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Account for the defeat of the Axis powers in the Second World War.

The Second World War in Europe lasted from 1939 to 1945, while the Second World War in the Asia-Pacific lasted from (1937 if sino-jap war considered) 1941 to 1945. The war was fought between the Allied powers of Britain, USA and the Soviet Union, and the Axis Powers of Germany, Italy and Japan. The Axis powers were eventually defeated in 1945, and three factors that led to the defeat were the better coordination of what? between the Allied than the Axis powers, the superior strategies of the Allied powers, and the greater amount of resources that the Allies had. (explain/define what did defeat meant/the process of defeat was in the two regions. Joshua)

The level of coordination between powers that were allied to one another is a factor in the Axis defeat. Through the war, the Allies showed greater coordination than the Axis. The Allies coordinated their military operations and supplies-gd. For example, the Lend-Lease Aid to the Soviet Union was an effort by Britain and the USA to provide resources to the Eastern Front. From 1942 a flow of food and raw materials and engineering equipment sustained the Soviet war effort. Thus, there was enough food to ensure a square meal for every Soviet soldier; most of the Soviet rail network was supplied with locomotives, wagons and rails made in the USA, and one million miles of telephone wire, 14 million pairs of boots, 363,000 trucks, all helped to keep the Red Army fighting with growing efficiency. This is significant because in the early stages of Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union, the Red Army fought poorly. More than five million Soviet soldiers were captured or killed in six months, and at every level of combat they were out-classed by troops that were better armed, better trained and better led. The Allied Aid to the Soviets was partly responsible for the reversal of Soviet fortunes, such that Soviet forces could push back the German advance and reach Berlin in April 1945, pressuring the Germans into surrender-gd!. In the Pacific War, too, the coordination showed by the Allies helped in their victory. The American bombing campaign on Japan by B-29 bombers destroyed many Japanese cities, while the American atomic bombs caused much devastation to the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These American efforts, coupled with the Soviet invasion of Manchuria on 9 August 1945, pressured the Japanese to end their war effort. This is significant because until this cooperation in attacking Japan, the American troops had seen that Japanese troops preferred death to surrender, to the extent that the Japanese used Kamikaze suicide tactics to cause much damage to American and British ships. The combined actions of America and the Soviets ended Japan's continued resistance to unconditional surrender. Hence, the coordination between the Allies was helpful to their war effort in both the war in Europe and the Pacific.

In contrast, the Axis powers were lacking in coordination. This may have been due to the nationalistic motivations that the Axis countries had. All were motivated by fascist ideologies that sought to implement aggressive foreign policies for the sake of national self-interest. As such, it was difficult for the powers to cooperate with one another. Germany's Axis partners contributed little to the overall war effort and probably hindered Germany instead. Italy invaded Greece in 1941 without informing Germany, and was intended by the Italian leader Mussolini to increase Italy's importance vis-à-vis Germany. However, instead of increasing Italy's prestige, the invasion of Greece hindered Germany's war effort as Mussolini was forced to ask Hitler for help when the invasion was turning badly for the Italians. Overall, Italy tended to get involved in disastrous military adventures which forced Germany to divert its resources to rescue its ally. Germany had to commit significant amount of forces to Italy when the Allies invaded in 1943. Germany and Japan failed to coordinate an attack on the Soviet Union, preventing -failing to prevent the Soviets from being pressured by a two-front war. The lack of coordination meant that the Axis could not build on their victories in the early

stages of the war, such as in Germany's expansion into Western Europe and Japan's southward expansion in Asia-Pacific. This is stark in contrast to the greater coordination among the Allied powers, which could help reverse the German advance in the Eastern Front, and the attitude of Japan towards unconditional surrender. This disparity in the level of coordination between the Axis and the Allies explains the Axis defeat in the war.

The superior strategies of the Allies as opposed to the Axis contributed to the Axis defeat in the war. This was true in the war in Europe, where improvements in strategy were being made by the Allies and while crucial strategic mistakes made by the Germans reversed Germany's occupation of continental Western Europe and Germany's advance into the Soviet Union. Hitler's strategy to attack the Soviet Union even when Britain was not defeated in the Battle of Britain in 1941 proved disastrous. -vgd Hitler had believed that Britain would not be strong enough to open a second front and the Soviet Union would be easily defeated. Despite early German successes in the war in the Eastern Front, with around 60 million Soviet citizens ending up under German rule, the quick advance into the USSR by the Germans meant that supply lines were over-extended, slowing down the German invasion, and giving the Soviets time to recover and giving Polish and Soviet resistance ample targets which further affected the German assault. When Germany's invasion slowed down, it also meant that the Germans would go into winter, which the Germans did not plan for – they were equipped with only summer uniforms in the expectation that they would be victorious by winter, and thus they suffered in the winter through frostbite, and faced shortages in ammunition and food. Hitler also made the strategic mistake of pausing to divert German forces to the south towards Kiev instead of focusing his forces onto Moscow. Thus, Hitler failed to concentrate on the Germans' combat power on potentially decisive objectives like Moscow in 1941. In addition, Germany's invasion of the USSR without having successfully defeated Britain meant that Germany was in danger of a two-front war. This was proven true when Britain, undefeated, was used as a launch pad for the Allied invasion of Europe in 1944. -excellent, just add how that use of Britain as a launch pad reversed the war for Germany and led to their defeat (as defined in intro)

On the other hand, the Allies also did their part in their victory by focusing their efforts on their strategy of defeating Germany first. America decided to focus 85% of their war efforts to defeat Germany and only 15% to defeat Japan. This was sound as Germany was a stronger fighting power than Japan. The Allies also made a wise choice in focusing on air power, at least for the British and Americans. The US President Franklin Roosevelt saw air strategy as a key to modern warfare and a way to reduce American casualties. At his encouragement, the Army Air Forces could build up an air force that came to dwarf those of Germany and Japan. At the centre of this air strategy that Roosevelt supported, there was a commitment to strategic bombing and the long-range and independent assault on the economic and military infrastructure of the enemy state. Such a strategy was already underway in Britain, when the US entered the war in December 1941. In January 1943, the two states finally decided to pool their very large bomber forces in a Combined Offensive against Germany. This strategic bombing of Germany was important because firstly, it forced the German Air Force to divert most of its fighter force to the defence of Germany- implication of this for Germany and its eventual defeat?, and to reduce sharply the proportion of bomber aircraft produced why and so?. Secondly, bombing was destructive to the German war economy, such that the Nazi Armaments Minister Albert Speer's reforms which allowed Germany to increase war production threefold without much increase in inputs was rendered obsolete-because?. Both these effects helped to cripple the German war effort. As Richard Overy argues, bombing provided the key difference between the western Allies and Germany. Even Hitler and his foreign minister Ribbentrop thought that 'the real military cause of defeat' was the failure of the German Air Force to counter the Allied air power.

In all, Hitler's strategy of attacking the Soviet Union while Britain remained undefeated, and the Allied focus on air strategy and on defeating Germany first, contributed to the Axis defeat in Europe.

As for the Pacific War, the superiority of Allied tactics vis-à-vis Japan's contributed to Allied victory. even though the Japanese made early gains in 1941 and 1942 with its expansion into Southeast Asia and the conquering of the British 'impregnable fortress' in Singapore in 1942, **the USA's strategy of winning a decisive victory at the Battle of Midway that same year reversed Japan's fortunes.** This loss for the Japanese led them to cancel their plans to seize New Caledonia, Fiji and Samoa as well as Port Moresby at Papua, **resulting in a shrinking of Japan's defensive perimeter.** The **Allied strategy of island hopping was also helpful in that the Allied forces were able to bypass heavy fortified Japanese positions and instead concentrate the limited Allied resources on strategically important islands that were not well defended but capable of supporting the drive to the main islands of Japan.** This strategy **made many costly battles unnecessary.** **This played into Japan's strategic weakness** – it had conquered vast territories and acquired a vast maritime empire in Asia, **but this proved hard to defend, as close to 2 million troops were still bogged down in the war in China, and Japanese defences became overstretched in Japan's vast empire**-**implication of these weakness in relation to Allies superior strategy?**. The submarine **strategy-should this be tactic? Major/overall battle plans are called strategies, methods used to achieve this strategy like use of submarine will be called tactic** of the USA also helped to weaken Japan. Submarine attacks by the USA ended the movement of war goods, raw materials, soldiers and food to and from Japan, an action which would have likely starved Japan into submission all by itself. **This was a serious setback for Japan because Japan often neglected the logistic side of war, and became too reliant on sea-borne supplies of raw materials to support the war effort, and with American submarine attacks, Japanese shipping suffered relentless attrition.** A bombing strategy by the Americans on the major cities of Japan was also detrimental to the Japanese war effort, reducing Japanese morale and industrial capabilities. Finally, the double threats of the American dropping of the atomic bombs along with cooperation with the Soviets in the invasion of Japanese Manchukuo by the Soviets, pressured the Japanese to reverse their earlier position on not surrendering unconditionally, and they submitted to the Allies. **Hence, Allied island hopping strategy and the strategic use of submarines and bombers, vis-à-vis the Japanese strategic weaknesses in the extent of the Japanese empire and the failure to focus on logistics, contributed to the Axis defeat in the Pacific.**

Resources and manpower were key reasons to the Axis defeat in the war. **The Allies had more resources, and a greater capability to mobilise resources, than the Axis powers.** The USA and USSR were huge nations with hundreds of millions of people who could fight and work. Both nations were well-organised for war production. The USA had long been the world's largest economy with tremendous infrastructure and manufacturing capability and it was also the world's largest supplier of oil at the time. **In this way, US military production was critical to the Allied war effort, as compared to the German war effort, which had to contend with a failure to mobilise their economy until 1943 due to Hitler's fear of losing public support and the government's disorganisation with various department and ministries competing for limited funds and resources.**-vgd As compared to Germany's level of economic strength, just like the USA, USSR's were greater. This was in part due to USA's contributions to the Soviets through Lend-Lease aid. As Richard Overy mentions, this aid was vital to the Soviet war effort, providing 53% of explosives and 58% of aircraft fuel while Soviet mobility on the war front owed a good deal to the half-million vehicles supplied from America. The Soviet railway system, on which the economy's performance hinged, was supplied with locomotives provided by America. **The USSR itself was also able to effectively mobilise its economy and resources. The USSR had prepared itself to survive a huge invasion by economically reorganising itself in the 1930s** – during a series of Five-Year Plans, the Soviet economy built thousands of

factories, expanded mining operations and moved much of its industries into central Asia, far from potential European threats and closer to the sources of its raw materials. **The Plans gave the Soviet government more rigid control of the economy than the Germans, which partly explains the failure of Germany to mobilise its economy effectively before 1943.** Even after the German economy was placed on a war footing and Germany had more sustained war production, it was still no match for the USA's and the USSR's production capacity. Between 1942 and 1943, the Soviet Union produced more tanks, guns and aircraft than Germans by a substantial margin. **-evidences and consistent comparison/contrast throughout this whole para is great. But remember to link back to -account for the defeat part – of the qn**

The Japanese were also economically weaker than the Americans. Japanese industries lacked raw materials and was a main reason for going to war in the first place. When sources of metal, oil and other needed products were located, they had to **be seen** to factories by ships which were vulnerable to submarine and air attacks. It did not help that **Japanese shipping was never adequately organised to efficiently ship needed supplies – this reflected a lack of consideration of the logistical side of war, like Germany – and Japan's best talents were not devoted to planning and organisation.** The Japanese government also never efficiently organised industry to maximise production or use production or use workers efficiently or gave priority to certain industries over other, and women were discouraged from work although factories lacked workers, **resulting in Japan being unable to supply its army and navy adequately. In contrast, the USA had few qualms about employing millions of women in factories to support its war effort.** The USA's production increased every month throughout the war, and its production was unhindered unlike Japan, **and thus** no Axis power could reach USA with their aircraft **production?** On Japan's side, its production facilities and entire cities were destroyed by US bomber aircraft. In all, US production was so great that Japan would never have been able to counter it effectively, **even if it had unhindered access to raw materials because..?** , to the extent that many historians argue that US production was the crucial factor in US success against Japan.

Thus, there was a greater amount of resources that could be used on the Allied as compared to the Axis side, and this meant that the Allies could more ably support the war effort as compared to the Axis countries, contributing to the Axis defeat in the war. **remember to link back to -account for the defeat part – of the qn – based on the definition too**

In conclusion, three factors that led to the defeat were the better coordination between the Allied than the Axis powers, the superior strategies of the Allied powers, and the greater amount of resources that the Allies had. These factors account for the Axis defeat in the Second World War.