



BECAUSE attention of the world is focused on the titanic conflict in Russia, The News takes the occasion to tell and reprint this map which originally appeared here on March 17, 1940. The map traces the history of Russia from its humble beginning as a vessel of Tartar state in the 15th Century to its apogee as a great empire this year just before the invasion by Hitler's forces. While the nation's story is replete with bloody conquests and annexations, there have been few and comparatively small territorial losses. Russia, as we know it today, stems from the principality of Moscow in the 15th Century (area colored red). The reign of Ivan the Great (1462-1505) was the beginning of the Russian empire. Ivan's son, Ivan IV, known as Ivan the Terrible, from two epithets bestowed upon him by Tartars of the Golden Horde, made it a power by conquering Novgorod, Tver, Yaroslavl, and culminated in the capture of the city of Volga, which he then assumed the title of Czar. His son, Basil III, unified Russia after grabbing Pokov in 1510, annexing Byzantium and taking Smolensk in 1514. The land became a mighty kingdom under Ivan IV, known as Ivan the Terrible. Absorbing the Cossacks, he conquered the Tartar provinces of Kazan (1552) and Astrakhan (1554), then pushed eastward into Siberia. The empire was extended to the Amur River, Sea of Okhotsk, and north to the Bering Sea in 1648. Alaska was added in 1741. Peter the Great opened "a window to Europe" by bottling up the Baltic. In 1700, Russia defeated Sweden in the Great Northern War. In 1721, Russia won the war with Persia. In 1772, Russia grabbed Poland in 1809. Bessarabia in 1812 and the Turkish area in 1853-1875. Alaska was sold to the United States in 1867. From the Napoleonic era to the World War, Russia dominated the Baltic. Bessarabia, White Russia, conquered Polish lands, and Finland were lost after the last war. After an outstanding pact with the Nazis just before the outbreak of the current World War, the Reds helped dismember Poland, then completed expansion to the Baltic by swallowing Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. They invaded Finland and despite heroic Finnish resistance cut out some rich slices of land in the North and took over the strategic Karelian Isthmus. A grab for the Black Sea littoral followed. In 1939, Russia took Poland's eastern half. In 1940, Russia took the Baltic states. Today, Russia is the largest country in the world, with a population of 180,000,000 and a land area of 1,500,000 square miles. XXXXX Soviet Russia was