

## **History of 1941 - Detailed Timeline**

### **January 6, 1941**

U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt gives his 'Four Freedoms' speech, emphasizing freedom of speech, worship, want, and fear as universal rights.

### **January 10, 1941**

The Lend-Lease Bill is introduced to allow the U.S. to provide military aid to allies without direct involvement in WWII.

### **January 22, 1941**

British and Commonwealth troops capture Tobruk in Libya from Italian forces.

### **February 11, 1941**

Britain's Operation Colossus-its first airborne mission-targets a vital aqueduct in Italy.

### **February 12, 1941**

German General Erwin Rommel arrives in Tripoli to lead the Afrika Korps in North Africa.

### **March 1, 1941**

Bulgaria officially joins the Axis Powers, aligning with Nazi Germany.

### **March 11, 1941**

The U.S. Congress passes the Lend-Lease Act, authorizing aid to countries fighting Axis powers.

### **March 13-14, 1941**

Luftwaffe bombs Clydebank, Scotland, in a devastating air raid known as the Clydebank Blitz.

### **April 6, 1941**

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Germany invades Yugoslavia and Greece, opening a new Balkan front.

### **April 9, 1941**

German troops seize the Greek city of Salonika; Iceland declares independence from Denmark.

### **April 10, 1941**

The Axis-supported Independent State of Croatia is formed after Yugoslavia's invasion.

### **April 17, 1941**

Yugoslavia surrenders to German forces; its government flees.

### **April 27, 1941**

German forces enter Athens, completing their conquest of Greece.

### **May 1, 1941**

Orson Welles's iconic film 'Citizen Kane' premieres in New York City.

### **May 10, 1941**

Rudolf Hess, Nazi leader, flies solo to Scotland seeking peace talks; he is arrested.

### **May 20, 1941**

Germany launches the Battle of Crete with large-scale paratrooper landings.

### **May 24, 1941**

German battleship Bismarck sinks HMS Hood; only 3 of 1,418 survive.

### **May 27, 1941**

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British naval forces sink the Bismarck in the Atlantic Ocean.

### **June 14, 1941**

U.S. freezes assets of Germany and Italy as tensions rise.

### **June 22, 1941**

Germany launches Operation Barbarossa, invading the Soviet Union in a massive offensive.

### **June 25, 1941**

Finland joins the war against the Soviet Union in the Continuation War.

### **July 12, 1941**

Britain and the USSR sign a mutual assistance pact to fight Nazi Germany.

### **July 26, 1941**

U.S. freezes all Japanese assets, cutting vital economic ties.

### **August 1, 1941**

The U.S. imposes a complete oil embargo on Japan, severely limiting its fuel supplies.

### **August 9-14, 1941**

Roosevelt and Churchill meet secretly and sign the Atlantic Charter, defining Allied goals for the post-war world.

### **August 25, 1941**

British and Soviet forces invade Iran to secure oil and supply routes.

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### September 8, 1941

The Siege of Leningrad begins as Axis forces encircle the city, leading to a blockade lasting nearly 900 days.

### September 11, 1941

President Roosevelt authorizes U.S. Navy to fire on Axis warships, increasing American involvement.

### September 29-30, 1941

At Babi Yar, Nazi Einsatzgruppen murder over 30,000 Jews in one of the war's largest massacres.

### October 17, 1941

USS Kearny, a U.S. destroyer, is torpedoed by a German U-boat, killing 11 sailors.

### October 31, 1941

USS Reuben James is sunk by a U-boat-the first U.S. Navy ship lost in WWII before officially entering the war.

### November 7, 1941

Stalin holds a military parade in Moscow's Red Square, symbolizing Soviet resistance despite ongoing battle.

### November 20, 1941

Japan delivers a final proposal to the U.S.; simultaneously, Axis powers sign anti-Communist pact.

### November 26, 1941

U.S. rejects Japan's proposal and demands withdrawal from China-prompting Japan to prepare for war.

### December 7, 1941

Japan attacks Pearl Harbor and other U.S. and British territories in the Pacific.

## **History of 1941 - Detailed Timeline**

### **December 8, 1941**

U.S., Britain, and allies declare war on Japan. WWII becomes a global conflict.

### **December 11, 1941**

Germany and Italy declare war on the U.S., and America reciprocates.

### **December 19, 1941**

Hitler dismisses army chief Brauchitsch and assumes command of the German Army.

### **December 22, 1941**

The Arcadia Conference begins in Washington; Allied leaders agree to focus on defeating Germany first.

### **December 25, 1941**

Hong Kong falls to Japanese forces after fierce fighting.

### **December 30, 1941**

Roosevelt addresses the U.S., pledging massive war production as the 'Arsenal of Democracy'.