

THUS BEGAN THE WORLD WAR II

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***Abstract:** World War II is now at three generations away, and this year, on September 1, it was 83 years since it broke out. The war cast a long and very dark shadow over the second half of the 20th century.*

The commemoration of his victims continues and the popular fascination with his history is still alive. Unlike the Great War of 1914–1918, the second conflict affected literally the entire world, resulted in around five times as many deaths, and was punctuated by remarkable moments of drama and sacrifice, all of which explain that lingering interest.

The chronological distance from this war has, however, allowed historians to think differently about how to describe and define it, how to explain its course, and above all, what topics should now concern us when we think to the experience and consequences of this war.

***Keywords:** Total War; battle; Danzig; holocaust; Polish forces; English diplomacy.*

1. Introduction

Hitler's invasion of Poland was the event that triggered World War II. Britain and France offered to support Polish independence and pledged to come to its aid in the event of a German attack. The British and French governments issued an ultimatum to Germany, demanding its withdrawal. Hitler dismissed this threat, believing that the French and British were unlikely to do anything to stop the German invasion. When Germany failed to respond to the ultimatum, Britain and France were drawn into another war, and so World War II was born.

Apart from the main causes, which generally led to the outbreak of wars, economic, diplomatic, military, historical, religious, the Second World War also had causes related to the political-military personalities of the most powerful states of the time and their vanity.

World War II deserves its reputation as the most horrific event in modern history for the way in which the processes of dehumanization and killing were based on so-called rational calculation.

„Science and technology were applied to the most murderous ends known to humankind. The range of uses was astounding, involving impersonal aerial bombardment, depersonalized murder in gas chambers, and face-to-face executions of entire communities. It is no wonder that, for

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