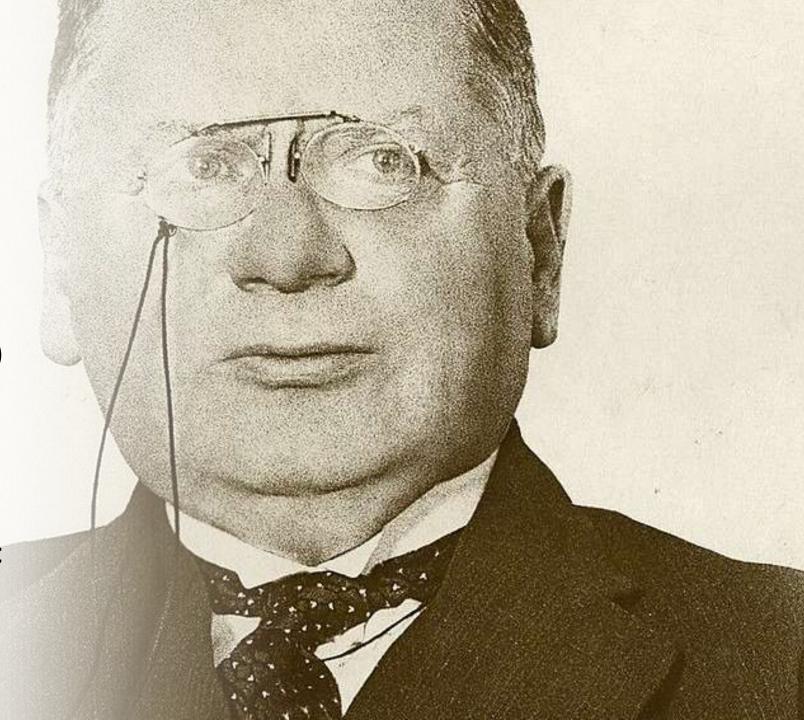




3 May 1939

Maxim Litvinov (Soviet Commissar of Foreign Affairs) dismissed

A leading voice for a Soviet policy of collective security with Western powers against Germany



A new Foreign Affairs Minister

What to make of **Vyacheslav Molotov**'s appointment?



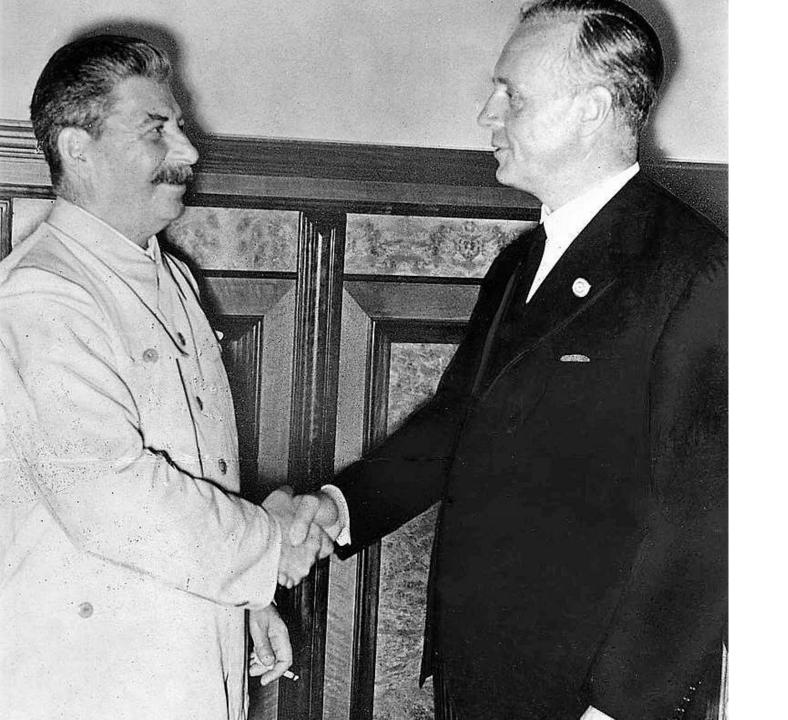
7 May 1939

An article in French newspaper Le Figaro by former revolutionary **Boris Souvarine**

Litvinov's dismissal: the path towards an alliance between Hitler and Stalin

Litvinov was Jewish: a gesture of goodwill towards Hitler?





Stalin's obsession

To avoid a conflict with Germany

To let "imperialist" powers fight amongst themselves

To **gain time**: transforming trade agreements into a nonaggression pact





Deception at its best!

British diplomat William Strang in Moscow

Secret Soviet-German negotiations

Free city of Danzig

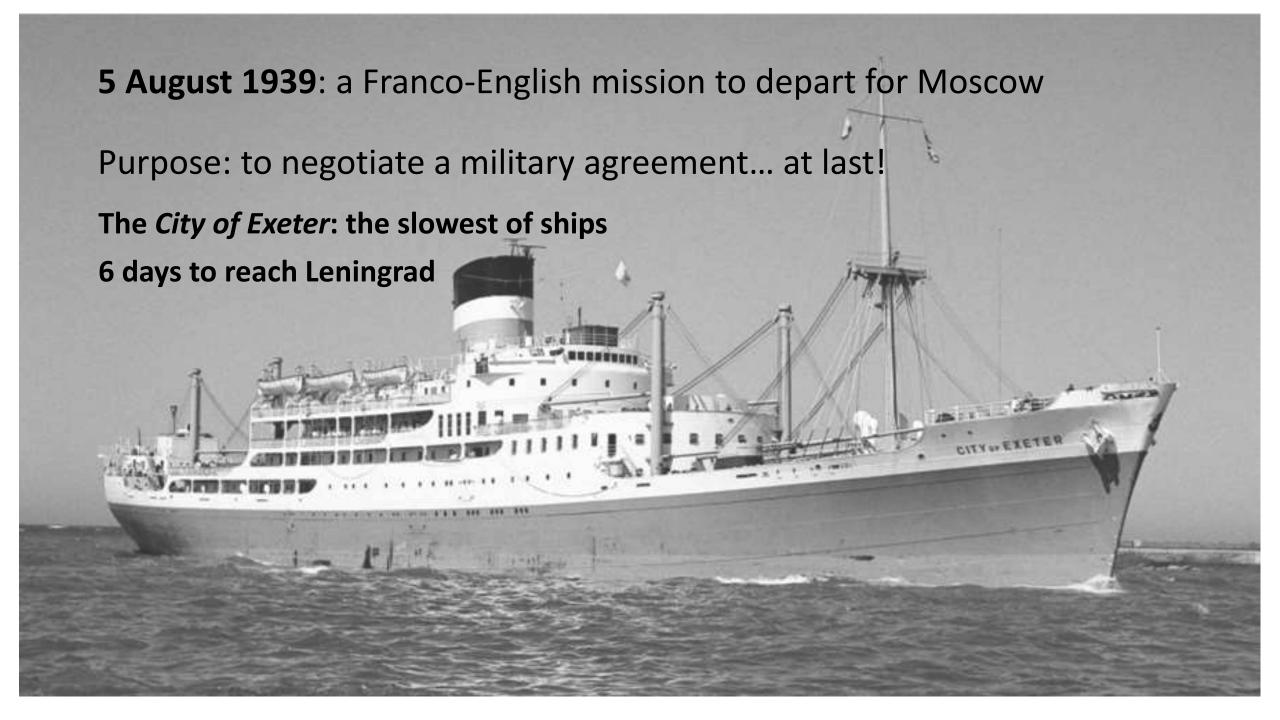
An ethnically German city placed in 1919 under the protection of the League of Nations

Hitler: the incorporation of Danzig into Germany

Stern warnings from London & Paris













Hitler's plan: the invasion of Poland

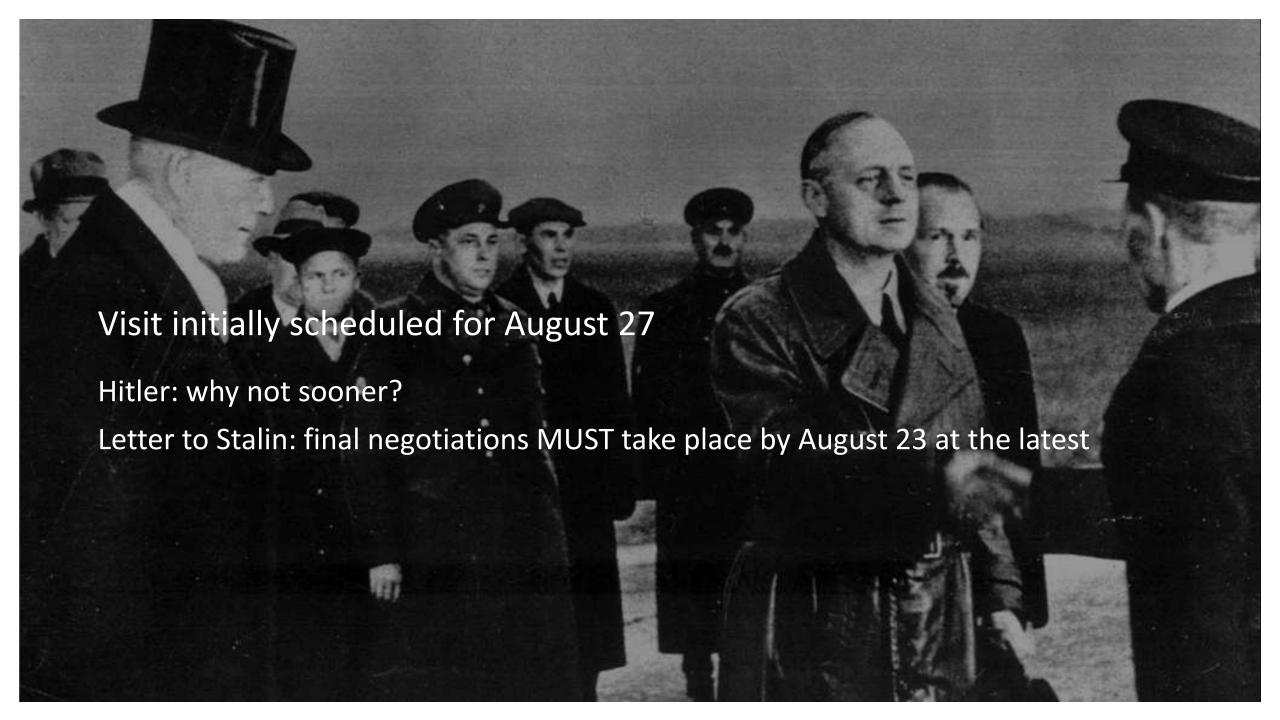
14 August: Hitler's telegram to the Kremlin

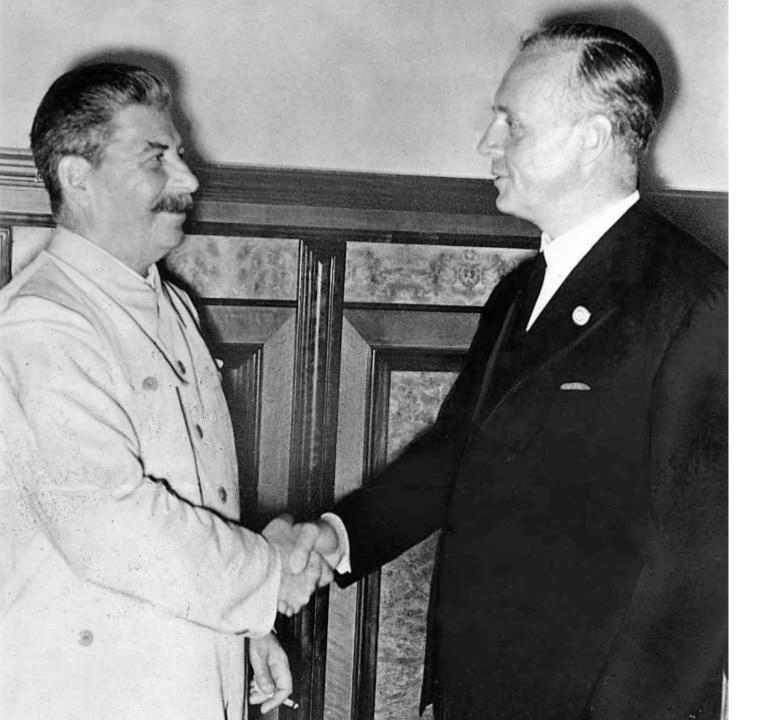
Germany and Soviet Union: common enemies = Western democracies

15 August: Molotov invited Ribbentrop to travel to Moscow

Purpose: non-aggression Pact







Non-Aggression Pact

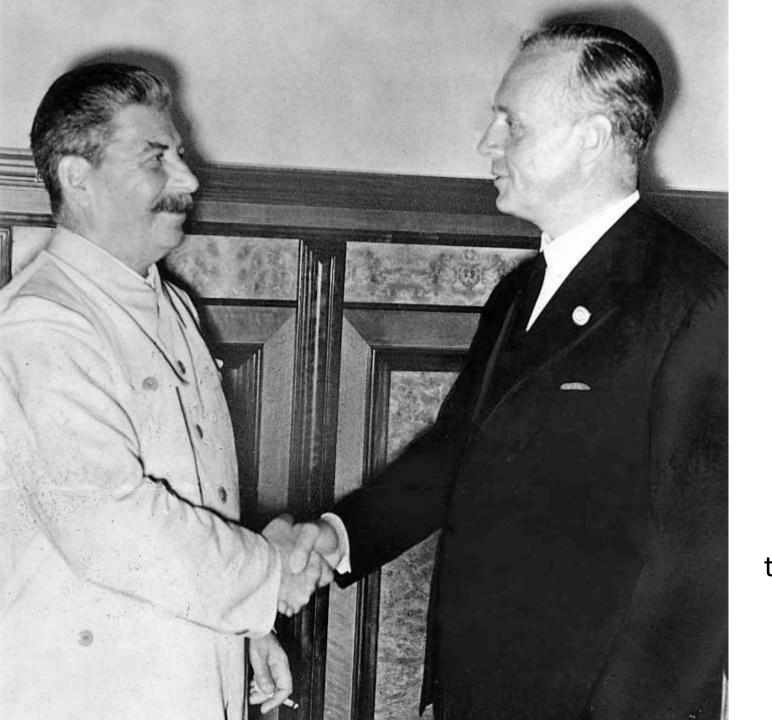
Publicly-announced stipulations: Germany and Soviet Union not to wage war on one another

Arbitration to deal with tensions or conflicts

Neutrality clause

Increased trade



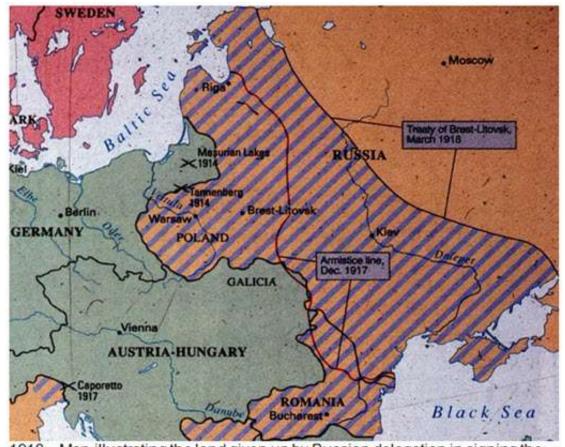


Non-Aggression Pact

Secret Protocol: agreement on "spheres of influence" in Eastern Europe

Poland to be dismembered

Stalin's objective: to get all the territories lost in 1918 back (Treaty of Brest-Litovsk)



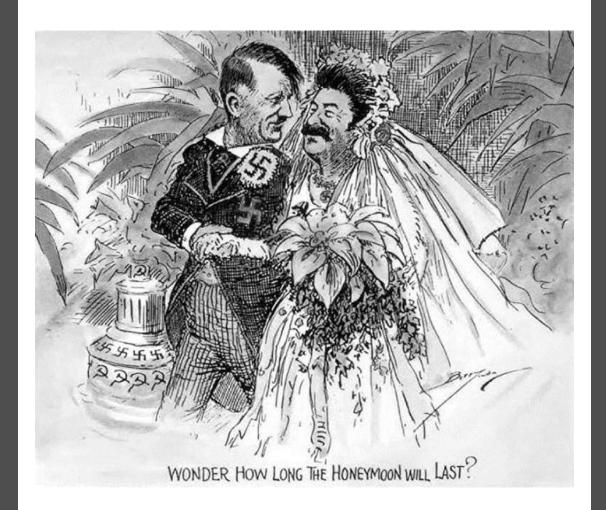
1918 – Map illustrating the land given up by Russian delegation in signing the Brest-Litovsk treaty.











Hold pruski w Moskwie



STALIN. - Pakt my tobie, Ribbentropie podpisali. Ty w rączkę nas pocaluj, pakt bierz, a co my zrobimy dalej, to jeszcze podumajem.

1 September 1939: Germany invaded Poland

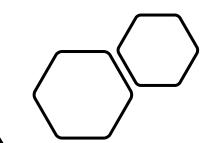
2 September: Franco-British ultimatum to Germany

3 September: France & Great Britain declared war on Germany















REDS INVADE POLAND



RUSSIANS CROSS BORDER O 'PROTECT MINORITIES'

Polish army caught off guard

17 September 1939

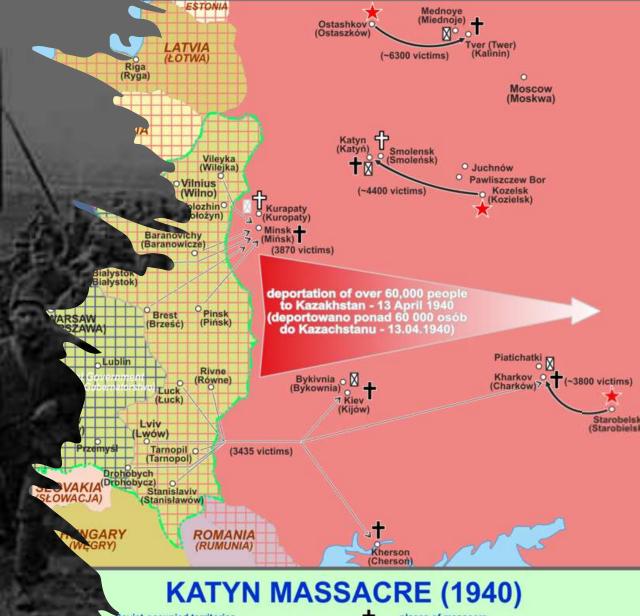
230 000 soldiers and officers captured by the **Red Army**





The camp of Kozelsk

Thousands of Polish officers kept in a former monastery in **Starobelsk** (Eastern Ukraine)







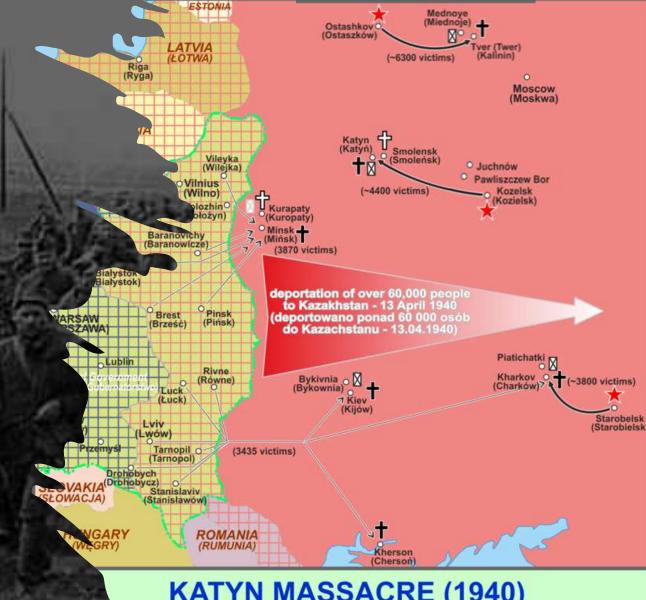


Polish prisoners transferred to Russia

4 500 Polish officers kept prisoners at the former monastery of Kozelsk

> 6 500 at the monastery of Ostashkov

What is to happen to them?



KATYN MASSACRE (1940)



Who was in charge of the prisoners?

The People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD) – Secret police

Fanatic Bolsheviks at the helm



December 1917: the foundation of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission for Combating Counter-Revolution and Sabotage (Cheka)

The first Soviet security & intelligence agency

A **repression tool** against political opponents



The first head of the Cheka

Felix Dzerzhinsky (Polish background)

600 militants

Their **mission**: to establish the dictatorship of the Party over conquered territories (civil war)



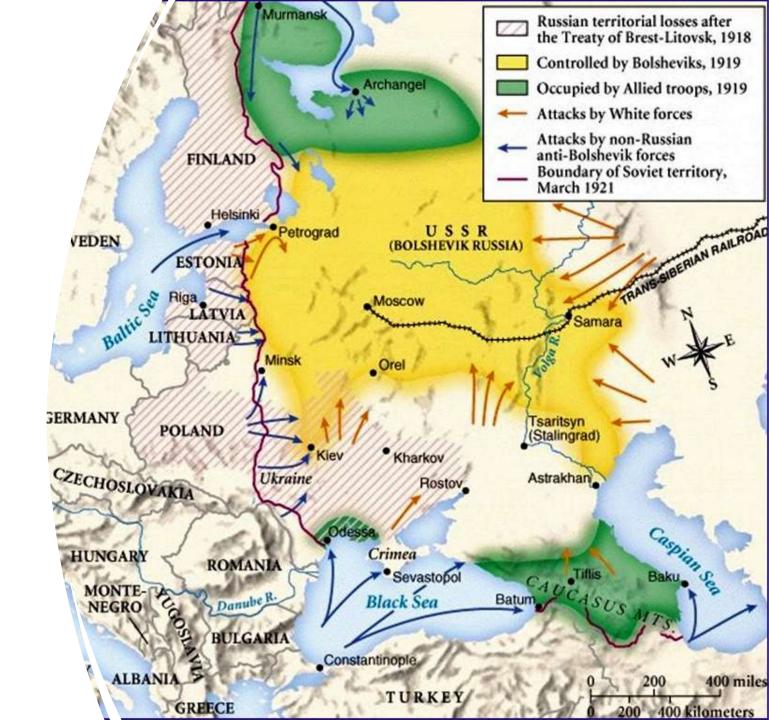
Kiev, summer 1919

Kiev liberated by the Whites

Cheka's secrets methods revealed

Political opponents (real or suspected) executed and buried in mass graves

To eradicate the old world

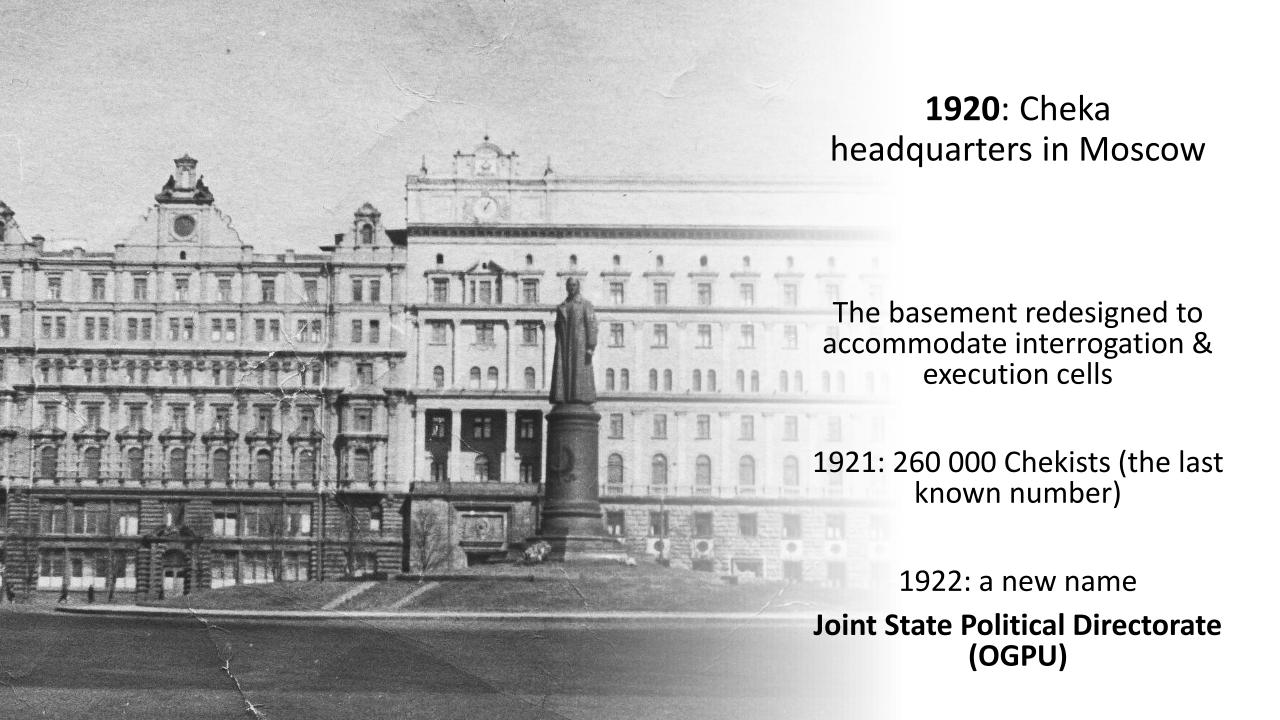




1918: 3 000 priests executed

Empty monasteries transformed in prisons









The swift rise of Beria

A powerful protector in Moscow: Anastas Mikoyan

Mikoyan close to... Josef Stalin!





Strongest resistance to collectivization in Ukraine

Ukraine: Soviet Union's granary

110 000 Ukrainian peasants deported to Siberia

Creation of the **Gulag** (labor camp)

Collectivization: a failure



Famine in Ukraine

Production quotas regardless of good or bad crops

1932: villages unable to deliver their quotas punished Peasants forbidden to leave their villages





1934: Yagoda in charge

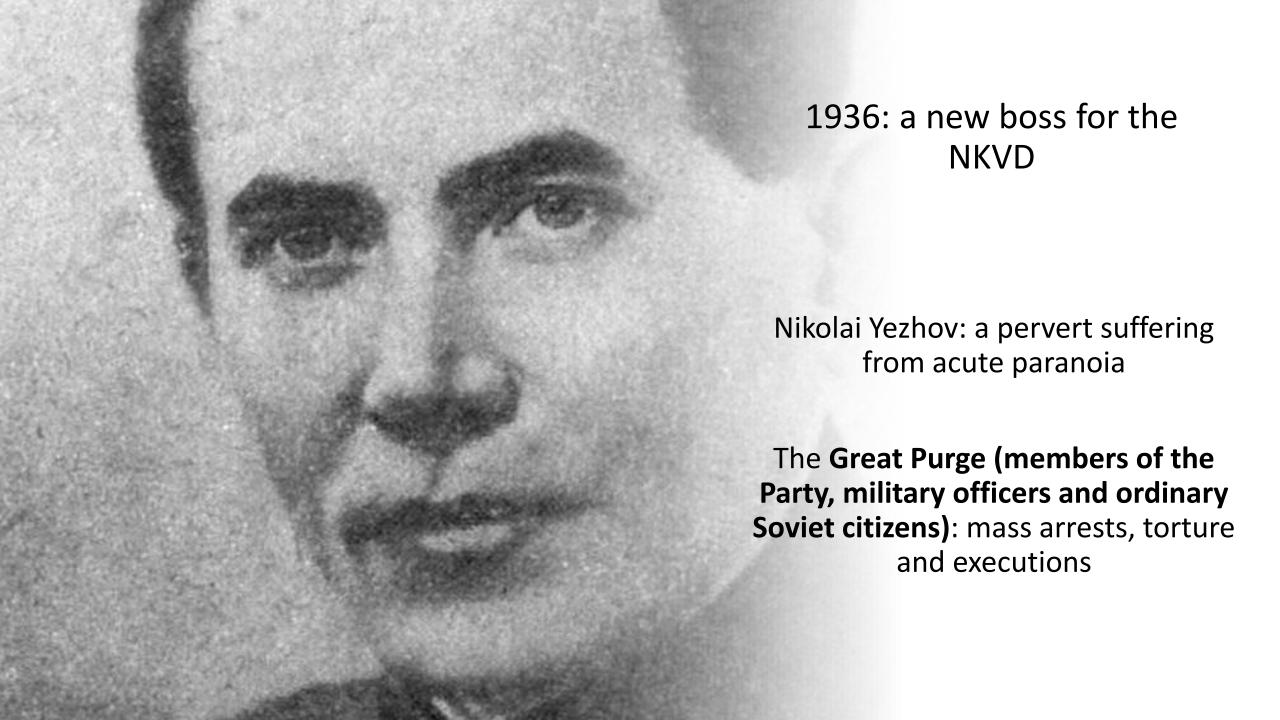
The OGPU becomes the **NKVD**

New targets: Bolsheviks prior to 1917 (the "Old Bolsheviks")

False proofs – Public trials

Executions





30 July 1937: NKVD Order 00447

The Great Purge extended to "former kulaks, criminals and other anti-Soviet elements"

A system of quotas per region

The initial plan:
200 000 deportations
70 000 executions

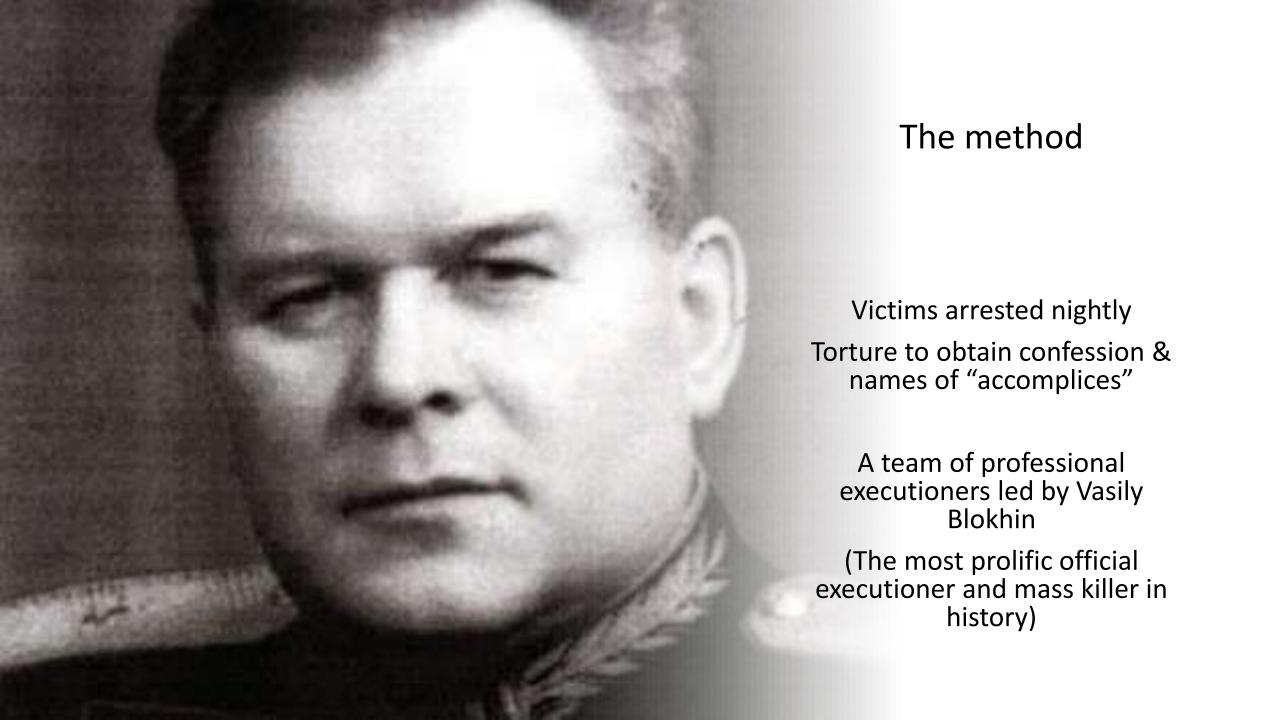
70 gunn 1927 r. i 00447 - rec. i e e e e e.

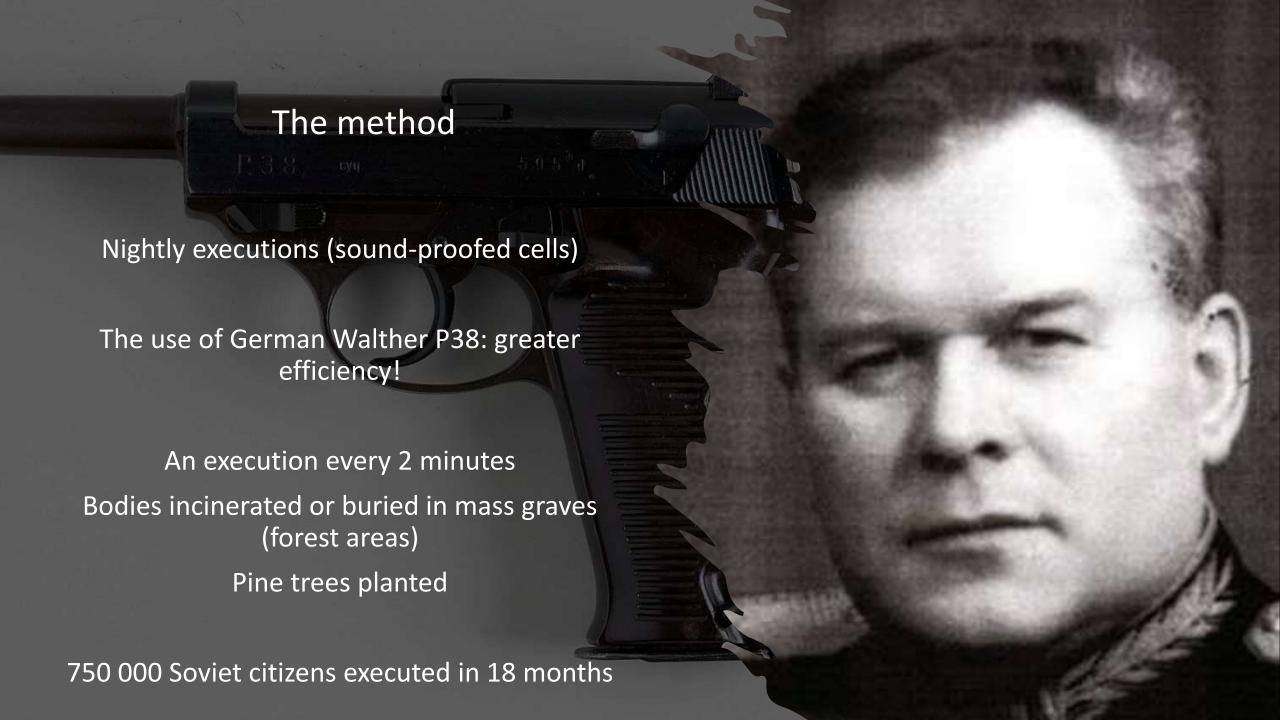
FOLHOLO NOLTOVARA DIVIRDIRON A COMPANIO

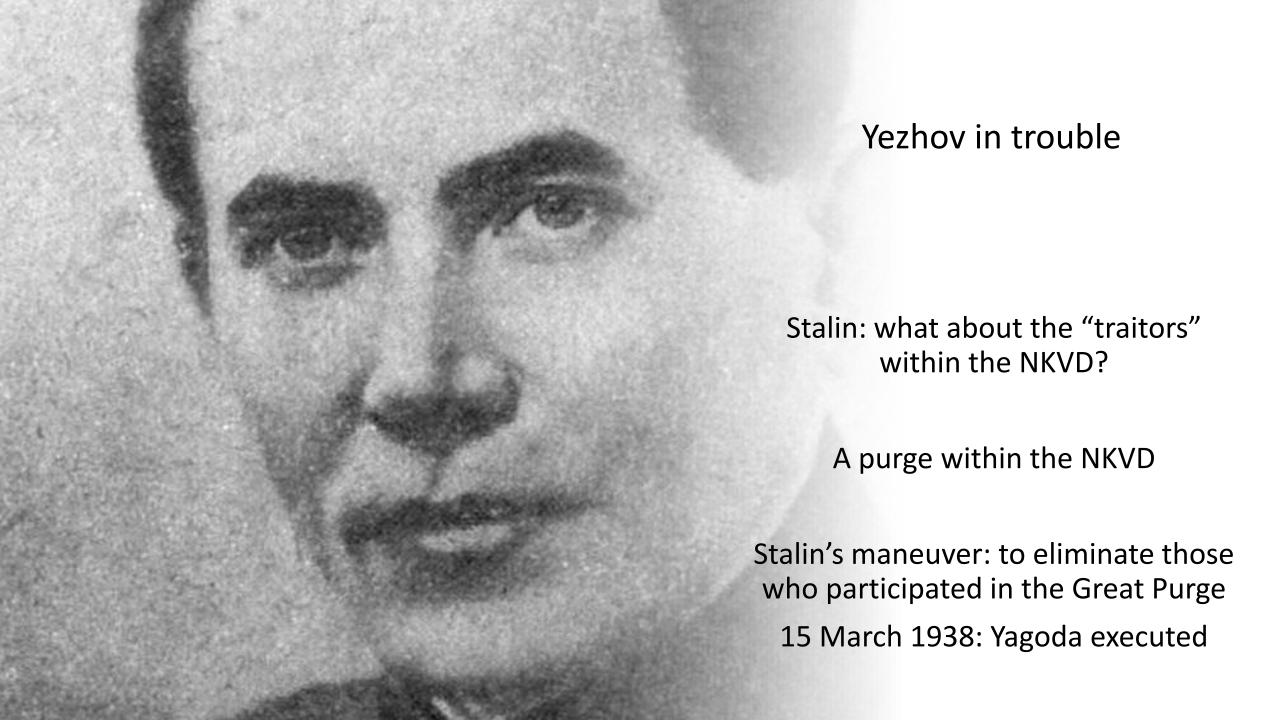
провени следствия по делем антисоветских фаркирований инеется, что в деревне осело инечительное количество ов, ренее репрессированных, скрывыхия от регрество из дерей, ссыдки и трудпоселков. Осеко инопровен репрессированных церковников и сектентов, быручестников антисоветских вооруженных выступлетоватских политических партий /всеров, грузмеков, дашнетоветских политических партий /всеров, грузмеков, дашнетоветистов, иттихадистов и др./, в текия капры бытых учестников бендитских восстаний, белых, кареталей,

часть перечисленных выше влешентов, уйда из дережни в гороле, проникле на предприятия промышленности, транспорт и на чтонивыстив.

тольные модры уголовных преступников - скотоконокрадага, серацилличетов, грабителей и др. отбивавых неживания, сека маст заключения и окрывающихся от рапрессый, болость борьбы с этими уголовичим комтингантым совдели
условия севна сранности, спососствующие их преступней







1939: Yezhov dismissed

The new NKVD boss: Beria

17 September 1939: planning the sovietisation of occupied Poland

The NKVD in charge of all captured Polish officers







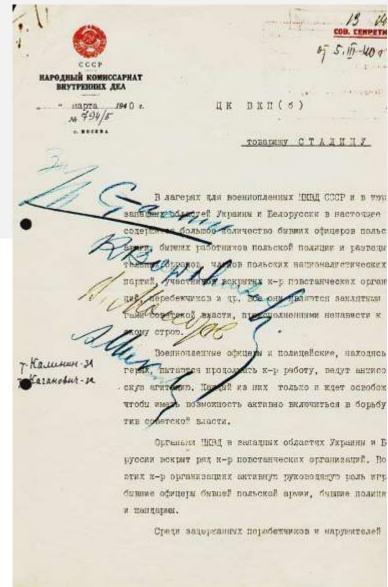


4 February 1940

Decision to execute the Polish officers

5 March: Beria's **proposal 794-B** sent to Stalin



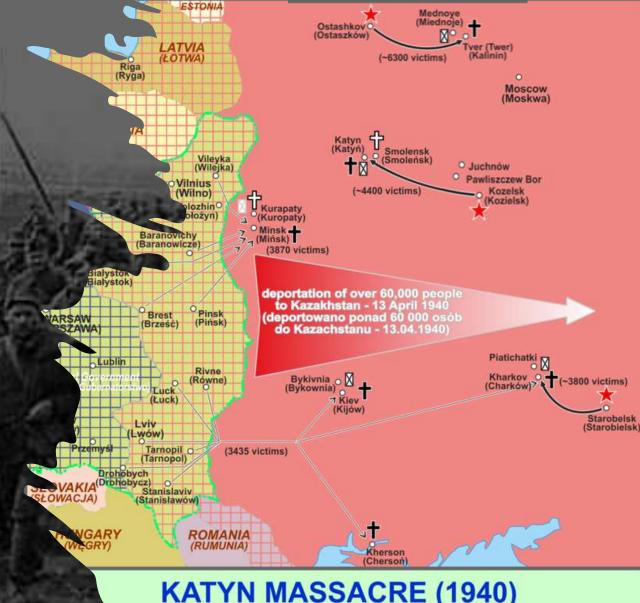


Polish prisoners kept in the camp of Ostashkov transferred to Kalinin

Nightly executions until May 1940

6 287 executions

3 896 executions in Kharkov



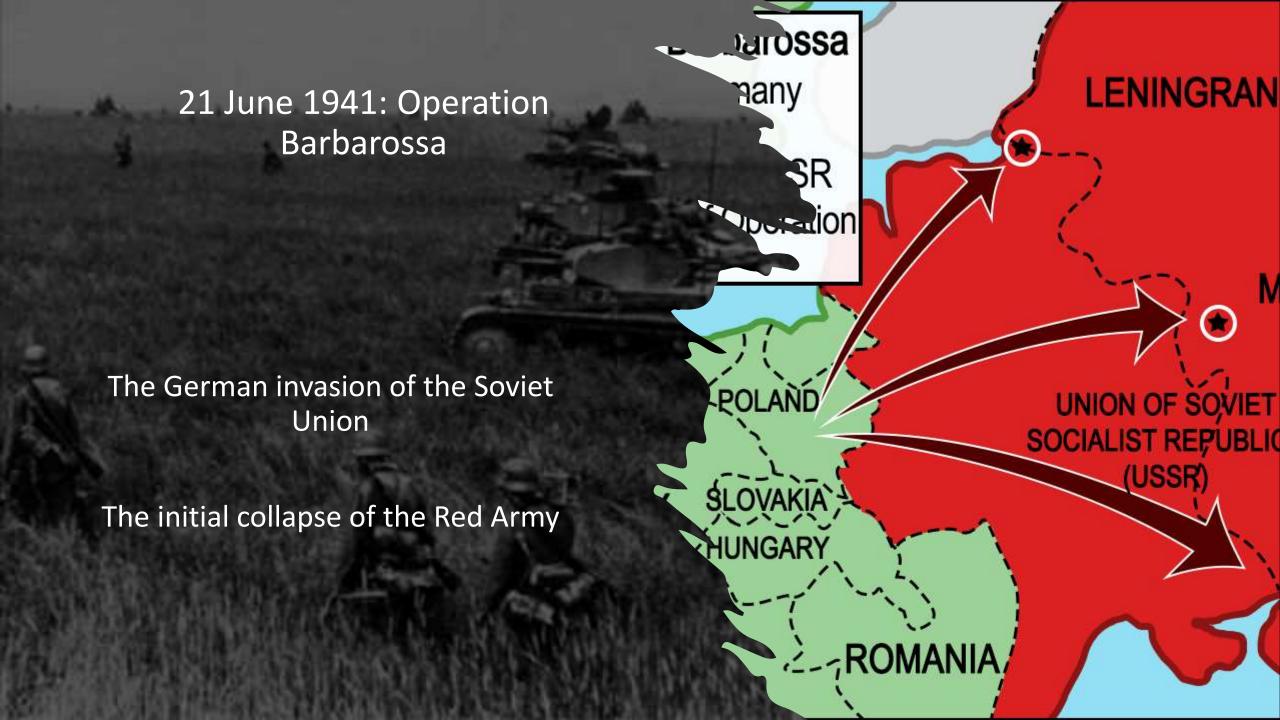
KATYN MASSACRE (1940)









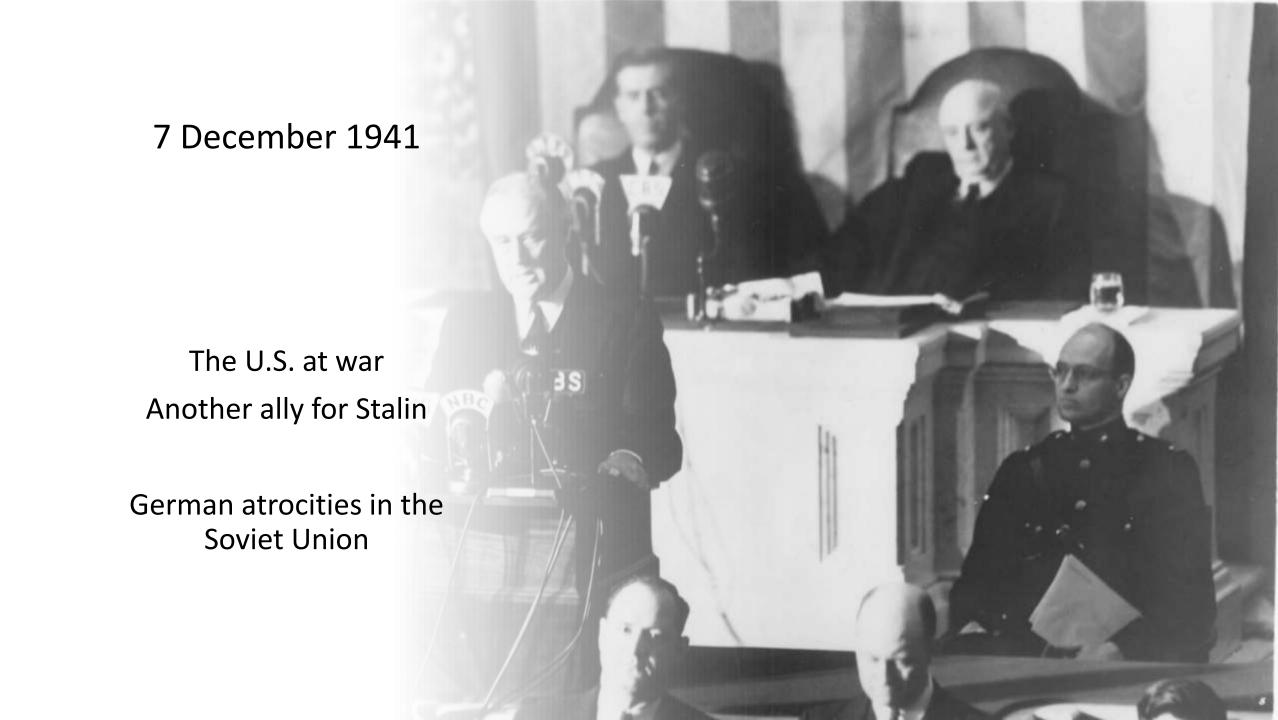












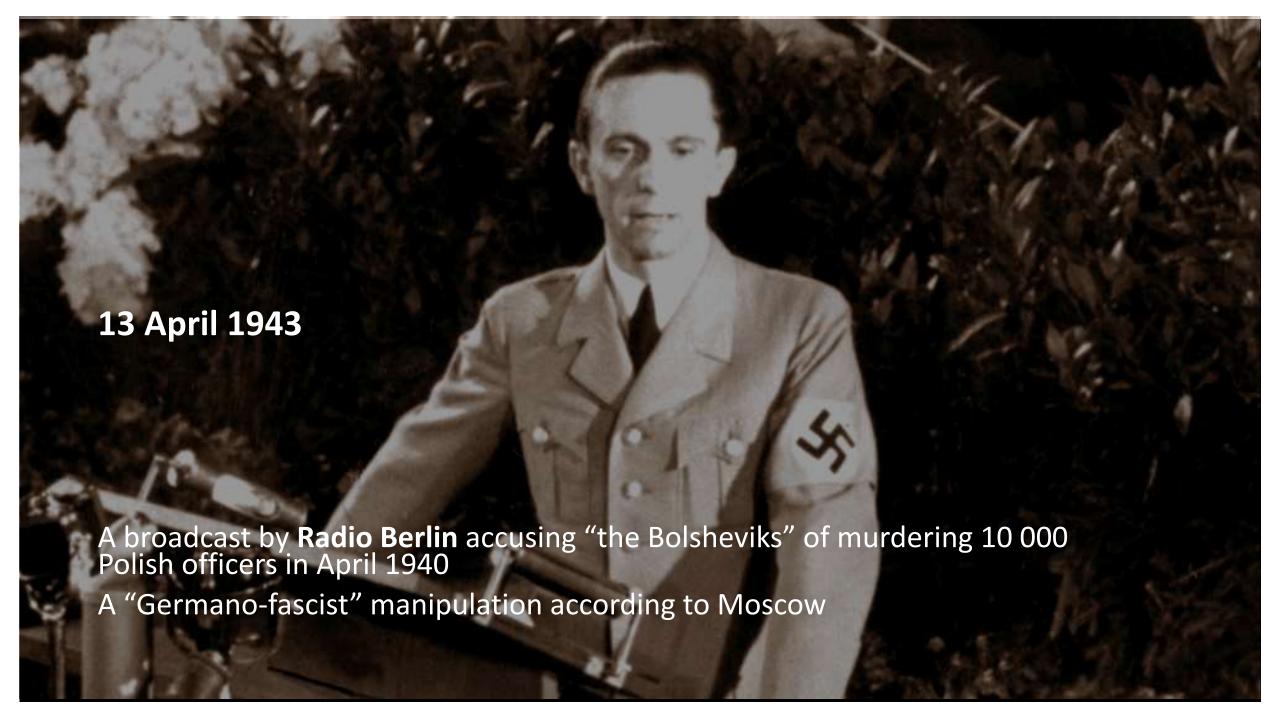
February 1943

German defeat at Stalingrad

Stalin's popularity in Great Britain & the U.S.

Nazi propaganda: to destabilize the Great Alliance against Germany





General Anders to Sikorski: an impartial inquiry

Warnings from Churchill: do not antagonize Stalin

Polish request met with hostility in London & Washington

Roosevelt: Stalin unable to order such a crime

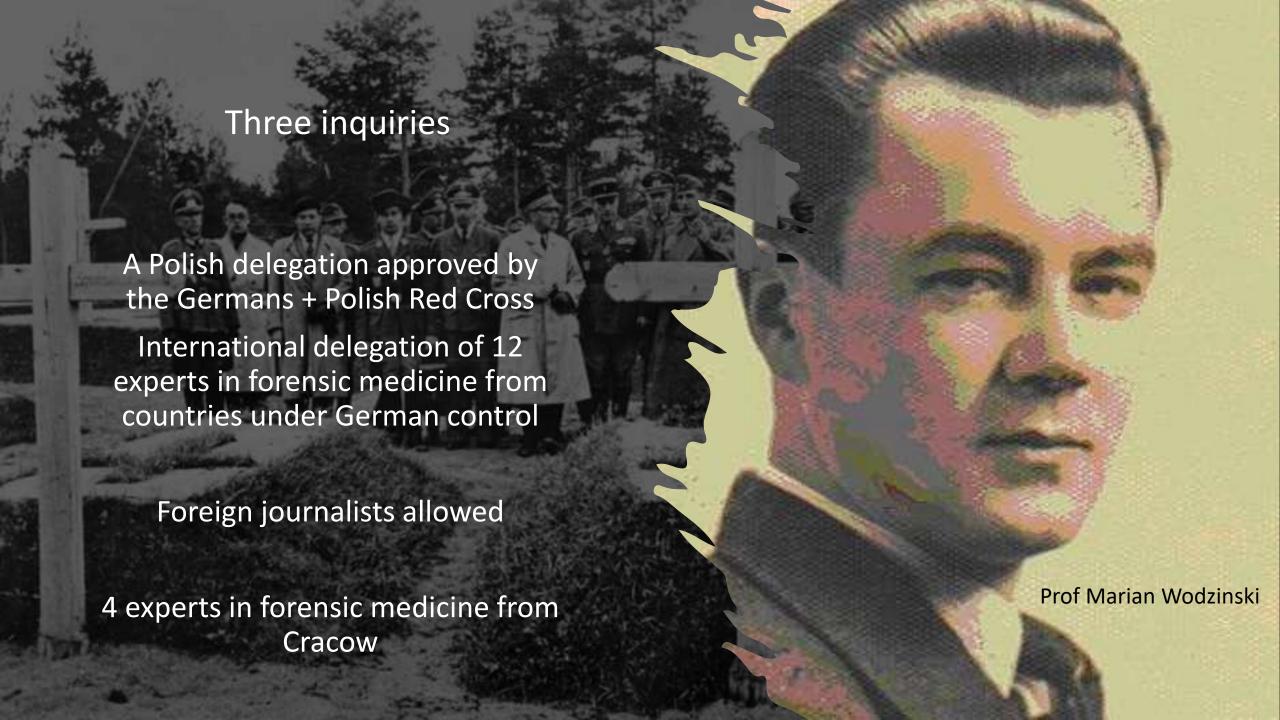


Stalin: Breaking off diplomatic relations with Sikorski government

Roosevelt and Churchill: no support for Sikorski

The Great Alliance with the Soviet Union must be preserved at all cost





The proofs

- 1. The bodies (wearing winter coats) never moved
- 2. Personal documents found on the remains: nothing past 20 April 1940
 - 3. No traces of insects: the executions took place in winter
- 4. Young pines planted in 1940

Conclusions: the executions took place in April 1940



July 1943: conclusions handed over to Churchill

Churchill to Roosevelt: UK & U.S. to hush up Katyn massacre

Stalin furious at his allies: the opening of a second front in Western Europe



The Battle of Smolensk (August – October 1943)

The German Army forced to withdraw from the Katyn area

The NKVD's cover up operation: a delegation of Soviet experts

Their conclusions: the crime was committed by the Germans in the summer of 1941

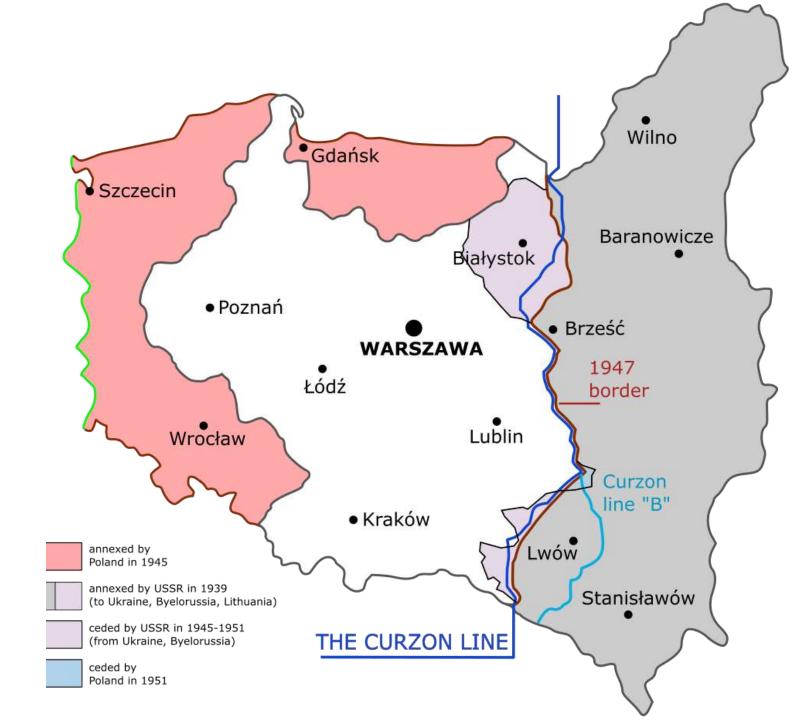
The official Soviet version until... 1990!



1945

New borders for Poland (communist state)

Discussing the Katyn massacre strictly forbidden





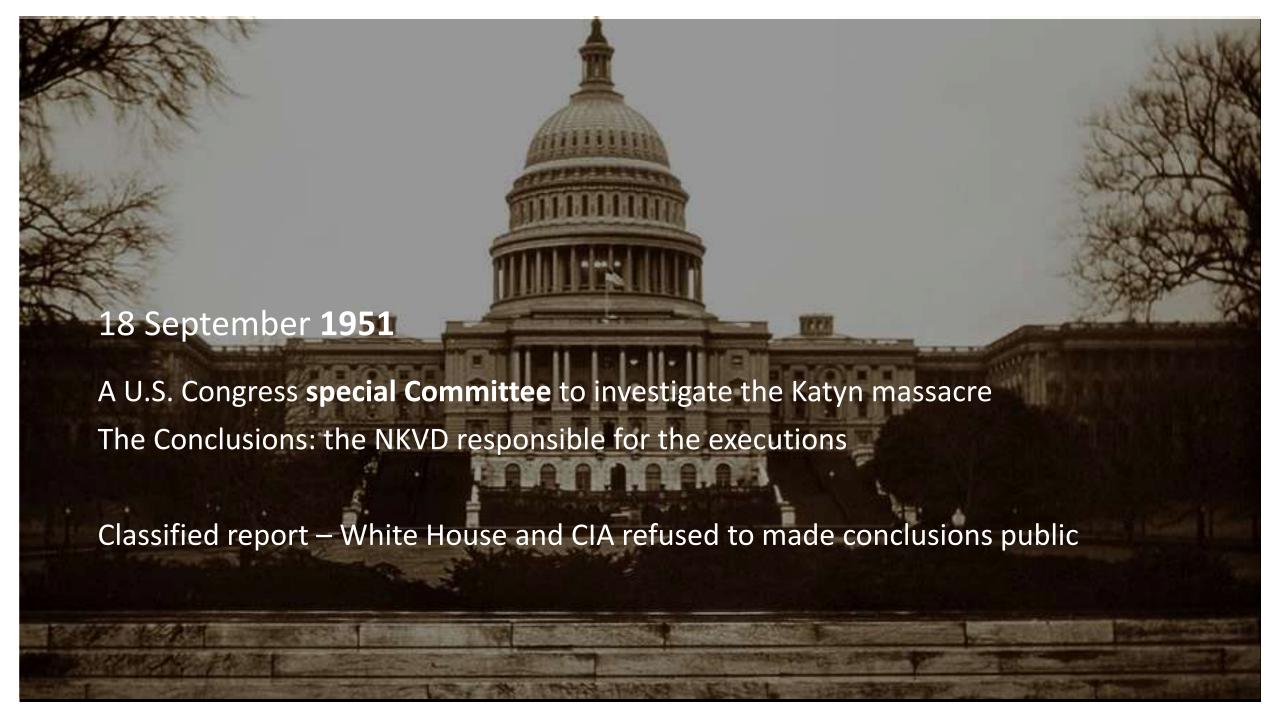
A 4 judge international military tribunal

The prosecution of prominent members of the Nazi regime









5 March 1953

The death of Stalin
Renewed hope amongst
survivors and families

Beria arrested and executed

Nikita Khrushchev: Katyn to remain a state secret





1985: Gorbachev in power

Glasnost ("transparency")

The truth about Katyn? NO!



1989: the collapse of the Soviet bloc

The end of communism in Poland

13 April 1990: Moscow finally admitted the crime of Katyn

Beria responsible, not the Soviet state





Archives proving Moscow's responsibility sent to Poland

Visit to Katyn: "Forgive us... if you can"

