

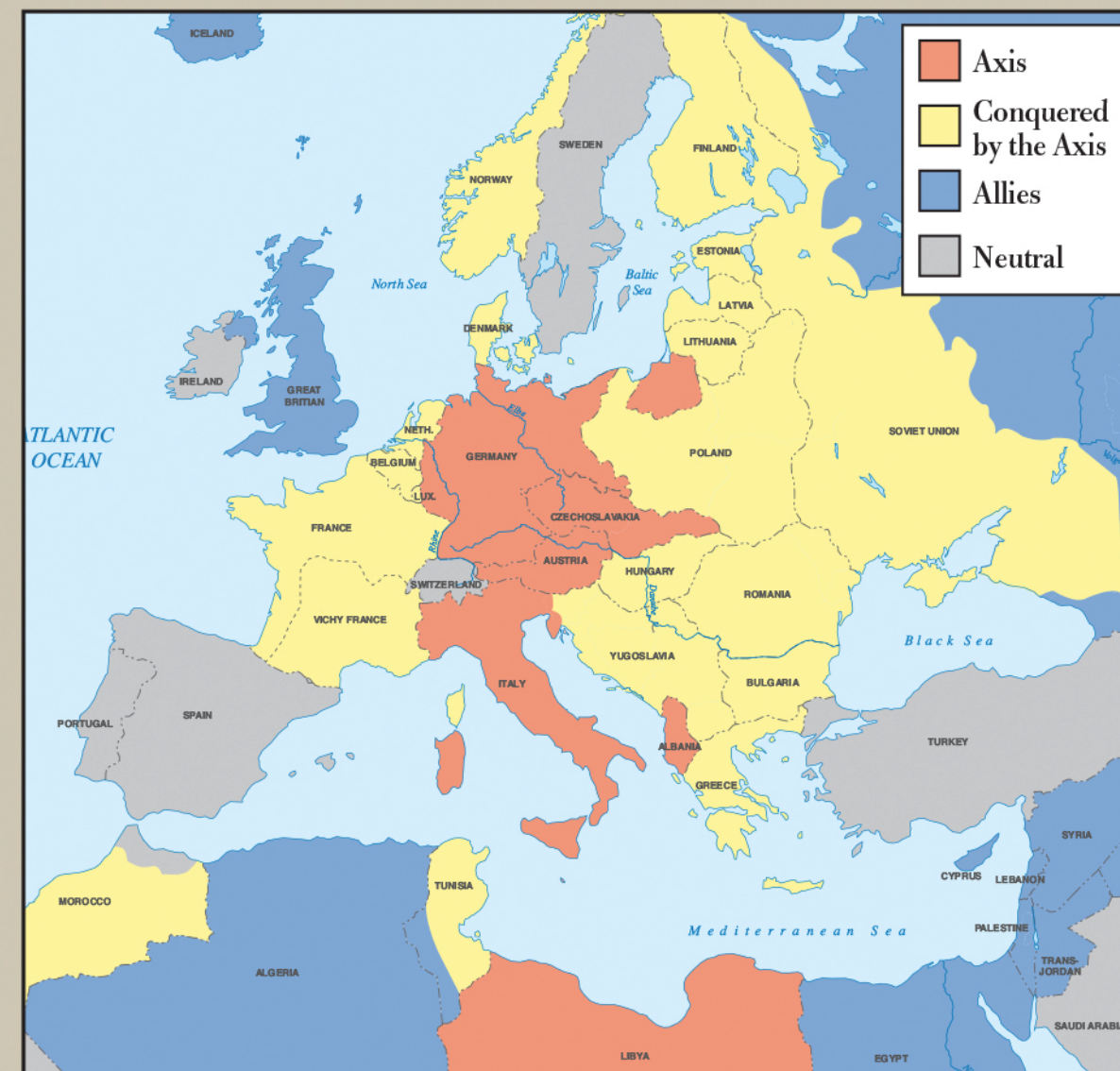
Victory at All Costs: MONEY OF WORLD WAR II

EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN THEATER

After the atrocities and devastation of World War I, the economies of the great powers of Europe were wrecked. Germany experienced terrible inflation and soon looked to find a way to regain its former dominance. German Chancellor Adolf Hitler joined forces with his fellow fascist leader Benito Mussolini of Italy in creating aggressive, militaristic states. Hitler promoted policies of “racial purity” which eventually led to the deaths of millions of European Jews, Gypsies and other peoples in the Holocaust.



Series 1944: France, 2 Francs,
Allied Military Currency



TIMELINE

- 1936-1945—Scrip issued for Nazi concentration camps, forced labor camps and Jewish ghettos.
- September 1, 1939—Germany invades Poland, beginning World War II in Europe.
- Spring/Summer 1940—Germany invades Western Europe.
- June 1941—Germany invades Soviet Union.
- August 1942 – February 1943—Battle of Stalingrad slowly turns war in favor of Allies.
- June 6, 1944—Allies begin invasion of France in Operation Overlord.
- May 8, 1945—Germany unconditionally surrenders to Allied Forces.

General Field Marshall in the African Theater, Bernard Montgomery led the first major victory by British Commonwealth forces over the German Army at the Second Battle of El Alamein in Egypt.

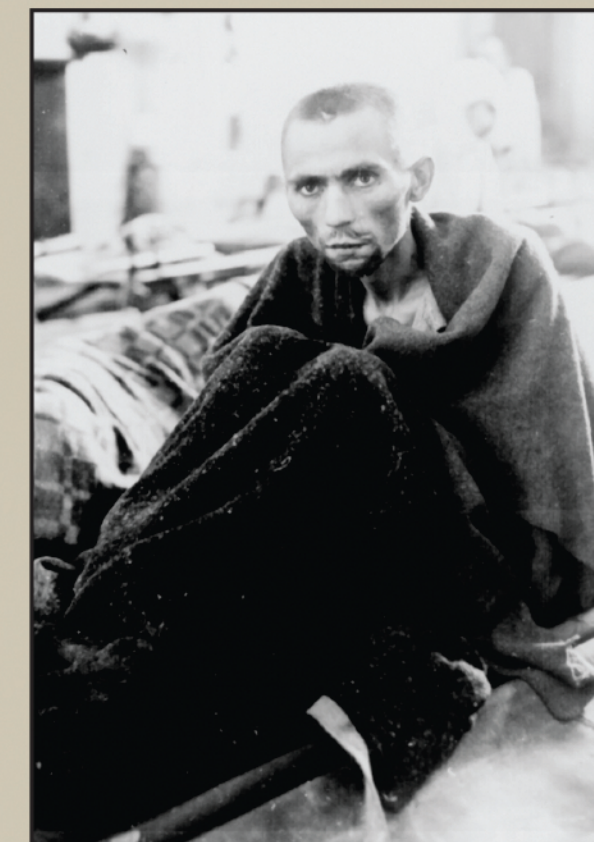


1943:
Poland, Lodz,
Litzmannstadt
Ghetto,
20 Mark



Germany, Prisoner of War Camp,
10 Reichsmark

CAMP & GHETTO SCRIP



A Holocaust survivor at Camp
Gusen, Austria.

The millions of captured and incarcerated soldiers and civilians of World War II created a need for emergency scrip money. It was to be used in the prison, labor and concentration camps and Jewish ghettos but was worthless elsewhere. The notes were mostly crudely made with simple designs that explained how the scrip could be redeemed. This currency ensured that prisoners could not buy their escape as any money given to accomplices could not be used outside the camp.



Germany, Buchenwald
Concentration Camp, 1 Reichsmark



Series 1934-A: United States, \$10 Silver Certificate,
North African Invasion Note



1938: Germany,
5 Reichsmark



Series 1944: Germany, 50 Mark, Allied Military Currency

After the French army surrendered to the Nazis in June 1940, the German army occupied northern France and set up a puppet state in the south known as Vichy France. The money issued under this government has several distinct differences from normal French issues. The country became known as “L’État Français” (French State) instead of “Republique Française” (French Republic). The national motto appears as “Travail, Famille, Patrie” (Work, Family, Fatherland) rather than “Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité” (Liberty, Equality, Brotherhood).



1943: Vichy France,
2 Francs



1945: France,
1 Franc