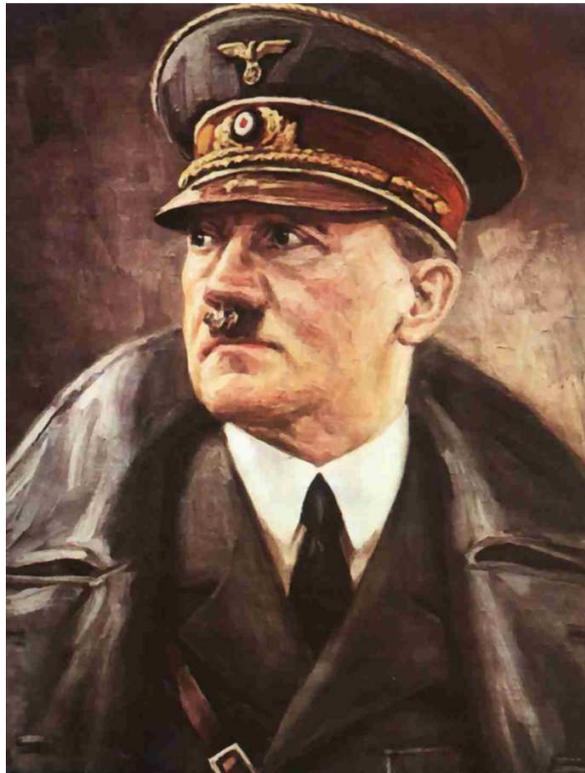


Why Hitler Declared War on the United States

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I feel that Hitler was an evil man who thought that he could rule the world. In doing so, he had to take a little piece of it at a time. The attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese not only gave him an excuse to wage war on the United States, he thought it gave him back up by Japan who had a great navy, which he did not have within his own country.

In 1941, Hitler started an operation called "Operation Barbarossa". This operation was meant for the attack on Russia, which became unsuccessful after the Red Army pushed Hitler back. During this time, Japan, which Germany had a nonaggression pact with, bombed Pearl Harbor. When Hitler saw this, he knew that the United States were going to do something, so right after the United States declared war on Japan, Germany declared war on the United States.

Hitler said he tried to avoid conflict with the United States, but Germany was obliged to join with Italy to defend its ally Japan because of the Tripartite Agreement signed on September 27, 1940. Using this excuse was Hitler's way of making it look like he had good reason to declare war on the United States when all along, he had been planning to do so for many years. I'm not so sure that his decision was irrational. I think Hitler felt it was a perfect time since the United States was at a weak state due to

the attack on Pearl Harbor and he thought that if America was in a war with Japan already, which he had a pact with, then maybe he could try and defeat the United States by getting help from Japan. He also knew that the United States was aiding the British because American ships were transporting cargo to Britain, supplies that were vital for the United Kingdom's survival. Therefore, declaring war on the United States would enable German U-boats to attack all shipping in the Atlantic thus restricting supplies to Britain and maybe forcing her to sue for peace.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, however, had no intention of declaring war on Germany at first because it wasn't Germany that had attacked the United States. It was Japan who did and brought bloodshed to the United States on its own soil. Also, Roosevelt knew that the people of the United States would be against fighting two wars at the same time. It wasn't until after Hitler and Mussolini declared war on the United States, that Roosevelt, declared war on Germany and Italy.

Hitler's plan did not work because right after the Allies took over North Africa from Mussolini, Hitler was weakened and began to lose a lot of ground. After most of Hitler's supported countries dropped out, Germany was no longer able to stand and so Hitler admitted defeat.