Europe before WWI

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[YouTube video link]

Source #1

Source #2
Source #3: Pre-war Propaganda in Germany

(German: Yes! Leader, we follow you!

Source #4: Pre-war Propaganda in Italy
Italian: One for all, all for Il Duce. Posters like this, with Mussolini’s image were posted all over Italy.

Source #5-Pre-war Propaganda in Spain
Spanish: Spain Revived

Source #6-Bombing of Guernica-Pablo Picasso, 1937
Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives:

Yesterday, December 7th, 1941 -- a date which will live in infamy -- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. And while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday, the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night, the Japanese attacked Wake Island.

And this morning, the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us.
No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.

I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger. With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph -- so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7th, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire.

Source #6-Loose Lips Sink Ships
When you ride ALONE you ride with Hitler!

Join a Car-Sharing Club TODAY!
The principal political, social, and military objective of the United States in the summer of 1945 was
the prompt and complete surrender of Japan. Only the complete destruction of her military power
could open the way to lasting peace. . . .

In the middle of July, 1945, the intelligence section of the War Department General Staff estimated
Japanese military strength as follows: in the home islands, slightly under 2,000,000; in Korea,
Manchuria, China proper, and Formosa, slightly over 2,000,000; in French Indo-China, Thailand,
and Burma, over 200,000; in the East Indies area, including the Philippines, over 500,000; in the
bypassed Pacific islands, over 100,000. The total strength of the Japanese Army was estimated at
about 5,000,000 men. These estimates later proved to be in very close agreement with official Japanese
figures. . . .

As we understood it in July, there was a very strong possibility that the Japanese government might
determine upon resistance to the end, in all the areas of the Far East under its control. In such an
event the Allies would be faced with the enormous task of destroying an armed force of five million
men and five thousand suicide aircraft, belonging to a race which has already amply demonstrated
its ability to fight literally to the death.

The strategic plans of our armed forces for the defeat of Japan, as they stood in July, had been
prepared without reliance upon the atomic bomb, which had not yet been tested in New Mexico.
We were planning an intensified sea and air blockade, and greatly intensified strategic air bombing,
through the summer and early fall, to be followed on November 1 by an invasion of the southern
island of Kyushu. This would be followed in turn by an invasion of the main island of Honshu in
the spring of 1946. The total U.S. military and naval force involved in this grand design was of the
order of 5,000,000 men; if all those indirectly concerned are included, it was larger still.
We estimated that if we should be forced to carry this plan to its conclusion, the major fighting
would not end until the latter part of 1946, at the earliest. I was informed that such operations might
be expected to cost over a million casualties, to American forces alone.

Source #2-Memoirs of General H. H. Arnold, Commander of the American Army Air Force in the
Second World War (1949)
The surrender of Japan was not entirely the result of the two atomic bombs. We had hit some 60
Japanese cities with our regular H. E. (High Explosive) and incendiary bombs and, as a result of our raids, about 241,000 people had been killed, 313,000 wounded, and about 2,333,000 homes destroyed. Our B-29's had destroyed most of the Japanese industries and, with the laying of mines, which prevented the arrival of incoming cargoes of critical items, had made it impossible for Japan to carry on a large-scale war. . . . Accordingly, it always appeared to us that, atomic bomb or no atomic bomb, the Japanese were already on the verge of collapse.

Source #3-Agreements of the Yalta Conference (February 11,1945)
Agreement Regarding Japan
The leaders of the three Great Powers-the Soviet Union, the United States of America and Great Britain-have agreed that in two or three months after Germany has surrendered and the war in
Europe has terminated, the Soviet Union shall enter into the war against Japan on the side of the Allies on condition that:

1. The status quo in Outer Mongolia (The Mongolian People's Republic) shall be preserved;
2. The former rights of Russia violated by the treacherous attack of Japan in 1904 shall be restored, viz.:
   (a) the southern part of Sakhalin as well as all the islands adjacent to it shall be returned to the Soviet Union,
   (b) the commercial port of Dairen shall be internationalized, the preeminent interests of the Soviet Union in this port being safeguarded and the lease of Port Arthur as a naval base of the U.S.S.R. restored,
   (c) the Chinese-Eastern Railroad and the South Manchurian Railroad which provides an outlet to Dairen shall be jointly operated by the establishment of a joint Soviet-Chinese Company, it being understood that the preeminent interest of the Soviet Union shall be safeguarded and that China shall retain full sovereignty in Manchuria.

The Heads of the three Great Powers have agreed that these claims of the Soviet Union shall be unquestionably fulfilled after Japan has been defeated.
For its part the Soviet Union expresses its readiness to conclude with the National Government of China a pact of friendship and alliance between the U.S.S.R. and China in order to render assistance to China with its armed forces for the purpose of liberating China from the Japanese yoke.
Joseph V. Stalin
Franklin D. Roosevelt
Winston S. Churchill

Source #4: British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's recollections of news received during the Potsdam Conference, July 1945 (1953)
On July 17 world-shaking news had arrived... The atomic bomb is a reality... Here then was a speedy end to the Second World War, and perhaps to much else besides... Up to this moment we had shaped our ideas towards an assault upon the
homeland of Japan by terrific air bombing and by the invasion of very large armies. . . . Now all this nightmare picture had vanished. In its place was the vision-fair and bright indeed it seemed-of the end of the whole war in one or two violent shocks. . . . Moreover, we should not need the Russians. The end of the Japanese war no longer depended upon the pouring in of their armies for the final and perhaps protracted slaughter. We had no need to ask favours of them. A few days later I mentioned to Mr. Eden: "It is quite clear that the United States do not at the present time desire Russian participation in the war against Japan." The array of European problems could therefore be faced on their merits and according to the broad principles of the United Nations. We seemed suddenly to have become possessed of a merciful abridgment of the slaughter in the East and of a far happier prospect in Europe. I have no doubt that these thoughts were present in the minds of my American friends.

Source #5-Harry S Truman, radio address (August 1945)
I realize the tragic significance of the atomic bomb. Its production and its use were not lightly undertaken by this Government. But we knew that our enemies were on the search for it. We know now how close they were to finding it. And we know the disaster which would come to this nation, and to all peaceful nations, to all civilizations, if they had found it first,
That is why we felt compelled to undertake the long and uncertain and costly labor of discovery and production.

We won the race of discovery against the Germans. Having found the bomb, we have used it. We have used it against those who attacked us without warning at Pearl Harbor, against those who have starved and beaten and executed American prisoners of war, against those who have abandoned the pretense of obeying international laws of warfare. We have used it in order to shorten the agony of war, in order to save the lives of thousands and thousands of young Americans.

We shall continue to use it until we completely destroy Japan's power to make war. Only a Japanese surrender will stop us.

Source #6-Nagasaki before and after atomic bomb
Source #7-Hiroshima before and after the bomb