The Great Patriotic War: 1941-1945
A brief overview in numbers, words and images
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Military Deaths</th>
<th>Civilian Deaths</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>38,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>38,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>264,000</td>
<td>92,000</td>
<td>356,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>292,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>298,000</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>672,000</td>
<td>1,972,000</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>3,500,000</td>
<td>780,000</td>
<td>4,280,000</td>
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<td>USSR</td>
<td>11,000,000</td>
<td>7,000,000</td>
<td>18,000,000</td>
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(13.74% of 1939 Soviet population dies; AOT .32% of US population)
Victory Park
Moscow
(we won!)

Victory Park
St. Petersburg
(we survived)
War as High Politics...
Зеня died on Dec. 28th at 12:30 A.M. 1941
Grandma died on Jan. 25th 3:00 P.M. 1942
Лека died on March 5th at 5:00 A.M. 1942
Uncle Vasya died on Apr. 13th at 2:00 after midnight 1942
Uncle Lesha on May 10th at 4:00 P.M. 1942
Mother on May 13th at 7:30 A.M. 1942
Savichevs died. Everyone died. Only Tanya is left
Facing Fascism, 1933-1939

Hitler’s rise to power, and the threat he posed to the USSR (to Slavs; to Communism)

Stalin’s response:

- the purges 1937-38
- the search for an allied front with anyone really

- 1933: Germany withdraws from League of Nations
- 1934: The USSR joins... and what this shift promised
The Soviet Quest for Collective Security

A few gains:

- 2 May 1935: USSR and pact of peace and friendship with France (but what challenges did it face?)
- May 1935: Soviets sign treaty with Czechoslovakia (but what challenges does it face?)

The Soviet Union in the era of “Appeasement”.. Why won’t France and GB act? Where’s the US?
Cautionary tales:

- Italy invades Ethiopia (October 1935)
- Hitler announces German re-militarization (1935)
- Germany reoccupies the Rhineland (1936)
- German military support of Franco in the Spanish Civil war (1936-1939)
- The German annexation of Austria (March 1938)
The Unthinkable happens: Stalin and Hitler, 1939-41

Context:
- League silence vs. Germany
- October, 1938: Sudetenland crisis

Map of the Sudetenland, 1937

The Sudetenland, October 1938
The Unthinkable happens: Stalin and Hitler, 1939-41

Molotov-von Ribbentrop pact, 23 August, 1939...

Promise of 10 years of peaceful coexistence between USSR and Nazi Germany.

No aid for a 3rd party should one attack the other signatory.

and a “secret protocol”... which establishes German and Soviet spheres of influence... ex. Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Bessarabia all in Soviet spheres; whereas Poland was to be divided up between Germany and USSR.
Blitzkrieg: The Nazi Invasion of Poland
1 September 1939
Responses: U.S., G.B., France, and the USSR
Toward Soviet Armageddon, 1939-1940:

Western Europe now under Nazi control

Soviet response: purge and fortify... but did Stalin blow it on both counts, and with a dreadful war vs. Finland?
Operation Barbarossa, and mass devastation

Did Stalin truly believe that Nazi Germany would not attack the USSR?

Did the attack send him into a depression?

3:30 a.m., 22 June 1941

An army of 3 million invades, and the largest war ever between two States begins...

And where is Stalin?
First reactions:

- Stalin is seemingly comatose
- Ordinary people in Moscow stunned by news.
- Soviet workers immediate agree to work extra days, and tens of thousands volunteer to fight in Red Army.

German (+Allied) expectation:

- That the Soviets would fall quickly given German superiority and Soviet popular hostility toward Stalin
Comrades! Citizens! Brothers and sisters! Men of our army and navy! I am addressing you, my friends!
The perfidious military attack on our Fatherland, begun on June 22nd by Hitler Germany, is continuing.
In spite of the heroic resistance of the Red Army, and although the enemy's finest divisions and finest airforce units have already been smashed and have met their doom on the field of battle, the enemy continues to push forward, hurling fresh forces into the attack.
Hitler's troops have succeeded in capturing Lithuania, a considerable part of Latvia, the western part of Byelo-Russia, part of Western Ukraine. The fascist airforce is extending the range of operations of its bombers, and is bombing Murmansk, Orsha, Mogilev, Smolensk, Kiev, Odessa and Sebastopol.
A grave danger hangs over our country....
The peoples of the Soviet Union must rise against the enemy and defend their rights and their land. The Red Army, Red Navy and all citizens of the Soviet Union must defend every inch of Soviet soil, must fight to the last drop of blood for our towns and villages, must display the daring initiative and intelligence that are inherent in our people.

We must organize all-round assistance for the Red Army, ensure powerful reinforcements for its ranks and the supply of everything it requires, we must organize the rapid transport of troops and military freight and extensive aid to the wounded.

...We must wage a ruthless fight against all disorganizers of the rear, deserters, panic-mongers, rumor-mongers; we must exterminate spies, diversionists and enemy parachutists, rendering rapid aid in all this to our destroyer battalions…”

http://www.ibiblio.org/pha/policy/1941/410703a.html
Utter devastation unfolds: Kiev surrenders; dams destroyed (by retreating Soviets; Soviet airfields and planes obliterated; Jews and Slavs rounded up and machine-gunned; hundreds of thousands of casualties and prisoners destined to a terrible end in German camps....

Mauthausen.. One of many...
The 900 Days: The Siege of Leningrad, 9.IX.1941 – 18.I.1943

Of 3 million Leningraders in 1940, less than half survive the War.
Stalingrad

Before

After

Children playing in the ruins of Stalingrad
The Home Front: seeming Mass Support for the Soviet State

- The case of Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya (real or imagined)
- The ongoing mass enlistment of the population, and mass sabotage.
- Mass evacuation at times; and fierce resistance at others.
- ... and the arts... from movies and literature to 1943 and the church (Orthodox and Baptist)... so why did this happen when it happened (a two-fold answer)?
Konstantin Simonov, a beloved Soviet poet, and two of his dearly loved (and oft’ recited) poems:

**Kill Him**

*If you do not want to have*
*The girl you courted*
*But never dared to kiss*
*Because your love was pure –*
*If you don’t want fascists to bruise and beat*
*And stretch her naked on the floor*
*In hatred, tears, and blood.*
*And see three human dogs despoil*
*All that you hold dear*
*In the manliness of your love…*
*Then kill a German, kill him soon*
*And every time you see one – kill him.*
Wait for Me

Wait for me and I’ll come back,
Wait with might and main
Wait when you are drowned by grief
In floods of yellow rain.
Wait amid the driving snow,
Wait in torrid heat.
Wait when others cease to wait
Forgetting yesterday.

From Stites, *Russian popular culture*, 101
Soviet Posters... what’s the appeal to?; how to measure impact?
(and the implications of Weiner’s and Hellbeck’s respective theses)
At the Dawn of the Cold War, 1943-1953

MOST TALKED ABOUT DRAMA
OF OUR TIME!

The RED MENACE

A REPUBLIC PICTURE
The Soviet Perspective on the Origins of the Cold War

One thing that Stalin wants from his allies after 1941...
Germany advance halted:

- Moscow (December 1941)
- Stalemate: 1942
- Paulus surrenders (31 January 1943 (750,000 of 1.1 million Germans die...))
One thing that Stalin wants from his allies after 1942...
- Kiev liberated, late 1943
- Leningrad blockade ends, early 1944

A.F. Pakhomov, 
*Fireworks in Leningrad* (1944)
An unbreakable union of free republics,
Great Rus’ joined together forever.
Long live the creation of the will of the peoples,
The united, the mighty Soviet Union!

Chorus:

*Be glorified, our fatherland, united and free!*
*The sure bulwark of the friendship of the peoples!*
*The Soviet banner is the flag of the people,*
*Let it lead from victory to victory!*

Through storms the sun of freedom has shined upon us,
And the great Lenin has lighted the way
Stalin has taught us faithfulness to the people,
To labour, and inspired us to great feats!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MS2vZLW9Xk
One thing that Stalin wants from his allies after 1943...
Tehran Conference: US, GB, USSR

28. November - 1 December 1943

1. 2nd Front promised
2. Polish borders
3. Germany
4. A future United Nations
What the allies agree upon for Germany:

The Morgenthau Plan

What it is, who backs down first, and why, and why it matters?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morgenthau_Plan
13 and 15 February, 1945: Dresden is obliterated
Yalta Conference - February 1945

(D-Day, 6 June 1944)

1. Poland’s western borders
2. Germany (France now added), but Morgenthau plan still on
3. Reparation of prisoners
4. Stalin commits to the UN
5. USSR to enter war with Japan
German army divisions:

July 1941:
- 145 in East
- 45 in West

June 1944:
- 150 in the East
- 66 in the West
Potsdam Conference: 16 July – 2 August 1945

Context: 7 May and 9 May acts of surrender; new leaders; mounting British fears, and the American bomb (and Soviet atrocities, or Soviet rule of Poland?)

Potsdam Declaration (a fraying of relations)
Endgame:
A Cold War out of a Great Patriotic (World) War

End of the Morgenthau option; the Americans stay, and the Sovietization of Eastern Europe

Hiroshima, 6 August 1945
Europe (as we saw it at least) 1946

http://foralltime.alternatehistory.com/images/Europe1946.gif
“...From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia; all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject, in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and in some cases increasing measure of control from Moscow.” Churchill, 5.III.1946
Truman Doctrine: 12 March 1947

Churchill’s copy from secret agreement, signed in Moscow, October 1944
When Timing Matters:

1. West Germany formed: May 1949
2. East Germany formed: October 1949

1. NATO formed: 4 April 1949
2. Warsaw Pact: 14 May 1949

What is this photo doing here?