War in Europe and North Africa (Section 4 Notes pp. 820-821)

Why did the Allies concentrate on defeating Hitler first?

Stalin wanted the western Allies to launch a major attack on continental Europe across the English Channel. Churchill, however, argued that the United States and Britain were not ready. He wanted to attack the edges of Germany's empire. Roosevelt agreed and the Allies invaded North Africa.

North Africa Campaign (This is review from the other notes we took in class.)

The British defeated Germany at El Alemein, Egypt, which prevented the Germans from getting control of the Suez Canal (links the Mediterranean with the Red Sea/important trade route/access to oil). The Allies drove the Germans out of North Africa in May 1943.

The Invasion of Italy by Patton and Montgomery

July 1943 -- U.S. troops landed in Sicily
September 1943 – U.S. troops invaded Italy
June 4-5, 1943 – liberation of Rome

June 1941 -- German invasion of the Soviet Union -- Operation Barbarossa -- (This is review from the other notes we took in class.)

1941-1944 – Seige of Leningrad – blockade of the city – over 1 million died, no food, no fuel, Germans were unable to take the city, the siege was broken by the Soviets in early 1944

German forces also attacked other Soviet cities. The Soviets forced the Germans to retreat at Moscow. They also forced the Germans to retreat at Stalingrad after the Germans had taken the city. The Soviets did this by cutting off supply lines to the city (1942-1943).  This was a turning point in the war in Europe because the Germans were in full retreat!

D-Day/Operation Overlord (This was partly a review from the video and what was talked about in class. There is some new information for some classes.)

successful invasion of Normandy, France

D-Day is referred to in multiple ways: Invasion of Normandy (region of France)/Allied Invasion of Europe/Invasion of France/Invasion of Occupied Europe

June 6th, 1944 – You NEED to know this date for the test!

Phase 1 – paratroopers dropped inland from the beaches
Phase 2 – bombing of the beaches to create craters for the soldiers in phase 3

Phase 3 – amphibious landing

Beaches – Gold, Juno, Sword, Omaha, and Utah

U.S. troops landed at Utah and Omaha

From Normandy, the troops pushed across France.

August 1944 – liberation of Paris

**Battle of the Bulge** – three week battle in December of 1944 – last German offensive (250,000 men!) of the war against U.S. forces (80,000 men) – took place in the Ardennes in Belgium and Luxembourg

America was spread thin and hampered by thick fog. The U.S. was forced into retreat.

The U.S. finally won when better weather allowed for them to bomb the German positions.

**German Surrender**

Hitler committed suicide on April 30th, 1945 as the Soviets marched toward Berlin, Germany.

Soviets captured Berlin and German soldiers start surrendering – May 2nd

German signed an unconditional surrender on May 6th.

**Victory in Europe (V-E Day)** – May 8th

Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945 and Harry Truman became president.