

Introduction

Greece played a significant role in World War II, experiencing both invasion and resistance. Understanding this part of history involves looking at several key events that shaped the nation during the war.

The Invasion of Greece

In April 1941, Germany invaded Greece. This invasion was part of a larger plan to secure the Balkans and prevent British influence in the area. Germany's attack came after Greece had already repelled an invasion from Italy in late 1940. The Greek army had shown impressive bravery, but eventually, they were overrun by German forces.

Occupation

After the invasion, Greece was occupied by Axis powers, primarily Germany, Italy, and Bulgaria. This occupation lasted until 1944 and was incredibly harsh. The occupiers imposed heavy taxes and took resources, which led to severe famine and suffering among the Greek people.

Resistance Activities

Despite the oppressive conditions, many Greeks formed resistance groups to fight back against the occupiers. One of the most famous resistance movements was the National Liberation Front (EAM) and its military branch, the Greek People's Liberation Army (ELAS). These groups carried out sabotage operations and worked to undermine the occupying forces.

The Impact of World War II on Greece

The war not only affected the military strategies of the nation but also led to severe social and economic consequences. Many Greeks lost their lives due to famine, deportation, and fighting. The experience of occupation and resistance deeply influenced Greek society and politics in the years following the war.

Conclusion

The story of Greece during World War II is a testament to courage and resilience. From the initial resistance of the Greek army against Italy to the struggles of the occupied population and their fight for freedom, Greece's experience in WWII is a crucial part of its history that continues to be remembered today.