

Timeline of World War II: 1931–1941 ^[1]

Prelude to war: 1931–1938

Historians consider World War II to have begun when Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. But events in the 1930s in Europe, Africa, and Asia — including several smaller wars and military actions — paved the way. (You may also want to read again about the [Treaty of Versailles](#) ^[2] that ended the First World War but set the stage for the Second.)

- [1931](#) ^[3]
- [1932](#) ^[4]
- [1933](#) ^[5]
- [1934](#) ^[6]
- [1935](#) ^[7]
- [1936](#) ^[8]
- [1937](#) ^[9]
- [1938](#) ^[10]

The war begins: 1939

In [1939](#) ^[11], German aggressions in Europe finally sparked open war.

German advances, 1940–1941 ^[12]

In [1940](#) ^[13], Germany quickly occupied most of Europe and invaded the Soviet Union. Only Britain held out in the West, and the United States was gradually drawn into the conflict.

User Tags:

[history](#) ^[14]

[North Carolina History](#) ^[15]

[Page](#) ^[16]

[Students](#) ^[17]

[Teachers](#) ^[18]

[World War II](#) ^[19]

[Creative Commons BY-NC-SA](#) ^[20]

From:

[ANCHOR: A North Carolina History Online Resource](#) ^[21]

Copyright Date:

2009

Related Topics:

[World War II Major Events Timeline](#) ^[22]

from PBS

3 January 2018

Source URL: <https://ncpedia.org/anchor/timeline-world-war-ii-1931>

Links

^[1] <https://ncpedia.org/anchor/timeline-world-war-ii-1931> ^[2] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/treaty-versailles> ^[3] <https://ww2db.com/event/timeline/1931/> ^[4] <https://ww2db.com/event/timeline/1932/> ^[5] <https://ww2db.com/event/timeline/1933/> ^[6] <https://ww2db.com/event/timeline/1934/> ^[7] <https://ww2db.com/event/timeline/1935/> ^[8] <https://ww2db.com/event/timeline/1936/> ^[9] <https://ww2db.com/event/timeline/1937/> ^[10] <https://ww2db.com/event/timeline/1938/> ^[11] <https://ww2db.com/event/timeline/1939/> ^[12] <https://ww2db.com/event/timeline/1941/> ^[13] <https://ww2db.com/event/timeline/1940/> ^[14] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/history> ^[15] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/north-carolina-6> ^[16] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/page> ^[17] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/students> ^[18] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/teachers> ^[19] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/world-war-ii> ^[20] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/creative-commons> ^[21] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/anchor-north> ^[22] <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/specialfeatures/world-war-ii-major-events-timeline/#>