

The Battle of Kursk

Description

History manuals can be found with references to many battles where the word Kursk has been omitted. It is strange because:

Kursk was the biggest battle in history for its troops and armaments. It involved 4,155,000 Soviets and Germans. The combined defensive and offensive phases lasted a few weeks (Stalingrad lasted seven months). But the means used – 69,000 cannons, 13,200 tanks and propulsion cannons and 11,950 airplanes – far outnumber the total land and air warfare equipment deployed by Americans and Japanese during the nearly four years of the Pacific War

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The Germans never won the initiative again after Kursk. Furthermore, the loss convinced Hitler of the incompetence of his General Coordinators. When given a chance, his generals selected a poor plan and he decided to make sure it didn't happen again. The opposite applied to Stalin, however. After seeing his generals' intuition justified on the battlefield, he moved away from strategic planning and left it entirely to the military.

Predictable results followed on both sides: the German army went from loss to loss as soon as Hitler personally tried to micromanage day-to-day operations of what soon became a war on three fronts, while the Soviet army gained more freedom and became more and more fluid as the war continued.

[Wikipedia](#)

World War II was not just a military struggle. It was also a confrontation showing the importance of the ability to establish military alliances, even if punctual, either to buy time or to join forces against a common enemy. It was also a spy services war.