**Duan Zhenhua: The Nature of World War II; When Did the War Turn To World Anti-Fascist War?**

**Turning Points of World War II**

**Duan Zhenhua**

**2024-01-22**

The turning point of World War II is a focus of historical and military research worldwide. These turning points include strategic and operational levels, such as the formation of the International Anti-Fascist Alliance, the entry of the United States into the war, the Battle of Sicily, and the Battle of Stalingrad. These events have changed the course of the war, reflected changes in the balance of states and forces, and revealed the application of strategy and tactics. The lessons and revelations of history are still of great significance to today's world.

**There are 2 main views on the starting event of the World War II which is also known as the "World Anti-Fascist War".**

One view argues that the start date is 1939, because Europe was the main battlefield for the great powers at that time, the start of the war between the three European powers was chosen as the node. That is, Germany attacked Poland on September 1, 1939, and Britain and France declared war on Germany two days later, which is the start event of the World Anti-Fascist War.

The second view argues that the starting event of the the World War II is the September 18, 1931, Japan’s invasion of Northeast China. Most researchers agree that World Anti-Fascist War had ended on September 2, 1945 when Japan’s Fascist government officially surrendered.

**Second World War**

The second war on a global scale was fought between the three fascist axis powers of Nazi Germany, the Kingdom of Italy, and the Empire of Japan and their vasal countries, agianst the anti-fascist allied countries which were the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the Republic of China (nationalist China), and other many anti-fascist forces around the world. The war spanned from Europe to Asia and from the Atlantic to the Pacific regions. 60 countries and regions and more than 2 billion people were involved in the war. The nature of this war was the world anti-fascist war. In 1929, the world economic crisis intensified domestic conflicts within Germany. The Nazi Party quickly expanded to become the largest party in the German Third Empire. In January 1933, Adolf Hitler came to power in the Third Empire. In February, he Hitler plotted an arson attack on the Reichstag. In March, Germany passed the Authorization Act, followed by a series of fascist bills, and in August of the following year, the Head of State Act was promulgated.  A comprehensive reorganization of national life was carried out and **a fascist system of highly centralized political was established** , and arms expansion and war preparations were stepped up.

In 1931, Japan caused the September 18th Incident by invading Northeast China, thus forming the first source of war in the east of the world. Since the September 18th Incident in 1931, Japan has embarked on the path of war and fascism. After the "February 26" incident in 1936, the Japanese military fascists took control of the army, and the civilian fascist clique headed by Prime [Minister Hirota Koki](https://link.zhihu.com/?target=https%3A//baike.so.com/doc/6708848-6922864.html) took control of the government, made Japan a complete fascist regime. On July 7, 1937, Japan launched a full-scale war of aggression against China, which became the major mark of the outbreak of World War II in Asia. On September 1, 1939, the German army launched an attack on Poland, after which Britain and France declared war on Germany, and a full-scale world war broke out.

In order to fight against the common enemy fascism, on January 1, 1942, 26 countries including China, the United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union jointly signed the "United Nations Declaration” during the [Arcadia Conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arcadia_Conference), as the Allied "[Big Four](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Policemen) Countries"—the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States), the [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom), the [Soviet Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union), and [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_China_(1912-1949)). They signed a short document which later came to be known as the United Nations Declaration, and the next day the representatives of 22 other states added their signatures. This Declaration became the basis of the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations), which was formalized in the [UN Charter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charter_of_the_United_Nations), signed by 50 countries on 26 June 1945.

**Background of the World Anti-Fascist Alliance**

First was the alliance and declaration by Western Powers under the leadership of Britain which is called [Declaration of St. James's Palace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration_of_St_James%27s_Palace)  in June 1941. Second was the [Anglo-Soviet Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Soviet_Agreement) which was signed in July 1941 forming a military alliance between the [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) and the [Soviet Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union). Third the [Atlantic Charter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_Charter) was agreed on 14 August 1941 between Britain and the United States. Later, in 24 September 1941 the other Allies, including the Soviet Union, agreed to follow and adopt the common principles of policy set forth by Britain and United States in 14 August 1941.

**Important Turning Points**

In 1943, Germany was defeated in the Battle of Stalingrad ((17 July 1942 – 2 February 1943) , which became an important turning point in the **World Anti-Fascist War**. On September 8, Italy surrendered. And on May 8, 1945, Germany surrendered. On August 15, 1945 Japan announced its surrender. The war ended with the World Anti-Fascist Alliance defeating fascism.

**Most Important Turning Point of the World War Two**

The Second World War profoundly changed human history. Its influence widely involves politics, economy, military, diplomacy, culture and science and technology at all levels.

 World War II objectively promoted the development of science and technology, leading to the development and progress of aviation technology, atomic energy, heavy artillery and other fields.

The turning points of World War II is an important topic studied by many historians and military experts.

This global war had a profound impact on world history, and certain turning points marked a major change in the war situation. This article will explore the turning points of World War II and analyze how these turning points affected the course and outcome of the war.

**The study on turning points of World War II can be divided into two levels:** strategic and operational war levels. A strategic turning point refers to a decision or event that has a significant impact on the entire war situation, while an operational turning point refers to a key victory or defeat in a specific battle.

First, from a strategic perspective, on January 1, 1942, 26 countries signed the United Nations Declaration in Washington, marking the formation of the international anti-fascist alliance. The formation of this alliance had a profound impact on the entire war situation and laid the foundation for the Allies' final victory. In addition, the United States' entry into the war at the end of 1941 also greatly enhanced the strength and morale of the Allied forces.

At the operational wars level, some key battles and events had a significant impact on the course of the war. For example, in July 1943, the Allied forces landed in Sicily, Italy and successfully occupied this island. This battle became a turning point in Italy's surrender. In addition, the Battle of Stalingrad was also an important battle in World War II. The Stalingrad battle began in August 1942 and lasted until February 1943. It was a key battle in the Soviet-Nazi Germany War.

The Soviet army achieved a decisive victory in this battle and began a strategic counterattack, eventually driving the German Nazis out of Soviet Union.

**These turning points played an important role in World War II.**

First, they changed the course and outcome of the war. At the strategic level, the formation of the International Anti-Fascist Alliance and the United States' entry into the war provided the Allies with more powerful power and resources, which accelerated the defeat of the Axis powers.

At the war operational level, victory or defeat in key battles often determines the fate of a certain region or country and had made a significant impact on the entire war situation.

Secondly, these turning points also reflect the comparative powers of different countries which are in the war.

For example, in the Battle of Stalingrad, the Soviet Union's population and resource advantages finally defeated Germany's military superiority. This battle also became an important turning point in the Soviet-German war.

Likewise, the victory of the Allied forces in the Battle of Sicily reflected the military and economic-financial superiority of the United States and Britain.

In addition, these turning points also reflect the strategies and tactics used by the different countries in the war.

For example, in the Battle of Stalingrad, the Soviet Union used large-scale regimental tactics and used street fighting tactic to successfully resist the German attack.

In the Battle of Sicily, the Allies used clever strategic deception and air support tacrics to successfully achieve landing operations to this island from the sea.

Overall, the turning points of World War II are critical to understanding the war's historical significance and impacts.

These turning points have not only changed the process and the outcome of the war, but also reflected changes in the comparative forces of different countries, as well as reflected the strategies and tactics which were used by different warring countries.

Through the analysis of these turning points, we can better understand the historical status and impact of World War II, and we can also better understand the political and economic pattern and development trends in today's world.

**For Different Countries Anti-Fascist War Beginnng Dates Are Different**

**Britain and France d**eclared war on Germany on September 3, 1939, but it was not until December 8, 1941, when the Japanese army [attacked Pearl Harbor](https://www.zhihu.com/search?q=%E8%A2%AD%E5%87%BB%E7%8F%8D%E7%8F%A0%E6%B8%AF&search_source=Entity&hybrid_search_source=Entity&hybrid_search_extra=%7B%22sourceType%22%3A%22answer%22%2C%22sourceId%22%3A2703842198%7D) of USA that they joined the United States in declaring war on Japan; therefore, before December 8, 1941, **Britain and France**were only one of the European hegemons in the war between Britain, France, and Germany.

**The United States** sat on the mountain and watched the fight between the fighting tigers and wanted to keep benefiting from their fight until Japan attacked its Pearl Harbor incident broke out. So USA’s anti-fascist war started on **December 7, 1941**.

The Soviet Union's anti-fascist war began with the outbreak of the Soviet-German war, which began on June 22, 1941.Before this event **the Soviet Union was in war against Japan between**May to September 1939, this war was just a competition between the two countries for theis interests in the Far East. This war had no direct relation  with China's resistance to Japan which fully began in 1937. Soviet-Japan war was not an anti-fascist war, although Japan was a fascist state at that time. What is more **Soviet Union**signed the "Soviet-German Non-Aggression Pact" with Germany and took advantage of Germany's attack on Poland to occupy the eastern regions of Poland. (September 17, 1939) At this time, **Soviet Union**still had  "friendly" relations with the German fascists.

**Nationalist China’s**anti-fascist war started on September 18, 1931, after the agressive Japanese army attacked and invaded the Northeast China. Chinese government sought active support from USA, Britain and the Soviet Union and implemented partial resistance to invasion. In July 1937 with the pressure from people and the Chinese Communist Party and due to other reasons.

**Lessons of the World** **Anti-Fascist War**

In today's world, although turbulence in the world is not so sharp as those days of the second world war, the lessons and revelations left to us by history are still of great significance.

We should bear in mind the lessons of history, cherish the opportunities for peace and development, and strive to promote the process of world peace and development.

At the same time, we should also draw wisdom and experience from history, continue to explore and innovate, and contribute to solving the challenges and problems facing the world today.

In conclusion, the turning point of World War II is an important topic worthy of in-depth study and discussion.

Through the analysis and understanding of these turning points, we can better understand history, better grasp the present situaton, and more wisely look forward to the future developments. Humankind should work together to contribute to the process of promoting human peace and development.