



The Neutrals

Friends with Japan and Her Enemies During WWII

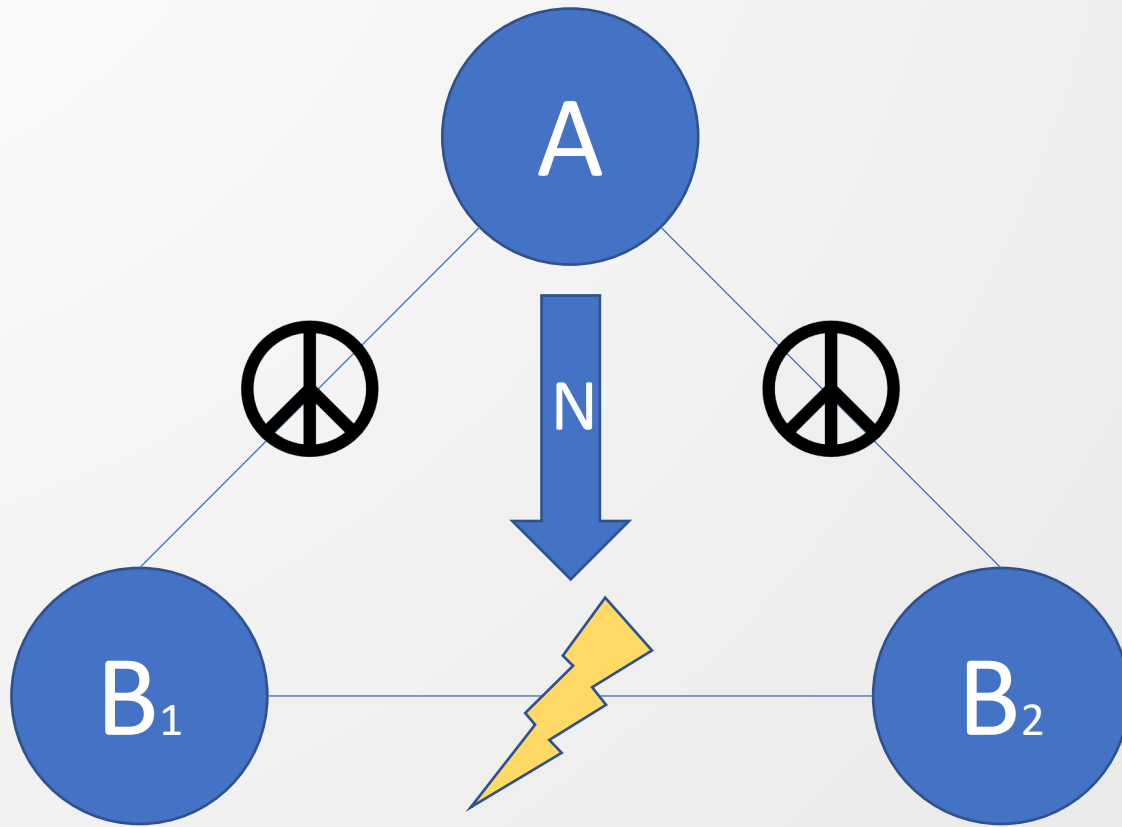
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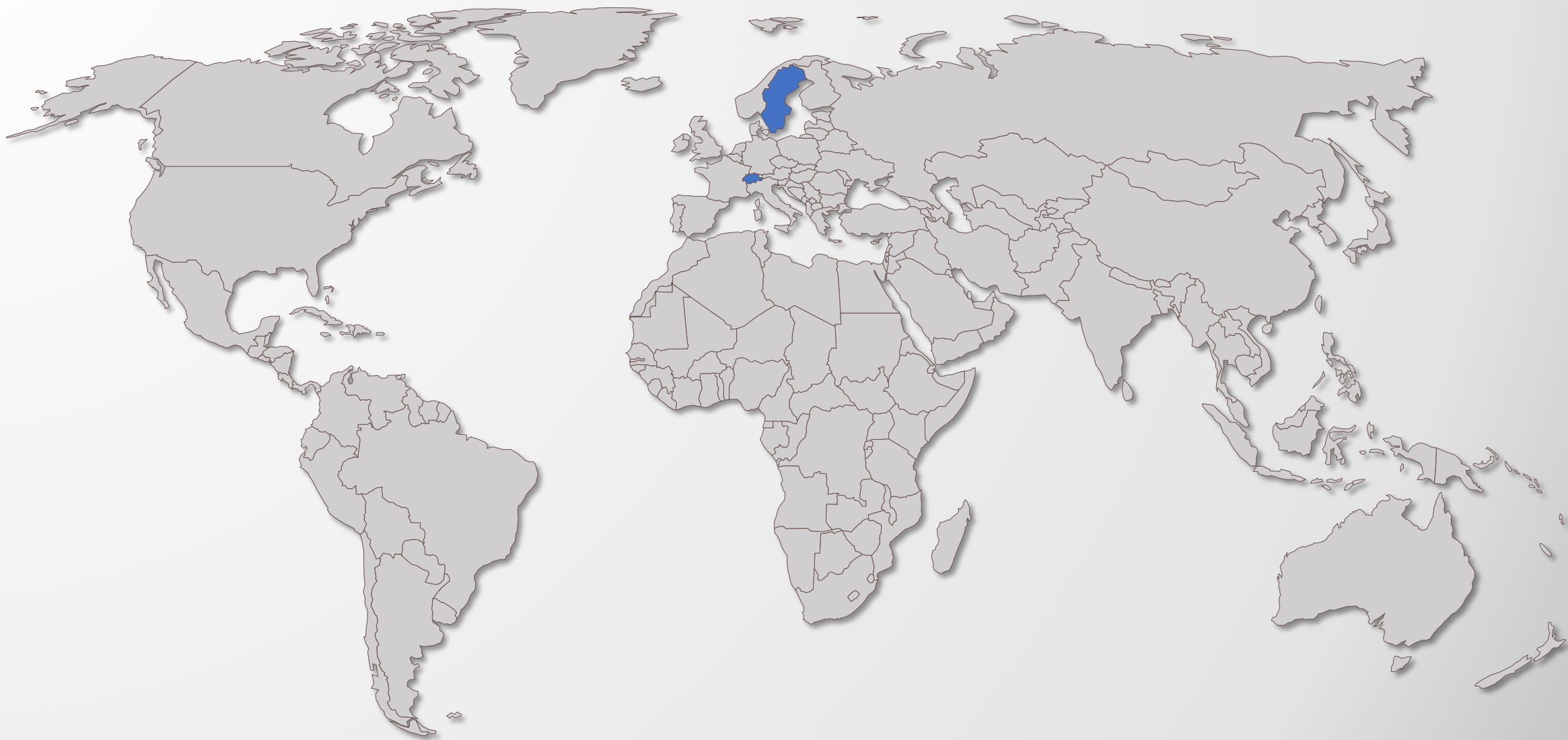
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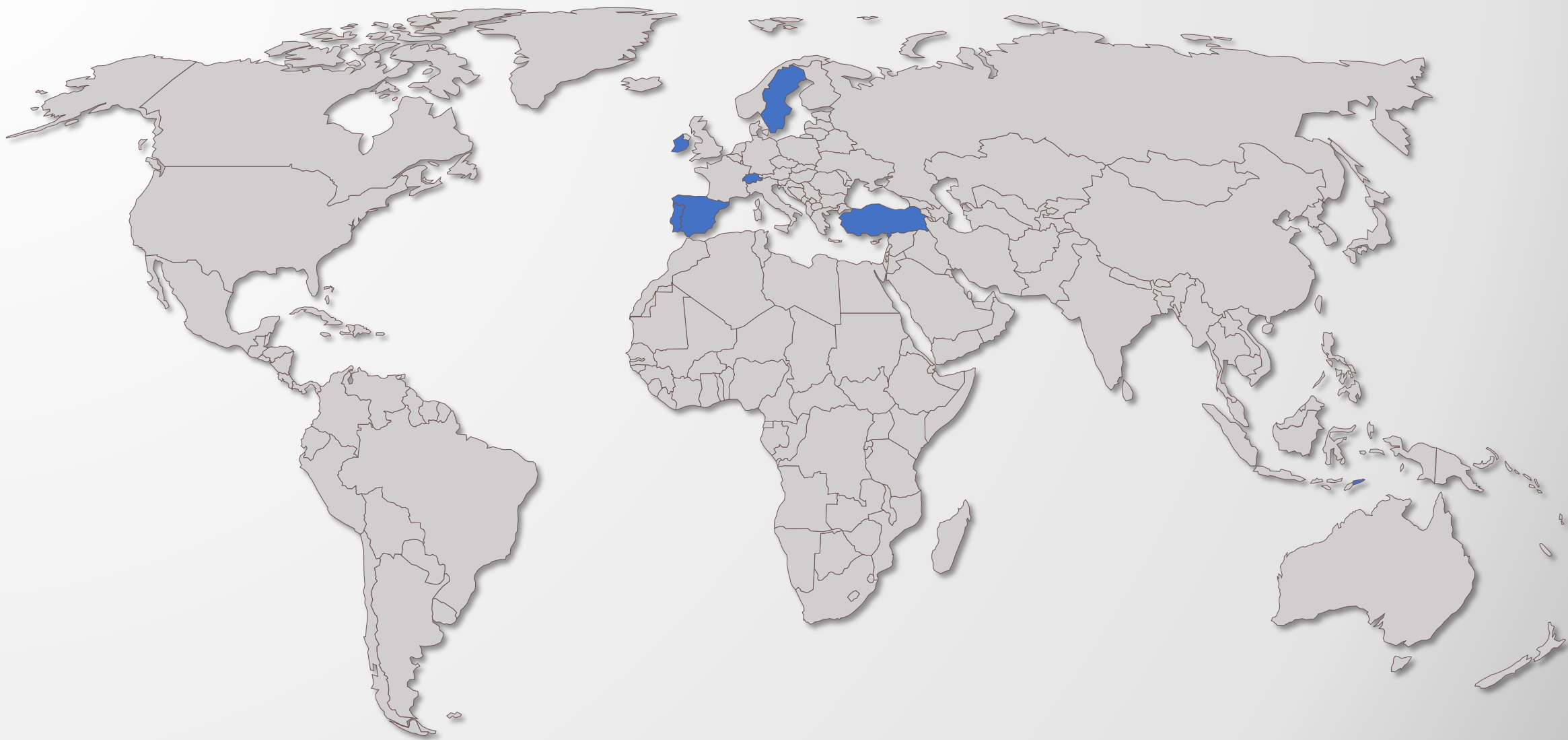
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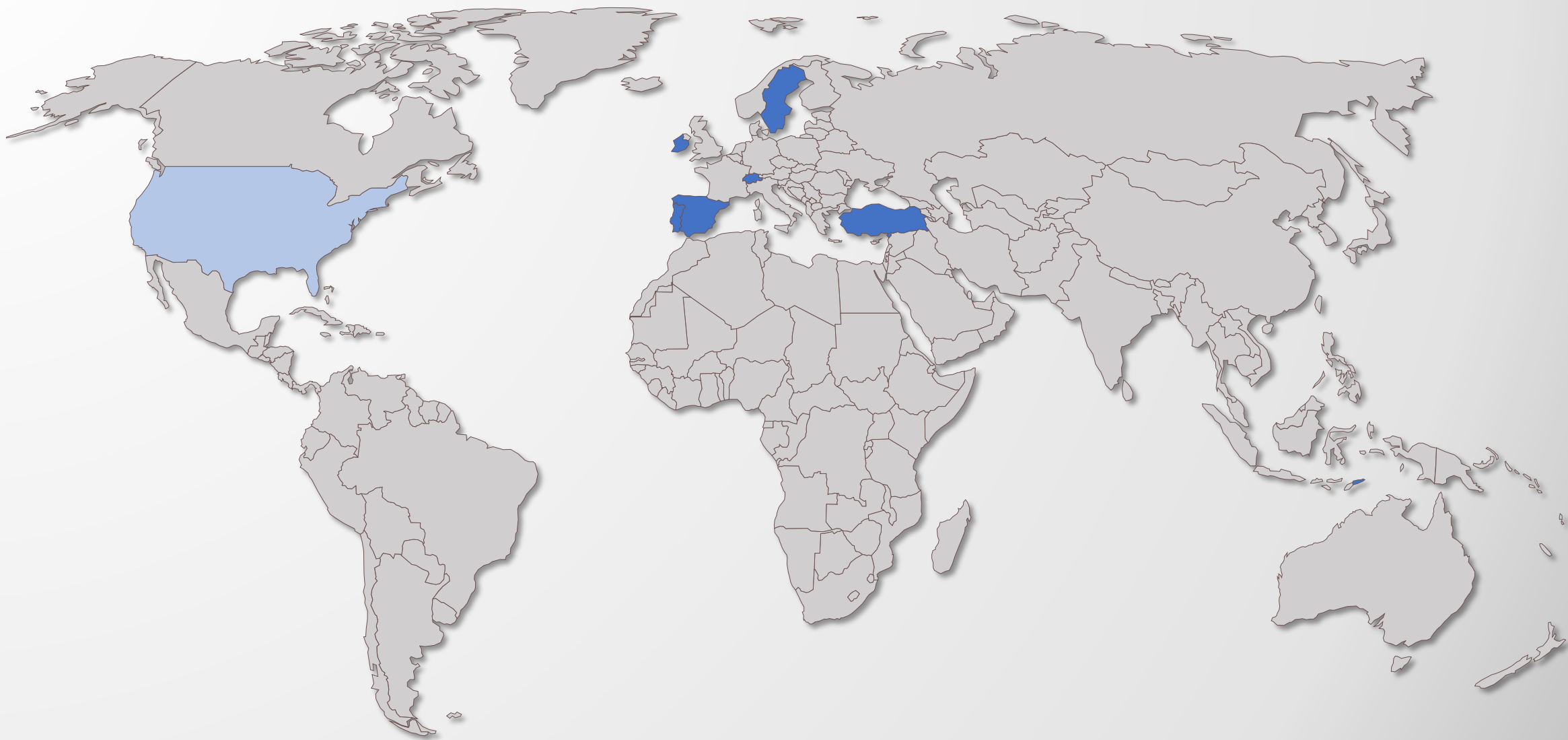
Neutrality: Peace during War

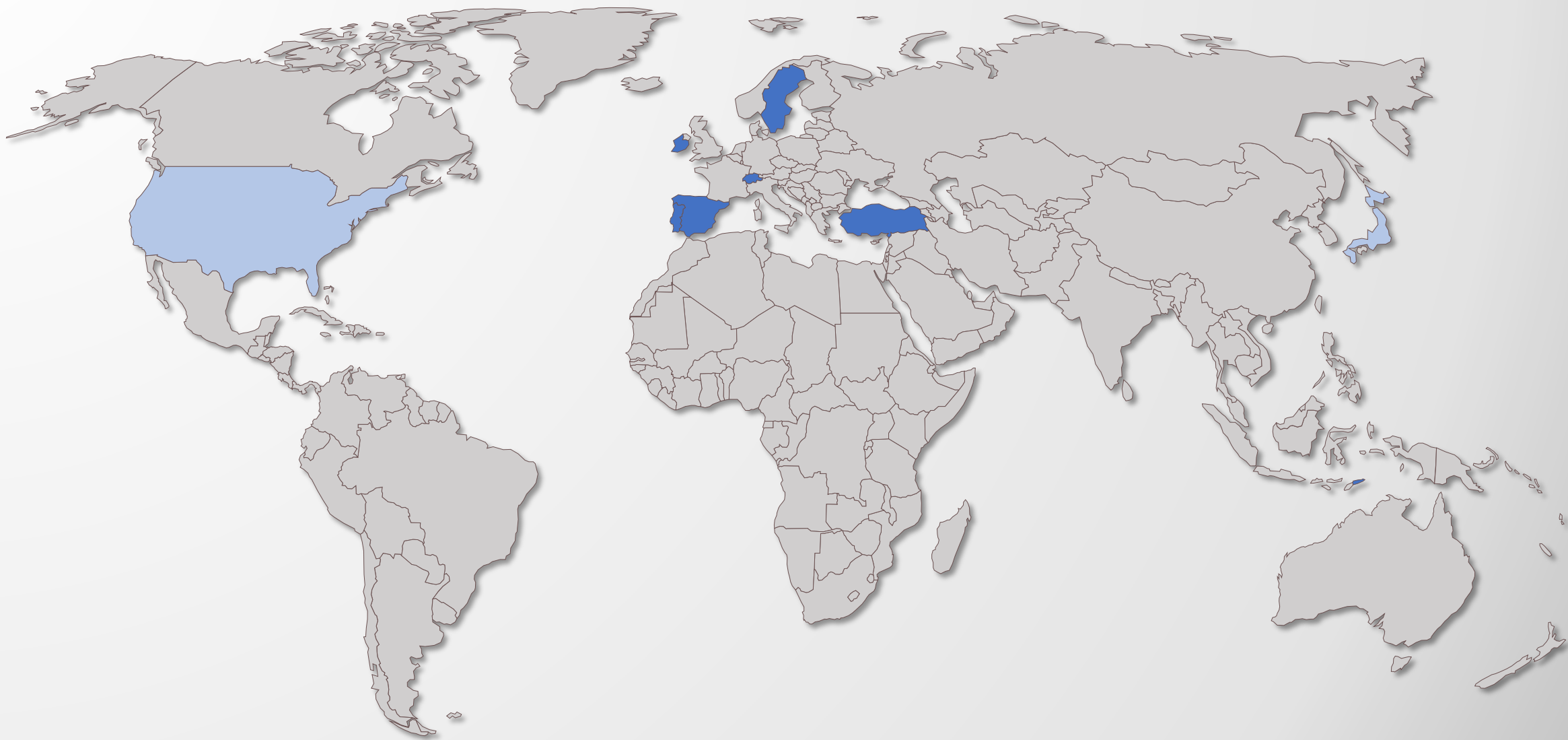


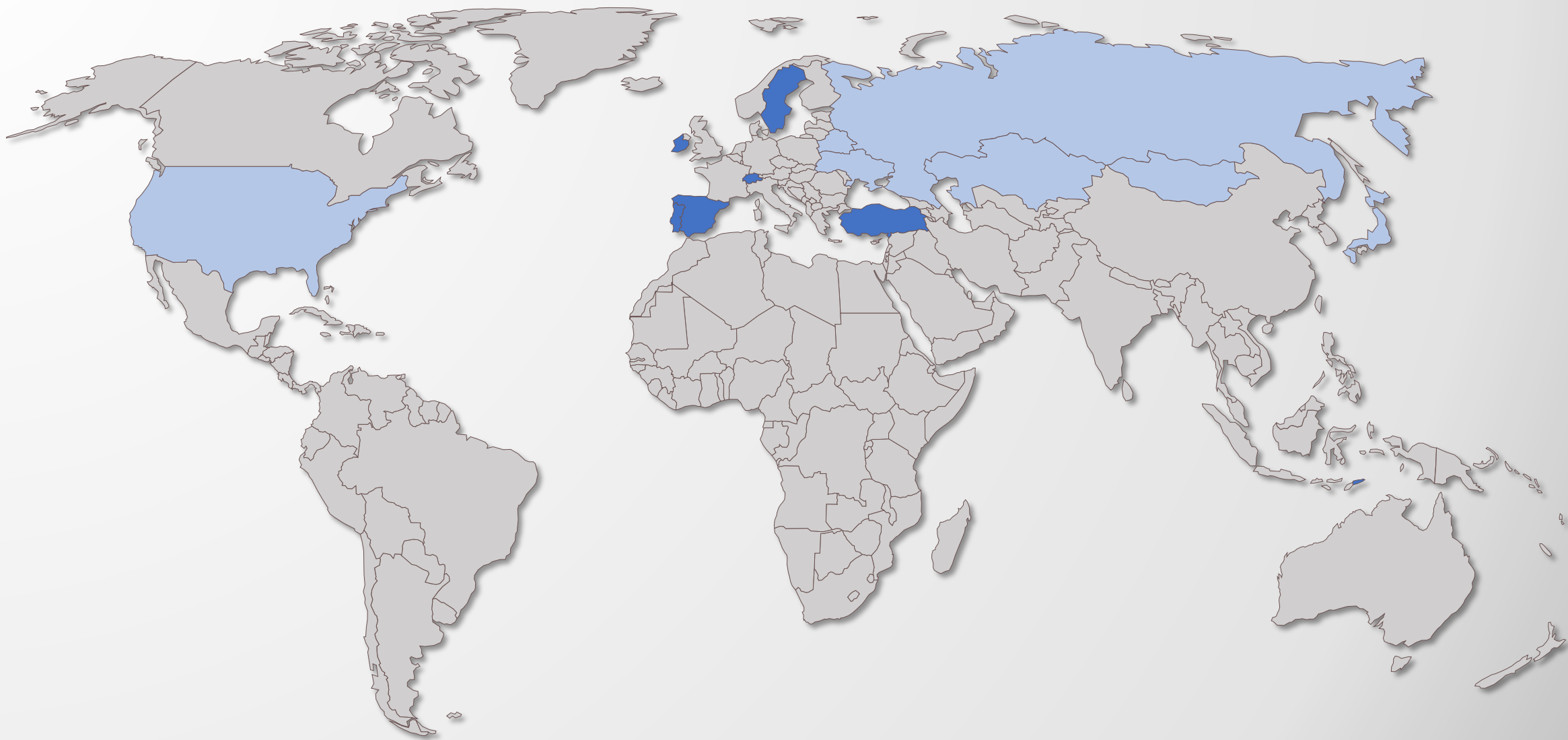












Great Power Neutrals:

USSR-Japan Neutrality Pact



“The strangest Neutrality
one has ever seen”

USSR—Japan Neutrality Pact

“The last illusion for the possibility of a prolonged resistance has disappeared after the Soviet declaration of war, which caused a real panic in the government, but which the press does not comment. Minister Togo who was grossly wrong about the Soviet attitude hastily returned to Karuizawa, literally shattered. Composure cannot replace intelligence.”

C. Gorgé, August 13, 1945

Small Power Neutrals:

Diplomatic Service Providers of last Resort



Small Power Neutrals and Japan



Small Power Neutrals and Japan

Swiss Trade in 1938

%	Germany	Italy	France	GB	USA	Japan
Export	16	7	9	11	7	2.5
Import	23	7	14	6	8	0.75



“total evacuation (...) seems excluded considering the financial interests of the companies.”

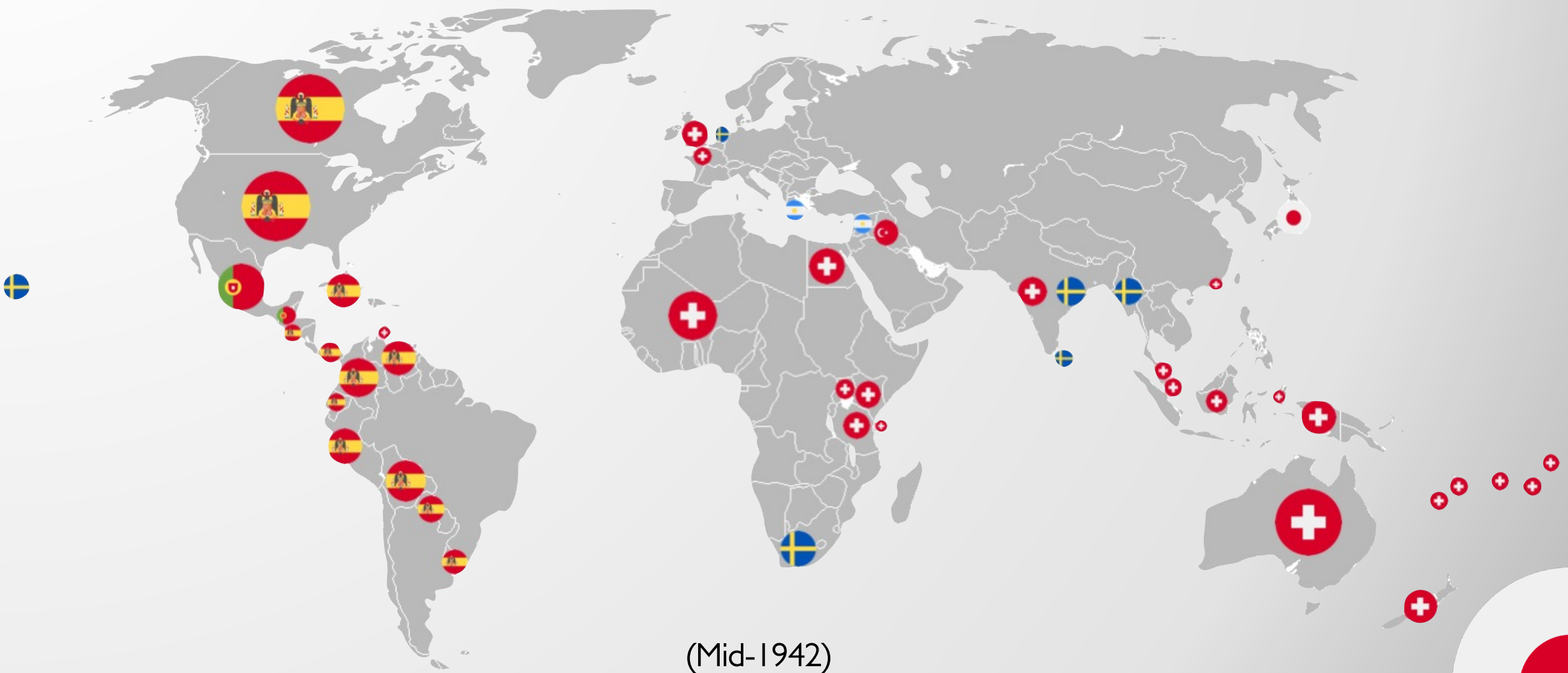
Telegram Swedish Legation, 5.9.1941



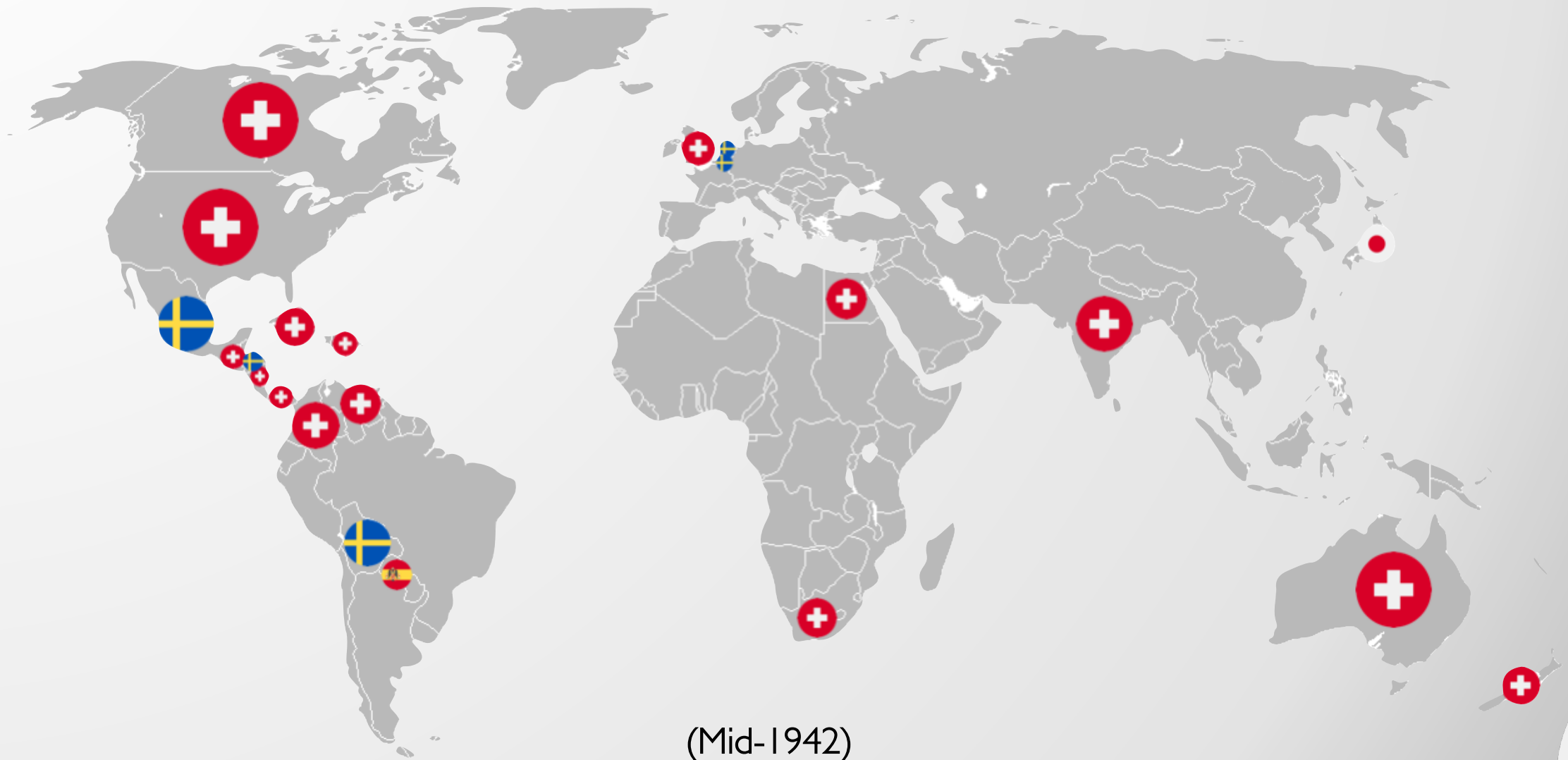
“The department (of foreign affairs) has repeatedly insisted on its viewpoint that in regard to the time after the war, it should be avoided to voluntarily abandon cumbersomely gained positions. It is preferable to patiently and bravely wait for the arrival of more favorable times.”

Report, Swiss Legation in Tokyo, 1942, p.53

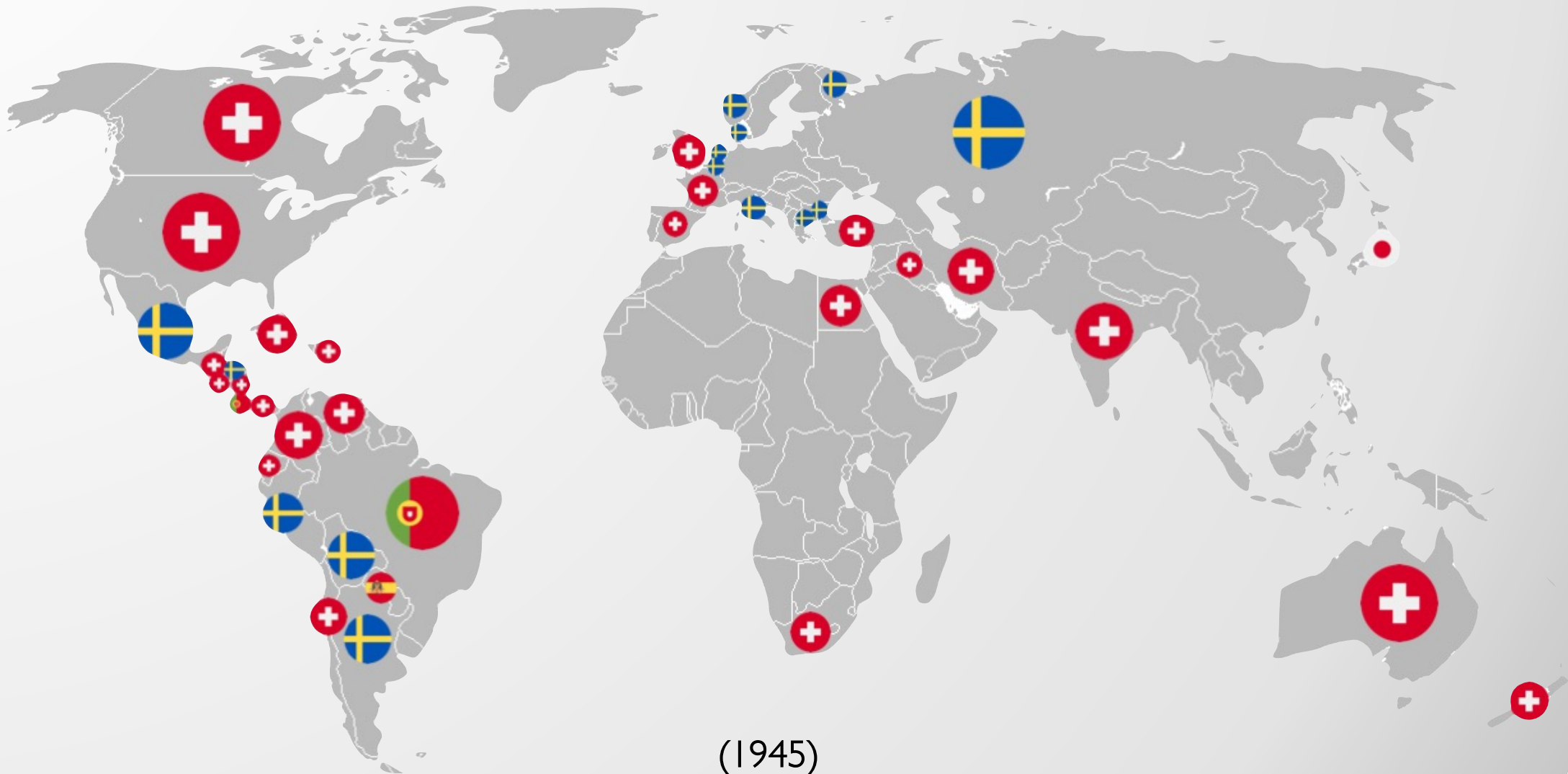
Protection of Japanese interests abroad



Protection of Enemy Interests in Japan



Protection of Enemy Interests in Japan



Protecting Power Mandates



Conclusions



- It made sense for the neutrals to remain engaged with Japan during the war.
- Japan was not a “vital” trading partner but an important one.
- If Japan had been successful with its war, it would have become the gatekeeper to Asia.
- There was just no reason to rupture relations.