

February 27, 2020

What were some Turning  
Points in World War II?  
What was the Holocaust?

DO NOW: What is a  
turning point in a war?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUqy-OQyVtI>

**Terms and People**

- **Dwight Eisenhower** – American general and commander of Allied forces during World War II
- **George S. Patton, Jr.** – American general and tank commander during World War II
- **unconditional surrender** – giving up completely without any concessions
- **saturation bombing** – dropping massive amounts of bombs to inflict maximum damage

**Terms and People** (continued)

- **strategic bombing** – dropping bombs on key targets to destroy the enemy's capacity to make war
- **Tuskegee Airmen** – African American squadron that escorted bombers in the air war over Europe during World War II
- **Chester Nimitz** – Commander of the U.S. Navy in the Pacific
- **Battle of Midway** – American victory and turning point of the war in the Pacific

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZJAsARQ8c4>

The Allies viewed Germany as the most dangerous Axis Power.

The German military could

- bomb Britain
- fight both the U.S. and British navies
- invade the Soviet Union

**For these reasons, the Allies agreed to a "Europe First" strategy to defeat Hitler.**

The United States moved quickly to produce military supplies and send them to Europe.

Hitler was determined to prevent the supplies from reaching Europe.

German U-boats sank thousands of supply ships in the North Atlantic.

New technology such as radar helped the Allies target the U-boats and restore the supply lines.



Germany had invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941. Millions of soldiers and civilians died in fierce fighting.

After a long struggle, the Soviets defeated the Germans at Stalingrad in January 1943.



Thousands of Germans surrendered.

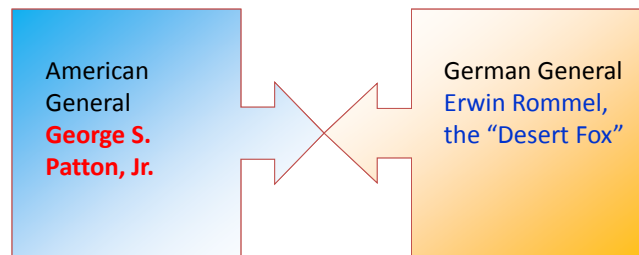
The Battle of Stalingrad proved to be a major turning point of the war in Europe.

- Nazi armies were forced to retreat westward, back toward Germany.
- The Soviet Union was now on the offensive.
- Hitler's dream of dominating Europe was crushed.

Meanwhile, Allied forces pressured the Axis on another front—the deserts of North Africa.

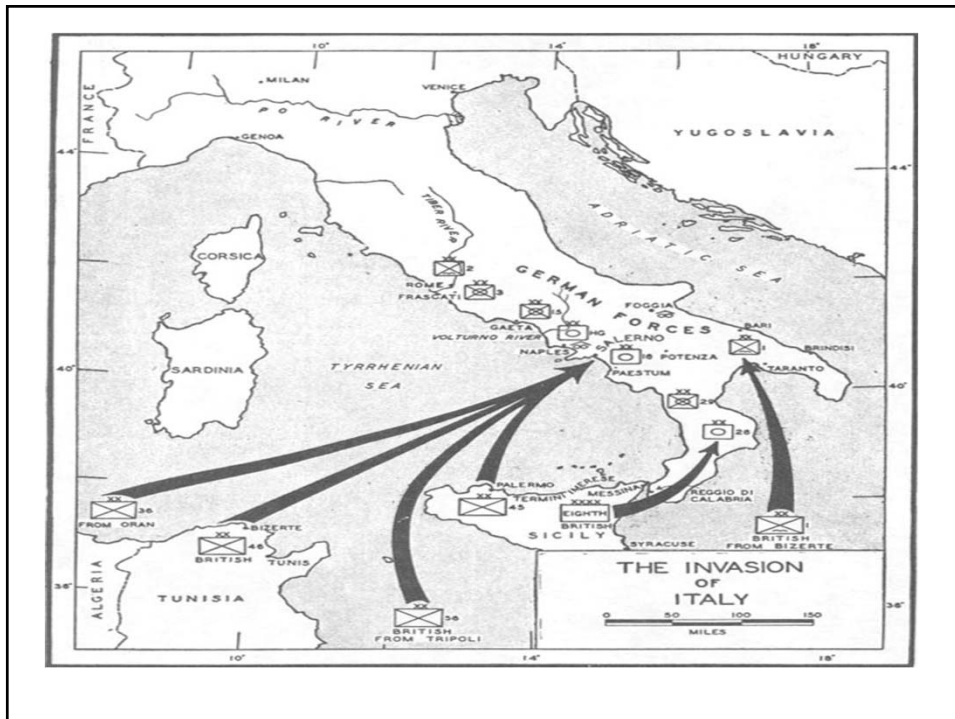
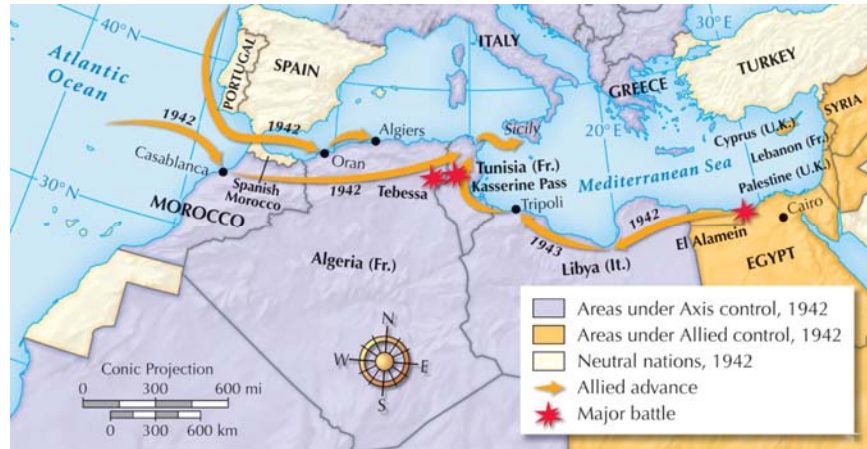
- General **Dwight Eisenhower** commanded the Allied invasion.
- Heat, sandstorms, and scorpions made conditions difficult.

Tank battles dominated the fighting, pitting two brilliant tank strategists against each other.



Patton eventually defeated Rommel's Afrika Korps, forcing a German surrender in May 1943.

**Allied Advances in North Africa**



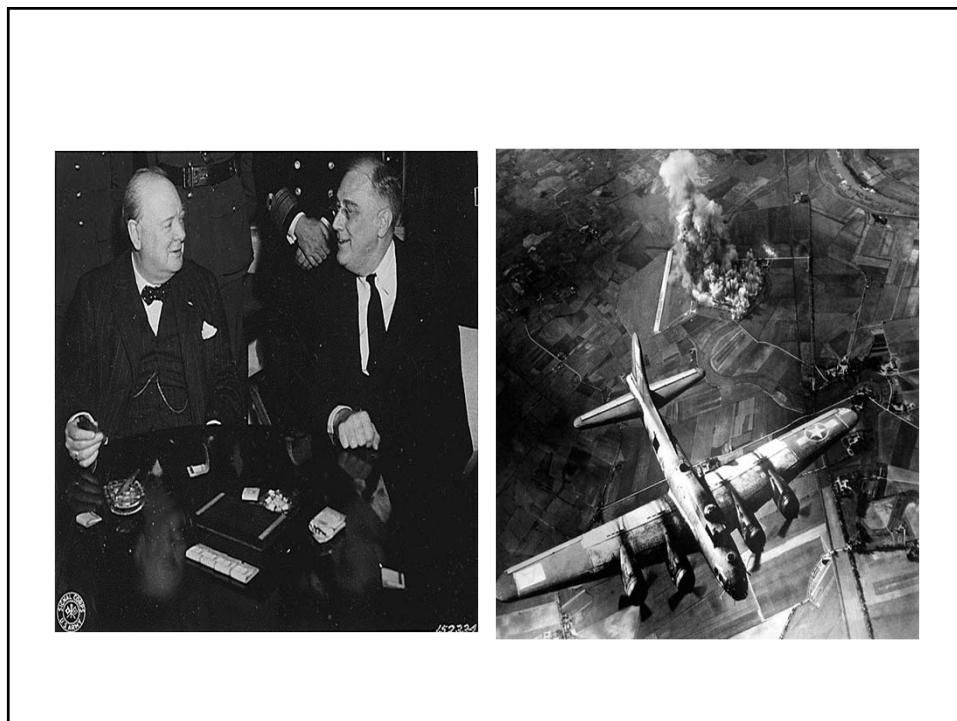
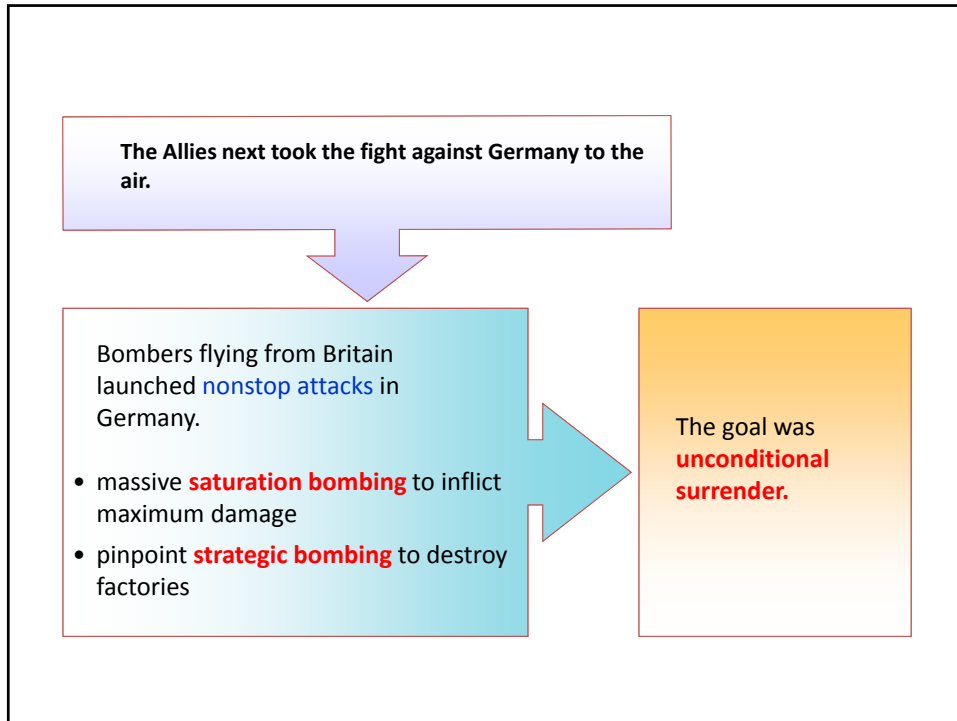
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cGuB-OWR0g>

The Allied victory in North Africa paved the way for an [invasion of Italy](#), with forces capturing Sicily.

**In 1943, Italy surrendered to the Allies, ending the rule of Benito Mussolini.**

However, German forces continued fighting the Allies in Italy into 1945.





American bomber planes were key to the war.

- The B-24 *Liberator* was faster than previous bomber planes and had a greater long-range capacity.
- Some planes escorted the bombers. The most celebrated of the escort crews were the **Tuskegee Airmen**, a special unit of African American pilots. In 1,500 missions, they never lost a bomber.



While battles raged in Europe, the Allies continued to fight Japanese advances in the Pacific.

Decoded messages told U.S. Admiral **Chester Nimitz** that Japan was going to attack the American base at Midway in June 1942. This was a vital location to the defense of Hawaii.



Allied aircraft carriers and fighter planes were victorious after fierce fighting.

The **Battle of Midway** proved to be a major turning point of the war in the Pacific.

- Japan's momentum was finally halted.
- Americans took the offensive, moving on to defeat the Japanese at [Guadalcanal](#).
- Now the [Allies](#) began advancing—toward Japan.

