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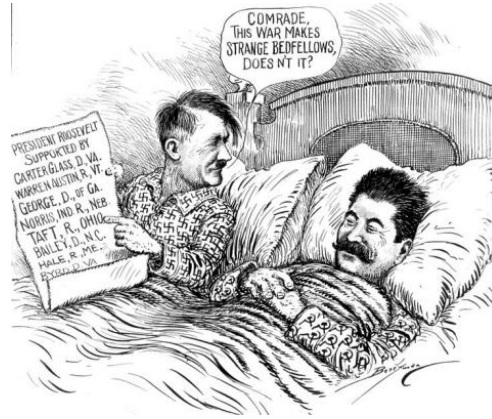
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Hitler and Stalin sign a Non-Aggression Pact, in 1939, leading to a brief period of relative "harmony" between the two leaders and their countries. Political-cartoonist, Clifford Berryman, creates his interpretation of the Stalin-Hitler partnership in this political cartoon which he published on September 24, 1939.

Stalingrad (known, since 1961, as Volgograd) was under siege by the German Sixth Army.

The great city northeast of the Black Sea, on the Volga River, was the scene of the deadliest battle in military history. Historians estimate nearly 2 million people died before the fighting was over in early 1943.

Why did so many people perish? They were sacrificed in a months-long battle of wills between Hitler (who believed that he, and his Army, were invincible) and Stalin (for whom the city, founded in 1589 as Tsaritsyn, had been renamed in 1925.)

They were sacrificed even though Hitler and Stalin had agreed to a secret Non-Aggression Pact on August 23, 1939. (Follow the links to see the signed original and the signing ceremony. Legend records Hitler's reaction to the agreement: "I've got them!")

The battle for Stalingrad - this Russian link is a picture of the city before its destruction - started at 6 p.m. on August 23, 1942. Within hours, Stalingrad became an inferno as 1,000 German planes carpet-bombed an industrial city filled with wooden houses and oil tanks.

Sleeping children were hurled from their beds while hundreds of families were buried alive in the ruddle of fallen buildings.

The horror had only begun.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/STALINGRAD-Stalingrad-Deadly-Battle-of-WWII>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/STALINGRAD-Stalingrad-Deadly-Battle-of-WWII>

Media Stream



Stalingrad - Map Locator

Map online, courtesy Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, University of Texas at Austin.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Stalingrad-Map-Locator>



Volgograd - Stalingrad Theater

Image online, courtesy Volgograd Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Volgograd-Stalingrad-Theater>



Stalingrad - Battle Scene

Battle for Stalingrad; image online, courtesy Volgograd Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Stalingrad-Battle-Scene->



German Troops at Stalingrad

Image online, courtesy Volgograd Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/German-Troops-at-Stalingrad>



von Ribbentrop Signing the Non-Aggression Pact

Photo online, courtesy Bundesarchiv ("German Federal Archive"), Bild ("Picture") 183-S52480.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/von-Ribbentrop-Signing-the-Non-Aggression-Pact>



Molotov Signing Non-Aggression Pact

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. NARA provides the following information about this image:

After the von Ribbentrop albums (series 242-JRA and JRB) were seized, the US Army copied photographs from them relating to major German diplomatic events. In most cases, therefore, these prints are duplicates of those in series 242-JRA and 242-JRB and should be used in conjunction with these series.

One notable exception is the group of photographs showing the signing of the Nazi-Soviet Pact in 1939. The photographs were copied from an album not included in the accession. Box 6, the last box of records includes six packets of original prints and news clippings apparently collected by the US Army. There are copy negatives for only a few of the prints. Total items including dupes- ca. 1600 prints; 127 negatives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Molotov-Signing-Non-Aggression-Pact>



Hitler's Reaction to News of the Non-Aggression Pact

Photo online, courtesy [Deutsches Historisches Museum](#) (German Historical Museum).

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hitler-s-Reaction-to-News-of-the-Non-Aggression-Pact>



Stalingrad - Street Scene before the Battle

Battle for Stalingrad; image online, courtesy Volgograd Archives. Descriptive information online, also via Volgograd Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Stalingrad-Street-Scene-before-the-Battle>



Stalingrad - Before the War

View of Stalingrad, before the battle began. Image online, courtesy Volgograd Archives.

Descriptive information online, also via Volgograd Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Stalingrad-Before-the-War>



Stalingrad - Museum, Before the Battle

View of Stalingrad, before the battle began. Image online, courtesy Volgograd Archives.

Descriptive information online, also via Volgograd Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Stalingrad-Museum-Before-the-Battle>



Stalingrad - City Becomes a Battlefield

View from the Battle for Stalingrad. Image online, courtesy Volgograd Archives. Descriptive information online, also via Volgograd Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Stalingrad-City-Becomes-a-Battlefield>



Stalingrad - Reduced to Rubble

Image of a massively damaged Stalingrad, online courtesy Volgograd Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Stalingrad-Reduced-to-Rubble>



Battle of Stalingrad - Historical Footage

The Great Battle on the Volga (1962), produced by Central Documentary Film Studio and Artkino Pictur. Online, courtesy Google Video.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Battle-of-Stalingrad-Historical-Footage>