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World War II

(1939-1945)

Student Research Guide

History | Year 10

Cover: [Naval recruits march along Melbourne Street, South Brisbane](#), 1941, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.



Date updated: 15 August 2024

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This guide is designed to help you discover items on World War II that you can access on site, from your school or home.

Before you get started

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You can search our catalogue for [all items on World War II](#) or begin exploring by clicking on some of the featured items contained in this research guide.

Featured Databases

The Virtual Library of [National Geographic](#) has magazine articles, books and more on World War II.

The screenshot displays the National Geographic Virtual Library interface. At the top, there's a banner with the National Geographic logo and a search bar. Below the banner, the title 'Eyewitness to World War II: Unforgettable Stories from History's Greatest Conflict' is prominently displayed. The authors are listed as Stephen G. Hyslop and Winston Group, and the publisher is the National Geographic Society (Washington, DC). The date is 2018. The interface includes a sidebar with 'Explore', 'Table Of Contents', and 'Illustrated Works' sections. The main content area features a large image of a soldier in a helmet and the title 'EYEWITNESS TO WORLD WAR II' in large, bold letters. Below the title, it says 'UNFORGETTABLE STORIES FROM HISTORY'S GREATEST CONFLICT'. At the bottom, there are logos for Brisbane City Council, State Library of Queensland, and Queensland Government.

The [Britannica Library](#) has articles, images, videos, primary sources, eBooks and more on World War II with a selection of resources especially for teenagers.

[Oxford Reference](#) has a helpful, searchable online encyclopedia on World War II.

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Australia

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Britain

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[The Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842-2003](#)

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Australia at War

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Match text

tain had declared war on Germany, having hon
ored her pledge to Poland, which 'country was at-
tacked by the most ruthless and bloody-minded in-
ternational bully of all time. Several heartening factors stand out. As for
instance Mr. Chamberlain's statement that 'Never
was a challenge of war received by the British
people with a mind so equable, and at the same
time so sternly and grimly set. Britain is pre-
pared; and, more closely than in 1914, Britain is
united. And the Empire is united. Messages of
loyalty and assistance come from all parts of the world.
What of Germany? Do the people echo the sentiments of Hitler, Goering, Goebbels and the
leading foreign dignitaries contributed by New South Wales Government

Australia At War

Yesterday came the dreaded news—Great Britain had declared war on Germany, having honored her pledge to Poland, which country was attacked by the most ruthless and bloody-minded international bully of all time.

Several heartening factors stand out. As for

WAR

Japan Guarantees Her Neutrality to England.

New York

A New York station inter-
cepted a B B announce-
ment that Japan has guaran-
teed her neutrality to England.

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Adolf Hitler

Date: Wednesday, May 2, 1945 Publication: The Times (London, England) Issue: 50132

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Nazi Germany over the world. The process was continuous, and the methods were the same. Hitler effected the triumph of the Nazi Party in Germany by a mixture of deceit and violence; he then employed the same devices to destroy other nations. From the time he became master of Germany he made lies, cruelty, and terror his principal means to achieve his ends; and he became in the eyes of virtually the whole world an incarnation of absolute evil.

Hitler was unimpressive to meet on informal occasions, but became transformed when he was face to face with a crowd, especially if it was an audience of his followers. He would speak to them like a man possessed and give the appearance of utter exhaustion when his speech was over. His speeches betrayed few if any original ideas, and even his belief in the suggestive power of repetition scarcely justified the repetitions of past history with which most of his public orations were overlaid. He was, however, a propagandist of the first order, and his uncanny subtle and acute understanding of the mind of his own people was the ultimate source of his power for evil.

EARLY YEARS

Papen, who regarded him as the cause of his own fall from power. Schleicher in December made a bid for independence. He thought to propitiate the Nazi strength by attracting to himself in a semi-Socialist administration Gregor Strasser.

CHANCELLOR AT LAST

REICHSTAG FIRE

It was a critical moment. Hitler, who had borne the recent setbacks with surprising calm, now lost heart. "If the party breaks up," he confided to Goebbels, "I'll end matters with my pistol in three minutes." Schism indeed seemed imminent. But Strasser himself spoiled the scheme. He dallied and hesitated. The discussions were deferred, and before they could be resumed Schleicher had fallen. The tables had been suddenly turned by von Papen, who in January made an alliance with Hitler in order to overthrow Schleicher. The Nazi leader, whom he regarded as humbled by recent ill-fortune, was to be Chancellor and he himself Vice-Chancellor, with a majority of non-Nazi colleagues, the good will of the President, and, he confidently hoped, the real power. The plan took shape, and on January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler was formally invested with the seals of office as Reichskanzler.

The new Government was a minority one.

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GALE PRIMARY SOURCES The Illustrated London News

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The Illustrated London News

Date: Saturday, May 12, 1945 Publication: The Illustrated London News (London, England) Volume: 206, Issue: 5534

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500 THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS MAY 12, 1945

SOME OF THE MILLIONS OF GERMAN PRISONERS—A GREAT PROBLEM.

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