

tangent: resources tied up by Final Solution [Digest urth.v030.n167]

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 13 Aug 2001

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John Bishop — 13 Aug 2001, 15:51

I've seen some figures for "war materiel" produced per year by the major actors in World War II.

Here's the quotes (from rec.arts.sf.written, by asprz at sydney.DIALix.oz.au (Phillip McGregor), 9 Nov 1995):

<quote>

Approx Spending on Armaments (1994 US\$, Billions)

1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944

US 5.4 13.5 40.5 180 342 379 UK 9 31.5 58.5 81 99 100 Canada 0 0 4.5 9 13.5 13.5 USSR 30 45 76 104 125 144

Germany 31 54 54 77 124 153 Japan 4.5 9 18 27 42 54 <end quote>

The two economies weren't comparable--the US was capable of outproducing Germany by two or three to one. The Axis' only hope was to win a quick war and reach a settlement _before_ the US got its act in gear.

So 10% or 50% extra production in Germany wouldn't have made more of a difference than a slight rescheduling of Germany's defeat--though if it's postponed more than a month or so, the A-bomb would be ready to be used on Germany, so the defeat can't be prolonged much past August (Hiroshima drop was August 6, 1945 if I've got it right).

Either way they lose in the summer of 1945.