

Saved the World - How Christianity Contributed Victory for the Allies during the Second World War

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0. Abstract

World War II, known not just for the greatest physical destruction of men, material, and nature, but also recognized as the most evil of evils. Also told as the greatest sin of mankind by General Douglas MacArthur. To overcome evil of such magnitude, it was overcome by the great goodness of the heart with even greater magnitude than evil. Although the overwhelming men and material or military force of the Allies were also keys to victory, I explore the Christian and Biblically inspired factors which contributed to those men and material power. More than that, it was the inner drive of the Allies which led to Victory. I also explore that inner drive, driven by Christianity.

1. The Western Allies - The United States and Great Britain

During and before the Second World War, America and Britain were highly considered the two great Protestant Christian nations on earth. America was founded by devout Christians during the late 1700s, while England was already a Christian monarchy long before America declared its independence. America and England both have free government, free market economies, free speech, freedom to vote, and freedom to worship. These freedoms, ideals and qualities not only made these two countries rich and powerful, but these freedoms were inspired by Christian love from Biblical teachings. The fact that all men and women were created equal by God with absolute rights and freedom. These beliefs imprinted into the educational and religious institutions in both countries, make their citizens tend to follow fixed sets of moral principles. When applied during wartime, these values help shape the rules of war, the contribution of the home fronts and leadership decision making.

I am not saying that the Christian values were applied perfectly. Atrocities can still be perpetrated by a Christian nation usually due to the fact that wars tend to go out of control. The history of England also has great flaws like the transatlantic slave trade during the 16th to 19th century. Slavery in America before the American Civil War was also a stain in its history. But these flaws and stains were eventually abandoned due to Christian and Biblically inspired beliefs. There were also leaders from both countries who misinterpret or intentionally twist words from scripture in order for their own self gain.

But overall, these two nations were generally good and have contributed to the well being of most of the world's population for centuries. Contributions like modern science, inventions, economic progress, self-government, medicine and most of all Christian morality. So during the next few pages, I'll pinpoint exactly where and how these two great nations contributed to the defeat of the two main and evil axis powers of Germany and Japan.

I shall not include Italy and other smaller nations who joined the axis because Germany and Japan were the greater threats to freedom, evident by the size of their economies and military during World War II. I also didn't include France as Western Allies because it played a lesser role than America and England during the war, and also because France was defeated during the early years of the war. But the French still did something good for the war effort, but not as significant as American and English contributions.

2. Soviet Russia

The Soviet Union, the world's first atheist state, also considered an Allied Power, was not liked very much by the Western Allies. Although they were all Allied against Nazi Germany, the West and the Soviets were too different. America was a free democratic nation while Russia was communist. But both nations needed each other to defeat the Germans so they made an alliance. Russia was once a Christian nation 20 years before the war. But fell to communism due to the turmoil it had endured during the First World War.

3. Nazi Germany

Although Nazi Germany was still considered a Christian nation during the war, many of its citizens focused more on the power of the state, rather than on their Christian beliefs. They also hailed Hitler more than God. This was all due to the fact that after they lost the First World War, their economy was in ruins while the Allied Powers at that time period, punished the German nation into paying for war damages, loss of some of their territory and more. These were designed to make Germany so weak that it won't threaten the world again. But the opposite happened. Due to the hardships caused by these policies, the German people looked for a savior by the name of Adolf Hitler. Adolf Hitler rebuilt the German economy and military, as well as restoring national pride. Making him their hero.

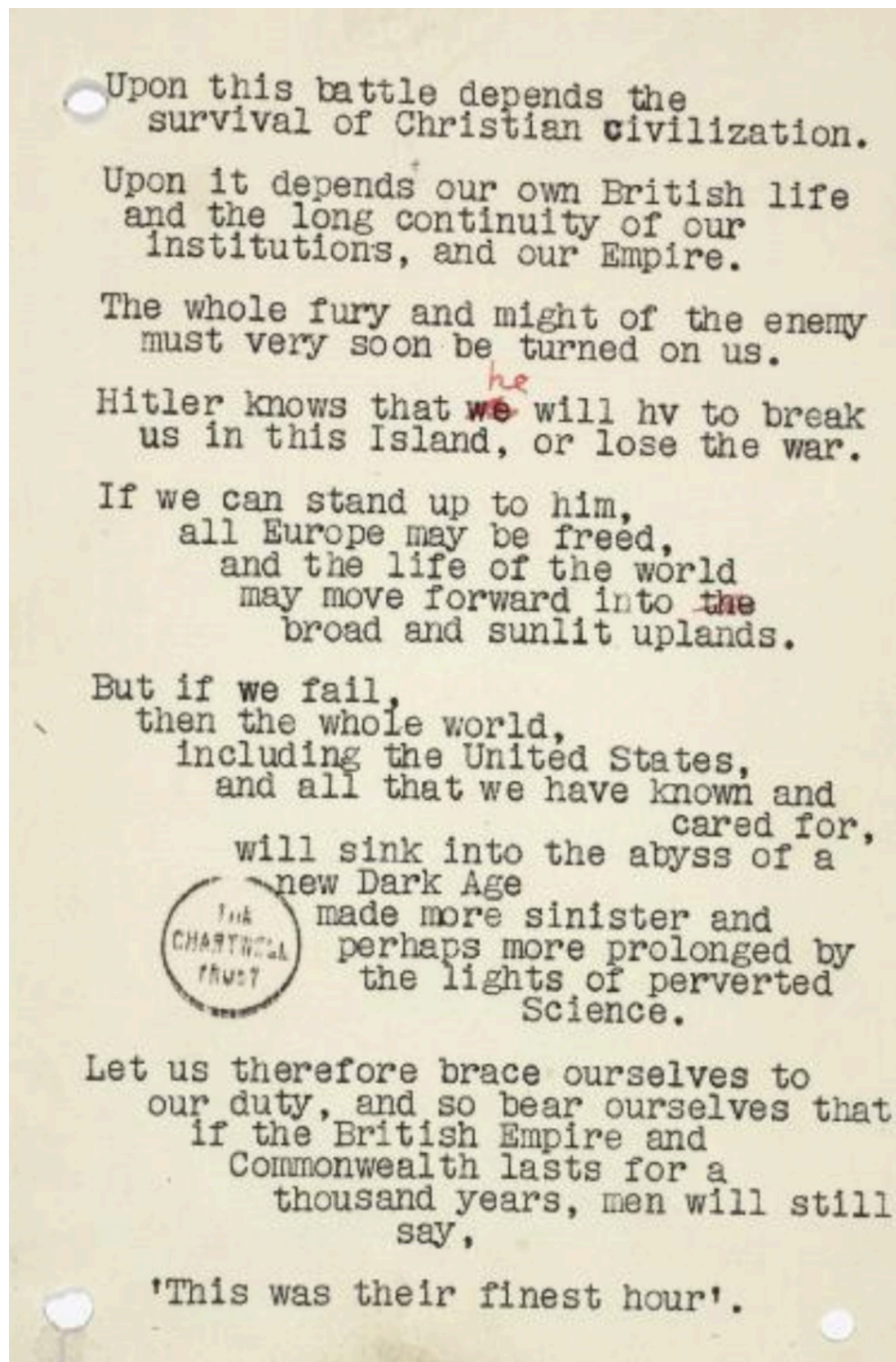
4. Imperial Japan

The Japanese before the war had ambitions to become a great world power. So they invaded China during the 1930s. Much of their government was controlled by their radical military which perpetrated horrible atrocities in China. The Japanese viewed their emperor Hirohito as a living God. But it was the militarists which had control during the war years.

5. First Significant Contribution of Christianity to the War Effort

In September 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland. Since Poland is friends with Britain and France, both nations declared war on Germany. But it didn't take too long for the Nazis to defeat the French and other European countries. So the British were the only one left standing against the Nazis as the United States was still neutral. So Hitler planned to invade England. Utilizing the conquered militaries of European countries especially the French airfields to use for a bombing campaign against the British military and economic power structures and installations.

Facing imminent invasion from the air, Prime Minister Winston Churchill addressed the nation and told them that the Battle of Britain is about to begin, and upon this battle depends the survival of Christian Civilization. So German air power went to British cities while the British Royal Air Force was in a deadly battle to maintain control of the British skies. In the end the British prevailed. Forcing Hitler to abandon his plans to invade England. Great Britain during the war, was a great Christian Nation as I have written at point number one above. The Churchill Christian Civilization declaration gives us a strong indication that it was indeed Christianity under threat, while a Christian nation contributed to the first major setback for the Nazis.



Winston Churchill - The Finest Hour Speech - Transcript 1940

6. Protestant America Goes to War

The United States was against Japanese aggression and atrocities in China. So in hopes of stopping the Japanese, the Americans cut off supplies of oil to Japan. The Japanese saw that as an act of war and began planning to neutralize America from the Pacific, so that they could invade vital oil fields in Southeast Asia. So in December 1941, America ended its neutrality after the Japanese surprise attack at Pearl Harbor Hawaii. A few days later Germany declared war on the United States.

7. Communist (atheistic) Soviet Russia Receives Massive Aid from Christian America

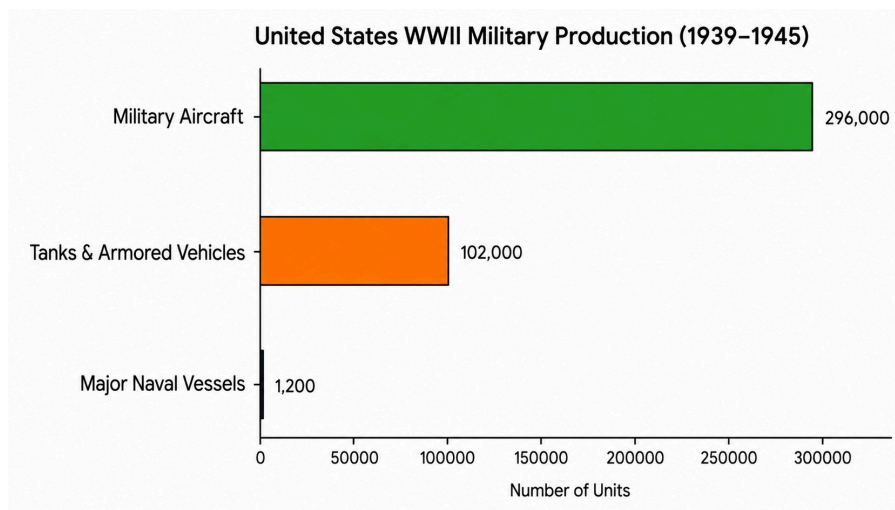
The Nazis, after their failed attempt to invade Britain, invaded Soviet Russia in mid 1941 for economic and military purposes. Hitler also hated the Russians. The Russians were overwhelmed by the German advance which made this the largest land invasion in history. Millions of Russians perished as a result. They needed help quickly. Since America already entered the war, joining the British, America had no choice but to make Russia their allies as well in order to defeat the greater threat which was the Nazis. So they supplied the Russians with everything they needed to sustain their war effort against Germany. Fighting the Nazis with Russians but utilizing American supplies is an indirect way of how America, a Christian nation, fights on the Eastern Russian Front, therefore another indirect contribution of Christianity to the War Effort.



8. The Massive Industrial Capacity of Christian America Converted to Wartime Production

The thought of national defense, the threat from the Nazis and Japanese on the East and West coast of the United States, also angered by the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, urged millions of Americans to join the fight. On the home front, was where the miracle happened.

As America converted civilian factories into military factories across the country, it produced a nearly unlimited supply of warplanes, ships, tanks and everything else needed for the war effort. Not only did the United States arm itself, they also supplied their allies, Britain and especially Russia. The free market system, free market economy, which are democratic in nature, therefore indirectly Christian in origin because democracy was inspired by Christian beliefs about the Bible when George Washington and the American founders created the United States. And the founding fathers were devout Christians. Christian love was also a motivational factors for many who served during the war. Love for their fellow man, inspired to do good and free the world from tyranny.



9. The Day of Days, June 6, 1944

Having accumulated the needed military force produced on the American home front, the Western Allies are ready to invade the Nazi held European continent. The greatest seaborne invasion in history took place on June 6, 1944 led by General Dwight D. Eisenhower. He and President Franklin Roosevelt asked Almighty God to bless the troops for this great crusade. The President also asked all Americans to pray with him. This was headline news throughout the world. The beginning of the end for the Nazis and the liberation of Europe. The success of the invasion can be attributed to brave men and women on the front lines and the American home front. This was a huge contribution of Christianity for the war effort. This was also a time when the vast majority of Americans were Christians. General Eisenhower later on became President and put the words 'In God We Trust' on American money. He also was baptized during his presidency.

“
I have full confidence in your courage
and devotion to duty and skill in battle.
We will accept nothing less than full
Victory! Good luck! And let us beseech
the blessing of Almighty God upon this
great and noble undertaking.

— Dwight D. Eisenhower —

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ALMIGHTY GOD: OUR SONS, PRIDE OF OUR NATION, THIS
DAY HAVE SET UPON A MIGHTY ENDEAVOR, A STRUGGLE
TO PRESERVE OUR REPUBLIC, OUR RELIGION, AND OUR
CIVILIZATION, AND TO SET FREE A SUFFERING HUMANITY.

★
LEAD THEM STRAIGHT AND TRUE; GIVE STRENGTH TO
THEIR ARMS, STOUTNESS TO THEIR HEARTS,
STEADFASTNESS IN THEIR FAITH.



— FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT'S D-DAY PRAYER —

10. The End of the War in Europe

As the United States and United Kingdom advanced from the West, the Soviets from the East, Nazi Germany was doomed. And eventually surrendered in May 1945.

11. The Pacific

Ever since the attack on Pearl Harbor and the eventual Battle of Midway where the Americans won, the United States went on an island hopping campaign designed to take American forces closer to the Japanese mainland. America needed lots of ships with air power to cross the vast pacific ocean. Indeed the American home front produced those ships by the hundreds and thousands. Which made the U.S. Pacific fleet larger than all other navies of the world combined. In 1945 they reached Japan and dropped two atomic bombs to end the war. Ending Japanese atrocities especially in the Philippines and China. This cannot be accomplished without the influence of Christianity.

12. Christian Mistakes During World War II

The Allies, most of the time, were forces for good as I have clearly shown in my paper. But on occasions, wars go out of control. A good example is during the early stages of the war, President Roosevelt ordered not hitting civilian targets or non-combatants like women, children and old people. That's one of the key differences between the Western Allies and the Nazis. But Germany and Japan refused to surrender when it already seemed they would lose. So the massive Allied bombing campaign shifted from only hitting military and economic targets, went on to include targeting civilians living in cities all over Germany and Japan causing more deaths. It became a war of attrition. Although the enemy committed more war crimes like the Holocaust, massacres in China and more, the Allies too committed committed war crimes like the rape of over 2 million German women by the Soviets and more. These will be forever stains.

13. The Aftermath

At the conclusion of the war, the world was reshaped again. England ceased to be a great power, leaving the United States and Russia as the Superpowers. Although both were considered Superpowers, America had a significant economic and military edge over the Soviets during the early decades of the cold war mainly due to the American mainland undamaged during the war, and the economic and military boom during the war. As the United States faced the Soviets during the Cold War, it was able to sustain this edge all throughout the Cold War eventually leading to the collapse of the atheistic Soviet Union in 1990. And yes, the Christian strength of America, further strengthened by the Eisenhower administration during the 1950s, saw an all time high of church attendance and religious affiliation reaching about 70% of Americans attending churches regularly. Once again Christianity saved the world from communism this time.

14. Conclusion

To defeat the Nazis, Germany had to be annihilated. There seems to have been no other choice at the time. If the Germans won, the world could have had another dark age far worse than the previous one. And more would have died. For Japan, they had to be stopped. They've killed millions upon millions in China and without American intervention, the killing would have continued. Overall 75 million lives were lost during the Second World War, most of them civilians and killed without mercy. It is believed that Christianity saved itself during the war. And because we live in a Christian Civilization according to historians, means that Christianity saved the world during World War II.

Also, during the war, the vast majority of Americans strongly supported the war effort, viewing the conflict against fascism and totalitarianism as a defense of Christian and democratic values. The federal government actively promoted soldier religiosity, and wartime rhetoric often framed the struggle in sacred terms, fostering a deeper unity among Protestants, Catholics, and Jews on the home front. There is no question that Christianity indeed led the Allies to Victory.

I conclude this paper by honoring all of the brave men and women who served and died during the war as I dedicate this work of mine to them all. God bless.

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