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(World War II - Vichy France Propaganda) L'Aventure Francaise

actions of the French government were simply a continuation of over a thousand years of military exploits, and the map encourages French youth to take up the historical greatness of their country in the current fight against England.

The "Free Zone" in 1942

This map was published in Lyon, then-part of the "Free Zone," or the zone controlled by the Vichy Government. The collaborationists governed land roughly south and east of the German army's furthest advance during the Battle of France and was led by the World War I military hero, Marechal Philippe Petain.

The Vichy Government sought to reestablish France as a leading world power by realigning their allegiances into a pro-German, anti-Communist, and anti-English alliance. The government's policies were nationalistic and bordering on fascist, and the French propaganda machine tried to support family policies, nationalism, and social Darwinism. The message in the cartouche on the present map reflects the second of these:

"Inheriting such magnificent patrimony and in front of vast horizons, does a young French person have the right to doubt in himself and in the future of France?"

1942 would be the final year of any sort of French sovereignty. While the Vichy government persisted until the end of the war, German troops invaded the "Free Zone" in November of 1942 as part of Operation Attila, following the defection of North African French troops. After the invasion, life for French citizens became substantially more difficult, with forced work programs and numerous deportations.

Rarity

We were only able to trace a single other example of this map, at Washington State University.

Detailed Condition:

Very minor loss in Quebec. Even toning.