



REPERES



DG Éducation et culture
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CENTRE VIRTUEL DE LA
CONNAISSANCE SUR L'EUROPE



Maison de l'Europe
Toulouse Midi-Pyrénées



PARTENARIAT ÉDUCATIF GRUNDTVIG 2009-2011

World War II casualties




















1. Total Deaths








Human losses of World War II by country

(Details provided in the footnotes)

Country	Total population 1/1/1939	Military deaths	Civilian deaths due to military activity and crimes against humanity	Total deaths	Deaths as % of 1939 population
Albania^A	1,073,000	30,000		30,000	2.81
Australia^B	6,998,000	39,800	700	40,500	0.57
Austria^C	6,650,000	Included with Germany	120,000	120,000	see table below
Belgium^D	8,387,000	12,100	75,900	88,000	1.05
Brazil^E	40,289,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	0.02
Bulgaria^F	6,458,000	22,000	3,000	25,000	0.38
Burma^G	16,119,000	22,000	250,000	272,000	1.69
Canada^H	11,267,000	45,400		45,400	0.40
China^I	517,568,000	3,000,000 to 4,000,000	7,000,000 to 16,000,000	10,000,000 to 20,000,000	1.93 to 3.86
Cuba^J	4,235,000		100	100	0.00
Czechoslovakia^K	15,300,000	25,000	300,000	325,000	2.12
Denmark^L	3,795,000	2,100	1,100	3,200	0.08

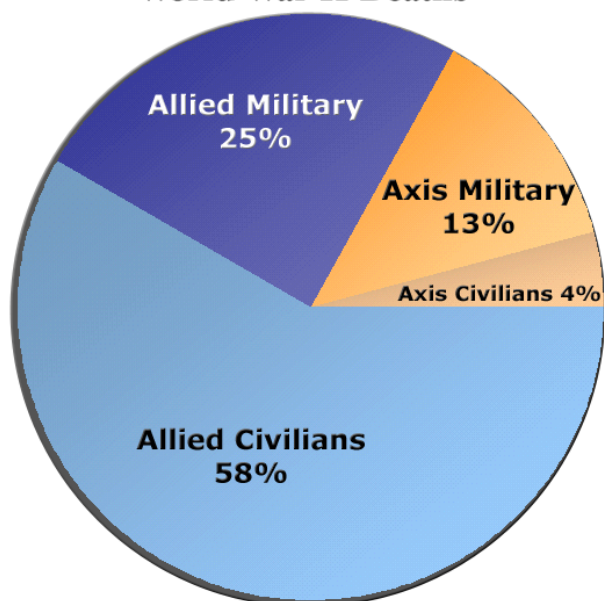
 <u>Dutch East Indies^M</u>	69,435,000		3,000,000 to 4,000,000	3,000,000 to 4,000,000	4.3 to 5.76
 <u>Estonia</u> (within 1939 borders) ^N	1,122,000		50,000	50,000	4.44
 <u>Ethiopia^O</u>	17,700,000	5,000	95,000	100,000	0.6
 <u>Finland^P</u>	3,700,000	95,000	2,000	97,000	2.62
 <u>France^Q</u>	41,700,000	217,600	350,000	567,600	1.35
 <u>French Indochina^R</u>	24,600,000		1,000,000 to 1,500,000	1,000,000 to 1,500,000	4.07 to 6.1
 <u>Germany^S</u>	69,850,000	5,530,000	1,100,000 to 3,150,000	6,630,000 to 8,680,000	see table below
 <u>Greece^T</u>	7,222,000	20,000 to 35,100	300,000 to 770,000	320,000 to 805,100	4.44 to 11.15
 <u>Hungary^U</u>	9,129,000	300,000	280,000	580,000	6.35
 <u>Iceland^V</u>	119,000		200	200	0.17
 <u>India (British)^W</u>	378,000,000	78,100	1,500,000 to 2,500,000	1,578,100 to 2,578,100	0.42 to 0.68
 <u>Iran^X</u>	14,340,000	200		200	0.00
 <u>Iraq^Y</u>	3,698,000	500		500	0.01
 <u>Ireland^Z</u>	2,960,000		200	200	0.00
 <u>Italy^{AA}</u>	44,394,000	301,400	155,600	457,000	1.03
 <u>Japan^{AB}</u>	71,380,000	2,120,000	500,000 to 1,000,000	2,620,000 to 3,120,000	3.67 to 4.37
 <u>Korea^{AC}</u>	23,400,000		378,000 to 483,000	378,000 to 483,000	1.6 to 2.06
 <u>Latvia</u> (within 1939 borders) ^{AD}	1,951,000		230,000	230,000	11.78
 <u>Lithuania</u> (within 1939 borders) ^{AE}	2,442,000		350,000	350,000	14.33
 <u>Luxembourg^{AF}</u>	295,000		2,000	2,000	0.68
 <u>Malaya^{AG}</u>	4,391,000		100,000	100,000	2.28

 Malta ^{AH}	269,000		1,500	1,500	0.56
 Mexico ^{AI}	19,320,000		100	100	0.00
 Mongolia ^{AJ}	819,000	300		300	0.04
 Nauru ^{AK}	3,400		500	500	14.7
 Nepal ^{BG}	6,000,000		8,900 with Nepalese & British Indian Armies		.01
 Netherlands ^{AL}	8,729,000	17,000	284,000	301,000	3.45
 Newfoundland ^{AM}	300,000		included with the U.K.		0.03
 New Zealand ^{AN}	1,629,000	11,900		11,900	0.73
 Norway ^{AO}	2,945,000	3,000	6,500	9,500	0.32
 Papua and New Guinea ^{AP}	1,292,000		15,000	15,000	1.17
 Philippines ^{AQ}	16,000,000	57,000	500,000 to 1,000,000	557,000 to 1,057,000	3.48 to 6.6
 Poland (within 1939 borders) ^{AR}	34,849,000	240,000	5,380,000 to 5,580,000	5,620,000 to 5,820,000	16.1 to 16.7
 Portuguese Timor ^{AS}	500,000		40,000 to 70,000	40,000 to 70,000	8.00 to 14.00
 Romania (within 1939 borders) ^{AT}	19,934,000	300,000	500,000	800,000	4.01
 Ruanda-Urundi ^{AU}	4,200,000		0 to 300,000	0 to 300,000	0.00 to 7.1%
 Singapore ^{AV}	728,000		50,000	50,000	6.87
 South Africa ^{AW}	10,160,000	11,900		11,900	0.12
 South Pacific Mandate ^{AX}	1,900,000		57,000	57,000	3.00
 Soviet Union (see table below) ^{AY}	168,524,000	8,800,000 to 10,700,000	14,600,000 to 12,700,000	23,400,000	13.88

		Included with the German Army			
 <u>Spain</u> ^{AZ}	25,637,000				
 <u>Sweden</u> ^{BA}	6,341,000		600	600	0.01
 <u>Switzerland</u> ^{BB}	4,210,000		100	100	0.00
 <u>Thailand</u> ^{BC}	15,023,000	5,600	2,000	7,600	0.04
 <u>United Kingdom</u> ^{BD}	47,760,000	383,800	67,100	450,900	0.94
 <u>United States</u> ^{BE}	131,028,000	416,800	1,700	418,500	0.32
 <u>Yugoslavia</u> ^{BF}	15,400,000	446,000	581,000	1,027,000	6.67
Totals	1,978,167,400	22,572,400 to 25,487,500	37,585,300 to 55,207,000	62,171,400 to 78,511,500	3.17 to 4.00

World War II Deaths :

World War II Deaths



Military and civilian deaths during World War II for the Allied and the Axis Powers.

In 1945, many regions were destroyed in Europe and thousand millions of people were killed or injured. Only neutral countries were not too much affected by the theaters or events of World War II. Estimates for the total casualties of the war range from **50 million to 60 million**, millions of people injured, 30 millions of civilians displaced awaiting repatriation, especially in Eastern Europe. World War II was the deadliest military conflict in history. Nearly **45 millions of civilians** were killed fighting or after bombings and the number of civilians killed is superior to the number of soldiers killed.

Some populations were almost decimated (deliberate genocide of around six million Jews during The Holocaust) and others are killed. including the systematic Poland lost nearly 15% of its population.

An estimated 11 million civilians died as a direct or indirect result of Nazi ideological policies.

2. Military casualties

The Soviet Union also suffered unprecedented casualties - the total deaths resulting from the war amounted to 53%, 31% for the Wehrmacht, 1.8% for the United Kingdom, 1.4% for France and 1.3% for the USA. In total, an estimated 17 877 000 militaries were killed on the battlefields in Europe with losses amounting to 10 774 000 men for the Allies and 7 103 000 for the Axis powers. The Red army losses of men account for 53% of the total number of European military casualties, Wehrmacht, United Kingdom, France and North-American army's military casualties respectively accounting for 31%, 1,8%, 1,4% and 1,3%. The Soviet Union military casualties account for 88% of the total Allied losses in Europe (United Kingdom 3%, France 2.3% and United States 2.2%). The total military losses for Germany and the Soviet Union alone account for 84% of the overall European losses. The military casualties of the German-Russian conflict alone amount to 13 876 400, representing 78% of the total number of European military casualties.

3. Material damages

Nazis and Allied bombings had wrecked serious material damages in some cities: Berlin and Warsaw were almost entirely destroyed. The bombing of Dresden on 13 February 1945 killed approximately 135 000 people. Several areas in London and Rotterdam had been severely damaged and needed to be totally reconstructed. Millions of people had been made homeless. Many of the continent's greatest cities, including Hambourg, Stalingrad, Leningrad, Sébastopol, Kiev, Kharkov, Budapest, lay in ruins.



The Western Allies bombed many locations in France. The total number of houses completely destroyed by the bombings was nearly of 300,000. The bombings destroyed 100 % of the city of Saint-Nazaire, and partly Le Havre , Caen, Brest, Lorient, Cherbourg, Évreux, Saint-Malo, Rouen. In France, the financial reparations cost 4 billions 900 millions of francs.

Especially damaged were the transportation and production infrastructures, as railways, bridges, and roads which had all been heavily targeted by air strikes, while much merchant shipping had been sunk. The destruction of transportation left the small towns and villages in Western Europe economically isolated.

A far as it concerns Europe, the Nazis used food as a weapon in occupied countries, stealing goods and causing starvation. The shortage of food was one of the most acute problems. Food rationing lasted after that Germany surrendered on 8 May 1945 (in France 200g of bread per day and less than 200g of meat per week). Towards the end of World War II (1944), the Dutch famine took place in the German-occupied part of the Netherlands. The overall economy was greatly affected by the shortage of coal, aggravated by the cold winter of 1946–1947: homes went unheated and hundreds froze to death. 100 millions of European had to live with less than 1500 kilocalories per day. According to Alan S. Milward, the situation was especially bad in Germany where in 1946-1947 the average kilocalorie intake per day and per inhabitant was only 1,800, an amount insufficient for long-term health.

4. Psychological effects

Every families of victims were profoundly shocked by this deadly war. Besides, the persons who survived in the concentration camps could never lived 'like before'. Traumatizing memories haunted them nights and days.

5. Economic situation

In 1947, the levels of production were inferior to those before the war: agricultural production was 83% of 1938 levels, industrial production was 88%, and exports only 59%. This situation was due to the lack of work force, the decreasing productivity of work caused by food shortages, robberies, bombings and sabotages. Globally, the economy of Eastern Europe countries was less severely affected than this of Western Europe countries, because Nazi occupation was harder there and USSR aimed at burning every crops. After 1945, governments and entrepreneurs had to transform war factories to cover both consumption and equipment needs. In France, the lack of coal paralysed the steel industry. In Germany, the lack of food, labor force, the lack of a national administration and the disruption of transport led to a dramatic situation. Black market and overpopulation threatened the country.



The global economy suffered heavily from the war. To finance the war, many European governments were bleeding in debt. Great Britain received a loan of US \$4.33 billion from the US in 1945, while Canada loaned it US \$1.19 billion in 1946 with a 2% annual interest rate. Germany agreed to pay reparations of US \$20 billion to the USSR.

Trade decreased because of aerial bombardment and merchant shipping, which had been sunk. Many countries were in a state of economic ruin. Unemployment and food shortages led to strikes. The social background became more and more difficult. In this context, communism and demonstrations raised. Due to shortages, Europe was mainly dependent on the US importations.

The inflation weakened European currencies. In France, the Vichy government invested a lot of money into the production, increasing the inflation of the country. The pound sterling was devaluated against the US dollar. In Germany, American cigarettes became used as a form of commodity money.

Germans often refer to 8 May 1945 as the *Stunde Null* (hour zero), marking the end of World War II in Germany and the capitulation of the Nazi government.

The Potsdam Conference, which settled the division of Germany (and Austria) respectively into four occupation zones, was held in Potsdam, from 16 July to 2 August 1945. Participants were the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom (and France), and the United States. Germany's eastern border was to be shifted westwards to the Oder-Neisse line, effectively reducing Germany in size by approximately 25% (= 357,000 km²) compared to its 1937 borders.

Large numbers of factories were dismantled or simply destroyed by the Soviets in their occupation zone, whereas no agreement had been settled regarding war reparation paid by Germany. USSR wanted Germany to pay the economic collapse of the Soviet Union during the war. 40% of the industry was transferred and the Soviets turned at least 200 enterprises into 'soviet action companies'. They entirely controlled a big part of the energy and heavy industry sectors. From 1948, big properties were shared, political opponents were interned and freedom of expression was censored in the media. However, Staline did not want at first to divide the country. Indeed, he wanted to control the production and distribution of coal and steel in the Ruhr. The creation of the GDR in 1949 only conferred a fictive sovereignty to the new State.

For the Western Allies, Germany remained a danger. The fear of communism counterbalanced the strong envy to eradicate Nazism. It led to a more liberal environment, symbolized by the adoption of the tricolour, designating as the flag of both West and East Germany (the imperial tricolour was given up). But, denazification - an Allied initiative to rid German and Austrian society of any remnants of the National Socialist ideology - spread. Laws and Nazi organizations only ended at the beginning of Fall 1945. In the American zone and those occupied by the allies, many people had to fill out a form, which listed exonerated, or non-incriminated person. These latter were allowed to retake jobs in civil service.

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With the cooperation of the following National Agencies:

