

Review Practice

Question: *Were the Germans successful in their invasion of Poland?*

What: (were they successful)

How: (what caused them to be successful)

So what: (What were the results?) **DO NOT** re-say they were successful

Thesis statement work:

Question: *Were the Germans successful in their invasion of Poland?*

What (Answering the question): The Germans **were successful in their invasion of Poland,**

How : Due to the **heavy use of tanks, airplanes, and concentrated bombardment,** known as Blitzkrieg,

So What (what was the impact): **Resulting in the overwhelming of the Polish army and a quick German occupation of the territory.**

All out War

- On September 3, 1939, in response to Hitler's invasion of Poland, Britain and France, nation declare war on Germany.
- President Roosevelt again declared neutrality for the Americans.
- Britain's response, it was initially no more than the dropping of anti-Nazi propaganda leaflets—13 tons of them—over Germany.
- They would begin bombing German ships on September 4, suffering significant losses.
- They were also working under orders not to harm German civilians. The German military, of course, had no such restrictions.
- France would begin an offensive against Germany's western border two weeks later.

World War II in Europe 1939–1941



The Initial Days of Fighting

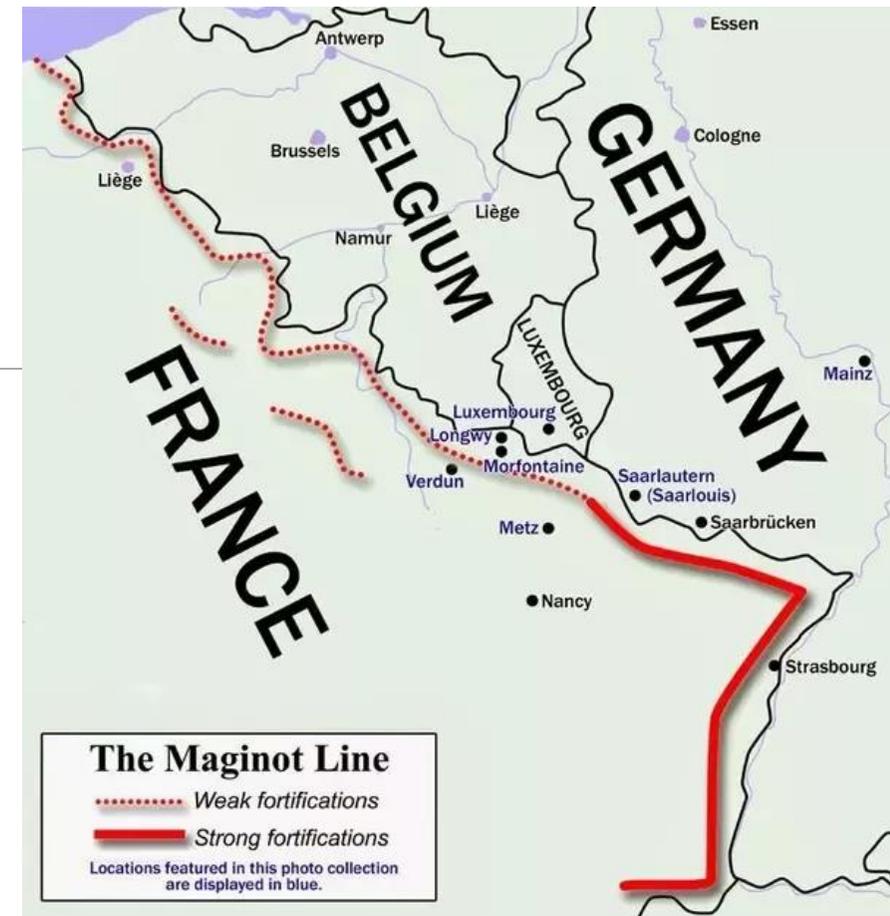
What was the initial days of fighting between the Allies and Germany like?

- Dull... – Following the invasion of Poland, German troops moved to the west – British and French troops mobilized & dug in
- September, 1939 – April, 1940 – “Sitzkrieg” (“phony war”)

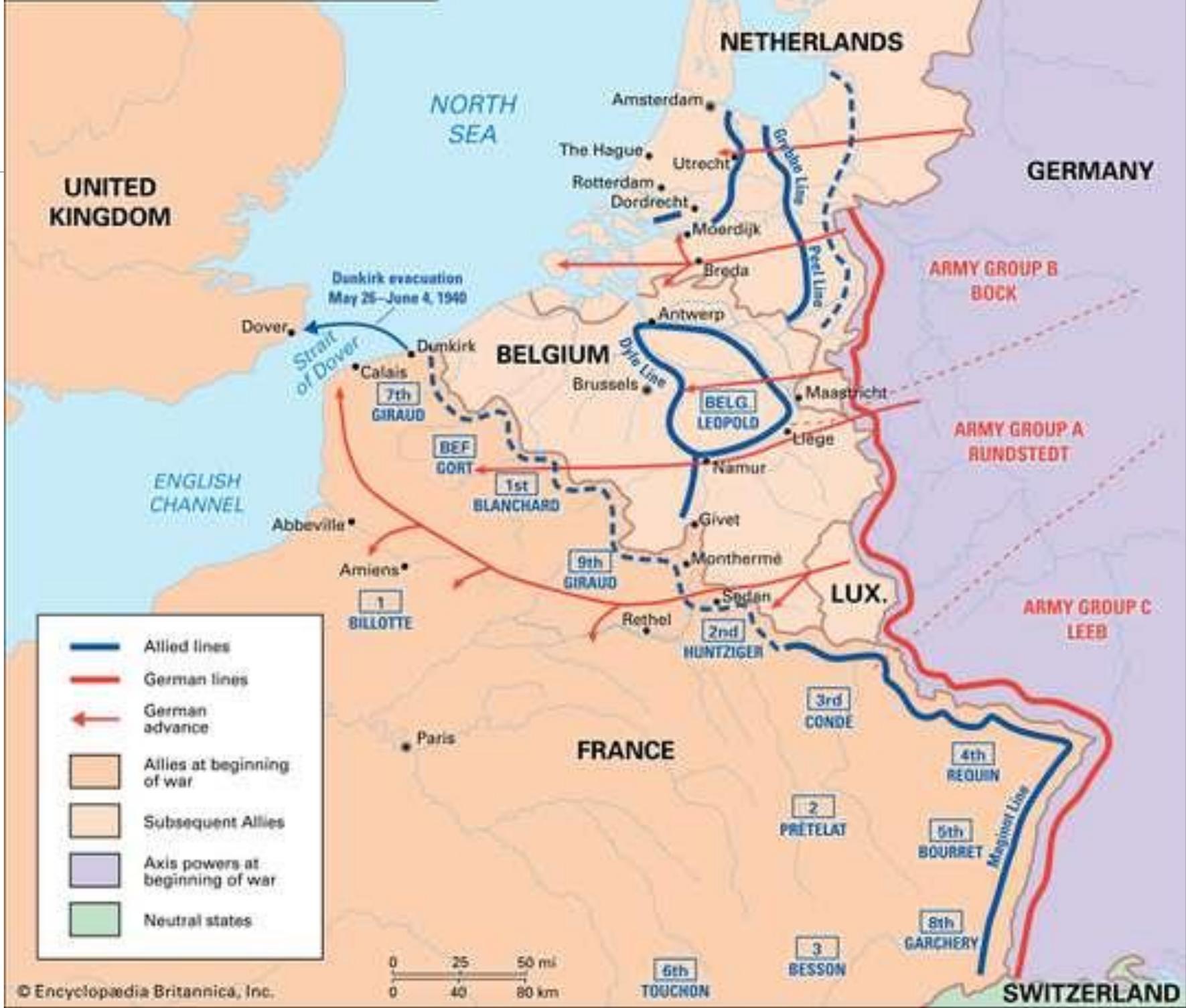


Allies Method of Fighting

- What was the Allied strategy for dealing with Germany?
- The British & French were in no hurry to invade Germany – Still fearful over another world war
 - Preferred to wait in their WWI fortifications – “The Maginot Line”



German Invasion of the Low Countries and France in 1940



Global Domination-

- April 1940--Hitler captured Denmark and Norway through an amphibious assault. 1/3 of the German surface fleet is sunk or heavily damaged in invading Norway.
- The heavy Blitzkrieg attack was over in two months and the two countries had surrendered.



A Change in Leadership

In the midst of low morale and chaos- 1940, Winston Churchill became Prime Minister of England



Who is Churchill?

- Winston Churchill is a British politician, widely considered one of the 20th Century's greatest leaders – (1874-1965)
- Gained fame as a soldier / war correspondent in Africa – Also served as a war minister in World War I



German invasion of France

Hitlers solution to the Maginot Line? Go around it

- Used Blitzkrieg tactis in the North

- Italy will invade to the south

The British / French had been warned in advance, but did not act

- Did not think tanks could move through the forested terrain







What happened after the Invasion?

- France surrenders within a month & a half – Germans enter Paris & divide the country – North = Nazi Control – South = Vichy France
- The British find themselves trapped at the city of Dunkirk – “Operation Dynamo”





Dunkirk- May 1940

- During the Belgian campaign the Germans drove rapidly across southeastern Belgium and turned toward the French coast, thereby isolating Allied troops.
- French troops appeared to be doomed.
- While planes of the Royal Air Force provided an umbrella over the scene to drive off German bombers, the fleet of British vessels moved to Dunkirk and evacuated about 338,000 British, French, and Belgian troops from May 26 to June 4, 1940.
- Not only was a military disaster turned into a propaganda victory, but several hundred thousand experienced troops were saved for future action against the Axis.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2W3KDB0yHYM>



Germany and Europe

Less than a year after invading Poland, Germany had occupied, or become allied with, a large part of Europe.





"Their Finest Hour"

1. How does British attitude towards war seem to differ here from the attitude we know the British public had about WWI? Evidence?
2. What does Churchill argue will happen if the Germans cannot be defeated?
3. How were men (Soldiers) viewed during WWII, according to this speech? What is "their finest hour"?

What is the purpose of this speech?

1. What is Churchill trying to do in this speech?
2. "But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new **Dark Age made more sinister**, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science. "
3. "Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, **men will still say, "This was their finest hour."**