

# Switzerland

in 1940


operation Tannenbaum  
and  
réduit national

a graphic novel by  
Diana Blesinger  
2020

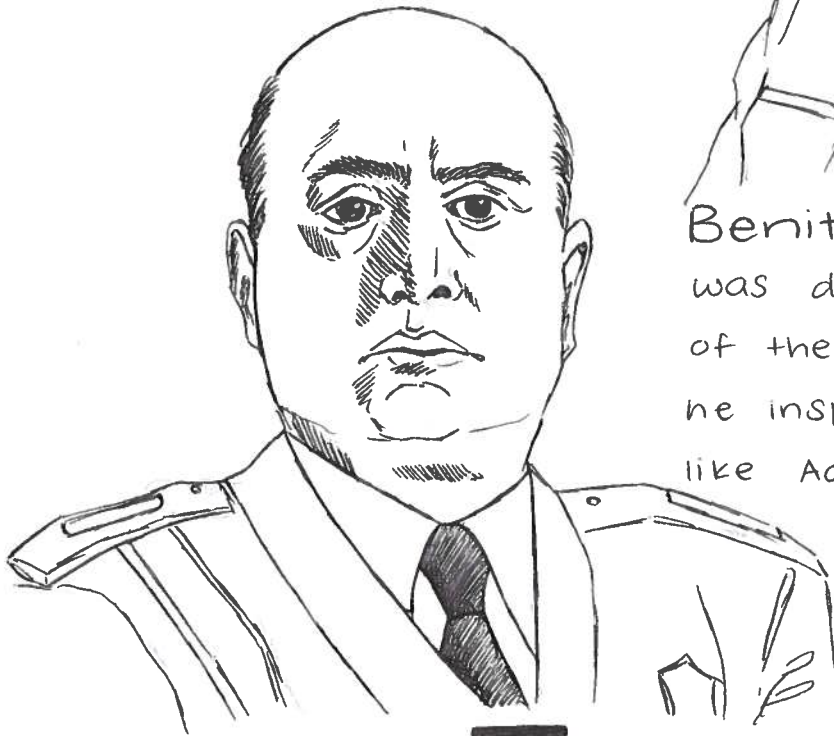
Henri Guisan 


held the office of the Swiss armed forces during the second World War. He managed to mobilize the Swiss armed forces and the Swiss people in order to prepare resistance against a possible invasion by Nazi Germany in 1940.



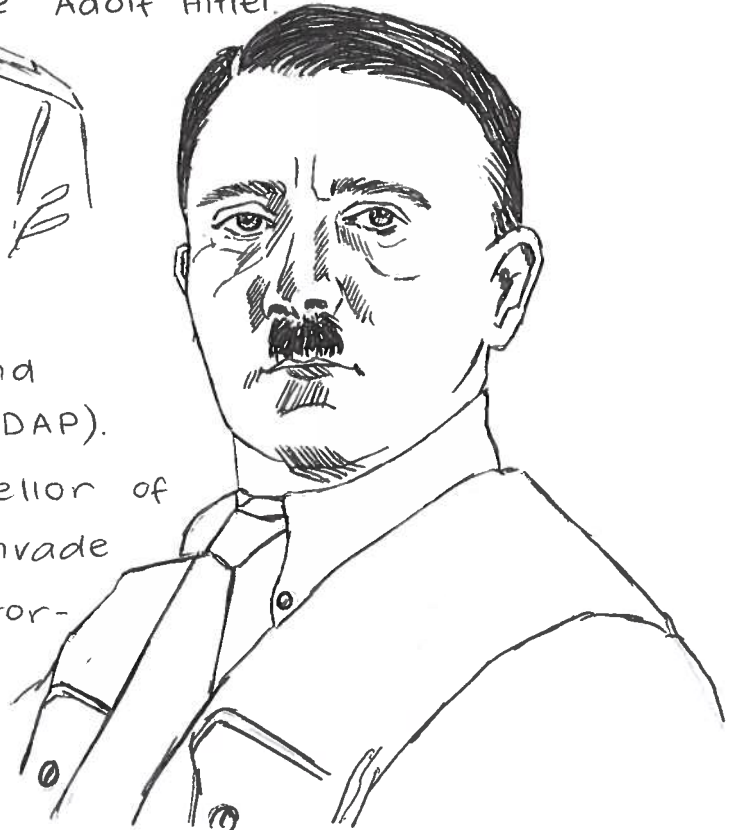
Benito Mussolini 

was dictator of Italy and founder of the fascist movement, as such he inspired other totalitarian rulers like Adolf Hitler.



Adolf Hitler 

was a German politician and leader of the Nazi Party (NSDAP). He rose to power as Chancellor of Germany and planned to invade Switzerland during his dictatorship in 1940 with the support of Benito Mussolini.

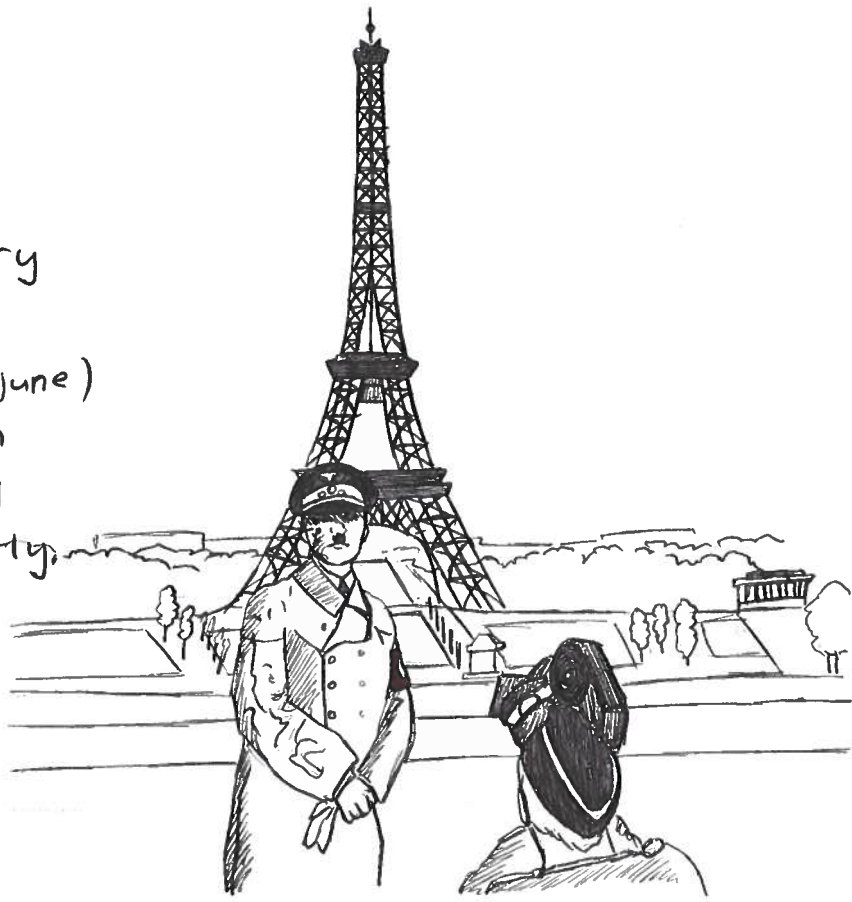


25<sup>th</sup> of June 1940

France capitulates to the German empire.

Hitler invades the country and poses in front of the Eiffel tower in Paris. (23. June)

The ultimate representation of power, degradation and germanic victory. Apparently, Germany started planning the invasion of Switzerland on the same day. At this point, the German army in France consisted of three groups with two million soldiers in 102 divisions.



Operation fir tree was the codename for the planned but ultimately carried out invasion of Switzerland by Nazi Germany.

Hitler and his cronies developed invasion plans with their Italian allies to overrun the only democratic country in western Europe to escape Nazi Occupation.

"Switzerland is a pimple on the face of Europe"  
(Hitler's Table Talk) 1940

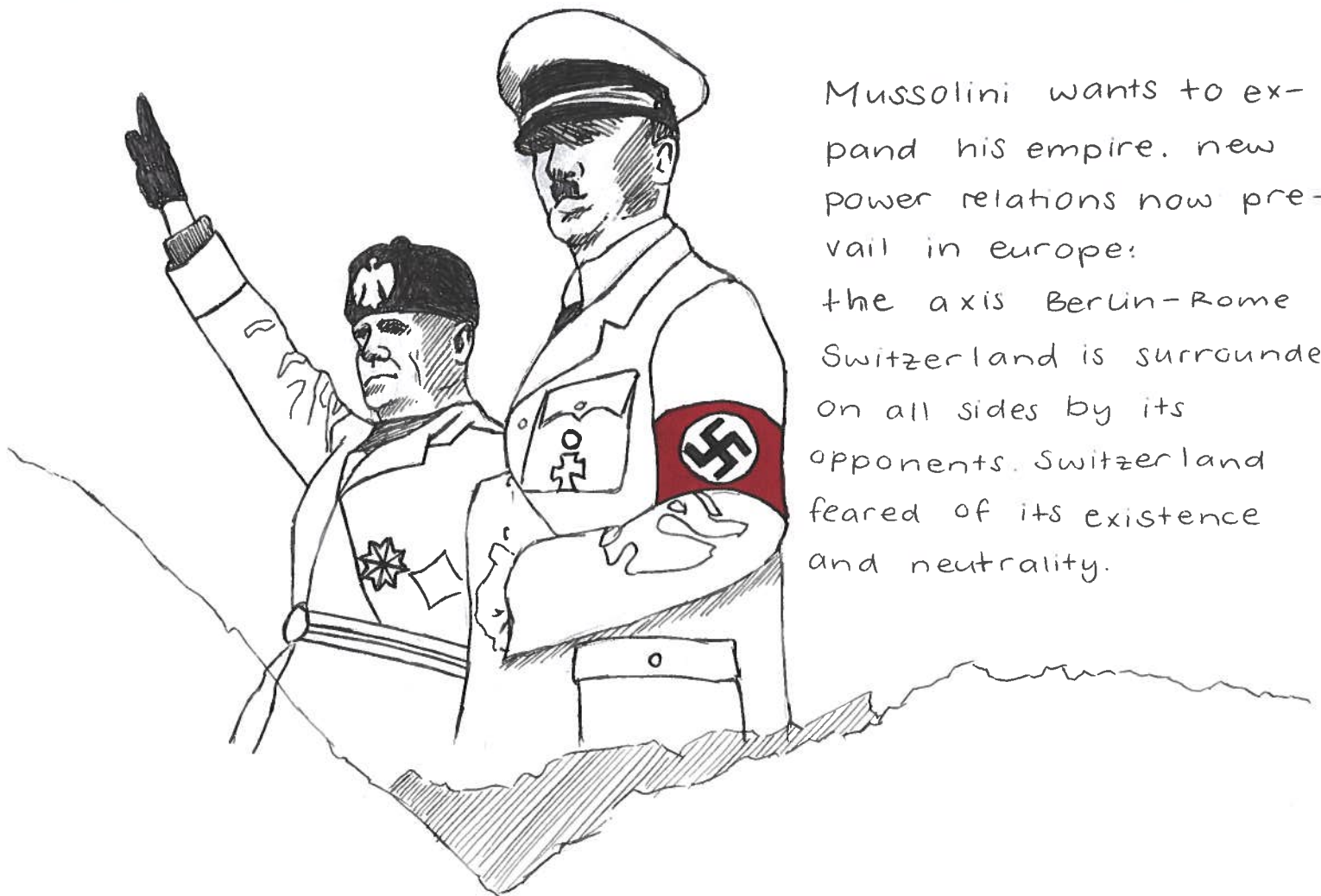
the German Reich

Vichy France



fascist Italy





Mussolini wants to expand his empire. new power relations now prevail in europe: the axis Berlin-Rome Switzerland is surrounded on all sides by its opponents. Switzerland feared of its existence and neutrality.



general Guisan holds a speech on the rütli and awakens new fighting spirit in his assembled officers. he explains how switzerland will resist the powerful opponent.