

RESISTANCE GROUPS

Even though most of the population **supported** the **rulers** in the **Axis** countries many people were against them. **Resistance** groups **emerged** in almost all of the countries that the **Axis** **occupied**. These groups worked together in an **attempt** to **overthrow** the ruling parties and dictators. They **published** and **distributed illegal** newspapers to inform the population . They **rescued Allied** pilots who were shot down and **gathered** information about the enemy. Bombing bridges and important roads was also a part of their work.

Some of the work of these groups turned out to be very important in the war. The French **resistance** helped the **Allies** during the invasion of the Normandy in 1944. Yugoslavia had the most **effective** groups of all . **Partisans** drove the Germans out of Yugoslavia in 1944.

Even in Germany itself there was a small underground group that was against the Nazis. In 1944 , a group of German army officers **planted** a bomb that was to kill Hitler. The bomb exploded near the Fuehrer but he **escaped** with **minor injuries**.

Those who worked against the Nazis risked a lot . If they got caught they were almost always killed. Sometimes the Germans gathered hundreds of **civilians** and shot them as an **act of revenge**.



Klaus von Stauffenberg was the leading figure in the attempt to kill Hitler in July 1944

PROPAGANDA

All the nations that were in the war used **propaganda** to help **support** their ideas. **Radio broadcasts** reached many people and films and posters were also used . In Nazi Germany Joseph Goebbels controlled the **media**. He wanted to **convince** people all over the world that Germany was the most powerful nation and that the Germans had the right to **rule** the world.

Many Germans listened to radio programmes of the **Allies**. The **BBC broadcast** news programmes to the **mainland** to inform the people of the real situation of the war.

LIFE IN GERMANY

Germany's early **victories** started to make people believe in the war. There was enough food and clothing during the first years and **goods** came in from the countries that the Nazis **occupied**. But the situation changed by 1942. The army was **defeated** on the Russian front and there were fewer reports of **victories** to **cheer** people up. The **Allies** bombed German cities and towns day and night. **Yet** the people continued to work for the war.

Everyone was afraid of Hitler's secret police, the **Gestapo**. They **arrested** everyone that was against Nazi **beliefs** in Germany and other countries.



A poster that showed America as a monster that wanted to destroy European culture

LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES

In the United States and Canada, most people **supported** the war. They hated the Nazis and wanted to **defeat** the **Axis** powers, **especially** the Japanese, who bombed Pearl Harbour. America produced an **enormous** amount of **weapons** for the war. Old factories were turned into **weapons** industries, car factories began producing **tanks** and aircraft.

Millions of women started working in the war production after the men had left for Europe. They worked in **shipyards** and aircraft factories and also **replaced** men on farms.



Women working in war factories in America

LIFE IN THE SOVIET UNION

Life was **especially** difficult in the Soviet Union, where **intense** fighting went on for four years. Stalin ordered his **retreating** soldiers to burn down everything in their way, so that they didn't leave anything behind for German soldiers to use. But this also **caused** great problems for the Soviet population. Millions of **civilians** died of **starvation** and other diseases.

WORDS

- **act of revenge** = something you do to punish someone who has harmed you
- **Allies** = the countries that fought together against Germany, Japan and Italy during World War II
- **arrest** = to capture a person and hold him in a prison for a certain time
- **attempt** = try
- **Axis** = the countries that fought together against the Allies in World War II (Germany, Japan, Italy and others)
- **BBC** = British Broadcasting System
- **beliefs** = ideas
- **cause** = lead to
- **cheer up** = to make happy if you are sad
- **civilian** = a person who is not in the army
- **convince** = persuade
- **defeat** = to win against
- **distribute** = give out, send
- **effective** = useful, helpful
- **emerge** = to come up
- **enormous** = massive, a lot
- **escape** = to get away from or to run away from
- **especially** = above all
- **gather** = bring together
- **Gestapo** = the secret police force in Germany during the Nazi period
- **goods** = things that you produce to sell
- **illegal** = against the law, not allowed
- **injury** = wound
- **intense** = very strong
- **mainland** = the main area of land that forms a country; not the islands
- **media** = the information organizations of a country, like TV, radio, newspapers
- **minor** = small
- **occupy** = to enter a place with an army and control it for some time
- **overthrow** = to bring down; put an end to
- **Partisans** = soldier of a group who fights against the army of his country
- **plant** = place, put
- **propaganda** = information that is wrong, tells lies or only a part of the truth
- **publish** = bring out
- **radio broadcast** = a programme on the radio
- **replace** = to take the place of
- **rescue** = save, set free
- **resistance** = an organization that secretly fights against an enemy that controls their country
- **retreat** = move back
- **ruler** = leader
- **shipyard** = a place where ships are built or repaired
- **starvation** = hunger; if you don't have enough to eat
- **support** = to agree with an idea and to help someone
- **tank** = Panzer
- **victory** = to win against someone
- **weapons** = things that you use to fight against someone, like a bomb, knife or a gun
- **yet** = but