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MEMORANDUM FOR Whom It May Concern

SUBJECT: Center of Gravity Determination for Operation Husky,
the World War II Allied invasion of Sicily in 1943.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to present, with justification, the strategic center of gravity for each opposing force in the above named scenario.

2. Description of the Scenario

The Allied decision to invade Sicily following the successful operation in North Africa was a critical element of World War II (WWII). The commitment of such a large force to continue operations in the Mediterranean theater meant that the cross-channel invasion of Europe would be delayed.

American military leaders strongly favored the cross-channel invasion at the earliest possible opportunity. This meant giving this invasion force first priority for troops, shipping and equipment. The British favored an indirect approach that would see a major effort continue in the Mediterranean. The Allies settled on the Mediterranean approach at the Casablanca conference in January 1943 and began planning for Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily.

Situated ninety miles off the north coast of Africa and two and one-half miles from the toe of the Italian peninsula, Sicily was both a natural bridge between Africa and Europe and a barrier dividing the Mediterranean Sea. It was an unsinkable air and naval fortress from which Axis forces interdicted Allied' sea lines of communications through the Mediterranean.

Operation Husky was the largest amphibious operation ever conducted up to that time. The operation encountered numerous difficulties and gained the Allies valuable experience that would be critical for the successful invasion of Europe. Operation Husky was the last U.S. and British combined operation of WWII in which roughly equal numbers of British and US ground forces would be committed. British ground forces would initially be the main effort of the operation but by its conclusion US ground forces would have the lead. After Sicily, US forces would constitute the largest element of Allied' combat power for the remainder of the war.

The German defense of Sicily is one of the finest examples of defensive warfare in modern history. The bulk of the Axis forces available for the campaign were Italian, but despite competent leadership and decision-making at the General Officer level, the Italian forces were mostly ineffective. Greatly outnumbered and out-gunned, the Germans effectively delayed the allied advance for weeks, allowing German units to reinforce Italy. The campaign ended with a brilliant evacuation of German forces and equipment from Sicily despite Allied air and naval superiority.

3. Anglo Allies 1943

3.1 Strategic goals of Anglo Allies 1943

The strategic goals of the US-British alliance in 1943 were to defeat Germany first while containing Japan, to keep Russia in the war on the side of the Allies, and the eventual unconditional surrender of all Axis countries. To accomplish these goals, US leaders favored an early, direct attack into northern Europe. The British on the other hand were weary and cautious after four years of war. The British recognized the importance of applying pressure on the Germans, but they also recognized the scope of the challenge of an invasion of northern Europe and were determined to take an indirect approach.

The objectives of the Allies in WWII were seen as absolutely just and appropriate by the populations of the alliance, the people of the free world and the people living under the yoke of the Axis. The leaders and people of the Axis countries believed in their objectives too, but they stood apart from the rest of the international community.

3.2 Operational goals of Anglo allies 1943

The operational goals of the Allies were to secure sea lines of communications in the Mediterranean Sea, divert German combat power from the Russian front, and knock Italy out of the war.

These operational goals were not obvious or clear to the bulk of the populations of the Allied' nations or the international community but generally would have been seen as just and appropriate. The leadership of the Axis countries had just come to the realization that their power and freedom of movement was in decline and that they would be on the defensive for most of the remainder of the war. Their populations were purposely kept unaware of Allied objectives and progress.

3.3 Relevant factors of Anglo Allies 1943

Demographic factors

The Anglo Allies were comprised of the US and Britain who share a common culture and language with diverse dialects.

Economic factors

The US was truly growing into the arsenal of democracy with the most powerful industrial capacity in the world. WWII has brought the US completely out of the depression and while Britain and Russia have their own powerful industrial capacities, it will be the economy and industry of the US that overwhelms the Axis.

Geographical factors

The allies have long, external lines of communications. Allied' leaders and staffs are geographically separated by great distances. Coordination and planning efforts are spread from the US across the Atlantic to Britain, and into the Mediterranean region and North Africa. Availability of land-based air support for the operation is a critical aspect of the planning for the operation.

Historical factors

The US and Britain have a history of successful wartime cooperation during WW I and in the early stages of WWII.

International factors

The Allies have failed to agree on an overall strategy for defeating Germany and are choosing operations one at a time with no long-range plan. The Allies' demand for an unconditional surrender of the Axis nations complicates the international situation.

Military factors

The Allies have employed a very complex deception plan to provide surprise for Operation Husky. The Allies have not had much practice in planning or conducting combined and joint operations. This operation provides them needed practice for their staffs and combat forces. Allied' shipping and landing craft are in short supply. The Allies consider the available shipping and landing craft to be the bare minimum necessary to conduct Operation Husky, and significantly less than is necessary for an invasion of northern Europe. British forces are well trained, experienced, well equipped and well led. Their moral is high.

Political factors

The populations and major political parties of both the US and Britain are firmly in support of Allied leaders and objectives. The governments of both countries are stable, and the military of both countries are firmly under civilian control.

3.4 Dominant factors of Anglo Allies 1943

3.4.1 Composition of forces of Anglo Allies 1943

The Anglo Alliance of 1943 is a multi-state force.

The Anglo Alliance of 1943 is organized as an equal partner alliance with the following members:

- Britain_1943
- US_1943

The primary force element that will conduct the campaign for the Anglo Allies of 1943 is "Allied Forces Operation Husky". In terms of its composition, Allied-Forces-Operation-Husky is a multi-group force. The subgroups of Allied-Forces-Operation-Husky are:

- British 8th Army (Force 545)
- Eastern Naval Task Force
- Northwest Africa Air Force
- US 7th Army (Force 343)
- US 9th Air Force
- Western Naval Task Force

The subgroups of Allied-Forces-Operation-Husky conduct combined and joint operations.

3.4.1.1 Britain 1943

3.4.1.1.1 Strategic goals of Britain 1943

The British strategic goals in 1943 are to pursue an indirect approach to attacking Germany and to preserve the British Empire. They have only recently come to see that victory is ultimately likely, but they also recognize that the path to victory will be long and costly. Winston Churchill understands both the current situation and the likely challenges to be faced after the war, and he is already maneuvering to preserve as much British power as possible.

3.4.1.1.2 Operational goals of Britain 1943

The primary British operational goal is to shorten their supply routes to their forces and Empire in the Middle-east and

Asia. While Axis air and naval power on Sicily and in southern Italy threaten shipping through the Mediterranean Sea, British supplies and forces must take the extremely long route around Africa to reach the Middle-east and Asia.

3.4.1.1.3 Relevant factors of Britain 1943

Demographic factors

Britain is employing forces from throughout the empire. These forces share a common history and operational experience but come from different nations and cultures and use different languages.

Economic factors

The British economy and industry are strong and at maximum wartime capacities. The British Empire is in decline. The British are able to sustain their forces in European theater, but at the expense of their forces in the Far-east and Asia. The British economy and industry are not strong enough to generate enough combat power to defeat the Axis without US support.

Geographical factors

The British have long, external lines of communication to the theater. They have even longer lines of communications to Far-east and Asian pieces of the empire.

International factors

The British are openly debating US goals and plans. It takes the intervention of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill to make the final decision to conduct this operation.

Military factors

The Allies have adopted the British staff by committee method for planning the operation. British Generals mistrust the will to fight and capabilities of the US forces. This mistrust drives actual operational plans and decisions and results in the British 8th Army initially being the main effort of the operation.

Political factors

The British government is stable, is fully in control, and has the firm support of the British people. The British Empire is in decline however and while much of Britain's combat power comes from Colonial troops, these troops are not likely to be motivated fight for the preservation of the Empire.

Transportation resources

The British lack the shipping and landing craft necessary to go on the offensive in the war and are dependant on US to provide them.

3.4.1.1.4 Dominant factors of Britain 1943

3.4.1.1.4.1 Control and governing elements of Britain 1943

The government of Britain_1943 is a Parliamentary Democracy. The dominant element in this parliamentary democracy is the "Will of people." The primary controlling element in the governing body of Britain in 1943 is Winston Churchill.

3.4.1.1.4.2 Civilization of Britain 1943

Britain in 1943 has an industrial civilization, where the dominant element is British' industrial capacity.

3.4.1.1.5 Strategic Center of Gravity Candidates for Britain 1943

Britain 1943 industrial capacity

Description

Britain's industrial capacity is the dominant element in their industrial civilization in 1943. This suggests that their industrial capacity is a potential Center of Gravity for Britain in 1943.

Evaluation

Britain-1943 is the provider of relatively little of the war material and transports for the war in Europe. The generation of combat power by Anglo Allies in 1943 is dependant on the industrial capacity of US. Neutralizing the industrial capacity of Britain would have little impact on the combat power of the Anglo Allies in 1943 and little impact on the scheduling of the eventual allied invasion of Europe.

Evaluation result

"Britain 1943 industrial capacity" should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

Winston Churchill

Description

Winston Churchill is the primary controlling element in the governing body of Britain in 1943, a Parliamentary Democracy. Winston Churchill is a valid candidate center of gravity for Britain in 1943.

Evaluation

While Winston Churchill is the primary controlling element of the British government and is making the key strategic decisions for Britain and its allies, he is not irreplaceable. The Parliament, the British public and allies would not allow a dramatic change in course by Churchill or his successor. If major policy changes occurred in Britain-1943, The time lines for US victory might change, but not the eventual outcome of the war.

Evaluation result

Winston Churchill should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

Will of people of Britain 1943

Description

The "will of people of Britain" is the dominant element in the government of Britain in 1943, which is a Parliamentary Democracy. This suggests that the "will of people" is a potential center of gravity for Britain in 1943.

Evaluation

Britain in 1943 is the provider of a relatively small amount of the allied combat power for the war in Europe. The generation of combat power by Britain-1943 is dependant on the will of the people of Britain in 1943. Neutralizing the will of the people of Britain-1943 could disrupt and slow the generation of combat power by the Anglo Allies in 1943, but not to the point that Germany-1943 could defeat the Russians and British in turn and then prevent the US from successfully invading Europe.

Evaluation result

"Will of people of Britain 1943" should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

3.4.1.1.6 Operational Center of Gravity Candidates for Britain 1943

British 8th Army

Description

The British 8th Army is a major component of the allied invasion force.

Evaluation

The British 8th Army is a major component of the Allied' invasion force and initially is the main effort of the operation.

Evaluation result

British 8th Army should not be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

British Airborne Forces

Description

British Airborne Forces were a key part of the operational plans for operation Husky.

Evaluation

While they played an important tactical role in Operation Husky, British Airborne Forces represent only a small portion of the overall combat power available to the Allies for Operation Husky.

Evaluation result

British Airborne Forces should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

3.4.1.2 US 1943

3.4.1.2.1 Strategic goals of US 1943

A primary goal of the US is to get US forces directly into the fight some where in Europe. The US recognizes that Russia and Britain have carried the fight up to this point. President Roosevelt wants to take on a share of the burden as quickly as possible, while also gaining preeminence in the alliance. The US wants to take the direct approach to defeating Germany and only agrees to invade Sicily after much debate.

3.4.1.2.2 Operational goals of US 1943

The US recognizes that US forces lack training and combat experience and the invasion of Sicily is seen as an opportunity to get correct this situation.

3.4.1.2.3 Relevant factors of US 1943

Demographic factors

US forces are generally homogenous in terms of language and culture. US units are still racially segregated at this time.

Economic factors

The US has an overwhelming advantage over all other countries in economic and industrial strength and has not yet reached its peak capacity in 1943. The US is supplying and paying for the lion's share of the Allied' effort.

Geographical factors

The US has extremely long and external lines of communication. Some US forces deployed directly from the US for the invasion of North Africa and much of the shipping and naval forces for Sicily will come directly from the US for operation Husky.

Historical factors

The US fully supported and successfully cooperated with Britain in WW I and in the early stages of WW II.

International factors

President Roosevelt's announcement of the unconditional surrender policy was unexpected and is not fully understood internationally, although in general it is well supported by all of the non-Axis countries of the world. General Eisenhower is attempting to communicate directly with the Italian government to offer them something other than unconditional surrender in order to keep them from opposing the invasion of Sicily and Italy.

Military factors

US forces are very well equipped, and well led, but they have only limited combat experience and practice in amphibious, airborne, joint and combined operations. Their moral is high. US global combat power is growing daily. Despite the Germany-first policy, the US has enough man power and material to conduct Operation Husky, reinforce England, and still send significant forces to the Asian and Pacific theaters.

Political factors

The US government is stable, is fully in control, and has the firm support of the US people. The respect for the power and leadership of the US is growing steadily around the world.

US strategic and operational mobility resources

The British lack shipping and landing craft and are dependant on US to provide them. The US is providing all of the strategic and operational mobility resources for the Allies in WWII. US industrial capacity to produce shipping and landing craft already high but is still growing rapidly and has not reached maximum capacity.

3.4.1.2.4 Dominant factors of US 1943

3.4.1.2.4.1 Control and governing elements of US 1943

The government of US_1943 is a Representative Democracy. The primary controlling element in the governing body of US_1943 is President Roosevelt.

3.4.1.2.4.2 Civilization of US 1943

The US in 1943 has an industrial civilization, where the dominant element is US 1943 industrial capacity.

3.4.1.2.5 Strategic Center of Gravity Candidates for US 1943

President Roosevelt

Description

President Roosevelt is the primary controlling element in the governing body of the US in 1943, which is a Representative Democracy. This suggests that President Roosevelt is a potential center of gravity for US_1943

Evaluation

President Roosevelt is the primary controlling element of the US government and is making the key strategic decisions for the US and its allies, he is not irreplaceable. The US Congress, the US public and US allies would not allow a dramatic change in course by President Roosevelt or his successor. The time lines for US victory might change, but not the eventual outcome of the war.

Evaluation result

President Roosevelt should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

US 1943 industrial capacity

Description

The US industrial capacity is the dominant element in the industrial civilization of 1943. This suggests that US_1943_industrial_capacity is a potential Center of Gravity for the US 1943.

Evaluation

The US in 1943 is the provider of the majority of the war material and transports for the war in Europe. The generation of combat power by the Anglo Allies in 1943 is dependant on the industrial capacity of US. Neutralizing the industrial capacity of US in 1943 could end or disrupt the generation of war materials and transports and slow the generation of combat power by the Anglo Allies to the point that Germany could defeat Russia and Britain in turn and then prevent the US from successfully invading Europe.

Evaluation result

US_1943_industrial_capacity should not be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

Will of people of US 1943

Description

Will_of_people_of_US_1943 is the dominant element in the government of US in 1943, which is a Representative Democracy. This suggests that Will_of_people_of_US_1943 is a potential center of gravity for the US in 1943.

Evaluation

The US is the provider of the majority of the Allied' combat power for the war in Europe in 1943. The generation of combat power by US is dependant on the will of the people of US in 1943. Neutralizing the will of the people of US could end or disrupt and slow the generation of combat power by US in 1943 to the point that Germany could defeat Russia and Britain in turn and then prevent the US from successfully invading Europe.

Evaluation result

Will_of_people_of_US_1943 should not be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

3.4.1.2.6 Operational Center of Gravity Candidates for US 1943

US 7th Army

Description

The US ground force conducting the amphibious assault is a major source of combat power for the allied invasion force. While nearly equal numbers of US and British ground forces will be involved in the campaign, the US forces will carry the brunt of the war in Europe after this point.

Evaluation

The US ground forces involved in the invasion are the real source of power for the operation. Destroying them, or causing their withdrawal will cause the invasion to fail.

Evaluation result

US 7th Army should not be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

US Airborne forces

Description

US Airborne forces represent a major source of combat power for Operation Husky.

Evaluation

A division plus sized force is dropped beyond the US amphibious assault points and they play a key role in protecting the beach heads while the amphibious forces are establishing themselves.

Evaluation result

US Airborne forces should not be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

3.4.2 Control and governing elements of the Anglo Allies 1943

3.4.3 Civilization of Anglo Allies 1943

3.5 Strategic Center of Gravity Candidates for Anglo Allies 1943

The strategic center of gravity candidates of the members of Anglo Allies of 1943 are also strategic center of gravity candidates for Anglo Allies in 1943.

Cooperation between members of Allied forces operation Husky

Description

Because of the level of complexity of the combined and joint operations being conducted by the Allied-Forces-Operation-Husky, cooperation between the subgroups of Allied-Forces-Operation-Husky is a valid candidate strategic Center of Gravity.

Evaluation

Cooperation between the US and British forces can be eliminated as a candidate COG because over the very long run, the US is capable of defeating the Germans in Europe on their own. Keeping Britain in the war and cooperating, and the island of Great Britain available as a launching base for the invasion of Europe is important but not decisive. The US was successful in deploying forces directly from the continental US for the invasion of North Africa and could do so again if necessary for the invasion of Europe. This would be very much more difficult than launching the invasion from England with British support, but still possible.

Evaluation result

Cooperation between members of Allied-Forces-Operation-Husky should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

Will of Anglo allies 1943

Description

The Anglo Alliance of 1943 is an equal partner, multi-state alliance. The will of the alliance is a potential center of gravity for the Anglo Allies of 1943.

Evaluation

The US is, over the very long term, capable of defeating the Germans in Europe on their own. Keeping Britain in the war, and the island of Great Britain available as a launching base for an invasion of Europe is important, but not decisive. The US was successful in deploying forces directly from the US for the invasion of North Africa and could do so again if necessary for the invasion of Europe.

Evaluation result

The Will of Anglo Allies 1943 should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

Allied Strategic Mobility

Description

To win the war, the Allies have to successfully conduct global projection of combat power. The Allies can not defeat the Axis if they can't deliver their combat forces to the appropriate theater at the appropriate time.

Evaluation

Disruption of Allied strategic force projection or destruction of their means of global force projection could prevent or delay the invasion of Europe to the point that it could allow the Germans to defeat Russia and link up with the Japanese in central Asia.

Evaluation result

Allied strategic mobility should not be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

3.6 Strategic Center of Gravity Choice for the Anglo Allies 1943

The industrial capacity of the US in 1943 is the Strategic Center of Gravity of Anglo Allies in 1943.

Justification

Strategic mobility is an absolute necessity for Allied' victory in WW II. Supplies, material and troops from the US must be successfully transported to all theaters. While strategic mobility is a critical element of the Allies freedom of movement, it transports the combat power and but is not the source of that combat power. Allied dependence on strategic mobility is a potential vulnerability, not a center of gravity.

The will of the people of the US is a critical source of power for the Allies. The people of the US are generating the vast majority of the combat power of the Anglo Alliance in the factories, shipyards, and training bases of the US, but the Allies will not win on will-power alone, and will to produce combat is not as important as the actual material and forces produced.

The industrial capacity of the US in 1943 is the primary source of power and freedom of movement for the Anglo-Allies and this point in WWII. The Allies could not defeat the Axis with an all infantry force and the US is providing the vast majority of all the war material for the Allies. Neutralizing the industrial capacity of US-1943 could end or disrupt the generation of war materials and transports and slow the generation of combat power by the Anglo-allies-1943 and Russia

to the point that Germany-1943 could defeat Russia and Britain in turn and then prevent the US from successfully invading Europe.

3.7 Operational Center of Gravity Candidates for Anglo Allies of 1943

The operational center of gravity candidates of the members of Anglo Allies of 1943 are also operational center of gravity candidates for Anglo Allies of 1943.

Allied Air Support

Description

Air support, fighters, bombers and transports, play a key role in Operation Husky. The key criteria for the selection of beach landing sites is actually whether or not they can be supported by US and British land based fighters. Support by transport aircraft delivering airborne forces is also crucial to the quick generation of Allied' combat power on Sicily.

Evaluation

Allied air support is a crucial element of Allied combat power, but it is not decisive, and actually produces poor results in the operation. Allied air support is not the primary source of power for the Allies in Operation Husky.

Evaluation result

Allied Air Support should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

Allied Cooperation

Description

Operation Husky is a complex, joint and combined operation. While the US is providing the bulk of the air and naval forces for the operation, the British are providing about a 50 percent share of the ground force and are responsible for a great deal of the staff planning and coordination for the operation.

Evaluation

While cooperation among the Allies is extremely important for this operation, the US could go it alone if necessary and successfully capture Sicily. Allied cooperation is important, but is not the primary source of Allied power and freedom of movement.

Evaluation result

Allied cooperation should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

Allied Naval Support

Description

The Allies have overwhelming naval superiority in the Mediterranean Sea at the time of Operation Husky and these naval forces have the primary mission of ensuring that the assault forces arrive at the launching points safely. Naval gunfire from the supporting fleets is an important element of the Allies overall combat power.

Evaluation

Allied naval forces play a key role in Operation Husky and there are a few cases where naval gunfire plays a decisive role in important engagements. Overall results for the Allied' naval support is spotty however, and it is not the primary source of combat power or freedom of movement for the Allies.

Evaluation result

Allied naval support should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

Allied Shipping and Landing Craft

Description

The availability of shipping to bring the invasion force close to Sicily, and landing craft to actually deliver the main assault on Sicily is absolutely essential to the operation. Without adequate shipping and landing craft the operation would not take place.

Evaluation

The Allies have assembled the minimum necessary shipping and landing craft to conduct Operation Husky. Availability of shipping and landing craft is a limiting factor for the Allies ability to assault the continent of Europe. Destruction of the allocated shipping or landing craft would likely halt the operation.

Evaluation result

Allied shipping and landing craft should not be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

3.8 Operational Center of Gravity Choice for Anglo allies 1943

The US 7th Army is the Operational Center of Gravity of Anglo Allies of 1943.

Justification

Shipping and landing craft are essential elements in the Allies freedom of movement but they provide mobility for Allied' combat power, not the combat power itself. Overall, the shortage of shipping and landing craft represents a vulnerability rather than a source of power.

US Airborne forces play a key role in Operation Husky and represent an important element of Allied combat power, but they are not the primary source of Allied combat power or freedom of movement for the Allied forces.

The British 8th Army is a close runner up for selection as the operational COG. Because of its combat experience, the 8th Army is man-for-man probably a better overall force than the 7th Army initially, but the changing nature of US-British cooperation and operations, makes the US unit a more important element of Allied combat power.

The US 7th Army is currently the primary element of US ground combat power in the theater. The Allies would not conduct Operation Husky without US ground combat forces. The only sure way the Axis forces can be successful is to destroy or cause the withdrawal of the US ground forces from Sicily. Given the US and Allied objectives, the survival and ultimate success of the US 7th Army makes it the primary source of combat power and freedom of movement for the Allies.

4 European Axis 1943

4.1 Strategic goals of European Axis 1943

The ultimate strategic goal of the Axis is world domination. The dominant elements in the Axis, Germany and Japan, feel they have been oppressed and punished by the rest of the world and this is their opportunity to secure their rightful place in the international community. The Germans claim to be making the world safer and better by eliminating communism and "undesirable" races from Europe. The Japanese claim they are freeing Asia from European Colonialism. The primary strategic goal of Germany and Italy in 1943 is to defeat Russia first while delaying against the US and Britain.

The stated objectives of the Axis nations are still fully supported by their leaders and populations in 1943. Much of the "dark side" of Axis' actions are being kept from the ordinary public. The rest of the world community recognizes the unjust

and inhumane aspects of the objectives and actions of the Axis and considers the axis leaders and operators to be ruthless and blood thirsty "ethnic-cleansers."

4.2 Operational goals of European Axis 1943

The operational goal for the Axis is primarily to buy time to prepare the defense of the Italian mainland. Both Italy and Germany recognize that they are not likely to succeed indefinitely in preventing the Allies from seizing Sicily and the Italian peninsula, but they believe that they can make the Allied assault very costly in both men and material and that they can drag out the fighting for an extremely long time if they have time to prepare their defenses in Sicily.

The people of Sicily and Italy would reject an objective of "buying time." Their moral and support for the war will not survive the loss of Sicily and mainland Italian territory.

4.3 Relevant factors of European Axis 1943

Demographic factors

Italy and Germany are of similar cultures and ethnicity with diverse languages. Minorities have generally been eliminated from Axis territories through ethnic cleansing.

Economic factors

The Axis countries are at their maximum capacity in terms of economic and industrial production. Despite increasing Allied' strategic bombing, Axis factories are still extremely productive in 1943 and Axis forces have not suffered from severe shortages of material. Strategic resources such as oil is in short supply and is the primary limiting factor in industrial output for the Axis.

Geographical factors

The Axis has internal and shorter lines of communications. Axis land based fighters and bombers, as well as coastal naval units, are available to support the operations on Sicily.

Historical factors

German-Italian cooperation and mutual support goes back only to the 1930s. The Germans have had to bail the Italians out in the Balkins and Africa so what recent historical links exist, are all bad ones.

International factors

The Allied' announcement of the unconditional surrender policy is being successfully used by Axis leaders to motivate their

forces and populations to fight on. The policy will actually delay the surrender of Italy for several months after the Italian King first considers it. The political links between the European Axis members and the Japanese are very weak.

Hitler considers Mussolini a personal friend and strong ally. He will do what ever he can to keep Mussolini in power.

Military factors

A great deal of tension exists between German and Italian political and military leaders. The Germans have never considered the Italian military to be competent, and now they consider them unreliable after their defeat in North Africa. Axis military leaders clearly understand that they are now on the defensive. Axis political and military leaders are taken in by the Allied deception plan. Some believe the Allies will land on Sicily, but Hitler and key German Generals believe the Allies will attack through Greece.

Political factors

Hitler, supported by key Nazi party leaders, the Gestapo and SS, is firmly in control of Germany and the European Axis countries.

4.4 Dominant factors of European axis 1943

4.4.1 Composition of forces of European Axis 1943

The European Axis of 1943 is a multi-state force.

European Axis of 1943 is organized as a dominant partner alliance with the following members:

- Germany-1943
- Italy-1943

The dominant partner of the alliance is Germany.

The primary force element that will conduct the campaign for European Axis of 1943 is Axis-Forces-Sicily. In terms of its composition, Axis-Forces-Sicily is a multi-group force. The subgroups of Axis-Forces-Sicily are:

- German Air Forces Italy
- German Air Forces Sicily
- German Ground Forces Sicily
- German Naval Forces Italy
- Italian 16th Army
- Italian Naval Forces

The subgroups of Axis-Forces-Sicily conduct combined and joint operations.

4.4.1.1 Germany-1943

4.4.1.1.1 Strategic goals of Germany-1943

The strategic goals of Germany are to keep Italy in the war, and with or without Italian support to retain control of the Italian main land. The German's do not consider Italian territory as strategically critical, but they recognize that they can tie up a great deal of Allied' combat power in a protracted defensive campaign on the Italian peninsula. Hitler is personally concerned with keeping Mussolini in power because he considers him a personal friend and firm political ally even though Italy provides the Axis with little combat power.

German leaders and the population support these goals. Ordinary people are unaware of the low moral of the Italians or that Hitler and his senior leaders realize that the Italians are likely to quit soon. Allied leaders are aware that the Germans will pursue these goals. The international community in general is unaware that the Italians are ready to quit, but realize that the Germans will fight on without them.

4.4.1.1.2 Operational goals of Germany-1943

In addition to buying time to prepare a deliberate defense of Italy, a key German operational goal is and to ensure that German troops are not trapped on Sicily. The Germans want to make the Allies pay as high a price as possible for Sicily, but not at the expense of loosing the German troops conducting the defense there. These troops are key to dragging out the campaign in Italy.

4.4.1.1.3 Relevant factors of Germany-1943

Demographic factors

Hitler and the Nazi party have attempted to create an ethnically pure society but they have in fact weakened their national potential by eliminating some of their brightest minds (like Einstein), economic and industry leaders, and generally antagonizing the international community.

Economic factors

Germany is dependent on imported strategic industrial resources such as oil, copper, chromium and bauxite from the Balkans. German industry is operating at maximum capacity despite allied strategic bombing attacks. The limiting factor

in how much war material the Germans can produce is their access to imported raw materials.

Geographical factors

The Germans have internal, but long lines of communication to supply their forces in Italy and Sicily.

International factors

Hitler and Nazi policies and actions have made Germany an international outlaw and pariah. Germany has limited support from other Central European nations but Hitler and Nazi actions alienate most of these allies and weaken their support and utility.

Military factors

German troops in Italy and Sicily are under strength but they are well trained and well led. The moral of German forces remains relatively high despite their losses in Africa. Germany has fallen for the allied deception plan and they believe the allies will attack through Greece and the Balkans. German leaders and troops do not trust the will-to-fight or capability of Italian forces.

Political factors

Hitler is an absolute dictator and is in firm control of Germany and the European member nations of the Axis. The German people generally still support Hitler in 1943 although few ordinary Germans are aware of German atrocities or current operational situation.

Italian transportation network

The Germans are depending on the good transportation network in Italy to quickly reinforce Sicily and Italy if the allies invade there.

4.4.1.1.4 Dominant factors of Germany-1943

4.4.1.1.4.1 Control and governing elements of Germany-1943

The government of Germany in 1943 is a Police state. This police state is dominated by the political element Nazi Party that has Adolph Hitler as the primary controlling element.

4.4.1.1.4.2 Civilization of Germany-1943

Germany in 1943 has an industrial civilization, where the dominant element is Germany's need for strategic industrial resources.

4.4.1.1.5 Strategic Center of Gravity Candidates for Germany-1943

Adolph Hitler

Description

Adolph Hitler is the primary controlling element in the Nazi Party of 1943 which is the dominant decision element in the governing body of Germany-1943, which is a police state. This suggests that Adolph Hitler is a potential center of gravity for Germany-1943.

Evaluation

Adolph Hitler is the key decision-maker for the European Axis and Germany in 1943. Eliminating Hitler at this point in 1943 would at least change the goals of Germany and could actually bring an immediate end to WWII in Europe.

Evaluation result

Adolph Hitler should not be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

Germany 1943 strategic industrial resources

Description

Strategic industrial resources are the dominant element in the industrial civilization of Germany in 1943. This suggests that German strategic industrial resources are a potential Center of Gravity for Germany in 1943.

Evaluation

The limiting factor in Germany's ability to manufacture and distribute war materials in 1943 is their access to key, imported strategic industrial resources such as oil, chromium, copper and bauxite. The Allies attack German industry throughout the war, but it is the lack of raw materials that eventually slows down German industry to the point that the German military is effected in the field. Destroying German supplies and access to key strategic industrial resources will shorten the war.

Evaluation result

German strategic industrial resources should not be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

Nazi Party 1943

Description

The Nazi Party of 1943 is the dominant element in the governing body of Germany of 1943, which is a police state. This suggests that the Nazi Party is a potential center of gravity for Germany in 1943.

Evaluation

The leaders and structures of the Nazi party are dominant elements of the governing body of Germany in 1943. Hitler is in complete control at this point and overshadows the rest of the Nazi party. The Nazi party represents a key source of Hitler's strength, but it is not the primary source of German power or freedom of movement.

Evaluation result

The Nazi Party of 1943 should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

German Army 1943

Description

The German Army of 1943 is controlling all of Europe and a great deal of Eurasia. The Army controls over 100 German and allied mechanized and infantry divisions and thousands of combat aircraft. The German General Staff, supported by the Army is the only possible internal threat to Hitler's power in Germany.

Evaluation

The German Army is a massively powerful element of German global power in 1943 and is sustaining the German war effort Europe, Russian and Eurasia.

Evaluation result

The German Army of 1943 should not be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

4.4.1.1.6 Operational Center of Gravity Candidates for Germany-1943

German Airborne reinforcements

Description

A German Airborne Division is available for the reinforcement of Axis forces on Sicily.

Evaluation

The German Airborne Division which was on standby for the reinforcement of Sicily and southern Italy was a well led, well trained, powerful combat element. Its entry into the defensive operation would significantly increase the combat power of Axis forces on Sicily.

Evaluation result

German Airborne reinforcements should not be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

German Air Support

Description

Axis' forces on Sicily are supported by significant numbers of German land-based fighters and bombers.

Evaluation

German air support for Sicily is not eliminated because it can have a decisive role in defeating the Allied' invasion. If enough air power is mustered and effectively attacks the Allied' invasion fleet the invasion could be thwarted.

Evaluation result

German air support should not be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

German Ground Forces on Sicily

Description

The German ground forces on Sicily are the most powerful elements of combat power available to the Axis forces on Sicily and in Italy.

Evaluation

The German ground forces available for the defense of Sicily are the most powerful and potent element of combat power that the Axis has in the theater of operations.

Evaluation result

German ground forces on Sicily should not be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

German Naval Forces

Description

Axis' forces on Sicily are supported by coastal attack vessels, transports and barges.

Evaluation

The naval elements supporting German and Italian forces on Sicily will be critical to their operations initially for reinforcements and resupply, and in the end for the evacuation of German troops and material from the island. These naval forces are important for the support and preservation of German combat power, but they are not themselves a significant element of combat power.

Evaluation result

German naval forces should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

4.4.1.2 Italy-1943

4.4.1.2.1 Strategic goals of Italy-1943

The strategic goals of Italy are to preserve the Italian Empire and preserve Italian sovereignty.

The Italian people support these goals but they have grown tired of the war and are ready to give up the Empire and quit the war if they can preserve their lives, property and independence. Most of the international community is ready to offer the Italians some minor concessions to get them to leave the Axis, but the situation has been made extremely complicated by President Roosevelt's unconditional surrender policy.

4.4.1.2.2 Operational goals of Italy-1943

The Italian operational goal is to preserve their control over Sicily and the Italian mainland. They are prepared to put up a tough fight in Sicily, but they will not risk their best troops, leaders or equipment there.

The people of Sicily do not trust the Italian government and they doubt that Italian soldiers will fight vigorously to defend them.

4.4.1.2.3 Relevant factors of Italy-1943

Demographic factors

The people of mainland Italy and Sicily have common ethnicity but they have different dialects and cultures. There is a great deal of mistrust of the Italian government and mainlanders by the Sicilians.

Economic factors

The Italian economy and industry are weak, damaged by the war, and operating at maximum capacity. They provide little combat power to the Axis war machine.

Geographical factors

The Italians are operating on their home territory. Although many of the common soldiers defending Sicily are locals, none of the senior leaders are Sicilian so they do not have an advantage in knowledge of the terrain.

Historical factors

Italy has controlled Sicily for centuries, but the people of Sicily have always considered themselves Sicilians first and Italians second.

International factors

King Emmanuel III and other Italian leaders are actively considering ending the alliance with Germany and getting out of the war. Their situation is very complex and difficult because of the presence of German troops, and the Allied' unconditional surrender policy.

Military factors

Italian troops are poorly trained, led and equipped. Control of Italian troops on Sicily is split between the ground forces commander who has control of army units and the naval commander who has control over coastal fortress troops. This split chain of command severely limits the Italians ability to coordinate their defensive efforts.

Political factors

King Emmanuall III is control of the Italian government. Factions in the Italian government are actively trying to depose Mussolini who has lost the support and respect of the people.

Psychosocial factors

The moral of Italian citizens is very low because of the war. Italian cities have been targeted and heavily damaged by allied bombing. The people of Sicily do not believe the Italians will defend them from the Allies.

4.4.1.2.4 Dominant factors of Italy-1943

4.4.1.2.4.1 Control and governing elements of Italy-1943

The government of Italy-1943 is a Monarchy. The dominant element in this monarchy is King Emmanuel III.

4.4.1.2.4.2 Civilization of Italy-1943

Italy in 1943 has an industrial civilization, where the dominant element is the Italian industrial capacity.

4.4.1.2.4.3 Italian Fascist Party leadership

Mussolini and other members of the leadership of the Italian party are favorites of Hitler and still hold much power over Italy.

4.4.1.2.5 Strategic Center of Gravity Candidates for Italy-1943

Italy 1943 industrial capacity

Description

Italian industrial capacity in 1943 is the dominant element in the industrial civilization of Italy in 1943. This suggests that Italian industrial capacity is a potential Center of Gravity for Italy in 1943.

Evaluation

Italy in 1943 is the provider of relatively little of the war material and transports for the Axis efforts in Europe. The generation of combat power by the European Axis in 1943 is dependant on the industrial capacity of Germany. Destroying or neutralizing Italy's industrial capacity in 1943 would have little impact on the combat power of the Axis and little impact on the eventual outcome of the war in Europe.

Evaluation result

Italy_1943_industrial_capacity should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

King Emmanuel III

Description

King Emmanuel III is the dominant element in the governing body of Italy-1943, which is a Monarchy. Therefore King Emmanuel III should be considered as one of the candidates for the strategic center of gravity.

Evaluation

Italy in 1943 is the provider of a relatively small amount of the Axis combat power available for the war in Europe. Loss of Italian combat power may quicken the downfall of Germany, but it

will not significantly change the timetable for the successful allied invasion of Europe. King Emmanuel III is in control of Italy, but he has very little influence over the eventual outcome of the war.

Evaluation result

King Emmanuel III should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

Mussolini

Description

Mussolini has been the leader of the Italian Fascist party in Italy for many years and still holds significant power in the Italian government. He is a personal friend of Hitler who will make significant efforts to keep him in power in Italy.

Evaluation

Mussolini and the Italian Fascists do not have the ultimate control of Italy. They can and will be deposed during 1943.

Evaluation result

Mussolini should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

4.4.1.2.6 Operational Center of Gravity Candidates for Italy-1943

Italian-16th-Army

Description

The bulk of the Axis forces on Sicily are units of the Italian 16th Army.

Evaluation

The majority of the soldiers available to the Axis for the defense of Sicily are members of the Italian 16th Army. These troops have competent leaders at the general officer level, but they are poorly trained, poorly equipped and have low moral. They can be eliminated as a candidate operational COG because they represent significantly less combat power than the German troops that are involved in the defense of Sicily.

Evaluation result

Italian-16th-Army should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

Italian Air and Naval Forces

Description

Allied forces are vulnerable to effective air and sea attacks. Italian air and naval forces will be defending their home territory and could be expected to put up a good fight.

Evaluation

Italian air and naval forces are poorly trained, equipped and led. They contribute almost nothing to the Axis combat power available for the defense of Sicily.

Evaluation result

Italian air and naval forces should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

Italian Naval Fortress Forces

Description

Thousands of Italian soldiers, nominally under the control of the Italian Navy, are defending the major coastal cities and ports on Sicily.

Evaluation

Although great in numbers, these Italian forces are very poorly trained, equipped and led. They will do little to defend Sicily and because of poor command and control structures they will fail to coordinate their actions with the Italian 16th Army and thereby hinder their efforts.

Evaluation result

Italian naval fortress forces should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

4.4.2 Control and governing elements of European axis 1943

4.4.3 Civilization of European Axis 1943

4.5 Strategic Center of Gravity Candidates for European Axis 1943

The strategic center of gravity candidates of the members of European Axis of 1943 are also strategic center of gravity candidates for European Axis of 1943.

Cooperation Between Members of Axis Forces on Sicily

Description

Depending on the level of complexity of the combined and joint operations being conducted by Axis-Forces-Sicily, the cooperation among the subgroups of Axis-Forces-Sicily may be a strategic or operational Center of Gravity.

Evaluation

As the dominant partner among the European members of the Axis in 1943, Germany is responsible for the continuation of the war in Europe. The loss of Italy as an ally in 1943 is already anticipated by the Germans. It will hurt, but will not be decisive. Germany can and will fight on alone.

Evaluation result

Cooperation between members of Axis-Forces-Sicily should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

Will of Germany-1943

Description

Germany-1943 is the dominant partner in European Axis of 1943 which is a dominant partner multi-state alliance. This suggests that the will Germany-1943 is a potential center of gravity for European Axis in 1943.

Evaluation

The will of Germany, its leaders and people, hold a major responsibility for the continuation of the war in Europe in 1943. When the German will to fight is finally destroyed in 1945 the war will end. But will alone is not enough to fight and win a global, industrial age war and therefore the will of Germany can be eliminated as a candidate strategic COG for the Axis.

Evaluation result

Will_of_Germany-1943 should be eliminated as a candidate center of gravity.

4.6 Strategic Center of Gravity Choice for European Axis 1943

The German Army of 1943 is the Strategic Center of Gravity of the European Axis of 1943.

Justification

Strategic industrial resources are essential to the maintenance of power for the Germans in WWII. The limiting factor for Germany combat power in 1943 is their ability to manufacture and distribute war materials. German access to key, imported, strategic industrial resources such as oil, chromium, copper and bauxite limits their ability to supply their armed forces. But dependence on imported strategic materials is a vulnerability rather than a source of power and freedom of movement for Germany.

Hitler is a close runner up as a strategic COG for the European Axis and Germany in 1943 but the timing is off. He is the driving force behind German objectives and determination. His elimination in 1943 might have an immediate and dramatic impact on German moral, goals and the continuation of the war in Europe, but he is a questionable source of power for the Germans and his presence actually limits the German's freedom of movement. The Allies and the rest of the free world will not accept a peace that leaves Hitler in power in Germany and Hitler will never relinquish his control so the only alternatives left are Germany's victory or unconditional surrender. As a major catalyst of WWII Hitler might have been Germany's strategic COG in 1939-41 but he is not the strategic COG in 1943.

The primary source of German power and freedom of movement in 1943 is the German Army and it is, therefore the selected strategic COG for the Axis and Germany in 1943. The war in Europe will be effectively over when the German army is reduced to being primarily a dismounted, defensive force and the war will truly end only when the German army's ability to resist is destroyed.

4.7 Operational Center of Gravity Candidates for European axis 1943

The operational center of gravity candidates of the members of European Axis of 1943 are also operational center of gravity candidates for European Axis of 1943.

4.8 Operational Center of Gravity Choice for European axis 1943

German ground forces on Sicily are the Operational Center of Gravity of European Axis of 1943.

Justification

German air power might have played a decisive role in the campaign if it could have inflicted heavy losses on Allied shipping, embarked forces and supplies, but despite some stunning successes, German air power was insufficient to make a difference.

German reinforcements, especially the German Airborne Division deployed to Sicily after the initial Allied landings, were a very significant source of combat power and freedom of movement for Axis' forces during the campaign, but they were of less importance and power than the initial, German heavy ground forces on the island.

Even though Italian forces significantly out numbered the German forces, their poor moral, lack of training and modern equipment made them much less important than German ground forces. The two German heavy divisions(-) deployed to Sicily before the Allied invasion were the primary source of combat and freedom of movement for Axis forces defending Sicily and are therefore the Axis operational COG for the defense of Sicily.

5 Point of contact

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