

# Patriot Project



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A Teaching American History Grant

The following is information synthesized from the World War II information boards created by Patriot Project Participants on September 11, 2010. Additional information/sources may be added in some cases.

## The Molotov - Ribbentrop Pact

Melba Adkins, Georgia Hammitt & Amy Tate

Following WWI, Germany was working to rebuild their military power and was seeking to regain territories lost in war. The Soviet Union closely monitored Germany's efforts and was also interested in regaining lands. The nonaggression pact stated that if either country was attacked by a third party, the other country would remain neutral. The pact led to a seven-year trade agreement exchanging money for gasoline, timber, phosphates, cotton, and grains. The pact's secret protocol divided the independent countries of Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Romania between Germany and the Soviet Union.

The immediate effect of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between Germany and the Soviet Union was that the Nazi Party was guaranteed there would be no interference from Stalin if they were to invade Poland. Poland's sovereignty agreement with France and Britain promised those countries would defend Poland in the event of attack. The Nazi Party gain needed supplies through the pact and the Soviet Union gained cash.

## Key Personnel

Adolf Hitler	Germany's Nazi Fuhrer
Joachim von Ribbentrop	German Foreign Minister
Joseph Stalin	Soviet Union Head of State
Vyacheslav Molotov	Soviet Prime/Foreign Minister

## Timeline

June 28, 1919	The Treaty of Versailles formally ends the First
World	War

April 16, 1922	The Treaty of Rapallo between Germany and Soviet Russia renounced all territorial and financial claims against the other. A secret annex allowed
Germany to	
January 21, 1924	train its military in the Soviet territory
April 24, 1926	The Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin dies. Within a few Years Joseph Stalin gains full power
event of	The Treaty of Berlin between the Soviet Union and Germany signed, guaranteed neutrality in the
was	an attack on the other by a third party. A renewal
September 28, 1926	signed in 1931, ratified in 1933
January 21, 1932	The Soviet-Lithuanian Non-Aggression Pact signed
February 5, 1932	The Soviet-Finnish Non-Aggression Pact signed
May 4, 1932	The Soviet-Latvian Non-Aggression Pact signed
July 25, 1932	The Soviet-Estonian Non-Aggression Pact signed
January 30, 1933	The Soviet-Polish Non-Aggression Pact signed
January 26, 1934	Adolf Hitler came to power
May 2, 1935	The German-Polish Non-Aggression Pact signed
signed	The Franco-Soviet Treaty of Mutual Assistance
September 29, 1938	The Munich Agreement permits German
annexation of	
March 15-16, 1939	Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland
of	Germany invades Czechoslovakia; the Protectorate
August 25, 1939	Bohemia and Moravia was established
September 1, 1939	The Anglo-Polish military alliance signed
September 3, 1939	Germany invades Poland
Germany	United Kingdom and France declare war on
September 17, 1939	The Soviet Union invades Poland
September 28, 1939	The German-Soviet Treaty of Friendship,
Cooperation	And Demarcation signed

## Sources

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<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.com>  
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