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*The Fall of Berlin*  
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## Learning Target

Students will be able to thoroughly describe the events which led to the fall of Berlin, and explain its impacts on Europe after the German surrender from WWII.



## Thesis

Germany's inefficient resources and poor military power granted the Russian forces a significant upper hand in the Battle of Berlin, which coupled with strategic military placement and support from the Allies, ultimately led to the German's surrender.



# Motives



Allies and Soviets "both" wanted to capture Berlin

U.S. was "**not interested**" in claiming Berlin

Stalin did not trust the allies (**wanted Berlin's scientific research and territory**)

- Decided to rush troops to Berlin as fast as he could



“

**The war will end with  
the fall of Berlin; And  
I stand or fall with  
Berlin**

”

**- Adolf Hitler**



What made  
Germany so  
weak?

Hitler launched an ill-advised counter-offensive against Hungary

- Wanted to relieve Budapest, **but failed and weakened military**

Launched Operation Nordwind, German offensive in Rhineland (Dec 31, 1944)

Battle of the Bulge

Prolonged Western invasion but again **weakened German military**



***EASTERN BORDER  
NOW VULNERABLE***



# The Three Parts

The Start



The Battles

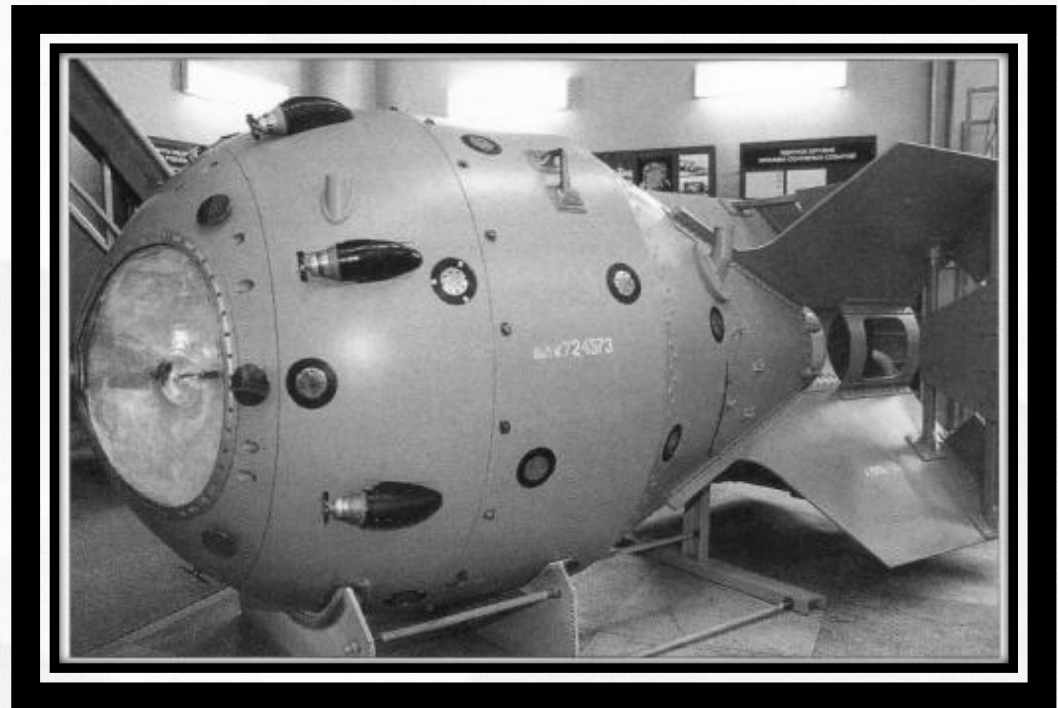


The Aftermath



Part One:  
The Start

The Soviet Army bombard  
areas around Berlin





# Soviet Union

- Led by **Joseph Stalin**
- Commanded by **Georgy Zhukov**

Important  
people





# Germany

Continued

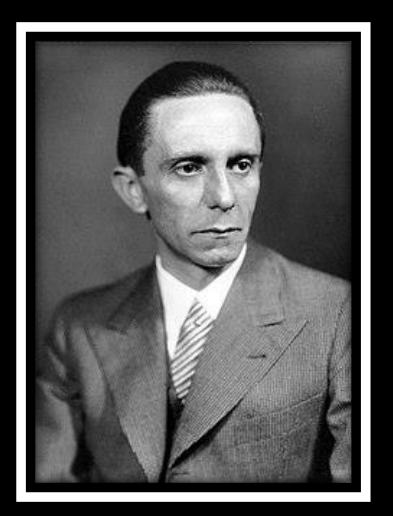
**Adolf Hitler** commanded and lead the defense of Berlin

**Heinrich Himmler** oversaw military



**Hermann Goering** oversaw military

**Joseph Goebbels** Boosted morale in Germany



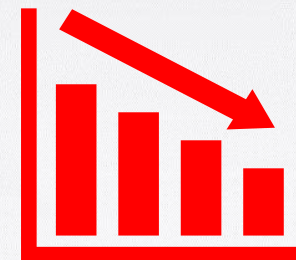
## Soviet Union

- Over 2.5 million soldiers
- 7.5k aircrafts
- 6.3k tanks
- 100k land vehicles
- Morale was at an all time high



## Germany

- 1 million soldiers
- 3.3k aircrafts
- 1.5k tanks
- 60k unexperienced soldiers (Recruited Hitler youth, elderly, handicapped)







Germany's Possible  
Victory

Because Russia was so far ahead at the beginning, Georgy Zhukov believed that Russia's victory was ensured.

**Used risky strategies that resulted in mass casualties** for Russian army



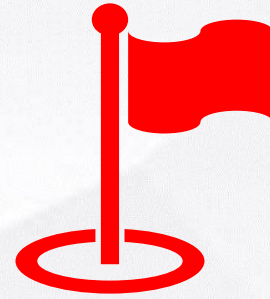
Review

What were the reasons why Stalin wanted to capture Germany?

Germany was known to be a dominant force in Europe. What led them to have a weak army?



## Part 2: The Battles



1. **Battle of Oder-Neisse**
2. **Battle of Berlin**

# Battle Fronts

- Most fighting at 1<sup>st</sup> BR front
  - Pushed by the Soviets to 35 miles from Berlin
- 2<sup>nd</sup> BR Front pushed to the Oder river
- Ukraine Front crossed Neisse river and gained Southern territory





Groups of the Soviet Army  
advance against the German  
defenses at Oder River.

continued





# Battle of Oder- Neisse

Conducted by **Russia's Red Army** through  
**3 fronts**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Belorussian Front: **Georgi Zhukov**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> BR Front: Konstantin Rokossovsky
- Ukraine Front: Ivan Konev





# Battle of Berlin

- Soviet attack on Germany
- Soviets outnumbered Germans
- Easily advanced through Berlin
- Captured all of Poland
- Completely encircled Berlin



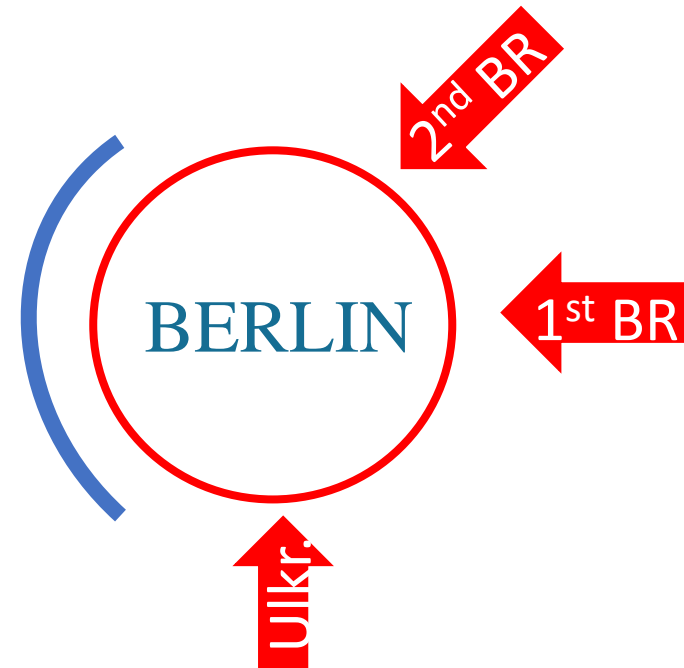
# Encirclement of Berlin

## Soviets planned to encircle Berlin

1<sup>st</sup> BR Front advances West

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ukraine front advances North
  - Destroyed South “Army Group Centrals
- 2<sup>nd</sup> BR Front advances Southwest
  - 50 miles from Berlin

[Allies coming towards East of Berlin from France]

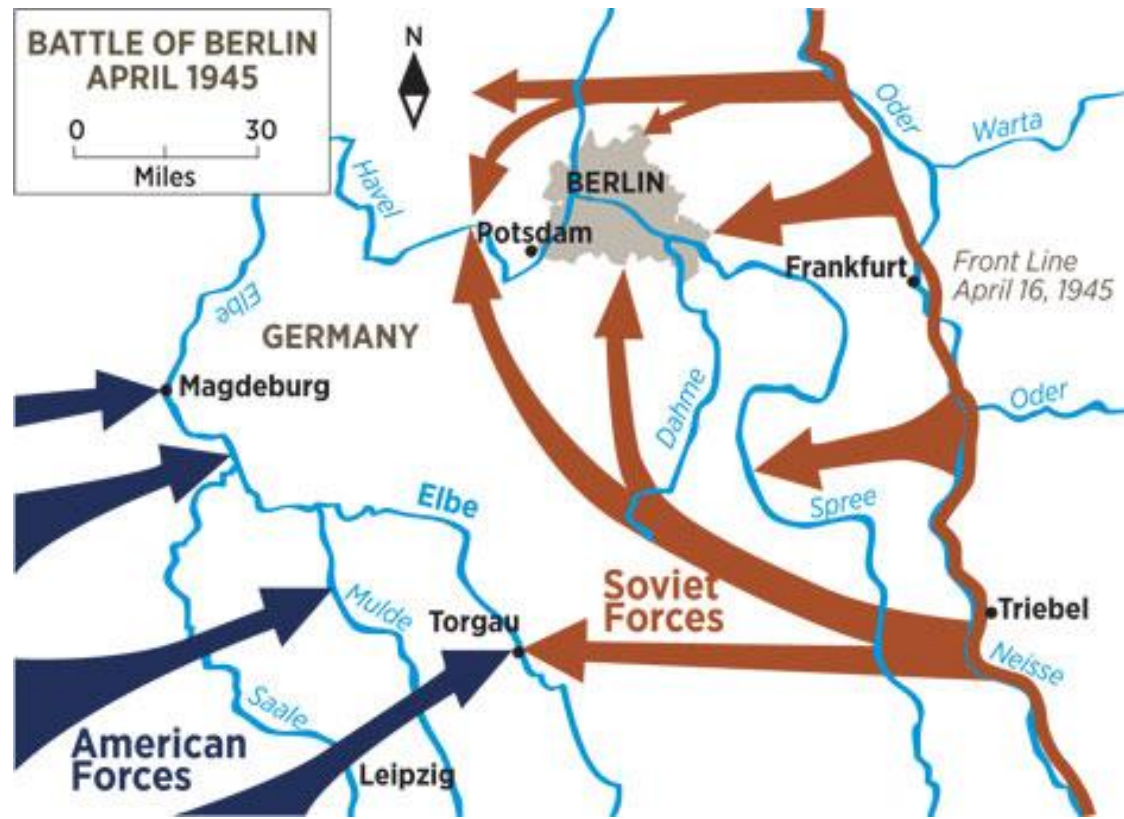


By **April 25<sup>th</sup>**, 1<sup>st</sup> BR Front  
linked up with Ukraine  
Front, Red Army **completely**  
**encircled** German capital.



**BATTLE OF BERLIN  
APRIL 1945**

0 30  
Miles



## 2<sup>nd</sup> BR Front



Ukraine and  
1<sup>st</sup> BR Front

1<sup>st</sup> BR Front



continued

Ammunition would  
be exhausted soon

Germany was running low on  
materials and troops

On April 30, Red Army **troops**  
**stormed the Reichstag.**



# Thesis

The insufficient German resources and military power granted the Russian forces a significant upper hand in the Battle of Berlin, which coupled with strategic military placement and support from the Allies, ultimately led to the German's surrender.



Part Three:  
The Aftermath





30<sup>th</sup> April, **Hitler and Goebbels** commit suicide.


On 2nd May, 1945 **Berlin surrenders**

**Germany surrenders** on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1945

**Marked Soviet Victory**



Germany's inefficient resources and poor military power granted the Russian forces a significant upper hand in the Battle of Berlin, which coupled with strategic military placement and support from the Allies, ultimately led to the German's surrender.







Causalities  
and Losses

Soviet Union	Nazi Germany
81k dead or missing	92k dead or missing
280k injured	220k injured

- 22k German Civilians were killed
- Berlin reduced to rubble
- **1 million Germans without clean water, shelter, or food**

Impacts- Short  
Term

## **Surrender of German Forces**

Death of several high-ranking  
Nazis

**Hitler and Goebbels suicide**

Germany suffered large  
industrial and economic losses



Long Term  
Impacts:  
Germany Split

## Territorial Change:

- **Soviets occupy East Germany**
- **US, Great Britain, France occupy West Germany**



April 16th, 1945  
Battle of Oder-Neisse

April 20th, 1945  
Encirclement of Berlin

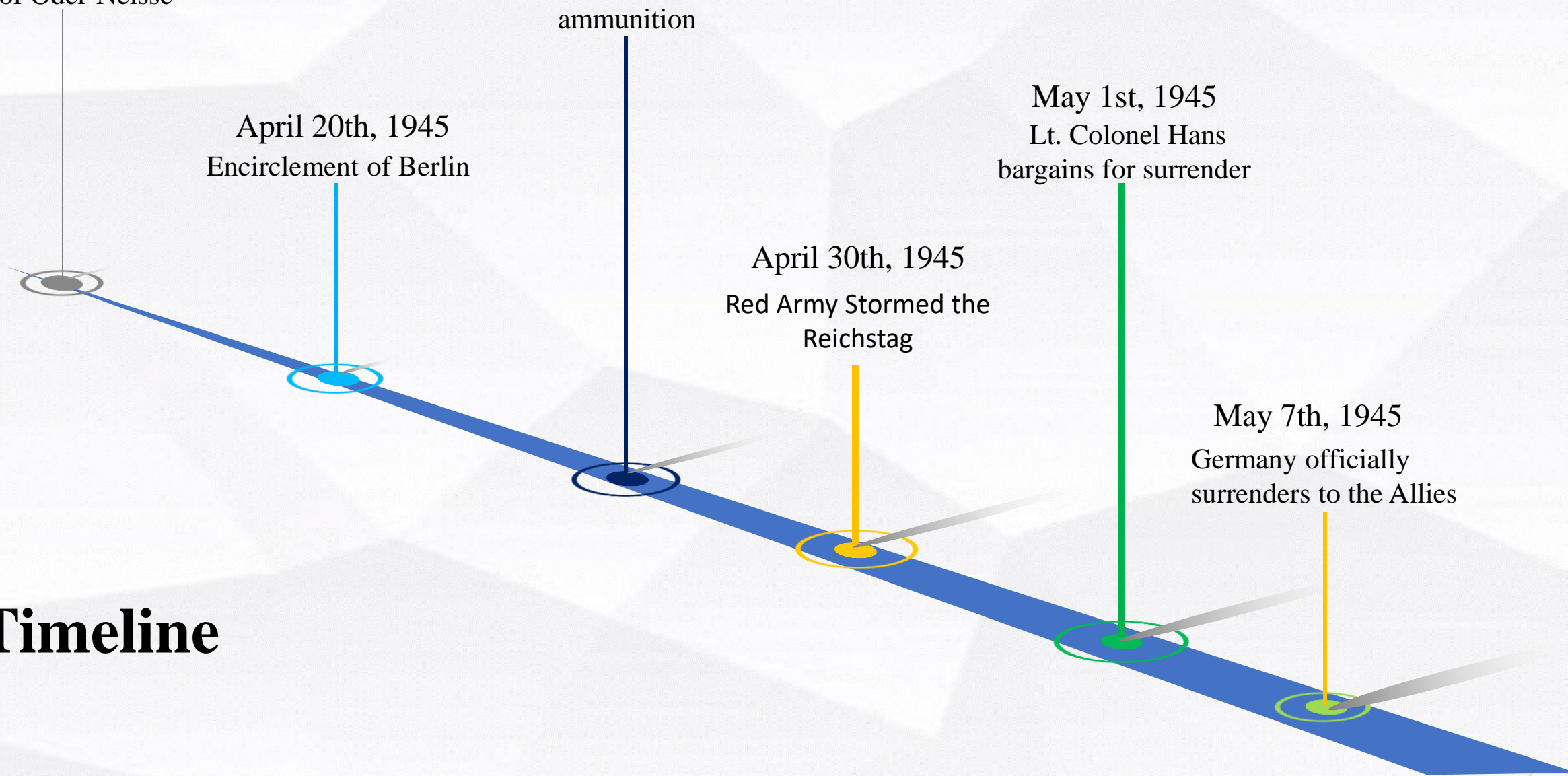
April 29th, 1945  
German ran out of  
ammunition

April 30th, 1945  
Red Army Stormed the  
Reichstag

May 1st, 1945  
Lt. Colonel Hans  
bargains for surrender

May 7th, 1945  
Germany officially  
surrenders to the Allies

# Timeline





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