

Poland's Important Role in World War II

Lesson 1

German Nazism and Russian Communism

The Destructive Ideologies That Caused World War II

Nazism's Lebensraum (Living Space)

- **To survive as a race, Germans must expand eastward.**
- **Germans must conquer territories from the Slavs, starting with Poland.**
- **Because they are racially superior, Germans have the right to exterminate the Slavs, starting with Poland.**
- **The few remaining Slavs will raise the food crops needed to feed a growing German population.**

Hitler's German Empire under Lebensraum



Nazism's Racial Ideology

- **The German “Aryan race” is the master race.**
- **Slavs, Jews, and Romani are the inferior races.**
- **Intermixing with inferior races will contaminate the Aryan race to the point of extinction.**
- **To prevent extinction, Aryans have the duty to exterminate and enslave the inferior races.**

Nazism's Racial Hierarchy

1. Nordic German Aryans – The Master Race
2. Chinese, Japanese – Honorary Aryans
3. French, British – Lower Class Aryans
4. Greek, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese – Mediterranean Aryans
5. Iranians, Georgians – Eastern Aryans
6. ***Subhumans (Untermenschen) - targeted for extermination***
 1. ***Slavs***
 2. ***Jews***
 3. ***Romani***
 4. *Blacks were also considered an inferior race but weren't targeted for extermination.*

Communism – Main Beliefs

- **Classless society** – No capitalists who “oppress” the working class.
- **Government owns all property** – factories, buildings, land, etc.
- **Personal property prohibited** – homes, farms, livestock, etc.
- **Government controls all communications and media.**
- **Single political party** – Communist party
- **Government sets wages and prices of goods.**

Soviet Communist Anti-Polish Propaganda



Text on Banner: How it will End for the "Pans".
"Pan" is Polish for "Mister". To the Soviets, it meant "Lord" (of an estate). Wealthy Polish landowners were called "Pans" by the Soviets.

Text on Flag: Welcome Soviet Poland!
Local Russians welcome the Russian Army as it frees them from the "tyranny" of three Polish "Pans".

Propaganda poster from the 1920-21 Polish-Soviet War showing Soviet Army's removal of three wealthy Polish landowners.

The Secret Protocol in Hitler's and Stalin's Nonaggression Pact



How Hitler and Stalin secretly agreed to divide eastern European countries between them.