



# Causes of the Great Patriotic War

- 1. Hitler striving for world domination of the German nation*
- 2. The need for the conquest of Nazi Germany, the USSR natural resources it needs to continue the war against Britain and the United States*
- 3. Fatal ideological contradictions between the capitalist and socialist systems*

- *At dawn on June 22, 1941 bombing from the air and the onset of the German Army launched a plan "Barbarossa". Plan "Barbarossa" was part of a global plan "Ost", calls for the gradual establishment of the former Soviet Union "new order" - enslavement and partial destruction of the Soviet population.*

# Reasons for the defeat of the Red Army at the beginning of the war

1. *Hitler's army had two years' experience of modern warfare, while the professional level of the Soviet troops, especially commanders, after the mass repressions in the army was low;*
2. *Major flaws of the Soviet leadership: underestimation of mechanized units, outdated ideas about how to wage war;*
3. *Stalin's intervention in command and control, in particular - the order of the transition to the offensive in the early days of the war, which cost the Soviet army of huge losses;*
4. *Mistakes of Stalin and his entourage in the analysis of the international situation, in determining the timing of a possible outbreak of the war, which led to a surprise attack.*



*Battle of Stalingrad - the strategic initiative for the time passed to the Red Army. As a result of the Battle of Stalingrad German Wehrmacht suffered a heavy defeat, leaving it for the first time during the war, was forced to leave vast territories captured with great difficulty in the summer of 1942. After the Battle of Stalingrad severe crisis for the Red Army no longer arise.*



# End of war

- *At 22 hours 43 minutes CET on May 8 the war in Europe ended with the unconditional surrender of Germany's armed forces. The fighting lasted for 1,418 days. However, although it accepted the surrender, the Soviet Union did not sign the peace treaty with Germany, that is, formally remained with Germany at war. War with Germany was formally finished January 25, 1955 by a decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR decree "On the termination of the state of war between the Soviet Union and Germany"*

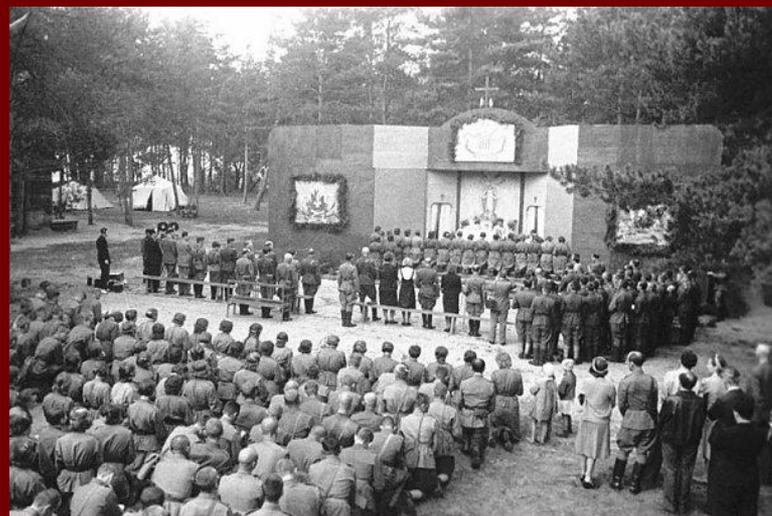


- Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel signs the act of unconditional surrender of the German Wehrmacht in the headquarters of the 5th Shock Army in Karlshorst, Berlin

# Losses

- *Casualties USSR - 6.8 million. Servicemen killed and 4.4 million. Was captured and missing.*

- *General demographic losses (including lost civilians) - 26.6 million. Man*



# Property losses



- *During the war on Soviet territory was destroyed 1,710 towns and urban-type settlements and more than 70 thousand. Villages and hamlets, 32 thousand. Industrial enterprises destroyed 98 thousand. Collective and state farms in 1876. Overall material losses of the Soviet Union estimated sum of about \$ 2 trillion. 600 billion rubles.*