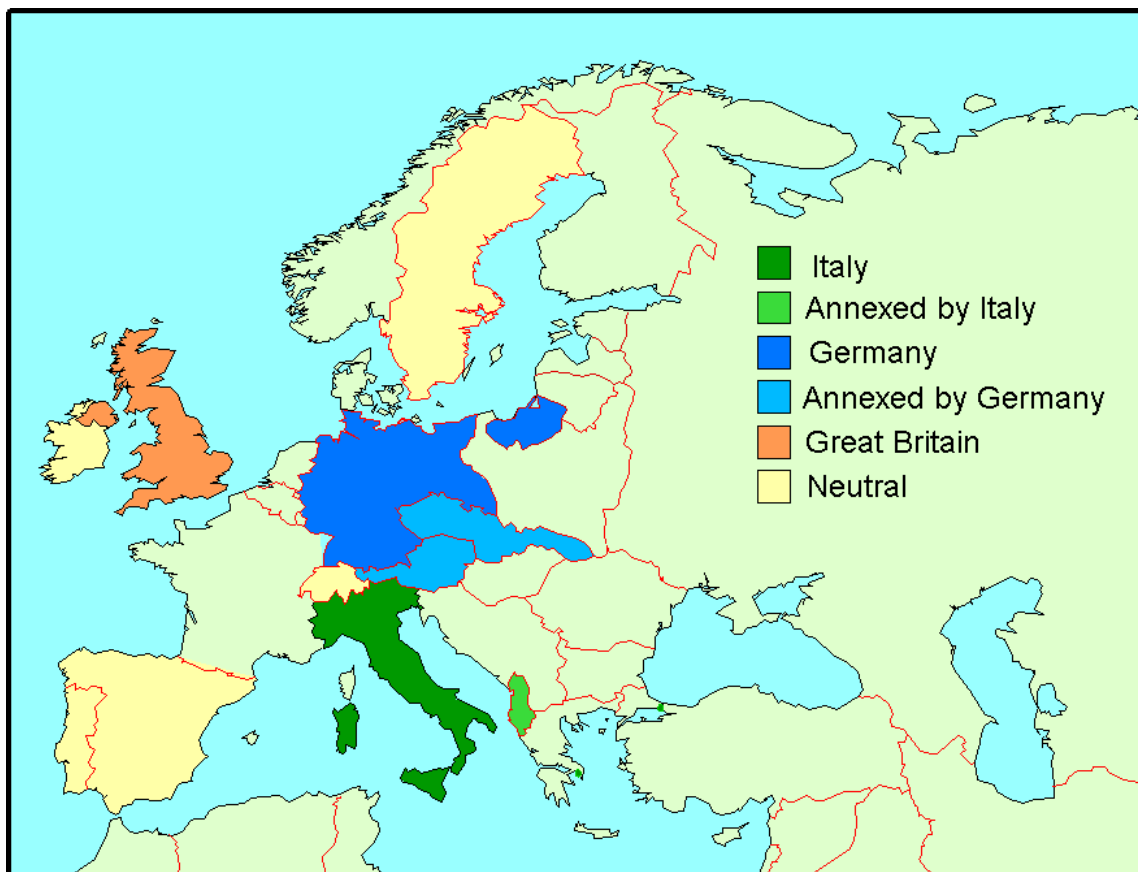


## The European Theatre, 1939-1942

The German *Blitzkrieg* (*lightning war*) conquered Poland in four weeks. The Russians, under the secret terms of the Nazi-Soviet Pact, seized eastern Poland.

From Sept., 1939-April, 1940 both sides watched and waited for the other to launch the first attack. This became known as the "*phony war*". Finally in the spring Hitler turned his blitzkrieg towards the west.





In April, 1940 Hitler launched an offensive against *Scandinavia*. Denmark fell in *one day* and Norway in *six weeks*. In May, the Nazis attacked the "*neutral*" nations. Holland fell in *five days* and Luxembourg and Belgium followed *two weeks* later.

On June 22, 1940 France fell into German hands and only a massive evacuation at "*Dunkirk*" saved the British forces from complete destruction.(Over 300,000 troops were driven across the English Channel, and the Brits were forced to leave behind large amounts of military hardware, weapons, etc.)

The Battle of Europe was over; the Battle of Britain was about to begin!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEvIOeELkBU>

(Up to 4:50)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oU1BbkK0EQo>

(start @ 12:10- 32:10)