



Operation Barbarossa



Keywords

- Operation Barbarossa
- Nazi Soviet Pact
- Lebensraum
- Red Army
- Weather
- Stalin's Purges
- Kiev, Leningrad, Moscow, Stalingrad
- Scorched Earth

Operation Barbarossa

“We have only to kick in the door and the whole rotten structure will come crashing down”

Russia was important to Hitler as it would provide him with Lebensraum.

It was also important for resources

- To do this it would mean fighting on two fronts England and Russia. This was not advisable.....

.....But he thought England would be no threat

- The Russian army was weak so he thought it would be quick

Why was the Red Army Weak

- Stalin's purges meant that he basically destroyed the organisation of the army
- It took a very long time to defeat Finland
- They needed to reorganise
- Stalin did not believe reports and his intelligence

- German invasion was postponed by operation retribution which was against Yugoslavia
- Marched south into Greece
- Stalin's ignored the reports of the troops on his border.

German Invasion

- Germans invaded in three groups
- Leningrad North
- Moscow Centre
- Stalingrad South

Initial Invasion

- They were defeated easily in Kiev
- 2000 planes destroyed
- Air cover gone
- 650 000 captured
- In a week half way to Moscow
- Month captured an area twice the size of their own country
- 6000 tanks captured

Leningrad

- Army group North
- Siege they held out and that meant that 1 million died during the siege
- Cold and Hunger
- Germans failed to capture it

Moscow

- Army group Centre Moscow
- Winter had set in
- Scorched earth They burned as they retreated
- Germans were unprepared for the cold they suffered from Frost bite, they hadn't the right uniforms

Weather Conditions

- Petrol froze in tanks
- Uniforms were unsuitable
- More died from frostbite than Russian bullets

Stalingrad

- Army Group South
- Capture the Russian Oilfields near the Black Sea
- German Paulus
- Zhukov Russia
- Ordered to hold Stalingrad at all costs

Rattenkrieg

- For months it raged
- Zhukov gathered troops and surrounded the Germans
- They were cut off
- He was not allowed to surrender
- German were starving
- Paulus surrendered
- First major defeat

Kursk

- Largest Tank battle of the war
- They began to drive the Germans out
- German had lost Operation Barbarossa

