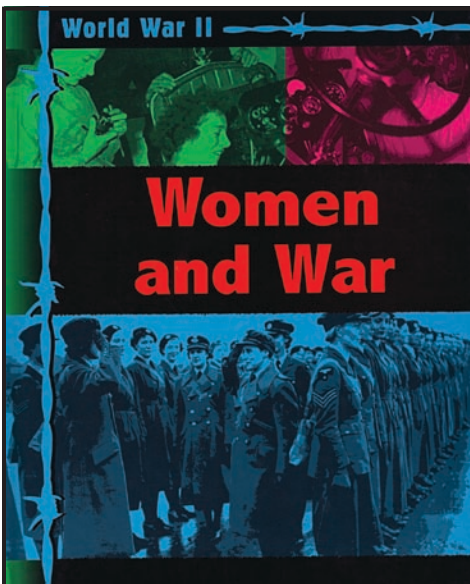
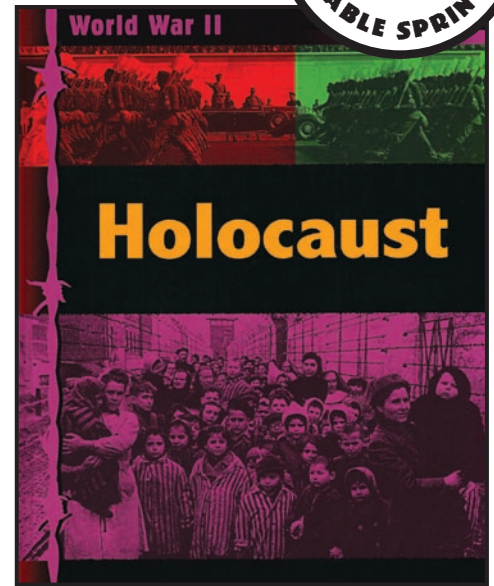
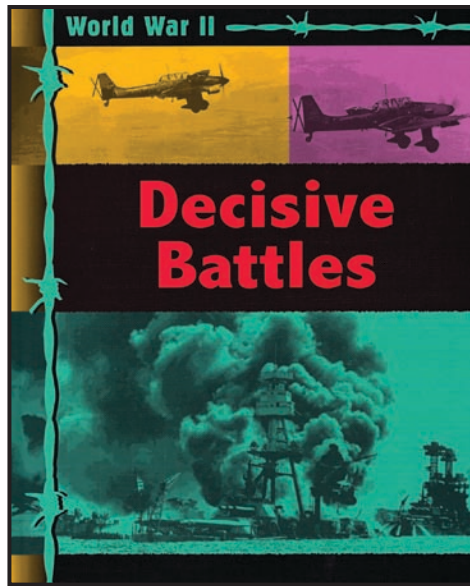
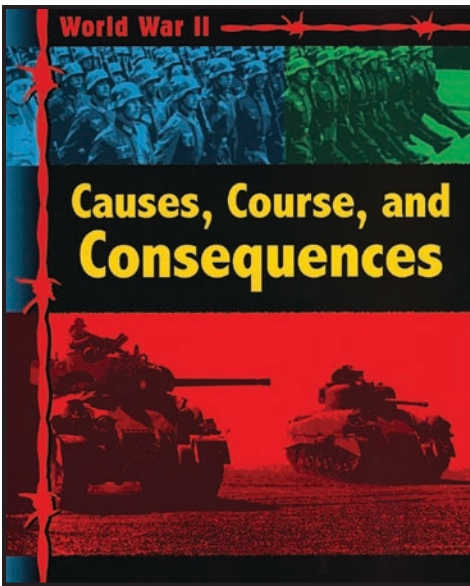




WORLD WAR II



Undercover

All the nations involved in the war, as well as the many resistance and partisan movements, needed intelligence and information about what the enemy was up to. This intelligence was provided by spies, often working at great risk to their own lives.

Intelligence Gathering

1933 Soviets send Richard Sorge to Tokyo to provide information on Japanese military plans.

1938 Leonard Trepper sets up Red Orchestra in Brussels, later Paris, to spy on western Europe.

July 1940 British set up Special Operations Executive (SOE).

March 1941 Japanese plan to invade Hainan to provide information about the US naval base at Pearl Harbor.

June 1941 Trepper, Sorge and others warn Stalin of German invasion of USSR.

July 1941 Sorge sends back information to Moscow about Japanese plans in Asia.

Oct 1941 Japanese achieve total surprise when they attack Pearl Harbor, thanks to information supplied by their spy.

May 1942 Czech resistance fighters helped by the SOE, assassinate Reinhard Heydrich, head of the German SD intelligence service.

June Americans set up Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

1943-44 Enya Bana - "Cicero" - Albanian agent to the British ambassador in Turkey, photographs top-secret documents for the SOE.

This photo shows a German "Enigma" encoding machine as used during the war.

Difficult Conditions

At the start of the war in 1939, Britain, Germany, the USSR and Japan had extensive networks of spies working abroad, although the USA did not. All, however, had to adapt quickly to wartime conditions, especially after Germany and Japan overran so much territory, making it difficult for British and American agents to operate safely on the ground.

In 1940, the British set up a new secret service, the Special Operations Executive (SOE) to combine intelligence gathering with secret operations abroad. The Americans set up the similar Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in 1942. Together these two organisations, working with local resistance and partisan groups, caused chaos behind enemy lines in both Europe and Asia.

Soviet Mistrust

Although the USSR ran the largest network of spies, its leader, Josef Stalin, did not always trust the information he received. Leopold Trepper - the leader of the "Red Orchestra" European spy network in Paris - and Richard Sorge, a half-German Russian spy who worked in Japan, both sent back information that Germany was about to invade the USSR in 1941. Stalin did not believe them and refused to act until it was too late.

Stalin also refused to believe information from Sorge in July 1941 that the Japanese were planning a military campaign in southeast Asia rather than against the USSR. This information should have allowed Stalin to move thousands of troops away from defensive duties in the eastern USSR to fight the Germans in the west. In this case, however, Stalin later changed his mind when decoded messages confirmed Sorge's information, and he shifted troops west in time to defend Moscow.

Enigma

One of the greatest successes of the war was the British breaking of German secret codes. The Germans used a machine known as Enigma to code and send all their top-secret messages.

To break the codes, the British got together a group of experts - including Alan Turing, the "father" of modern computers - at Bletchley Park outside London. Here they developed machines called bombs that helped them understand how Enigma worked and thus decipher its messages.

This information saved thousands of lives and possibly shortened the war by months. Extraordinarily, the Germans never realised that their secret codes had been broken and that the British were reading all their military messages.

The Enigma machine. Messages typed into it by the operator were automatically encoded; the code was extremely difficult to break without another machine.

World War II

These chronological, fact-packed histories of World War II paint a comprehensive picture of one of the 20th century's most devastating conflicts. Supported by time lines on each spread, maps, and historical photographs, these books give students an in-depth look at this war and how it shaped our modern world.

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- Interest Level: Grades 5-7
- Page Count: 32
- Trim Size: 8-1/4" X 10-3/8"
- Table of contents, glossary, index
- Historical photographs, maps
- Web sites
- Time lines and sidebars

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