



**Historical significance of the efforts of the Allied Forces and the Italians to restore peace, provide security and anchor the prosperity of Sicilian society after the invasion of Sicily in 1943**

Essay

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## 1. Abstract and Keywords

This essay refers to the great achievement of the Allied Forces in 1943 when the island of Sicily was invaded. I tried to describe the greatness of the allied capacity, and how important was this operation, called "*Husky*", as an anchor for the island and all Italy, for the future peace arriving. The invasion of Sicily in 1943 was the beginning of the final victory against the Nazi regime, after the battles in the North Africa.

My essay tries to explain how great the Italian people was, helping the armed forces, resisting all adversity, fighting their own leader, bringing peace and prosperity to their own homeland.

Peace Courage Husky Allied Resistance



## 2. Table of Contents

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Behind the scenes of the <i>Husky</i> operation	Why the allied forces started with Sicily and how did they got to started the invasion
The “ <i>Husky</i> ” operation and its consequences	How strong was the allied forces, and how important was this operation for the change of regime in Italy, and final victory in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> world war
The future is not ours to see	What would have happened without Sicily?



### 3. Behind the scenes of the “*Husky*” operation

When the dry, hot breeze of that summer of 1943 slapped his face violently, George Patton must have sensed the storm coming. On the bridge of the USS Robert Rowan, he focused his gaze through the binoculars and saw Bernard Montgomery in the distance standing on the sand, right in front of the landing of tanks, cannons, vehicles and combatants on the beach on the South Coast of Sicily, in what would come to be considered the largest operation of maritime landings of all military history until then.

After the fall of the paratroopers on July 9th, which had surprised the Italian-German Axis, the “*Husky*” operation would begin. Reaching the Strait of Messina took 38 long days of war. It was the first invasion after the Allied victory in North Africa. The Casablanca conference had served to define the strategy for the occupation of the European continent, and Churchill and Eisenhower chose to start with Sicily. Adolf Hitler had always thought that the Allies would start with Sardinia or Corsica.

### 4. The “*Husky*” operation and its consequences

The military capacity of the American-British-Canadian Axis was overwhelming: 600 tanks, 4000 planes, 160000 men and 3000 ships, reaching at its peak 467000 combatants, and even deploying troops in all ports of the island. When Adolf Hitler diverted 1/5 of the German army in combat to Sicily, it was too late.

The great victory of the allies took place with the arrest of *Il Duce*, on the 25th of July 1943, and the consequent downfall of his regime, being this time replaced by Pietro Badoglio who secretly negotiated with the Allies an Armistice, announced on September 8th by Eisenhower, followed by a statement by Marshal Badoglio. Discontentment with the fascist regime in Italy was already so big that a wave of joy swept across the country over the announcement of the arrest of Benito Mussolini (even though the Nazi regime would later rescue him).

The “*Husky*” operation was long and painful, from south to north, passing through the four main cities of the island, Palermo, Messina, Syracuse and Catania, with the sacrifice of 29000 Italian/German soldiers and 140000 captured and wounded. On the opposite side, 4400 were killed and the number of casualties amounted up to 20,000.

Sicily became the best training ground for more ambitious and large-scale Allied operations, namely the Normandy landing 10 months later, (D Day) which definitively marked the beginning of the end of World War II. These 38 days of combat in the summer of 1943 were the beginning of the fights of the Europe of World War II, and the recovery of the allies in this continent. It served as a kind of test of their true military capacity, and the necessary combat experience, which they came to use in the long months that lay ahead in their fight against the Germans.

The liberation of Sicily offered the necessary peace and prosperity to Italian society because it was the beginning of the end of Mussolini and the removal of Italy from the war, as it became the greatest breath for fighting the Nazi regime. The popular support given by the Italians was even surprising, as the population was suffering from an urgent, but silent, fatigue against the regime.

The prosperity of the Sicilian society had its real start with the announcement of Badoglio in September 1943, thus assuming the will to cooperate with the definitive expulsion of the German invader from Italian soil. The agreement made with the surrender Allies allowed them to enter Italian territory to fight the Germans (Operation Avalanche), and that was the beginning of the path to final liberation.

Italy was removed from the war and Sicily had been the gateway.

Being the initial battleground is not easy for any people, but the Sicilian race has its origins in a huge variety of ethnic groups, with very entrenched rural characteristics, thanks to its insular isolation and its historical origins. A people used to the daily struggle against organized crime, with strong cultural traditions, the result of being the place of passage of such different peoples, such as the Greeks, the Phoenicians, or the Arabs. Its strategic position in the Mediterranean Sea made Sicily a meeting point for habits, traditions and wills, and its people, the cradle of the struggle that Italy needed.

## **5. The Future is not ours to see**

We don't know when, and if, Italy would free itself from the fascist regime, we don't know if it would be at the cost of many more lives, we don't know how many years Europe would still have to suffer the vicissitudes of the conflict, we do know that the “*Husky*” operation that started



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on the 9th of July 1943 was the necessary step at the right time for peace, security, and prosperity to reassume their path in the old continent.



## 6. Affidavit

I declare that I have written the present essay independently and on my own. I have clearly marked any ideas borrowed from other sources as not my own and documented their sources. The essay does not contain any work that I have handed in or have had graded as a previous scientific paper earlier on.

I am aware that any failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts or words as if they were my own – even if I summarise, paraphrase, condense, cut, rearrange, or otherwise alter them.

I am aware of the consequences and sanctions plagiarism entails. Among others, consequences may include nullification of the essay and exclusion from participation in the PSP Forum High School Student Writing Competition. These consequences also apply retrospectively, i.e. if plagiarism is discovered after the essay has been accepted and graded. I am fully aware of the scope of these consequences.

Matilde Dias de Carvalho

Lisbon, Portugal in January 2022