

Objectives

- Analyze the reasons for and impact of the Allies' "Europe First" strategy.
- Explain why the battles of Stalingrad and Midway were major turning points in the war.
- Discuss how the Allies put increasing pressure on the Axis in North Africa and Europe.



Terms and People

- **Dwight Eisenhower** – American general and commander of Allied forces
- **George S. Patton, Jr.** – American general and tank commander
- **unconditional surrender** – giving up completely without any concessions
- **saturation bombing** – dropping massive amounts of bombs to inflict maximum damage

Terms and People (continued)

- **strategic bombing** – dropping bombs on key targets to destroy the enemy's capacity to make war
- **Tuskegee Airmen** – African American fighter squadron
- **Chester Nimitz** – Commander of the U.S. Navy in the Pacific
- **Battle of Midway** – American victory and turning point of the war in the Pacific



How did the Allies turn the tide against the Axis?

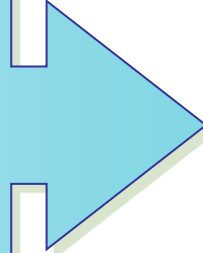
After the dark days of 1942, the Allies began to make important advances.

Tough years of fighting lay ahead, but many began to see a glimmer of hope.

The Allies viewed Germany as the most dangerous Axis Power.



The German military could:

- bomb Britain
 - fight both the U.S. and British navies
 - invade the Soviet Union
- 

For these reasons, the Allies agreed to a “Europe First” strategy to defeat Hitler.

The U.S. moved quickly to produce military supplies and send them to Europe.

Hitler was determined to **prevent the supplies** from reaching Europe.

German **U-boats** sank thousands of supply ships in the North Atlantic.

New technology such as **radar** helped the Allies target the U-boats and **restore the supply lines.**

Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941. Millions of soldiers and civilians died in fierce fighting.

After a long struggle, the Soviets defeated the Germans at Stalingrad.



Thousands of Germans surrendered.

The Battle of Stalingrad proved to be a major turning point of the war in Europe.

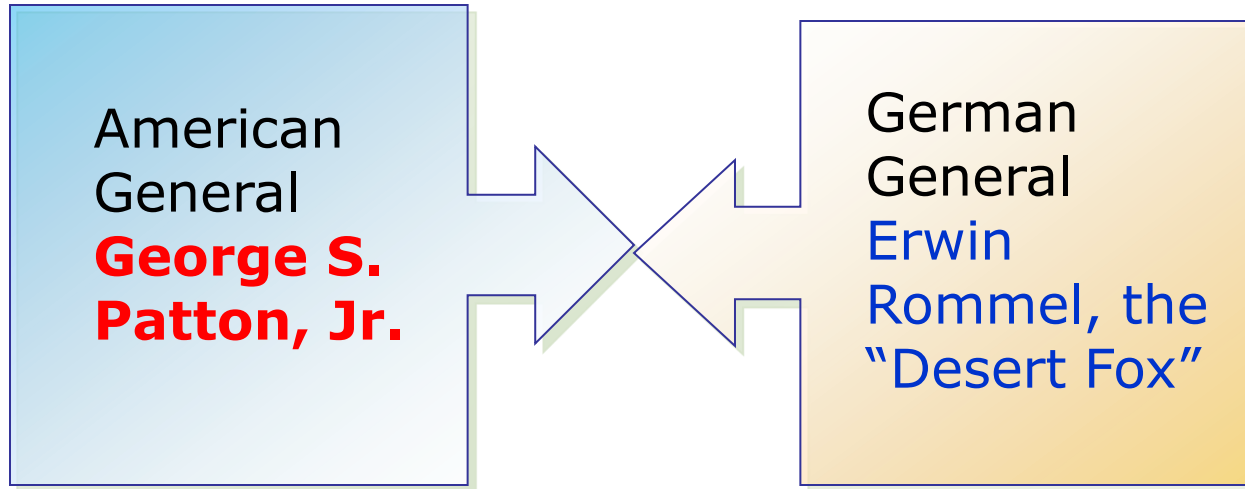
- Nazi armies were forced to **retreat westward**, back toward Germany.
- The Soviet Union was now on the offensive.
- **Hitler's dream of dominating Europe** was crushed.

Meanwhile, Allied forces pressured the Axis on another front—the deserts of North Africa.



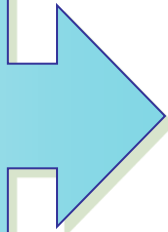
- General **Dwight Eisenhower** commanded the Allied invasion.
- Heat, sandstorms, and scorpions made conditions difficult.

Tank battles dominated the fighting, pitting two brilliant tank strategists against each other.



Patton eventually defeated Rommel's Afrika Korps, forcing a German surrender.

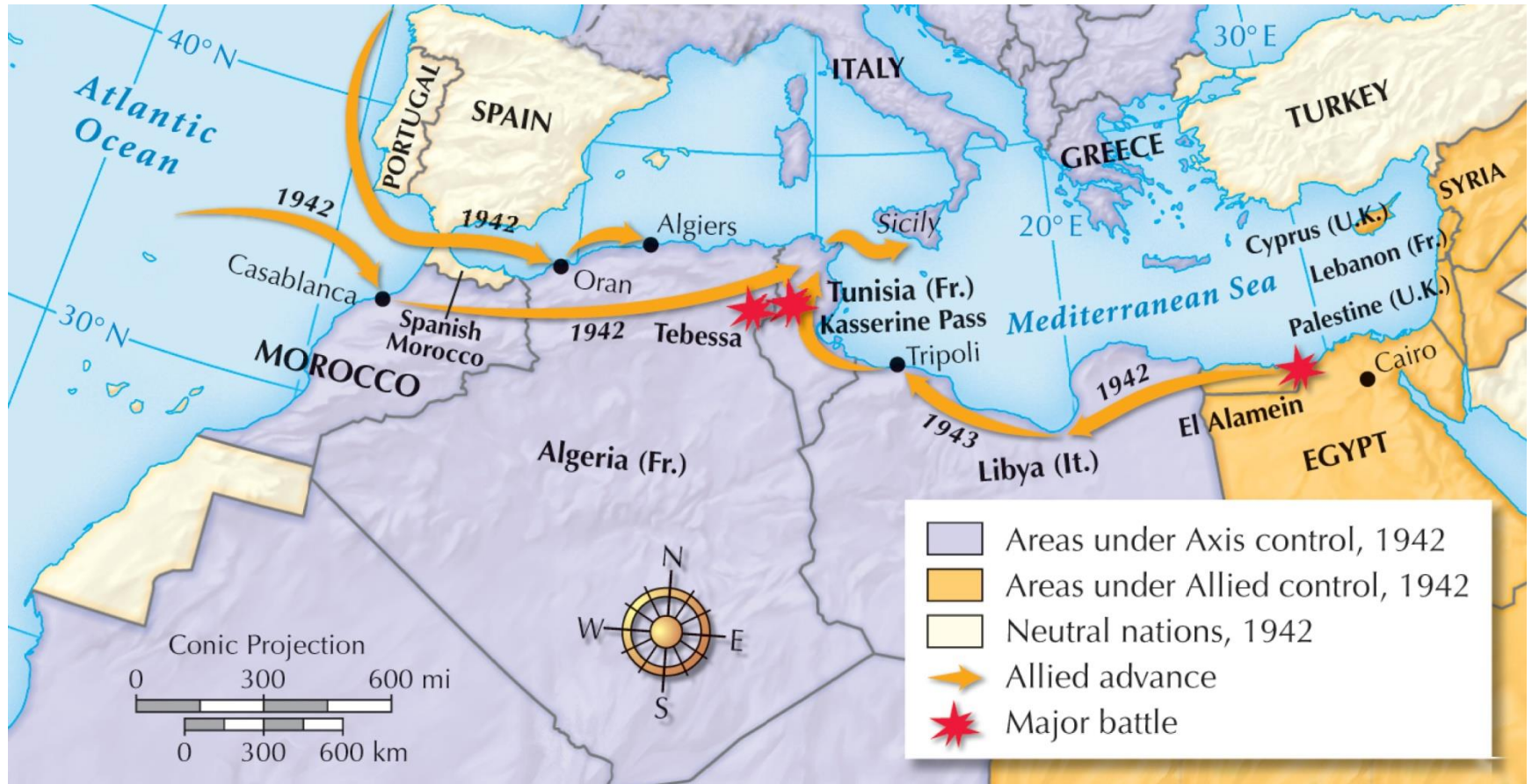
The Allied victory in North Africa paved the way for an invasion of Italy, with forces capturing Sicily.



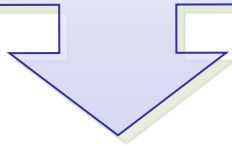
The campaign ended the rule of Benito Mussolini.

In 1943, Italy surrendered to the Allies.

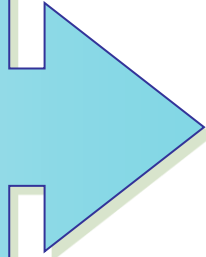
Allied Advances



The Allies next took the fight to the air.



Bombers launched **nonstop attacks** against Germany.

- massive **saturation bombing**
 - pinpoint **strategic bombing**
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The goal was **unconditional surrender.**

While battles raged in Europe, the Allies continued to fight Japanese advances in the Pacific.

At **Midway**, Allied aircraft carriers and fighter planes were victorious in fierce fighting.



The **Battle of Midway** proved to be a major turning point of the war in the Pacific.

- Japan's momentum was finally halted.
- Americans took the offensive, moving on to defeat the Japanese at **Guadalcanal**.
- Now the **Allies** began advancing—toward Japan.