SECOND WORLD WAR IN EUROPE: RESEARCH PAPER AND PANEL PRESENTATIONS/SUGGESTED TOPICS

Interwar Period, 1919-1939:

- Aftermath of WWI: impact on European society
- Interwar tensions: Social and economic troubles and the decline of democracy in Europe
- Rise of “renegade” nations: Germany, Italy, Soviet Union
- Peace keeping efforts (e.g., League of Nations: Success or Failure?)
- Preparing for War: Military potential of European countries
- Turning points: Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939, Munich Crisis, Polish Agreement
- Strategy of Appeasement: Winning the peace and creating the conditions for war?
- Historiographical issues: A Thirty Years War?

War: Beginning phase:-

- Blitzkrieg (Invasion of Poland)
- Russo-Finnish War (Soviet Union’s goals as ally of Germany)
- Scandinavian campaign (Phoney War)
- Battle of France
- Battle of Britain
- Battle of Atlantic, 1940-1941
- US/British relations before 1941
- Italy’s parallel war: Greece, Balkans
- African campaigns, 1940-1941

War: Second phase:-

- Operation Barbarossa
- Eastern Front: Leningrad, Moscow, Stalingrad, Kursk, etc.
- Battle of the Atlantic, 1942-45
- African campaigns, 1942-43
- Strategic Air Offensive: Allied bombing strategy and missions from 1943 onwards.

Reorganizing Europe: Themes

- Domestic life under German occupation/rule in Germany and elsewhere in Europe
- Domestic life in Allied countries (rationing, government intervention in daily lives, censorship, entertainment, etc.)
- Women’s role at front/rearguard
• Holocaust: camp organization; children; ideological aspects; international aspects

• Resistance/Underground movements: Yugoslavia, Poland, France, Netherlands, etc.

**Major Allied Land Offensives, 1943-1945:**

• Invasion of Italy

• Normandy

• Bagration

• Conquering East/Central Europe - Warsaw Rising, etc.

• Battle of Bulge

• Battle for Berlin

**War’s End:**

• Nuremberg Trials

• Beginnings of Cold War

• Remembering the war

**Miscellaneous Topics (to be inserted in chronological framework outlined above):**

Technological developments: field armaments; aircraft, navy

Sports in Europe during WWII

Propaganda: Art, education, literature, films, etc. during war.
Art/Culture in Europe during war: fate of art and artists in occupied zones, etc.
Gender relations during war: Sex and sexuality as instruments of propaganda
Role of colonial troops in European campaigns
Intelligence operations during war: decoding enemy transcripts.
War-time conferences: Casablanca, Teheran, Yalta, etc.