

History B357-Spang

# Modern France: Society, Culture, *Politics*

10 November 2008

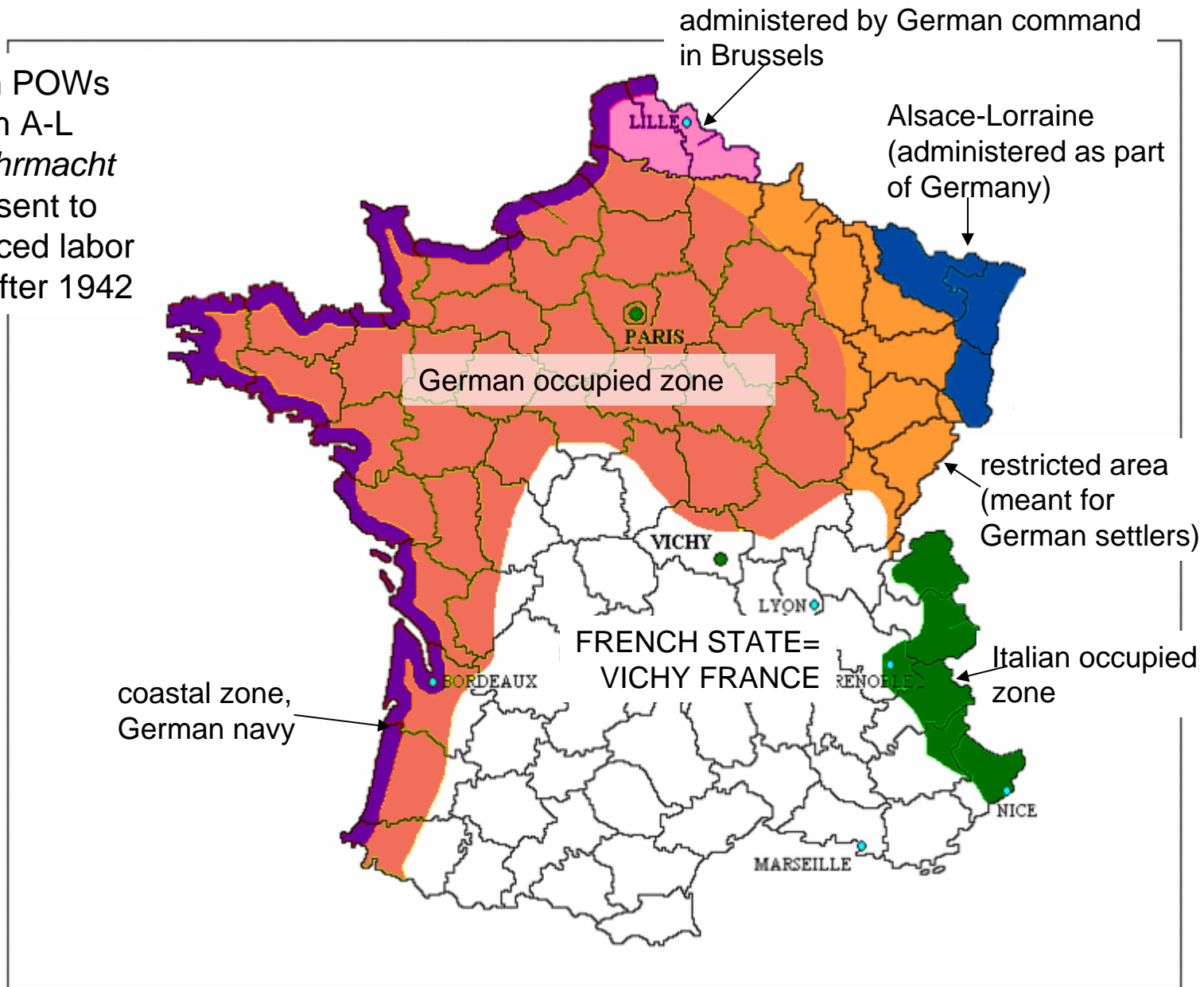
## Resistance at Home and Away

**Place Félix Eboué  
Paris**

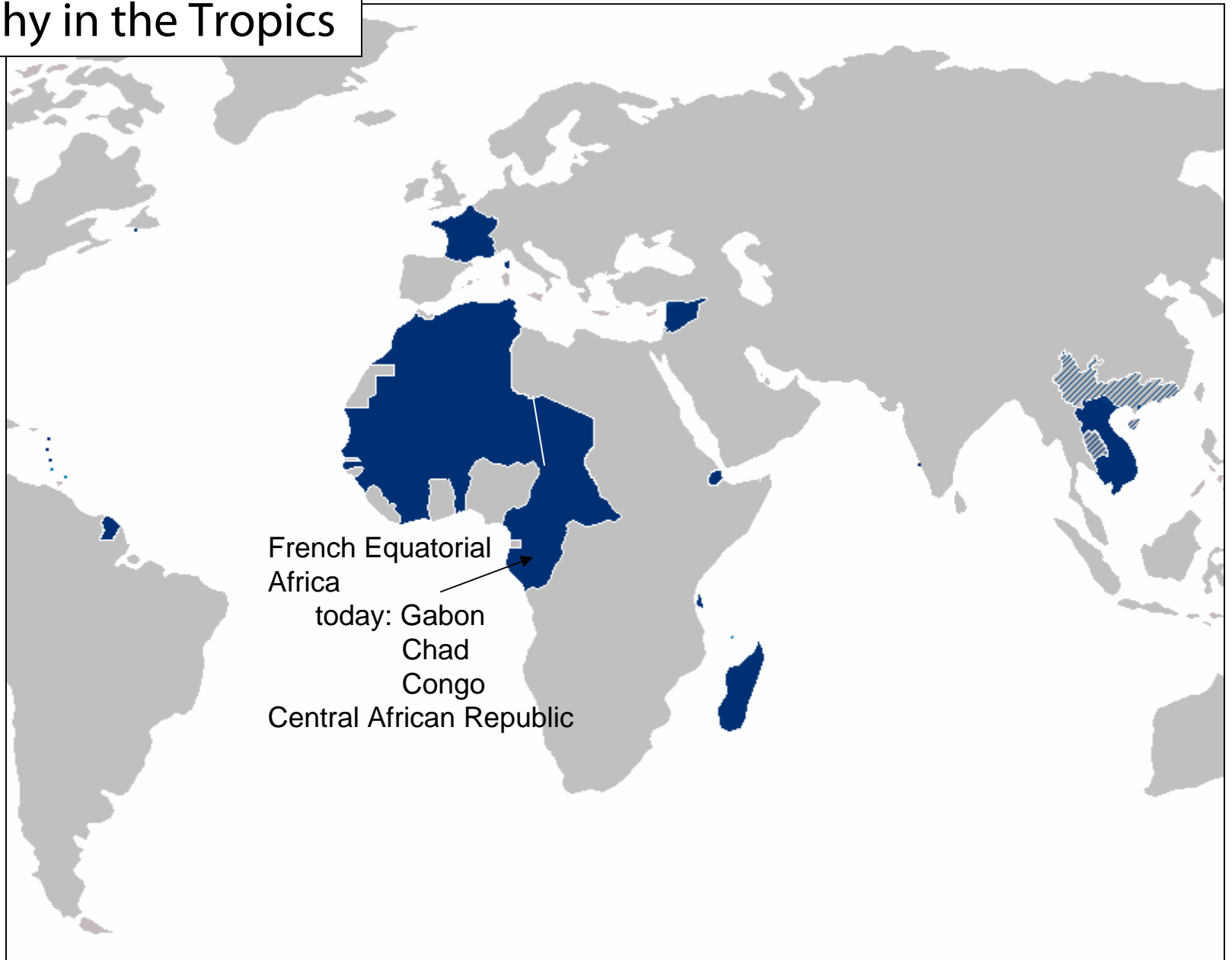


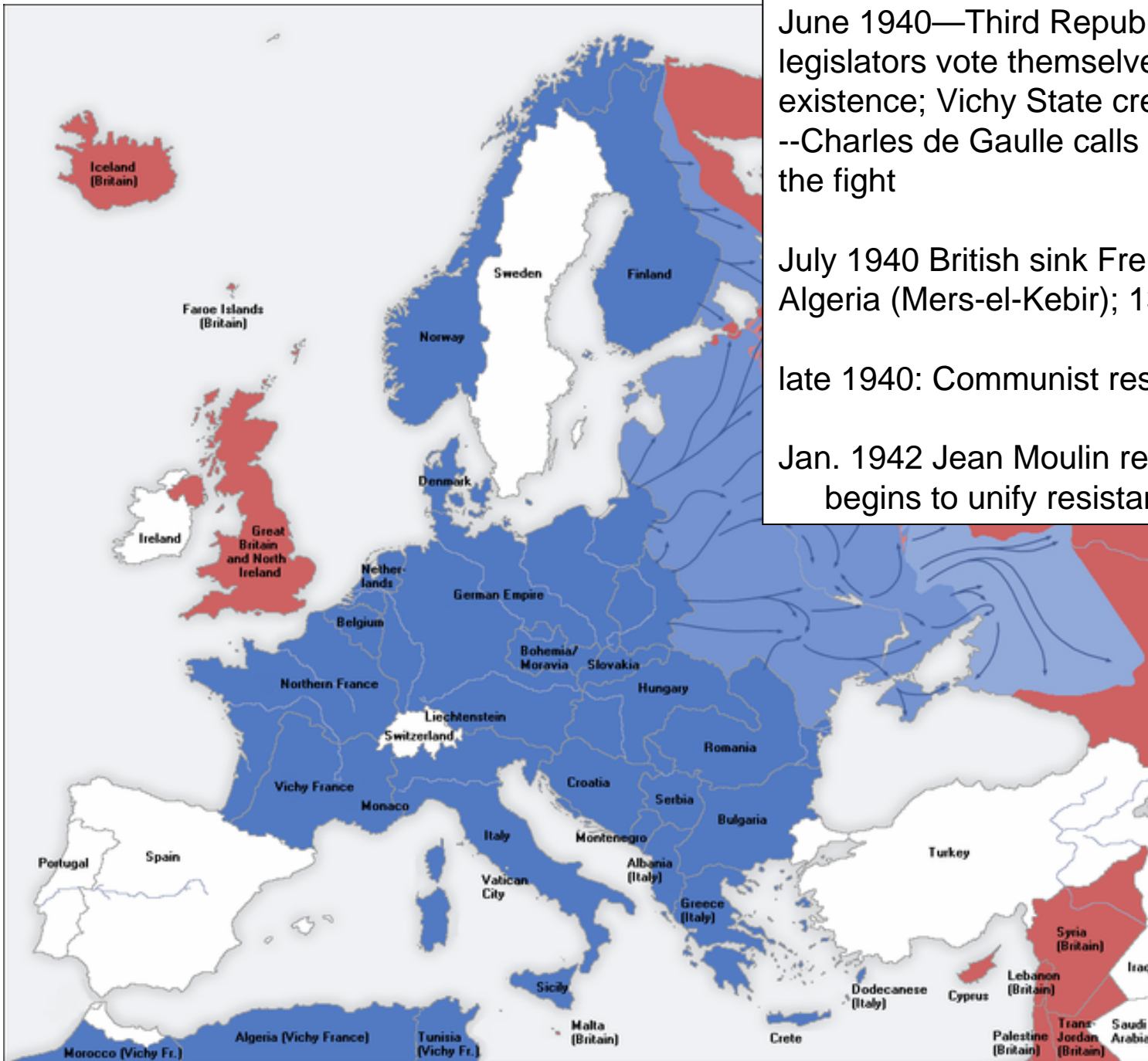
# The Dark Years: France, 1940-1944

- 1.5 million French POWs
- 130,000 men from A-L drafted into *Wehrmacht*
- 670,000 workers sent to Germany by forced labor service (STO) after 1942



# Vichy in the Tropics





June 1940—Third Republic's legislators vote themselves out of existence; Vichy State created; --Charles de Gaulle calls for continuing the fight

July 1940 British sink French fleet in Algeria (Mers-el-Kebir); 1300 French deaths

late 1940: Communist resistance

Jan. 1942 Jean Moulin returns to France, begins to unify resistance groups

# The General and the "Free" French?

Charles de Gaulle, 18 June 1940

The Germans' tactics, their tanks and airplanes—this is what made us retreat... But has the last word been said? Should hope disappear? No! Believe me, for I know what I am saying and I tell you France is not lost.... For France is not alone! France is not alone. She has a vast empire behind her. She can form an alliance with the British Empire, which controls the seas and continues the fight... This war does not hang on the battle of France, this war is a world war...



**A TOUS LES FRANÇAIS**

*La France a perdu une bataille!  
Mais la France n'a pas perdu la guerre!*

**Des gouvernants de rencontre ont pu capituler, cédant à la panique, oubliant l'honneur, livrant le pays à la servitude. Cependant, rien n'est perdu!**

**Rien n'est perdu, parce que cette guerre est une guerre mondiale. Dans l'univers libre, des forces immenses n'ont pas encore donné. Un jour, ces forces écraseront l'ennemi. Il faut que la France, ce jour-là, soit présente à la victoire. Alors, elle retrouvera sa liberté et sa grandeur. Tel est mon but, mon seul but!**

**Voilà pourquoi je convie tous les Français, où qu'ils se trouvent, à s'unir à moi dans l'action, dans le sacrifice et dans l'espérance.**

**Notre patrie est en péril de mort.  
Luttons tous pour la sauver!**

**VIVE LA FRANCE !**

*J. de Gaulle.*  
**GÉNÉRAL DE GAULLE**

**HIER**

**1300-1453** L'Angleterre fait couler le sang français. Notre Pays est dévasté et démembré. Jeanne d'Arc est brûlée vive à Rouen.

**1758-1821** L'Angleterre fait couler le sang français. Elle s'empara de nos Colonies du Canada, de l'Inde, de l'Arabie, du Sénégal, des Antilles, de Malte. Napoléon vainquit à Sainte-Hélène.

**1831-1900** L'Angleterre ne cesse de faire obstacle à notre expansion coloniale. Elle nous humilia à Fachoda. Elle nous vint de l'Egypte.

**AUJOURD'HUI**

**1940** A Dunkerque, le sacrifice de nos bateaux et de nos soldats permit le réembarquement des troupes anglaises.

**1940-1942** L'Angleterre résista au siège des nazis qui nous assiégeaient.

**1940** L'Angleterre fait couler le sang français à Mers El Kébir.

**1940** L'Angleterre fait couler le sang français à Dakar.

**1941** L'Angleterre fait couler le sang français au Gabon.

**1942** L'Angleterre fait couler le sang français à Madagascar.

**DEMAIN ?...**

Où l'Angleterre fera-t-elle couler le sang français ?  
Que vaudra-t-elle encore nous prendre ?

75,721 Jews deported from France  
(24% of total population)  
4000 (roughly) executed in France  
or died in French camps  
approx. 1/3 French, 2/3 foreign

July 1942 “Vel d’Hiver” round up of Jews  
in northern France

Nov. 1942 German occupation of Vichy

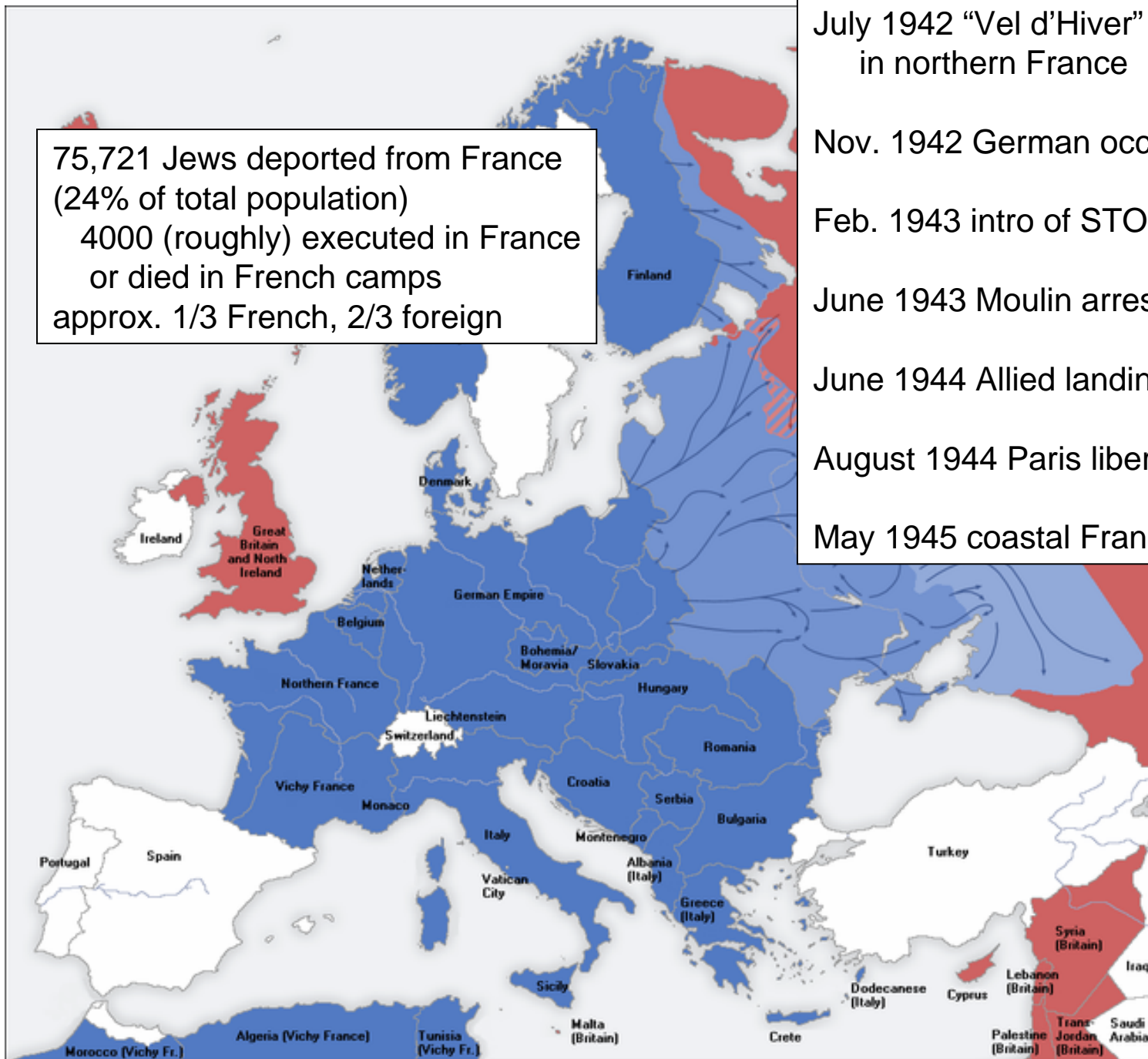
Feb. 1943 intro of STO

June 1943 Moulin arrested; killed

June 1944 Allied landings in Normandy

August 1944 Paris liberated

May 1945 coastal France fully liberated





Monument to the Unknown Deported Worker  
(Père Lachaise Cemetery, Paris) 1970



Memorial to the Martyrs of Deportation  
(Ile de la cité, near Notre Dame) 1962



Paris Holocaust Museum (Marais)  
2005

## **Conseil National de la Résistance (CNR) Charter**

United as to our goal and the means we will use to achieve the rapid liberation of our territory, the representatives of the movements, groups, parties, and political tendencies included in the CNR declare they will remain united after the Liberation, in order to ensure:

- democracy established by giving a voice back to the French people and restoring universal suffrage
- complete liberty of thought, faith, and expression
- liberty of the press and its independence from both the State and moneyed or foreign influences
- freedom of association, meeting, and protest
- ...
- the creation of true social and economic democracy, with the eviction of all economic and financial feudal overlords
- a rational organization of the economy, assuring that all private interests are second to the general good
- increased national production based on a state plan, after consulting representatives of all elements of the population
- the right to work and the right to leisure ... and a complete plan of social security, guaranteeing that all citizens can support themselves, even when they cannot get work
- recompense for the bombed and pensions to the victims of fascist terror
- an extension of political, social, and economic rights to the native populations of the colonies

# France in 1945

more than 50% of railway destroyed

economy had been redirected to German war effort for five years (meant most working machinery had been moved to Germany)

imports 500% of exports

60% of workers returned from STO to discover marriage had collapsed  
(divorce on grounds of mutual assent legalized in 1975)

## Political Spectrum

### **LEFT**

Communists

Socialists

### **CENTER**

MRP (Popular Republican  
Movement)=Christian democrats

“Radicals”

### **RIGHT**

RPF (“Rally of the  
French People”)=  
De Gaulle



Governor General Felix Eboué  
and General Charles de Gaulle



Felix Eboué, French-Caribbean administrator in Central Africa

