

HH383
Spring 2008

The Second World War in Europe

“It will be enough for me, however, if these words of mine are judged useful by those who want to understand clearly the events which happened in the past and which (human nature being what it is) will, at some time in the future and in much the same ways, be repeated in the future.”

Thucydides, 5th Century BC

“Ultimately a real understanding of history means we face nothing new under the sun. For all the ‘Fourth Generation of War’ intellectuals running around today saying that the nature of war has fundamentally changed, the tactics are wholly new, etc., I must respectfully say: ‘Not really.’ Alex the Great would not be in the least perplexed by the enemy we face right now in Iraq, and our leaders going into this fight do their troops a disservice by not studying (studying, vice just reading) the men who have gone before us. We have been fighting on this planet for 5000 years and we should take advantage of their experience. ‘Winging it’ and filling body bags as we sort out what works reminds us of the moral dictates and the cost of competence in our profession.”

Major General James Mattis, USMC, 2003

The purpose of this course is to examine the major factors that led to the Second World War and then its course through to its end in May 1945. We will be examining the history of this war and the conduct of its operations on land, at sea, and in the air.

To make this course more than a boring series of lectures, it is incumbent on the members of this class to do the reading for every period. I recognize that I am placing a heavy burden on the members of this seminar by the writing assignments that I have scheduled for each week as well as the extensive reading. But my aim is to sharpen the analytic and writing skills of the members of this class.

All two page papers will be entirely based on the reading assignments. Do **not** use outside sources for **ANY** of the two page papers.

I will be in my office on the third deck of Sampson on Tuesdays and Thursdays and on some Wednesdays.

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Course Assignments

Six 2 page papers

One 15-20 page paper

One mid term examination

One final examination

Daily Schedule

Tuesday 8 January: Introduction

Thursday 10 January: The origins of the war
Assignment: Murray and Millett, *A War to Be Won*, chpt. 1

Identifications: 1) the legacy of World War I, Treaty of Versailles, *Lebensraum*, Mussolini, Hitler, the Spanish Civil War, Labour Party, Leon Blum, the *Anschluss*, Blomberg, von Fritsch, the Czech crisis, Munich, Neville Chamberlain, Churchill, Prague, Case White, Allied strategy (1939), Nazi-Soviet Non Aggression Pact

Tuesday 15 January: The revolution in military operations 1919-1939: ground forces

Thursday 17 January: The revolution in military operations: air and naval forces

Assignment: *A War to Be Won*, chpt. 2.

Identifications: 1) Seeckt, *Reichsheer, Die Truppenführung*, von Fritsch, Beck, Guderian, Milne, Liddell Hart, Montgomery-Massingberd, methodical battle, Tuckachevsky, Triandafilov, 1937 purges, Nomonhan, NKVD; 2) Trenchard, Dowding, Fighter Command, Air Corps Tactical School, Göring, Douhet, Jutland, Raeder, Dönitz, Moffett, the Schools

Tuesday 22 January: German strategy and the fall of Poland

Thursday 24 January: Scandinavia and military planning in the west

Assignment: *A War to Be Won*, chpts. 3 and 4, pp. 44-66.

2 page paper due on military innovation in the interwar period

Identifications: 1) OKH, OKM, OKL, von Brauchitsch, Halder, von Rundstedt, von Bock, Guderian, Reichenau, XIX Panzer Corps, Smigly-Rydz, Blaskowitz, Allied strategy, November quarrel (Hitler and the generals); 2) the Winter War, Weserübung, Narvik, Blücher, Oslo, *Hipper*, *Scharnhorst and Geneisenau*, *Glorious*, Ardennes, *Fall Gelb*, the Meuse River, German War Games, Gamelin, Breda variant, Seventh Army, Georges

Tuesday 29 January: The breakthrough on the Meuse

Thursday 31 January: Dunkirk and the Fall of France

Assignment: *A War to Be Won*, chpt. 4, pp. 63-84

Identifications: 1) XIX Panzer Corps, 1st Panzer Division, Balck, Rommel, Guderian, Dinant, Sedan, Meuse, Flavigny, Weygand, Reynaud, Churchill, Corap, Abbeville, "Stop Order," Gort; 2) Pétain, Dunkirk, Ramsey, Halifax, Butler Roosevelt, Mers-el-Kebir

Tuesday 5 February: The Battle of Britain and Sealion

Thursday 7 February: The Mediterranean, 1940-1941

Assignment: *A War to Be Won*, chpts. 4 and 5, pp.

Identifications: 1) Dowding, Göring, Kesselring, Jodl, Ultra, Bf 109, Spitfire, Fighter Command, Britain's Air Defense System, Schmid, Knickebein, R.V. Jones; 2) Mussolini, Commando Supremo, Badoglio, Albania, Taranto, Invasion of Greece, Italy's parallel strategy, Graziani, Bessarabia, Antonescu, Cunningham, Cape Matapan, Wavell, O'Conner, Tobruk, Triploi, Rommel

Tuesday 12 February: The Balkans and German strategy

Thursday 14 February: Planning for Barbarossa

Assignment: *A War to Be Won*, chpts. 5 and 6 (pp. 101-120)

Identifications: 1) Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Brauchitsch, Hitler's Balkan Strategy, Directive No. 25, Belgrade, Kleist, Barbarossa, Student, Crete, Freyberg, Maleme, Suda Bay; 2) German strategy, Barbarossa, Molotov, Nazi-Soviet-Non-Aggression Pact, 1937 purges, Stalin, Zhukov, Red Army, Rokossovsky, Halder, Brauchitsch, Marcks, Paulus, Directive 21, ideology and Barbarossa

Tuesday 19 February: Barbarossa

Thursday 21 February: The Battle of the Atlantic, 1939-1941

Assignment: *A War to Be Won*, chpts. 5 and 10 (pp. 120- 142, 234-249)

2 page critique of German planning for Barbarossa

Identifications: 1) STAVKA, von Manstein, von Leeb, von Bock, von Rundstedt, von Kleist, Guderian, Minsk, Smolensk, Leningrad, Kiev, Halder, August pause, Yelnya salient, Kiev, Eremenko, Zhukov, Tikhivin, Lake Ladoga, the Final Solution, operation Typhoon, Bryansk/Vyazma, Army Group Center, Hoepfner, Vlasov, *Einsatzgruppen*; 2) *Kriegsmarine*, wolf packs, Dönitz, Kretschmer, *Bismarck*, Enigma, Ultra, Bletchley Park, Hinsley, U-110, Walker, *USS Kearny*, *USS Reuben Jones*

Tuesday 26 February: Mid Term Examination

Thursday 28 February: The Battle of the Atlantic; 1942-1945

Assignment: *A War to Be Won*, chpt. 10; Patrick Beesley, *Very Special Intelligence*

2 Page Book Review on Beesley due on Thursday

Identifications: Operation Drumbeat, King, Tenth Fleet, Winn, Murmansk convoys, PQ 18, Western Approaches Command, Horton, the Greenland-Iceland gap, the bomber barons

Tuesday 4 March: January to December 1942, North Africa and the Eastern Front

Thursday 6 March: December 1942 to July 1943, North Africa and the Eastern Front

Assignment: *A War to Be Won*, chpt. 11

Identifications: 1) Operation Crusader, Tobruk, Gazala Line, Afrika Korps, Malta, Eighth Army, Auchinleck, Bir Hacheim, Kesselring, Rommel, Montgomery, El Alamein, Operation Torch, Rommel, Eisenhower, Marshall, Bock, Operation Blau, Stalingrad, Caucasus, Volga, First Battle of Kharkov, Sevastapol, Hoth, Paulus, Kleist, Sixth Army, Mars, Uranus, *maskirovka*, Manstein; 2) Popov Group. Second Battle of Kharkov, Kursk, Operation Zitadelle, Model, Rokossovsky, Konev, Tunisia, Casablanca, Fredendall, Patton, Kasserine Pass, Sicily, Operation Husky

11-13 March: VACATION!

Tuesday 18 March: The Final Solution: The movie *Conspiracy*

Thursday 20 March: The Final Solution

Assignment: Walter Laquer, *The Terrible Secret*

Tuesday 25 March: The Combined Bomber Offensive, 1939-1943

Thursday 27 March: The Combined Bomber Offensive, 1943-1945

Assignment: *A War to Be Won*, chpt. 12; Donald Caldwell and Richard Muller, *The Luftwaffe over Germany*

2 page review of the movie *Conspiracy* due on Tuesday

Identifications: The Butt Report, Portal, Harris, Gee, H2S, Lancaster, Bomber Command, Cologne, The Ruhr, Hamburg, "Window," Pathfinders, Speer, Eaker, Eighth Air Force, B-17, Schweinfurt, "precision bombing," 100th Bombardment Group, "Black Thursday," Kamhuber, Milch, Jeschonnek, V-1, V-2, Korten, Berlin, SN2, the Nuremberg raid, "Big Week," P-47, P-51, Doolittle, Fifteenth Air Force, the Transportation Plan, Eisenhower, Tedder, Zuckerman, the oil campaign

Tuesday 1 April: Intelligence in World War II

Thursday 3 April: Intelligence in World War II

Assignment: one of the following: Ralph Bennett, *Ultra in the West*; R.V. Jones, *Very Special Intelligence*; David M. Glantz, *Soviet Military Intelligence in the Second World War*; David Kahn, *Seizing the Enigma*; Michael Handel, *Leaders and Intelligence*; Ralph Bennett, *Ultra and Mediterranean Strategy*; J.C. Masterman, *The Double Cross system*; Wesley Wark, *The Ultimate Enemy*; F.H. Hinsley, *British Intelligence in the Second World War* (any one of the three volumes)

2 page book review on Caldwell and Muller due on Tuesday

Tuesday 8 April: Italy and the Eastern Front, Summer 1943 into 1944

Thursday 10 April: The Eastern Front: May 1944 through December 1944

Assignment: *A War to Be Won*, chpt. 14, chpt. 15 (pp.446-456)

2 page book review of whichever book you read on intelligence

Identifications: 1) Clark, Salerno, Badoglio, Anzio, Lucas, Rapido crossing, Alexander, Kesselring, May breakout, Gothic Line, Operation Dragoon; 2) Kluge, Model, Manstein, Donets, Panther Line, Dnepr, Malinovsky, Kiev, Zhukov, *rasputitsa*, Crimea, Finland, Operation Bagration, Army Group Center, Busch, Model, Warsaw Uprising, Antonescu, The Soviet Balkan Campaign

Tuesday 15 April: The Invasion of France: Operation Overlord

Thursday 17 April: The campaign in the west: 1944

Assignment: *A War to Be Won*: chpt. 15 and chpt. 16 (pp. 456-463)

Identifications: Operation Overlord, Pas de Calais, Normandy, Dieppe, Eisenhower, Bradley, Montgomery, Patton, Corlett, Rommel, Utah, Omaha, Juno, Gold, Sword, Caen, St Lô, Kluge, 20th of July, Avranches, Mortain, Falais, Brittany, Metz, Dragoon, Broad Front Strategy, Antwerp, Scheldt River, Arnhem, Market Garden, Hürtgen Forest, Battle of the Bulge, St. Vith, Bastogne, Gavin, Third Army

Tuesday 22 April: The war's end

Thursday 24 April: Summing up the war

Assignment: *A War to Be Won*, chpts. 16 and 19