

CONTENTS

Preface and acknowledgements	ix	
CHAPTER 1	May 1945: Europe's end	1
CHAPTER 2	The preliminaries to Europe's suicide	11
CHAPTER 3	Hitler plans a new war	30
CHAPTER 4	Ribbentrop in difficulties	46
CHAPTER 5	Rearmament and settlement: Chamberlain after Munich	76
CHAPTER 6	Lord Halifax is alarmed	99
CHAPTER 7	Stalin makes a speech	109
CHAPTER 8	Divided counsels in Washington: Roosevelt backs Britain and France	124
CHAPTER 9	Hitler enters Prague	141
CHAPTER 10	Chamberlain chooses containment	162
CHAPTER 11	Hitler turns against Poland	188
CHAPTER 12	Anger in Rome	199
CHAPTER 13	Stalin begins to calculate	215
CHAPTER 14	Decision in May	234
CHAPTER 15	Muddled signals from Washington	255
CHAPTER 16	The struggle for the Balkans: Round 1 – Turkey	271
CHAPTER 17	The struggle for the Balkans: Round 2 – Yugoslavia and the drift to the West	289
CHAPTER 18	Hitler steps up the pressure: 'die for Danzig?'	313
CHAPTER 19	The Japanese army overplays its hand	339
CHAPTER 20	Molotov calls for bids	361
CHAPTER 21	The amateurs attempt to avert a war	385
CHAPTER 22	Italy betrayed	408
CHAPTER 23	Hitler wills his war	430
CHAPTER 24	Ribbentrop in Moscow: the Nazi-Soviet Pact signed	447
CHAPTER 25	The impact of the Nazi-Soviet Pact	462
CHAPTER 26	War ordered – and deferred: August 25 in Berlin	479
CHAPTER 27	Regrouping for war	498

HOW WAR CAME

CHAPTER 28	Poland attacked: the West's inglorious hour	530
CHAPTER 29	Fencing in, fencing out war: Roosevelt, Pius XII, King Léopold and the Neutrals	551
CHAPTER 30	Thunder in London	568
CHAPTER 31	September 3: the British ultimatum	590
CHAPTER 32	Afterthoughts	605
	List of abbreviations	625
	Notes	627
	Bibliography	679
	Credits	710
	Index	713