

WORLD WAR II WORKSHEET #3 RUSSIAN FACTORIES

VOCAB:

USSR = The Soviet Union = Russia when it was communist

NON-AGGRESSION TO INVASION OF RUSSIA:

While you may remember that the Nazis and the Communists were bitter enemies before and during World War II, it may surprise you to learn that for a brief time Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia agreed to a treaty that declared that neither nation would fight each other. This is called a **non-aggression pact**.

In 1939, Hitler was preparing for war, and he knew that Germany could not survive a two front war like in World War I. Hitler wanted to control Poland, and he was willing to take it by force. He also knew that if he invaded Poland by force, France and Great Britain would declare war against him. Russia also might be drawn into the war. The non-aggression pact would ensure that he could invade Poland and only fight the British and French.

The Nazis had unbelievable success in the two years after their invasion of Poland. The US was still out of the war, Great Britain was barely hanging on, and the other major nations of Western Europe were under Hitler's control. A cult of success surrounding Hitler developed, one that thought he could do no wrong and that every decision he made was correct. Germany thought itself invincible in war. This feeling of invincibility caused the Nazis to invade the USSR (Russia). This decision would prove to be their ultimate mistake.

On June 22nd, 1941, 3,000,000 Nazi soldiers invaded the Soviet Union. By September, they controlled all of eastern Russia up to 150 miles away from Moscow, the capital and industrial center of Russia. In other words, Hitler had taken over more land more quickly than any other military leader in world history. The land he took over included 60% of Russia's coal, steel, and food. Most Russians live in the western part of Russia, the rest of the country being a huge expanse of sparsely populated tundra.

THE RUSSIAN WAR EFFORT

As the Nazis approached Russian industrial centers, and with these cities under heavy fire, the factory machines were run until the last of the weapons were produced. Pilots waited outside of airplane factories to fly the planes directly into combat. Workers then disassembled the factories piece by piece and shipped to safety on the other side of the Ural Mountains. As you might imagine, the process of moving an entire country under fire was utter **confusion**. A continuous line of battered trucks pulled up and took machinery to the trains. Trains with forty cars were lined up, and machinery put on while