

MODERN HISTORY: *CONFLICT IN EUROPE*

Assess the impact of 'D'-Day and the liberation of France on the outcome of the European war.

The 'D'-Day landings and the liberation of France significantly contributed to the Allied victory in the European war. The tactics used by the Allies in these advances positioned them with an advantage over the German forces and eliminated German control in the Low Countries and France. These advances also marked the beginning of American involvement on the European mainland which provided the Allies with military dominance which significantly contributed to the German defeat on the Western Front. However, the success on the Western Front is largely due to the Russian counter-offensives which depleted German supplies, troops and morale on both fronts, resulting in the growth of Allied superiority which ultimately allowed for the demand of unconditional surrender in 1945.

'D'-Day and the liberation of France significantly contributed to the Allied victory in the European war as the success of their tactics positioned them with military dominance over the Germans, providing an advantage for the majority of the duration of the war. Due to the German defeat in North Africa, the Allies had the advantage of advancing into Europe via Sicily which weakened the strength of the German forces as Hitler was forced to allocate 8 divisions to fight at the south of Rome. Similarly, the Allied dominance in the air and sea, allowing their landing craft to be free from attack, as well as the delayed German reinforcements due to Hitler's belief that the landings in Normandy were a decoy, significantly furthered the Allied advantage which was pivotal concerning the liberation of France in which the swift German surrender marked the end of German superiority in the Low Countries and France. Another factor which contributed to the Allied success in 'D'-Day was the knowledge that frontal attacks on heavily defended ports was ineffective, demonstrated from the failure at Dieppe in 1942, allowing them to develop strategies, such as the creation of their own ports, to best counter German resistance. Furthermore, the timing of 'D'-Day which occurred in conjunction with the rapid and successful Soviet advances enabled Germany to lose vast control over territory gained from both the east and west simultaneously which significantly contributed to the Allied victory as their losses were immense and provided the Allies with vital control on either side of the German forces. Therefore, 'D'-Day and the liberation of France significantly contributed to the outcome of the European war as their strategies gave them a vital advantage over the Germans which was pivotal to the events leading to the Allied victory in 1945.

'D'-Day and the liberation of France had a crucial impact on the outcome of the war as it demonstrated Allied superiority, greatly due to American involvement, and forced the German forces to retreat on the Western Front. The 'D'-Day landings marked the beginning of American involvement on the European mainland and significantly contributed to the Allied successes throughout 1944 and 1945 as they offered a vast supply of raw materials and troops which the Germans lacked and greatly needed. This was especially crucial in the advances from Normandy through to France in which the Allies had landed 3 million troops in 3 weeks whilst the Germans had only their own limited resources whilst facing speedy advances from both Eastern and Western Fronts. By 1945 this imbalance had a significant negative impact on the Wehrmacht as they were forced to conscript raw teenagers in their attempt to counter the immense imbalance of supplies and troops. Although the Germans did make few successes on the Western Front in December of 1944 in the Battle of the Bulge by temporarily regaining ground in the Ardennes, the combined power of the Americans and the Allies in 'D'-Day and the liberation of France in conjunction with the Russian counter-offensives in the east resulted in the steady disintegration of the Wehrmacht, providing the Allies with an advantage large enough to demand unconditional surrender in 1945. The liberation of France significantly demonstrates the Allied military dominance by 1944 compared with Germany's superiority in France in 1940 in which Churchill was forced to launch Operation Dynamo whilst Hitler had captured over 300,000 allied troops. Furthermore, the increase of Allied superiority which caused the German retreat on the Western Front was vital as demands for Germany's unconditional surrender would not have been possible without their defeat on both Eastern and Western Fronts.

Therefore, 'D'-Day and the liberation of France were crucial to the outcome of the European war as the involvement of American troops provided the Allies with significant advantages over the Germans and allowed for the German defeat on the Western Front which was vital in order to demand unconditional surrender.

'D'-Day and the liberation of France significantly contributed to the Allied victory, however it was largely due to the Russian Counter Offensives that allowed their invasion to be rapid and successful as the Germans were so heavily committed on the Eastern front. By the end of June, the German forces were being critically attacked on both the eastern and western fronts, thus their troops and all war materials were spread and significantly lesser than the Allied supplies, providing them with a major disadvantage which hugely contributed to the success of 'D'-Day and the liberation of France. The commencement of Operation Bagration on the 22nd June, triggered the rapid German retreat on the eastern front, causing massive amounts of casualties which significantly affected not only their ability to counter the number of Allied troops advancing from Normandy, with the capture of 30 German divisions by the Soviets, but was also detrimental to morale which crucially impacted their fighting ability and decline in military dominance, demonstrated with von Choltitz's surrender to the French 2nd Armoured Division, despite Hitler's order to level Paris. The Warsaw Uprising on the eastern front similarly demonstrated the German decline in military dominance as, although they proved superior to the Polish resistance in air power and artillery, their lack of strength is clearly evidenced through their rapid retreat after the Soviet advance in mid-September in which all forces had been evacuated by the 14th of September. Therefore, 'D'-Day and the liberation of France were essential to the Allied victory in the European war, however the rapid success of these advances is largely due to the Russian Counter Offensives as they significantly weakened the German forces, allowing for Allied military dominance in 1944.

'D'-Day and the liberation of France had a significant impact on the outcome of the European war. The Allied dominance in troops, supplies, the air and the sea in these advances contributed hugely to the German defeat on the Western Front by 1945; however it was significantly due to the rapid success of the Russian counter-offensives from the east that provided the Allies with such a great advantage as the Germans were spread over two fronts with limited supplies and troops whilst the involvement of the Americans provided the Allies with an enormous amount of men to fight. Therefore, 'D'-Day and the liberation of France were vital to the Allied victory in the European war, yet it was also the impact of the eastern front which made Allied victory possible.