

Item name: World War II Begins: The Invasion of Poland and the Eastern Front



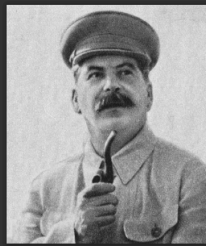
World War II Begins:
The Invasion of Poland and the Eastern Front



Adolf Hitler

Mutual-Nonaggression Pact

If one country became embroiled in a war, the other would remain neutral



Joseph Stalin

Description:

On September 1, 1939, the German Army invaded Poland. It was this step that set the world off on a course for global war.

Just a week earlier, Hitler and Stalin (formerly ideological enemies) had shocked the world by signing a mutual-nonaggression pact, which stated that if one country became embroiled in a war, the other would remain neutral.

Yet this enabled the Germans to invade Poland with a forceful *blitzkrieg* of airplanes, tanks, and motorized infantry for which the Poles were unprepared and vastly under armed.

Once the Soviet Union invaded from the east just a few weeks later, Poland was forced to surrender.