

Title: Don't Forget Your Gloves: A look into Hitler's failed attempt to invade Moscow in the winter of 1941

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Introduction: Weather has had a huge influence in the outcome of wars for a long time. By the start of the fifth decade in the twentieth century, Nazi Germany had become a massive world power that seemed unstoppable. In an attempt to gain even more control over Europe, and the rest of the world, Adolf Hitler decided to turn on his Ally, Russia, and attempted to take its Capitol City. This analysis will examine the enemy that Germany did not expect: The problem of Russias winter. Another great default to the Germans was their mistake to not account for weather related events on D-Day, and how the Allied Forces used it to their advantage.

Purpose: The main motivation for this research is to examine how weather has had an influence over different wars throughout human history. Although World War Two was arguably the greatest military event during the 20th century, history books tend to undermine this step that changed the course of the war. Looking at information available through archives and the internet, we will be able to have a better view as to what made the Germans make this rash decision and how it ended up benefitting the Russians and the allies as well.

Methods: Looking through weather data from the winter of 1941, we are able to get a glimpse into what extreme weather the Germans were facing. Looking at digitalized records of newspapers, telegrams and radio broadcastings it is possible to see exactly what kind of extreme weather the Germans were forced to entail. For D-Day, looking through historical video, interviews and also map archives give us a better idea of the strategic positions that were needed for it to be a successful invasion.

Results: The Battle of Moscow started in early winter of 1941, and was over just a few short weeks later. Hitler ordered troops to march into the area underprepared, under dressed and underfed for the brutal winter that was before them. The winter would become the worst in over 140 years, with the December temperatures reaching around negative 24 degrees Celsius according to German Daily Weather archives. As winter went on, the Soviet troops kept going further and further back into their Siberian territory, drawing the Germans further away from their supplies, leading to many deaths and turned into what would be the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany. In the months leading up to the invasion of D-Day, the only thing that was unknown about the invasion was how the weather would correlate with the planned invasion dates. Having to push back the invasion one day already, the next available day after the 6th was two weeks later in the month. The weather on the 6th of June was determined adequate enough for an attack after the allied forces learned the Nazis were not expecting an attack because they assumed the weather would be too rough. This was a major advantage for the allies, and saved thousands of lives by not having to postpone for an additional two weeks.

Conclusion: Through the research found, it is safe to say that the Battle of Moscow was the turning point in the war for Germany. Through reckless leadership, the militia acted too fast and was too underprepared for the task it had attempted to start. The Germans had started its own two front war, making the Battle of Moscow the first turning point in the World War and the weather events of D-Day lined up to seal its fate.