



Fig 2.11: Post-War balance of power in Europe

Following the disastrous landing attempt at Anzio, Allied forces struggled with the Axis defenses around Cassino. Unable to break the German-Italian lines, the Allies launched an amphibious assault from Brindisi into Albania. Upon securing the Albanian coast, Allied forces led by the CDN 1st Battalion struck across for Thessaloniki and the Aegean Sea. The quick march cut off the Axis forces in the Greek peninsula, which were eventually assaulted by British forces from Cyprus through Crete.

In Winter 1943-44 Allied forces were able to enter Northern Italy from their position in what is now Dalmatia and Slovenia. However, the push against Germany left few forces to persecute the Italian campaign, and at the Peace of Elba Central Italy remained under Mussolini's control. Eventually the Italian peninsula would be partitioned into three states: Sicily, Padania and Italy.

The Soviet advance into Eastern Europe caused some concern for the American and British command, and throughout the summer of 1943 the Rush for Budapest was on as the Allies unofficially strived for post-war advantage. The goal of the Western Allies was to secure the South-West bank of the Danube, and Budapest was seen as key to keeping Central Europe out of Soviet hands.

Thwarted in their drive for the Balkans, the Soviets instead forced the Axis powers back across North-Central Europe, eventually reaching Bremen and Hannover before the final collapse of Nazi-Germany in 1945.