

Germany's Invasion of Poland

- At 4:45 a.m. August 31, 1939 some 1.5 million German troops invade Poland all along its 1,750-mile border with German-controlled territory.
 - This was an enactment of Hitler's idea of Lebensraum (Living space) for the Aryans.
- Simultaneously, the German *Luftwaffe* bombed Polish airfields, and German warships and U-boats attacked Polish naval forces in the Baltic Sea.
- Hitler claimed the massive invasion was a defensive action, but Britain and France were not convinced.
- On September 3, they declared war on Germany, initiating World War II.





The Nazi-Soviet Pact

- Hitler's only real concern was that a sudden German invasion of Poland might alarm Stalin and trigger a war with the Soviet Union.
- The Soviet Union (under Stalin) was also seeking to expand their territory, but was unsuccessful in negotiations.
- Hitler saw his opportunity and entered into secret negotiations with the Soviet Union.
- Hitler and Stalin put aside their dislike for one another and agreed to both invade Poland for their own personal gains



Invasion and Capture of Poland

- Poland mobilized late, and political considerations forced its army into a disadvantageous deployment.
- Despite fighting tenaciously and inflicting serious casualties on the Germans, the Polish army was defeated within weeks.
- On 17 September 1939, the Soviet Union (Russia) invaded Poland from the east, sixteen days after Germany invaded Poland from the west.
- After heavy shelling and bombing, Warsaw surrendered to the Germans on September 27, 1939.

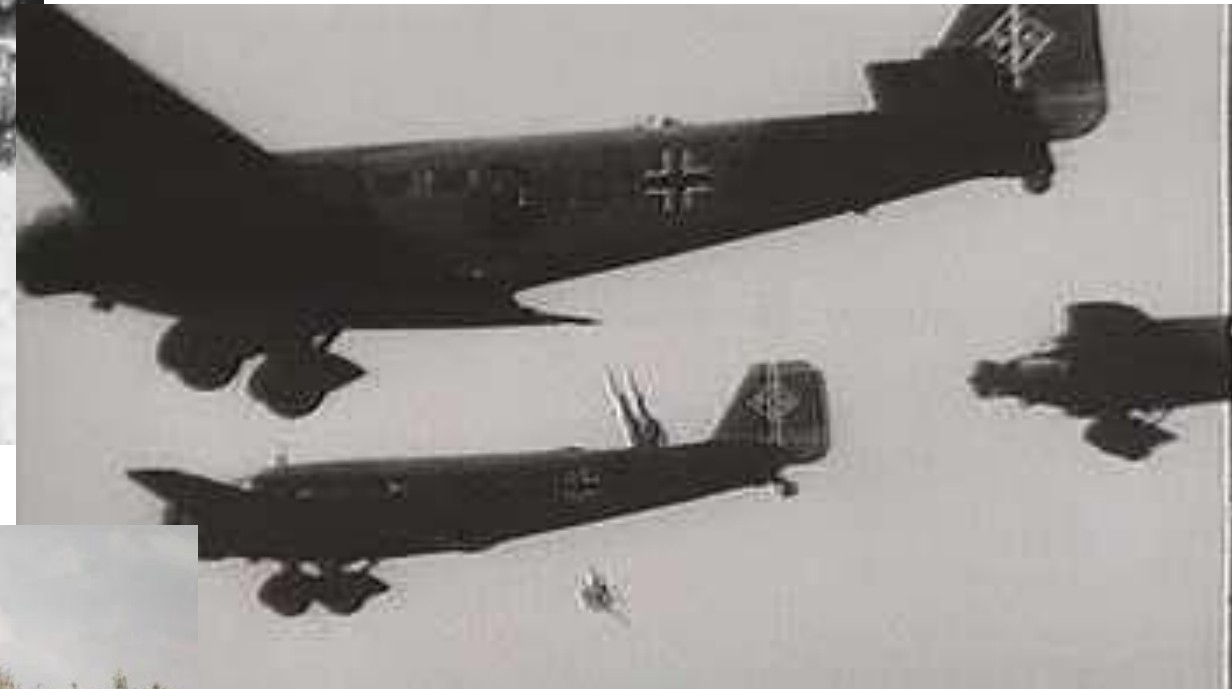
What have we seen in the *Pianist*?



<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/invasion-of-poland-fall-1939>

Blitzkrieg- "Lighting War"

- method of offensive warfare designed to strike a swift, focused blow at an enemy using mobile, maneuverable forces, including armored tanks and air support
- Germans were hoping for a quick victory, so they employed these fighting tactics.
- Blitzkrieg tactics required the concentration of offensive weapons (such as tanks, planes, and artillery) along a narrow front.
- These forces would drive a breach in enemy defenses, permitting armored tank divisions to penetrate rapidly and roam freely behind enemy lines, causing shock and disorganization among the enemy defenses.





Comparing
and
contrasting

How is this style of
fighting similar and
different from what we
saw in WWI?

Examples?

GHETTOS IN OCCUPIED POLAND 1939-1941

0 100
MILES

● Select Ghettos

— Poland 1939 Boundary





VIDEO

- Start at 2:40
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9ptKdhdoqQ&has_verified=1



For Wednesday...

We will be looking at the Spanish Civil War, as it is directly tied to Hitler and WWII

Please critically read the article, The Spanish Civil War: A Prelude to War. **Bring it in with you on Wednesday.**

Holocaust Document packet will be due as well. All articles should be critically read. Three questions