

## Chapter 8

# World War II

### ABSTRACT

*Second World War, that lasted between 1939-1945 and resulted in the death of millions of people, takes its place in the dusty and dark pages of history with its causes, consequences, and outcomes. Difficult times experienced by millions of people affected during the war, both on the front and among the peoples, were also manifested by food shortages and malnutrition. While the particulars taking place in these difficult times are known in detail by many people living in the world, here in this chapter, the gastronomic events in the background are discussed. Foods that could be found and eaten during the war, rationing, food in Nazi concentration camps, and some foods that stood out during this bloody war are discussed in detail.*

### INTRODUCTION

World War II is the most devastating war in history, with its consequences causing disaster and suffering. While 20th century has led some of the people and nations to a better life, it has inflicted unprecedented suffering on many. While the history of humanity could not find the opportunity to forget the negative effects of the World War I that emerged at the beginning of the century, it had to experience the same losses with World War II. World War II is comprised of a great destruction that emerged with the impact of Germany's troubles with the Treaty of Versailles after the First World War and the subsequent World Economic Depression (Yıldız, 2019). Particulars included in the peace agreements that ended the First World War greatly

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influenced and shaped the world politics of the years following 1919. The negative effects of the peace agreements had the most repercussions in Germany. Germany, which was under great pressure both economically and politically, has begun with new searches (Sander, 2016). The expected world war was on the horizon in the autumn of 1939, when the international system established after World War I fell into disrepair.

World War II is comprised of one of the biggest destructions seen in history. World War II not only caused millions of people to die, became homeless and displaced, but it also brought up social and psychological destruction and change with it. II. World before World War II and World after World War II are quite different from each other. From an economic point of view, the balances between the poor and the rich have changed, and there have been serious gaps between these. Although it was Hitler who started this war, which engraved names such as Stalin, Churchill, Roosevelt, and Mussolini on the pages of history, the factors causing the war include all the countries participating in the war (Atici, 2009).

It is not possible to limit the reasons that pushed the world to war only with Germany. Italy's disappointments after the First World War, Britain's failure to maintain its pre-war balance policy after the war, USA's failure to join the League of Nations and its desire to stay away from the problems in Europe, and the Soviet Union's being away from Europe due to the revolution, comprised the other causes of World War II (Sander, 2016). During this while, England and France made an effort to prevent the war and pursued a policy of isolating Germany. Hitler's expansion policy started with his plans to deactivate France and England and to eliminate the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in order to achieve this goal by declaring the wide plains of Eastern Europe as his living space, and especially after 1933, when he came to power, aiming for his goal, he challenged the status quo, and the appeasement policy of the British and French governments further emboldened Hitler. In World War II, the Allied Powers, in which England and France stood out, were formed against the Axis Powers led by Germany, Italy and Japan. The allied bloc included the USA, the Soviet Union and China over time (Royde-Smith, 2022; Overly, 2015).

Actually the war started with Germany's attack on Poland on the morning of September 1, 1939. With Germany's invasion of Poland, which aimed to establish a great empire in Europe, France and most countries included in the British Empire and the Commonwealth of Nations sent an ultimatum to Germany and showed that they were on the side of Poland. The Second World War, which lasted for six years and affected all countries of the world,

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