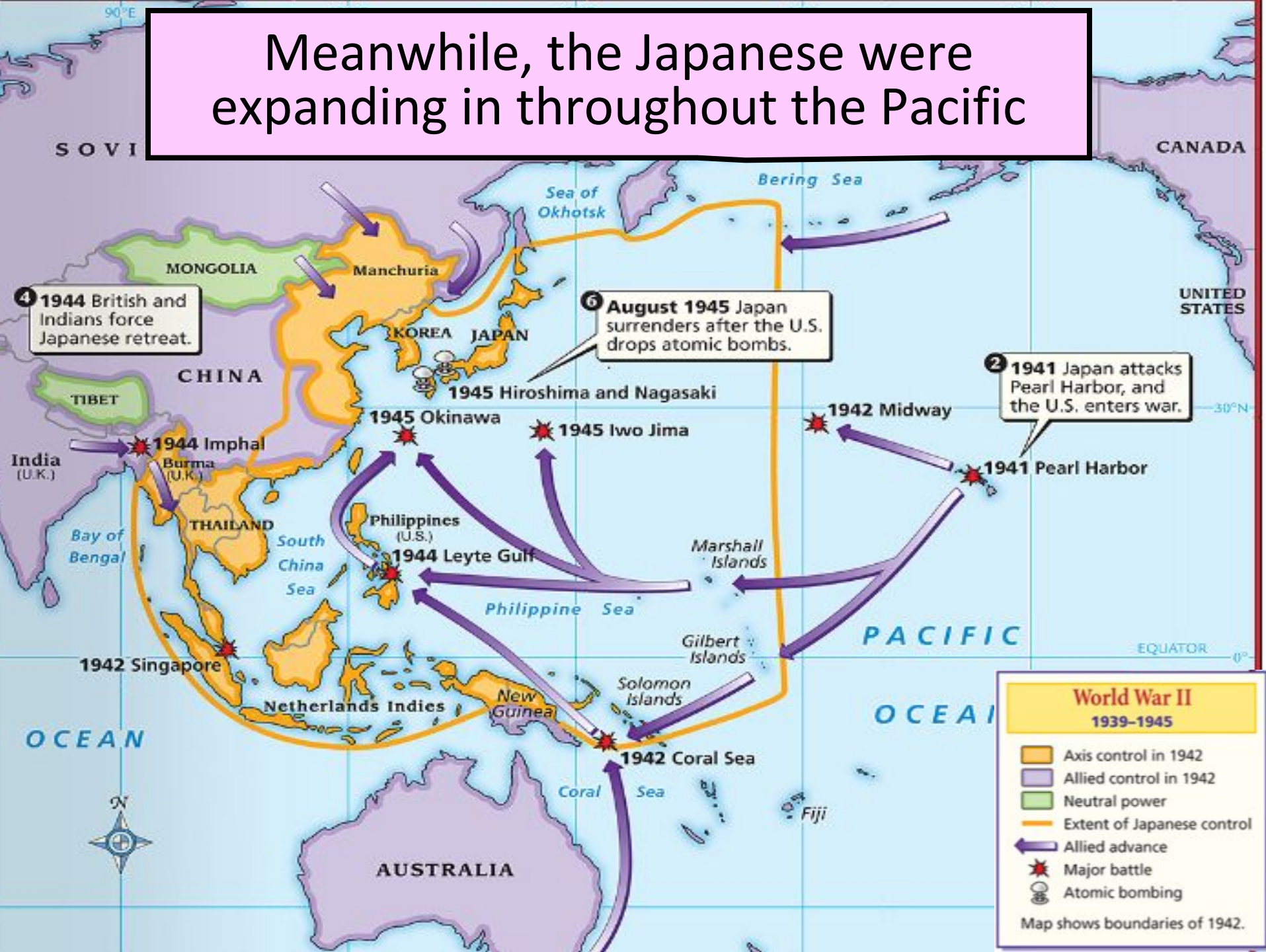
0 250 500 miles  
0 250 500 kilometers

Jul. 1940-May 1941  
Britain withstands  
nationwide German  
air attacks.





Meanwhile, the Japanese were expanding in throughout the Pacific



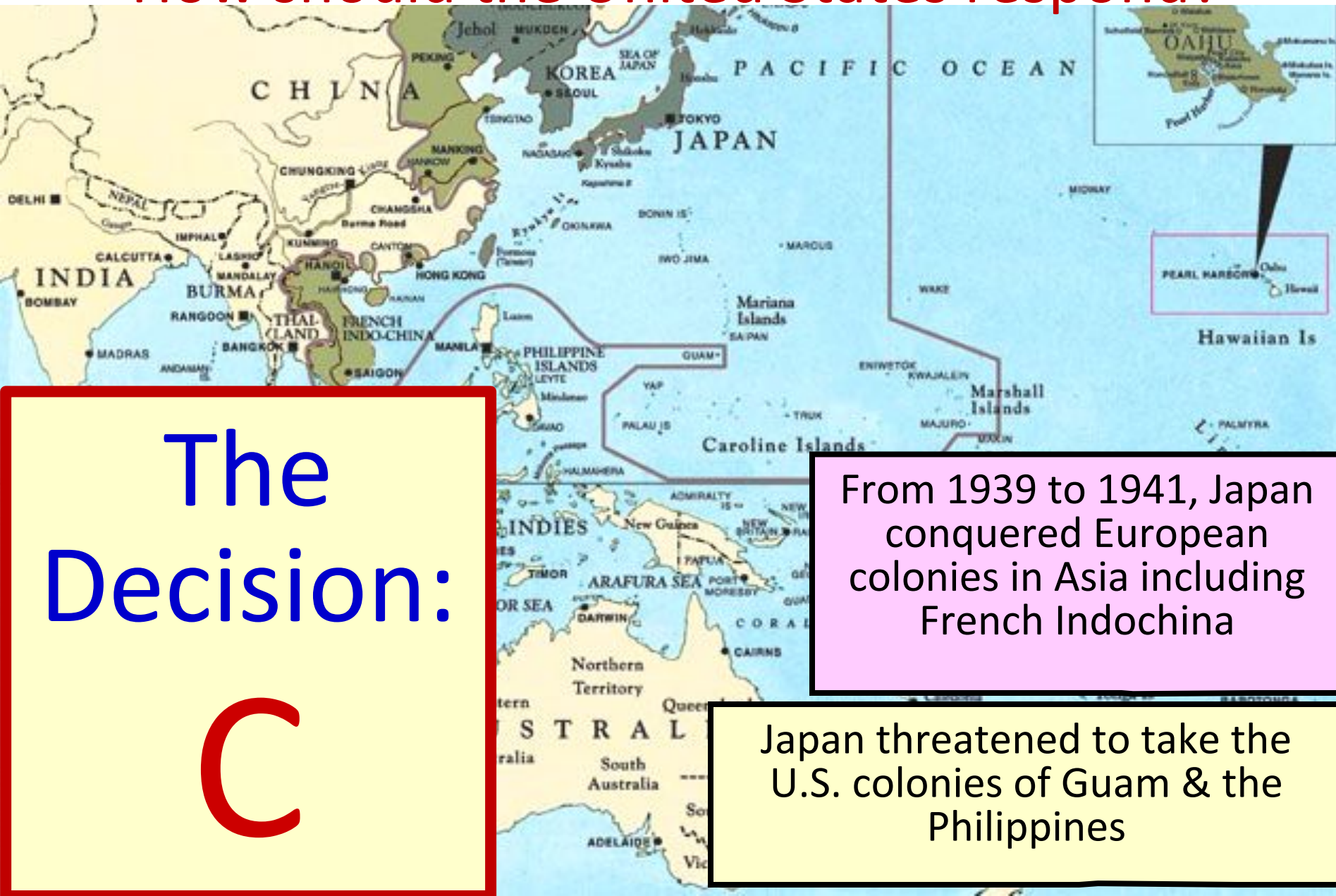


# Critical Thinking Decision #4: How should the United States respond?





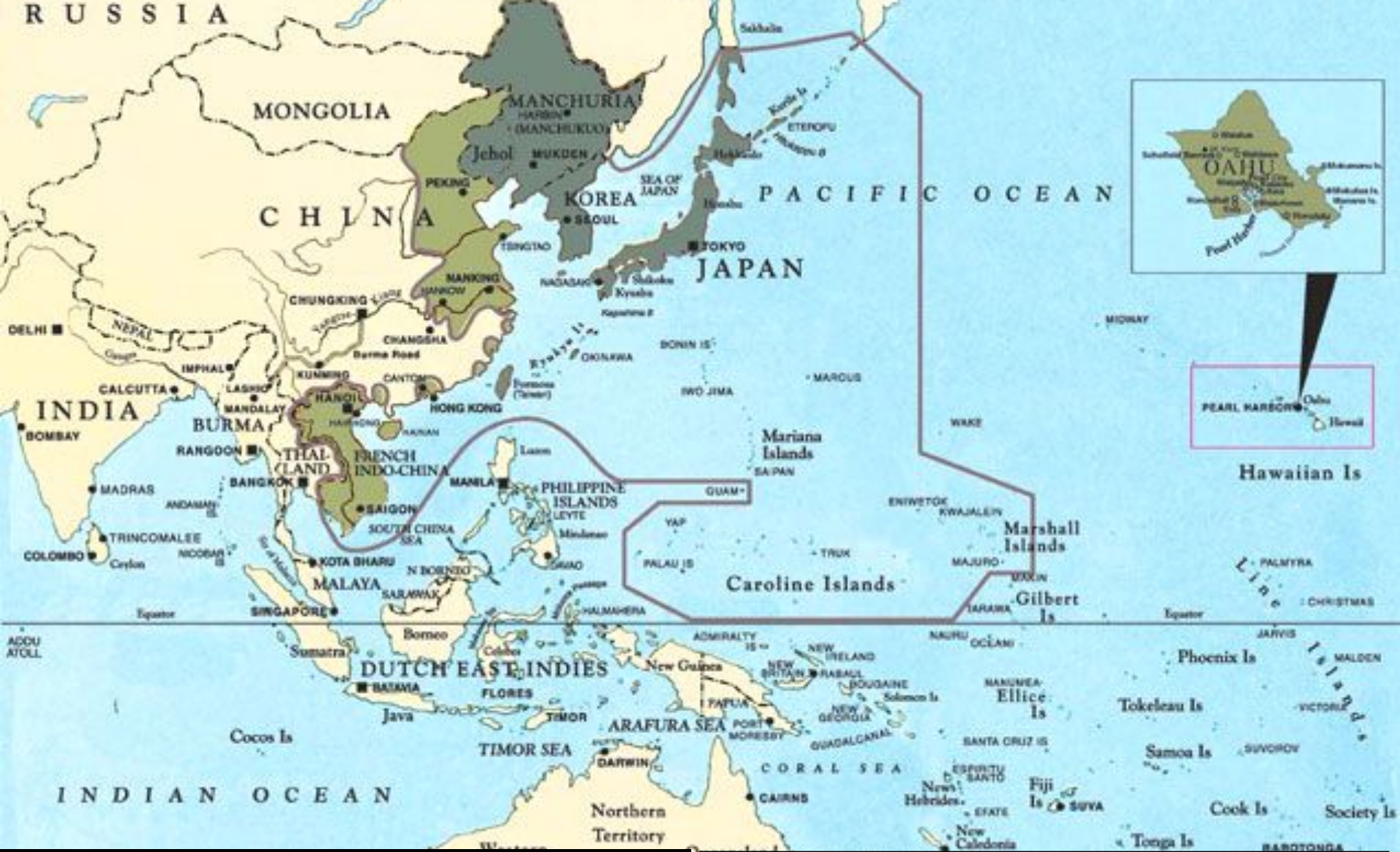
# Critical Thinking Decision #4: How should the United States respond?



The  
Decision:  
C

From 1939 to 1941, Japan conquered European colonies in Asia including French Indochina

Japan threatened to take the U.S. colonies of Guam & the Philippines



In 1941, the United States cut off sales of iron & oil with the Japanese

Japan interpreted the embargo as interfering with their right to expand





On December 7, 1941 Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii

The surprise attack crippled the U.S. navy & killed 2,300 Americans

After the attack, the USA declared war on the Axis Powers & entered WWII





# AVENGE PEARL HARBOR

OUR BULLETS WILL DO IT

*...we here highly resolve that these dead  
shall not have died in vain...*

*REMEMBER DEC. 7th!*



**D** The War in the Pacific covered huge distances. The Allies used a strategy called island-hopping, closing in on Japan by sea. The final attacks, however, were by air and used the first atomic bombs.

From 1939 to 1942, the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, Japan) dominated Europe, North Africa, & Asia

But, 1942 was a turning point year for the Allies who were able to win the war by 1945

