

# UNIDAD EDUCATIVA PARTICULAR JAVIER BACHILLERATO EN CIENCIAS

## MONOGRAPH

"WWII: The effects in geopolitics and the consequences in economics, social and ethnic aspects in Europe"

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# Gratitude

First of all, I thank God, my family for constantly supporting me in the educational field, my teachers who have been there supporting me at all times to carry out this work.



#### Summary

This monograph contains and pretends to help to known how, the reasons why, and the causes of the migration, the economic and geopolitics consequences in Europe since World War II.

This monograph was start to write down since the chosen of the topic. This work has as their fundamental purpose, the searching to make known in a better way the reality that many Europeans lived in the second world war, fixing in some parts that do not know so much, for example in this monograph there is a part that talks about the fascist government of Antonescu, not talk too much about it because was in the shadow of the giants, the Kingdom of Italy and Nazi Germany.

The Second World War was a massive historic event that will mark a new start point for the humanity, and the beginning of the battle of two superpowers, United States of America and the Soviet Union, at the Cold War. In addition to the representation of memorable and historical battles that would mark a before and after mechanical engineering, in the case of tanks for the battle of Kursk.

A big group of authors also talk about this biggest event and the consequences and repercussions in the people, the most affected were the judish and the polish, also in the monograph, there is an interview with a descendant of Poles, who tells his story in it.

The most important part is to known that this kind of events we need to avoid, because a lot of innocent people can be affected, a lot of people migrated to other countries and abandon their home, and be displaced to places far from their origin. As humans we need to be more conscious about our actions to not commit the same error once again.



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#### Introduction

The importance of the topic:" WWII: The effects in geopolitics and the consequences in economics, social and ethnic aspects in Europe" is important as there are many parts of the history inside and post-war that are overshadowed or omitted, which is why in this research work it is in charge of presenting certain parts that are not known without having thoroughly investigated.

The objectives of this monograph are: To analyze carefully the conditions of the European society between 1933 to 1945, to identify the effects of this war in European society, summarize and recognize the majority of the affected of WWII, categorize the effects of ethnic-cultural mobilization at the end of WWII, demonstrate the origins of the conflicts in the future in consequences of the war, illustrate Geopolitics maps before during and after WWII.

The moments for which the events narrated in this monograph pass, correspond from the end of the First World War with the Treaty of Versailles and other causes that would be the reasons why the Second World War will be originated, countries expanded, giving rise to population displacements for political, religious or security issues, until the post-war and the division of the world that would give rise to the cold war.

A large number of books, texts, compilations among others, have been made about the Second World War and the migration for this aforementioned event. For example, William L. Shirer who was a journalist in Berlin and other major cities in central Europe such as Vienna and Prague during the years of the Nazi expansion, giving very important and detailed data about it. The countless texts are due to the importance that marked this event for the world, which marked repercussions until today

The monograph contains three chapters in which a deep and brief investigation about the Second World War is demonstrated, including key parts of it, it should be emphasized that the monograph is based only with the end of the war in Europe and not its total end. The first chapter "Reasons that caused WWII" mainly the causes and fascist leaders of the time. The second chapter "World War II starts" is based on the beginning, the Polish diaspora and the axis setbacks. Finally, the third chapter "The fall of the giants and Post-war Europe" is the final phase and some post-war events.

## Chapter I

## 1.1 Causes of WWII in Europe

WWII is one of the events that marked the humanity throughout history, it is considered the world completely changed after this event, the end of the colonialism and the division in capitalism and communism. In this chapter, it will be introduced the causes and the prologue of WWII.

## 1.1.1 Prologue of WWII.

Before WWII, there are many events that are remarkable because of their importance in the origin of it, many of the countries in Europe affected for WWI will have a comeback, and make Europe in hell.

## 1.1.1.1 Treaty of Versailles.

The Versailles treaty is known as the end of the first world war, as known as 'The Great War' is the point that Germany makes the armistice with the triple entente, represented by Italy, France, and Great Britain. France chooses the Palace of Versailles for revenge of them to lose in Franco-Prussian war when in this place is created the German Empire and finish it. One of the characteristics of this treaty is the dissolution of Austria-Hungary, the falling of Germany and the new raising countries, part of this nation before. These new raising countries were: Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Yugoslavia.

In this treaty, the main fact is that Germany loses many territories to be part of Poland, Lithuania, Belgium, France, and Denmark. The most remarkable of them are Alsace-Lorena for France and Prussia Occidental that in few years will be one of the causes of the outbreak of WWII.

Germany needs to pay huge quantities of money, 132 billion of marks, an excessive quantity if it is compared to the other countries that not have to pay as much as Germany, this will start the crisis on the Weimar Republic, German Republic post-war.

## 1.1.1.2 Raising of the Nazi party.

Germany was facing a really big crisis, and a little party name as the national socialist of German workers gets adepts in this period making his leader, Adolf Hitler.

This leader was a really charismatic leader, "Hitler was the primary source of the group cohesion, the focus of loyalty, and the personification of the utopian ideal (...)" (Nyomarkay,1967 p.4).

A strong leader, a population suffering and searching for a Messiahs to save them, to finish the agony and the shame that the winners make to the Germans were the base of the ascendant of the Nazi party established officially when the president, Paul Von Hindenburg dies of cancer of lung on 1934 and Hitler raise as president, later as 'Führer'.

## 1.2 Raising of Fascist leaders

In Europe, the feeling of peace was a utopia, many fascist leaders were starting to raise in Europe for many cases, crisis, instability and other causes. These leaders take advantage to take the power of their countries. The leaders that are presented in this text were the most important in the conflict.

#### 1.2.1 Adolf Hitler.

Adolf Hitler was a German leader, that governed Germany from 1933 to 1945, when he and his wife committed suicide. Hitler made one of the biggest comebacks talking about economy, he received a German republic suffocated by the debts, he not only made a really strong economy on Germany, also extended the army and created the 'Luftwaffe', German air force. Hitler is also recognized as one of the most charismatic leaders that

have existed along the history, he convinced the Germans, he was as the 'messiah' and wants to reunite all Germans in one nation like the H.R.I (Holy Roman Empire) and also the German Empire. Hitler ascended to the power in the Reichstag when an old Paul von Hindenburg made him chancellor. The Anti-Semitisms was essential in his speech.

Many estimations said:

According to conservative estimates, six millions of Jews were systematically murdered in Europe between 1933 and 1945. There can hardly any doubt that one man was the driving power and thus. In moral sense, responsible for this mass murder, (...) The term genocide created to meet the very novelty of the crime.

(Kurth, 1947, p.11)

#### 1.2.2 Benito Mussolini.

Benito Mussolini was an Italian leader, that governed the Kingdom of Italy form 1922 to 1943 when there was a 'coup d'etat' and Govern the German puppet in northern Italy until his death in 1945. Mussolini tries to enter with the nationalist party, to govern Italy as prime minister, in his autobiography Mussolini (2017) says: "I wanted the Fascisti to try alone the chance of elections. We did not ally ourselves with any other party, even with the nearest of them- The Nationalists. The atmosphere was against us (...)" (p.45). Mussolini has characteristics that represent fascist leaders, expansionism. In the period of his government expand and dominated Ethiopia and Greece as the most remarkable of them. Il Duce established an alliance with Hitler, "The new summit was requested by Hitler not only to justify his lighting alliance with Moscow, which Rome had bitterly criticized but also to force Mussolini to take sides within the framework of the Pact of Steel" (Corvaja, 2008 p.95).

#### 1.2.3 Ion Antonescu

Ion Antonescu was a Romanian leader, that govern from 1940 to 23 August 1944, the period of Romania's alliance with Nazi Germany and the consequent invasion to the Soviet Union. Romania retained their sovereignty throughout the period of an alliance. Antonescu government is considered fascist in post-war. His government was an authoritarian regime, but his government acquires many characteristics of Italy and Germany. As Deletant (2006) says "The case of Antonescu is the clear example of the dictum 'The past is more powerful than the present'. In twentieth-century, this figure is no figure more controversial. For most of the Western scholars, the Marshal is a war criminal" (p.4). Antonescu is attributed to the deaths of Jews and Romas during his period on power, the estimated 280000. Also for many Romanians, he is considered a hero, he avoids the deportation of a big quantity of Romanian Jews to exterminations camps in Poland.

## 1.3 Expansionism

In the beginning of the 20th century was marked because of the expansionism form the major countries: Empire of Japan, Union of Socialist Republics (USSR), Nazi Germany, Kingdom of Italy, etc.

This politic has as objective the expansion from the original territory size into others, annexing them by force or by other type of forms.

## 1.3.1 Politic of Expansion by Nazi Germany.

The expansionism of Nazi Germany has the same origin in many of the different territories that they claimed, they were part of the German Empire and have ethnic Germans living in borders from other countries, they need to be part of Germany again.

#### 1.3.1.1 Anschluss.

The Anschluss of Austria is considered by many historians as the beginning of the instability of Europe. The annexation of Austria is the beginning of the tension in Europe after WWI, Hitler was born in Austria, specifically in Braunau am Inn, a little two in the border between Germany and Austria. Ethnically Austrians, are Germans, have the same culture and the same traditions, Hitler wants to have Austria in the 'Great Germany' that he was building, with threats and pressure, in addition to a good percentage of Austrians were in favor of a union with Germany, Arthur Seyss-Inquart, an Austrian politician subsequently minister of foreign relations for Germany, take the power as chancellor in Austria, and called Germany to 'put in order' the country. Next of this Austria was going to pass to be known as Ostmark, a southern province of Germany.

## 1.3.1.2 Sudetenland and Bohemia.

The Republic of Czechoslovakia, was a country that raised at the end of the World War I, with the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian empire, the Sudetenland was a region ethnically German, them are descendants of the Germans who came in the middle ages by the invitation form the king of Bohemia. In the Sudetenland, there was a party named 'Sudetendeutsche Partei'. This group was looking for the separation from Czechoslovakia and unite with Nazi Germany, they were more identified with them, that in their country that was a set of ethnic groups, from Germans to Hungarians, from Hungarians to Ruthenians. Many historians said, Nazi Germany was really aggressive in their expansionism, however according to Pertinax(1960), the astuteness of the Fuhrer and the determination to annex all of the Czechoslovak Republic without bloodshed. To make this, Hitler made the pact of Munich, in this pact were intervened by Italy, Germany, France and Great Britain. The reason why France and Great Britain accept this pact was to force for more time the peace in Europe and avoid a new war in Europe.

## Chapter II

## World War II starts

## 2.1 Poland

In the Versailles treaty Poland resurfaced from the ashes that marks their history. But in 1939, Adolf Hitler made again Poland get on fire. Poland has a city, Danzig that was the unique port and exit to the sea, the problem was there are ethnically Germans, and Nazi Germany wanted. Poland was going to get burned anytime.

## 2.1.1 Big Threats

Poland have really big countries around them as Germany and the Soviet Union, both of them wants their territory, Polish thinks that Germany wouldn't attack because when pass the conference of Munich in 1938, Poland annex Teschen, a part of Czechoslovakia with the approval of them. But the 'Red Giant' was observing and preparing for a possible invasion in the future.

## 2.1.1.1 Molotov Ribbentrop Treaty.

The Molotov-Ribbentrop treaty marks the division of Poland by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. This treaty was signed by Joachim von Ribbentrop and Viacheslav Molotov, both External subject ministers from Nazi Germany and Soviet Union respectively. As Wedgwood (2011) says:

The Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact of August 1939, better known as *Molotov-Ribbentrop* pact, is generally associated with one of the darkest periods in modern diplomatic history. It was followed by the rapid outbreak of war in Europe and shortly afterwards by the Nazi-Soviet partition of Poland. (p.709)

Also, in this repartition the Soviets and the Germans repartition Eastern Europe, this treaty was the beginning of upcoming wars: World War II and Finish-Soviet war for the territory of Karelia.

## 2.1.1.2 September 1st, 1939.

In this day is recorded as the day when World War II began, German troops commanded by Heinz Guderian makes the 'blitzkrieg', that means flash war in English to referred how much time would take the invasion and capitulation of Poland. The attack to Poland took one month. This battle has as cobelligerents Nazi Germany and their puppet the Slovak Republic against Poland.

#### 2.2 Polish Mobilization

The Polish people have suffered around the history, migrating around the world searching for peace where was really difficult to find because biggest empires wants their territory.

## 2.2.1 Coveted Territory and Polish migration

When Germany was attacking Poland, The Soviet Union was waiting the moment for invaded the part that secretly, with the Germans accord to have. Poland was defending their territory with cavalry against tanks, they were massacred instantly, the aviation lost all their airplanes against the Luftwaffe in two days, Poland was struggling. When Warsaw finally fall when pass the month when Germans invaded the Polish land the territory was divided in three zones. The first one was the part of the Soviet Union that annex the eastern part, with relevant cities as Lvov, Vilna and in the new border with Germany, Brest-Litovsk. Germany distribution their piece of the territory in the general government of Poland and the more German ethnically parts that includes Danzig annexing the totality of it. With this Germany has a pass to their national territory of Ostpreussen by land. Polish who were not persecuted flee to other countries such as Britain or France. France being the place of government in exile of the Polish. The ones that stay on their motherland were part of the resistance and make as example in the future to other countries that will fell later in history.

#### 2.3 Fall of France

The Germans conquer Poland, the peace in Europe was absolutely destroyed, the democracies Great Britain and France became allies from Poland and declared war to Germany. France was also preparing for the war, in the period between wars the national government build the Maginot line, a very strong defense system composed of bunkers, anti-tank artillery and enough fortresses to avoid the German pass. But this biggest defense was only between Germany and France border, Germans attacks in Luxembourg in Belgium passing Ardennes Forest, a really important place in the world war in the beginning and in the final of it.

## 2.3.1 France capitulate

The French were crushed by the Germans, in a month and two weeks they had already surrendered. Germany took full advantage of the same strategy used in Poland, the blitzkrieg. The Germans signed with the French the armistice were said that Germany will take the majority part of France occupied, the part that is not occupied by them will be part of puppet government of Germany located in Vichy, also known as Vichy France.

## 2.3.1.1 Vichy France.

When the armistice was signed the new government of France non occupied, Vichy France was created. The government has as the leader the general Phillippe Petain. As Hoffmann (1968) says: "Vichy the pluralistic dictatorship is complex enough" (p.357). When Laval start to rule at 1942 the government of Vichy France starts to be more collaborationism and fascist. This government rule the south of France between 1940 until 1944 when the allies reconquer France and deposed Laval and Petain.

## 2.3.1.2 Greece and Yugoslavia invaded.

As many of the biggest countries falls, the Germans and Italians have other objectives in Europe. Yugoslavia falls in eleven days, Germany used their tactic to make surrender in the fastest way. In the case of Greece were different. Greece was tried to be invaded by Italy but them failed, when Germany was starting to make 'Operation Barbarossa', they sent many troops to conquer Greece and put a puppet government there, they do it fast.

## 2.4 Operation Barbarossa

Germany and the Soviet Union were allies since the signed of the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact, but Germany faithful to their politic starts to begin to unleash the wrath of the Soviet Union, at the time of invading Yugoslavia and be ally of Romania. the relationship between these two great countries began to be very tense. This operation has an Ideological, Economic and

Politic Objectives. The Ideological objectives was the conquer of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and the city of Leningrad. The economic objective was the conquer of Kiev and the rest of Ukraine. The politic objective was entering in the center of the Soviet Union conquering Smolensk and finally Moskva. On June 22, 1941, the war broke out and the beginning of the operation.

## 2.5 Stalingrad and the Nazi reverse

Germany was quite close to liquidating the Soviet Union, being only 40 km from Moskva everything seemed to assert a victory of the Nazis, but Hitler wanted to Stalingrad more than anything something that would practically cause a reversal in the German offensive causing the reconquests by part of the Soviets thus giving the beginning of the fall of a practically invincible army so far.

## 2.5.1 Battle of Stalingrad and the most important battles

The battle of Stalingrad marked the decline of the Nazis on the eastern front, after a long and hard battle, the German army would surrender, although some dissidents continued the fight was something practically irreversible, the fall was quite close. The Soviet Union starts the "Operation Bagration". However according to Connor (1987) the soviets in the majority of the war was defensive until this moment where they start a big offensive. Continuing with the operation would come very important battles such as that of Kursk, a battle well known for the deployment of tanks that took place. Then with the Oder-Vistula offensive until the next fall of Berlin.

## Chapter III

## The fall of the giants and Post-war Europe

#### 3.1 Fall of Berlin

The Soviet Union and the allies commanded by the United States, Great Britain and Free France were pushing inside from the German lands. The allies in the south and crossing the Rhine and the Soviets crossing Vistula and Oder rivers, the end of the second world war in Europe is going to finish when the capital of the Third Reich fall, Berlin.

#### 3.1.1 The fall of the Axis

The Germans were losing a lot of territory, the Soviets and the allies were pushing strongly to enter to Germany, remarkable battles are: Battle of the Bulge, Sicily invasion by the allies, Battle of Kursk and the battle of El alamein. This battles mention before were part of a demonstration that the Axis can be defeated. Inside Germany the warlike weariness was already very noticeable and the atmosphere very tense, as Shirer (1959) says: "This was a reminder to the conspirators in Berlin of the danger that confronted them at a time when the indiscreetness of some of the leaders was becoming a source of constant worry to the others" (p.932). Therefore, in the same government, there is an intention to committed a coup d'etat to prevent Germany from being totally destroyed, known as the Valkyrie operation organized by Claus von Stauffenberg, Commander of the reserves in the Wehrmacht, but this plan failed and the people that participated in them were executed. While in Italy, the allies had just

taken Rome, traveling north to end the legislature of 'Il Duce' for the last time. As Williamson (2014) says 'As the Allies advanced into Germany they were confronted by what could only be called 'indescribable, impenetrable chaos'" (p.24)

## 3.1.2 Yalta Conference

The Yalta Conference was held in 4 of February 1945, and was the subsequent wartime meeting of pioneers from the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union. After landing at the Crimean resort of Yalta, allied pioneers would have liked to characterize the post-World War II harmony and set up for revamping Europe. During the gathering, President Franklin Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet governor Joseph Stalin examined the eventual fate of Poland and Eastern Europe, the control of Germany, the arrival of prewar governments to involved nations, and the Soviet passage into the war with Japan. While the members left Yalta satisfied with the outcome, the meeting later was seen as a selling out after Stalin broke guarantees in regards to Eastern Europe. The Yalta conference is also known because to be the predecessor of the United Nations that will be finally created at the post-war in 1948.

## 3.1.3 Repartition and repatriation in Europe.

With the fall of Nazi Germany, a Europe devastated and free of the absolutism will start to take form. In this period of time is when the Soviets, Americans, British and the rest of the allies discover the concentration camps, where the Nazi's use to abuse of the war prisoners and minorities, the more known prisoners were the Jews, because the preaching of the Nazi's, that says that this race was the causes of the German decline. This was the reason for comeback in many cases to their birth country, specially by Polish and French, the most affected in the war, but the repartition of Europe will not be exactly what the people want, it would be as the winners' fate.

## 3.2 Europe distributed

As the before point says, when the Nazi Germany fall, Europe was devastated, and know there is a new conflict approaching to Europe really fast, two types models of government, Communism and Capitalism, by the new superpowers: United States as the defender of the Capitalism and the Soviet Union as the defender of the Communism. Continuing what was mentioned above the German's allies: Slovakia, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria and the occupied territories like Vichy France were distributed by the two giants and their allies. The following explains in detail how the distribution of Europe was.

## 3.2.1 Germany

Germany would be the most distributed part by the allies and the soviets, they not want that this country rise again and make Europe in a battlefield again, Introducing to this, according to Shlaim(1985) basically, the contention to be progressed here is that there was never any genuine probability of keeping away from the segment of Germany given the bipolarity which portrayed the global framework after 1945, If this was undoubtedly the situation, at that point it pursues that the contentions of the conventionalist students of history who view the Soviet Union as solely in charge of the segment of Germany and the contentions of the revisionist antiquarians who lay the fault totally at America's entryway, must be dismissed as similarly unconvincing.

The winners decided to distributed Germany in fourth zones controlled by them, there were, France, Great Britain, Soviet Union and the United States. Great Britain and France ends up giving up their parts to the United States and form the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviets also form their puppet, German Democratic Republic. The most symbolic part about these two countries was the Berlin wall that divided Berlin in two and demonstrated the differences about the two models of government and will be the most remarkable place in the cold war for many historians.

## 3.2.2 Western Europe

Western Europe when the war ends, they fall around the capitalism sphere, these countries were all the countries at the west of Berlin, This countries start to recovered with the Marshall Plan around 1948, the most remarkable country was the Federal Republic of Germany that were in frontier with several Soviet sphere nations as the Democratic Republic of Germany.

## 3.2.3 Eastern Europe

Eastern Europe as the same as the western when the war ends, they fall around a big power, in this case to the Soviet Union, this country created a several satellite and puppet countries for repress and maintains their ideology as the controller of their countries, in addition of the Democratic Republic of Germany one great example is Czechoslovakia when happens the Velvet revolution, when Czechs and Slovaks with pacific protest finish the rule of the communist party.

#### Conclusions

At the end of this monographic work it was concluded that:

- The Versailles treaty and the crisis in Europe after WWI were the base and the start of the uprising of fascist leaders around Europe, and are a fundamental cause about the origin of WWII.
- Ion Antonescu is a fascist leader who is not talk about much in history, although
  his importance in campaigns in Eastern Europe are vital, and his way of
  proceeding.
- The expansionism policy by the axis powers were very well planned, but on the whim of a part of the leaders, they had the reverse and subsequent defeat.
- Nazi Germany also conquered territories peacefully, in Austria with the Anschluss, in Czechoslovakia first the Sudeten and later Bohemian, and taking out puppet governments as in the case of the Slovak Republic and the independent state of Croatia.
- Poland was the country most affected, because the invasion to them in this period,
   a group of their population migrate.
- Reaffirms that the battle of Stalingrad marks the reverse of the war.
- Reaffirm the great importance of the battle of Kursk in the course of the war, this being the battle with more war chariots in history.
- The maps of Europe at post-war will be mark by the ideology that the country followed.
- In addition to the most recognized fascist governments of the time, such as Nazi
   Germany, the kingdom of Italy and the kingdom of Spain. Thus, it was conclude that there were other governments, that being in the shadow of the

aforementioned; the events starring them were not very noticeable, although they do affect the development of the war.

- The maps of Europe changed dramatically since the end of the First World War, the period between wars, during the war and post-war, which caused geopolitical changes, which caused a high displacement of some populations due to the result of the war.
- It is affirmed that the Yalta conference had repercussions until today as it is one of the bases for the future creation of the United Nations organization.
- It was conclude that this event would trigger in the coming years new wars around the world by being divide by ideologies: communism and capitalism.

#### Recommendations

## At the end of this monographic work, it is recommended:

1. This monographic text is read objectively, in order to analyze in a deeper way.

- Promote geopolitical knowledge of Europe before, during and after the war, as this will help to understand why the current distribution of countries in Europe.
- It is recommended to investigate the reader a little more about battles, to better understand their effect on war.
- 4. It is recommended that when reading this monographic work is read carefully, since there is the possibility that at the time of reading it goes unnoticed any data that may cause a different interpretation of it by which it is emphasized that the reader do.
- 5. It is recommended to avoid prejudices about the belligerents, since if the aforementioned is maintained, in the case that they are maintained, this monographic work cannot be read and understood in the way in which the author proposes what would affect the interpretation.
- It is recommended to contextualize and understand the situation that was
  experienced in Europe, especially the case of the Polish people, which is the most
  prominent in this monographic work.
- 7. It encourages the promotion of knowledge of history, which today many young people are losing, which will lead to mistakes similar to the past.

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