

Nazi Expansionism leading up to World War II



The Anschluss of 1938 saw the annexation of Austria (renamed "Ostmark") into the new German Reich.

News reports in Germany always portrayed the peoples of the newly occupied territories as welcoming the army as "liberators." Celebrations were orchestrated to give the impression that the conquered territories wanted to be annexed into the Reich.





German map of Sudetenland, showing the areas inhabited by ethnic Germans - these areas would be annexed into the Reich.

Non-Aggression Pact between Hitler's Germany & Russia's Stalin

Map at left shows Stalin's signature over a map of Eastern Europe, approving of his half of Poland. His foreign minister's signature (Ribbentrop) also appears. The agreement was signed in Moscow on August 23rd, 1939. Hitler invaded Poland (along with the Soviet Union) on September 3rd, 1939.



German and Soviet troops meet during the 1939 invasion of Poland