

The Great Patriotic War of the Soviet People 1941 - 1945

Stanford Overseas
Studies,
Fall 2007

Allies About Russia

Churchill about the Red Army

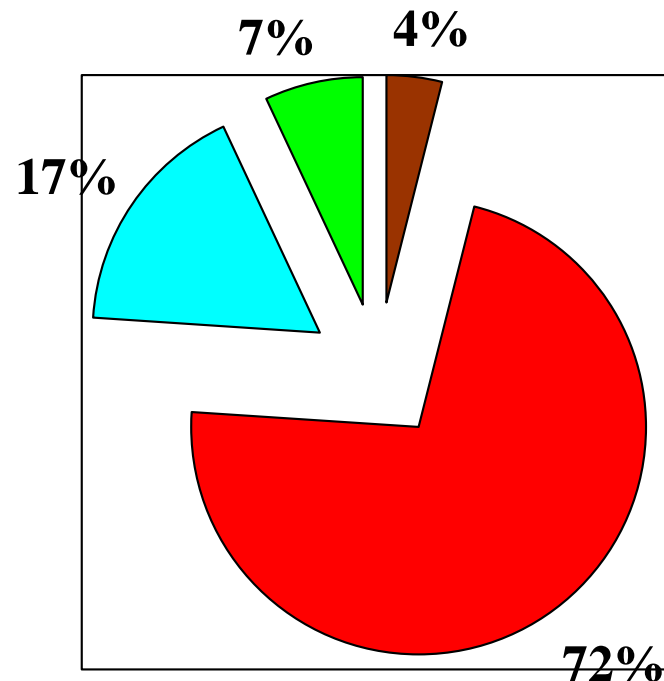
- On September 27, 1944, British Prime Minister Churchill wrote to Stalin:

“I shall take the occasion to repeat tomorrow in the House of Commons what I have said before, that **it is the Russian Army that tore the guts out of the German military machine** and is at the present moment holding by far the larger portion of the enemy on its front”

American Opinion of the Soviet-German War, July 1941

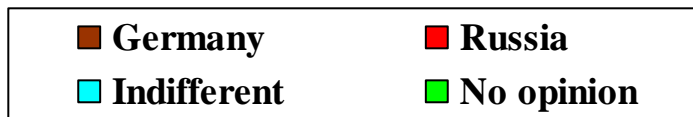
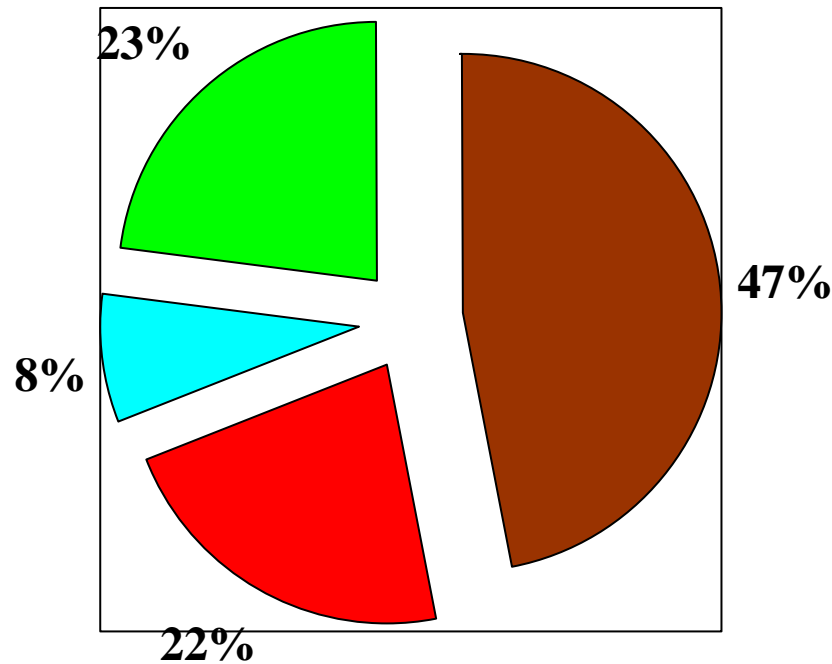
Which side would you like to see win?

- **Russia – 72%**
- **Germany – 4%**



Source: *Ralph B. Levering
American Opinion and the
Russian Alliance, 1939-1945. P.
43-45*

American Opinion of the Soviet-German War, July 1941

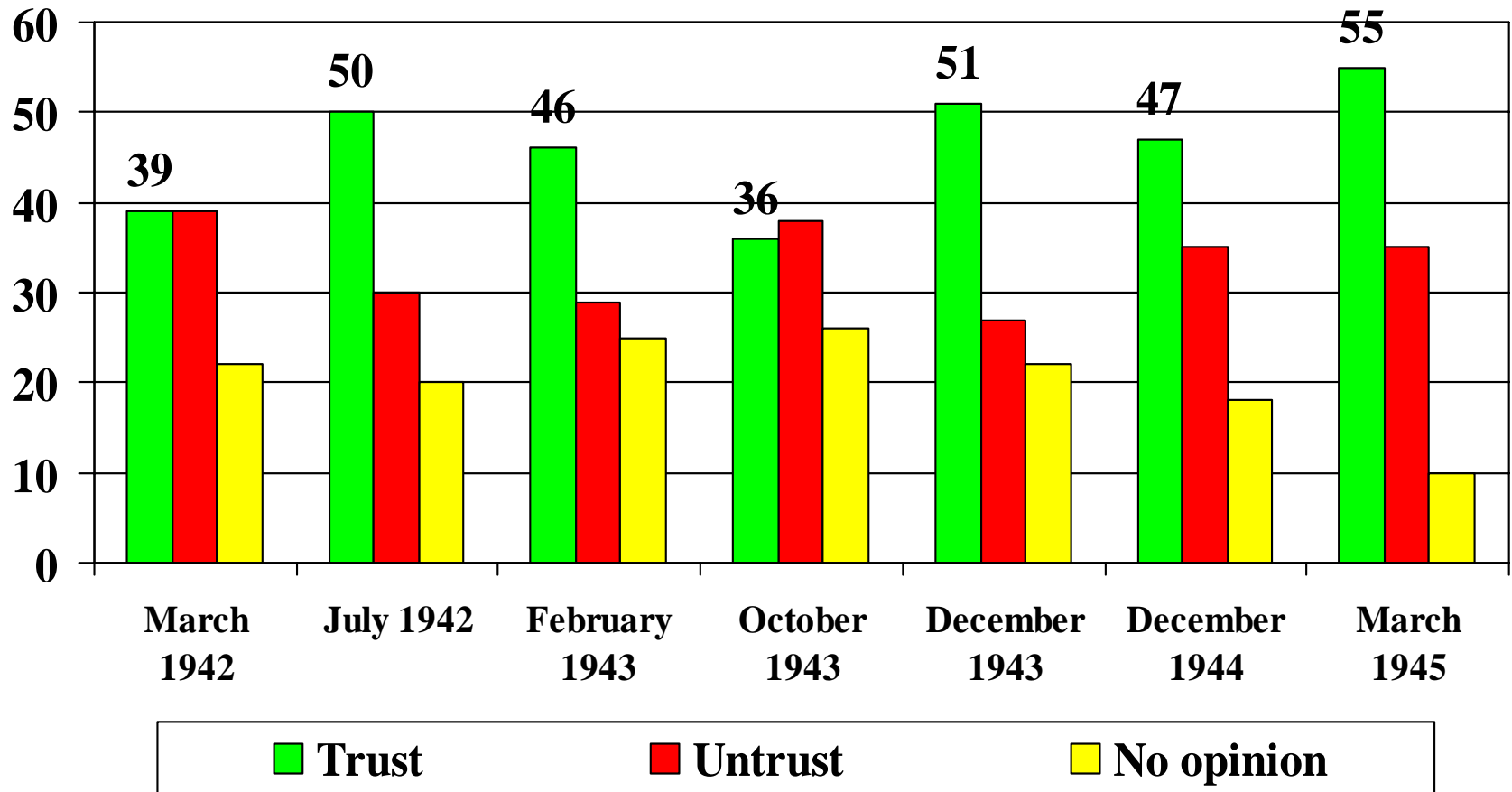


Which side do you think will win?

- Germany – 47%
- Russia – 22%

Source: *Ralph B. Levering American Opinion and the Russian Alliance, 1939-1945. P. 43-45*

American Opinion: Trust in the USSR (%)



Bismark on Russia

"Don't wage war against Russians, they harness horses slowly, but ride very fast"



Victory over Nazi Germany



- 8 May, 1945 – VE day for the world (Nazi unconditional surrender at Reims on 7 May)
- 9 May, 1945 – VE day for the USSR (Nazi surrender signing ceremony in Berlin on 8 May)
- The USSR: huge material and human losses
- A birth of the Soviet superpower: political influence, military might, centralized economy, strong R&D base
- Fate of Germany, fate of Europe: “iron curtain”
- A new war - Cold War