World War II The war that changed the world

The Road to World War II



- Treaty of Versailles ended World War I
- It was not based on Wilson's Fourteen Points and enraged some countries
 - Germany (War Guilt Clause and Reparations)
 - Italy (Didn't get the land they wanted)
 - Japan (Didn't get all of the land they wanted)
 - Soviet Union (Left out of the talks)

Why? (underlying causes of WWII)



Lloyd George, Georges Clemenceau, and Woodrow Wilson during negotiations for the Treaty

Treaty of Versailles

Germany lost land to surrounding nations

War Reparations

Allies collect \$ to pay back war debts to U.S.

Germany must pay \$57 trillion (modern equivalent)

Bankrupted the German economy & embarrassed Germans

Why? (underlying causes of WWII)



World-wide Depression

The Depression made Germany's debt even worse

Desperate people turn to desperate leaders

Hitler seemed to provide solutions to Germany's problems

1923 - Wallpapering with German Deutchmarks

Why? (underlying causes of WWII)

World-wide Depression



Hitler provided scapegoats for Germany's problems (foreigners, Jews, communists, Roma (Gypsies), mentally ill, homosexuals)

Kristallnacht vandalism & destruction
of Jewish property &
synagogues

Dictators Gain Power







Joseph Stalin



Adolf Hitler

The world wide Depression of the 1930s made it easier for dictators to gain control in many European Countries. There was an increase in militarism during this time period.

JAPANESE MILITARISM

- After WW1, Japan's economic situation worsened. The Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 and the world wide depression of 1929 intensified the crisis.
- During the 1930s, the military established almost complete control over the government.
- Navy and army officers soon occupied most of the important offices, including the one of the prime minister.



General Tojo



Emperor Hirohito

Acts of Aggression

Japanese Aggression



Acts of Aggression

- Japan Invades Manchuria and Chinese Cities
 - League of Nations threatens but takes NO action
 - Japan withdraws from the League of Nations



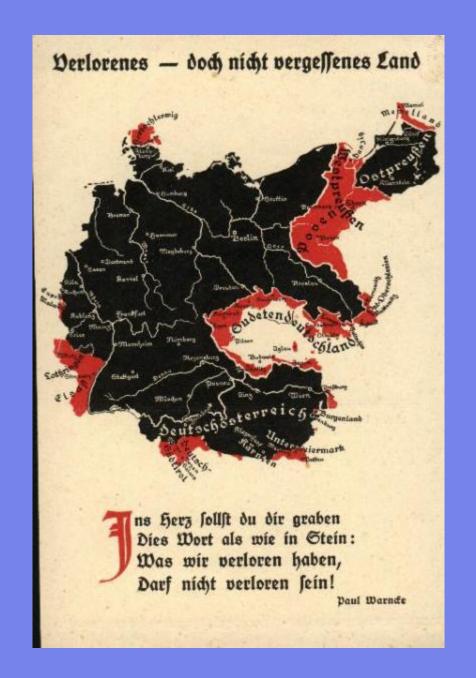
Italy Invades Africa



- Italy invades Ethiopia
- Ethiopian King appeals to League of Nations
- League of Nations will not sell war supplies or goods to Italy

"Lost but not forgotten land"

You must carve in your heart These words, as in stone -What we have lost Will be regained!



German Aggression

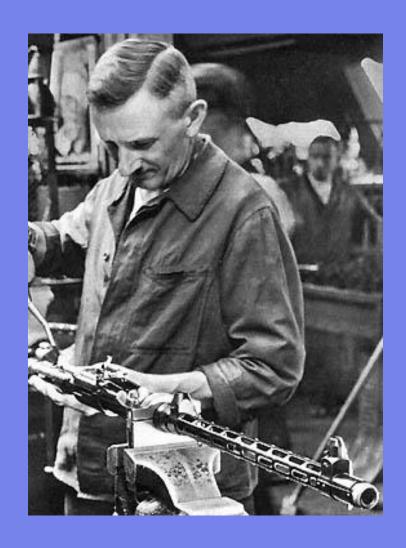


German Aggression Begins

- Nazi Party Comes to power
- Anti Semitic feelings spread
- Rearmament
- Hitler/Stalin sign Non-Aggression Pact
- Hitler comes to power and follows "Mein Kampf" - his goals for Germany



Hitler soon ordered a programme of rearming Germany





Hitler visits a factory and is enthusiastically greeted. Many Germans were grateful for jobs after the misery of he depression years.

German Aggression



- Germany invadesRhineland
- Germany annexesAustria
- Germany invadesSudetenland

March 1936: German troops marched into the Rhineland



The Rhineland was a region of Germany that was 'demilitarised' after the Treaty of Versailles. Germany was not allowed to have troops in the region.

Hitler's actions showed how he was willing to directly challenge the treaty.

March 1938: Nazi Germany annexed Austria



Again, this went against the terms of the Treaty of Versailles which banned Germany from uniting with Austria.

However, the arrival of German troops was met with great enthusiasm by many Austrian people.

March 1939: Germany invaded Czechoslovakia



Hitler had ordered the occupation of a part of Czechoslovakia known as the Sudetenland (in October 1938). Many hoped that that this would be the last conquest of the Nazis.

However, in March 1939, he ordered his troops to take over the remainder of Czechoslovakia. This was the first aggressive step that suggested that a war in Europe would soon begin.

So What Was Hitler Asking For?

•Return of German Speaking Lands- "Lebensraum"



Austria - Peacefully Annexed in 1938

German Troops Parade in Streets of Czechoslovakian Town, ca. 1939

Policy of Appeasement

- Sept. 29, 1938 at the Munich
 Conference, Great Britain and France adopt the policy of Appeasement
- Appeasement: Giving into the competitor in order to keep peace
- Germany is allowed to keep the land taken over - BUT can't take anymore

Appeasement, What?



- After the Munich Conference Germany continues to invade
 - Germany took over the rest of Czechoslovakia
 - Germany invades Poland (September 1, 1939)



German Aggression

- Aug. 1939 he signs the Non-Aggression Pact with USSR
 - Attempts to hold off a two-front war
- September 1,1939 invades Poland using "blitzkrieg"
- Sept. 3, 1939 Great Britain and France declare war on Germany
- Sept. 17, 1939 USSR invaded Poland (part of non-aggression pact) then moves into Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Finland
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KDJBxbcWUc

The War Begins

The War Begins



http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/olympics/images/e40-1z.jpg

 After Hitler invades Poland both France and Great Britain declare war on Germany on Sept. 3, 1939

The War Begins

- Before Great Britain and France could respond, Poland fell
- Hitler annexed the western half of Poland which had a large German population
- This was the first test of Blitzkrieg
 - Lightening war use of fast-moving airplanes and tanks followed by massive infantry forces to take enemy by surprise and quickly overwhelm them

The War Continues

- Sept. 17, 1939 Stalin sends Soviet troops to occupy the eastern part of Poland
- Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia fell
- Finland fought fiercely but eventually had to surrender
- The Phony War or "Sitzkrieg"
 - French and British mobilized along the Maginot Line and waited for a German attack
 - April 9, 1940 the calm ended and Hitler invades Denmark and Norway

The Fall of France





- ■The Germans invaded France in 1940
- •Hitler had swept through the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg
- Months later all of France had fallen to the Nazis
- Charles de Gaulle escaped to Great Britain to strategize how to get France back

Rescue at Dunkirk





www.alamy.com

Hitler Invades the Soviet Union

- Operation Barbarossa
 - June 22, 1941 German tanks and aircraft invade
 - Soviet Union was unprepared
 - Its troops were ill-equipped and untrained
 - Within weeks, Germany had pushed 500 miles into the Soviet Union
 - Soviet Union practiced the scorched earth policy as they retreated
 - City of Leningrad under siege
 - One million people starved to death in winter of 1941-1942
 - Leningrad refused to surrender



Battle of Britain

- Germans set out a Blitzkrieg operation in Great Britain
- The bombing of Britain lasted for months
- British never surrendered
- http://www.biography.com/people/winston-churchill-9248164



http://www.worldwar2today.com/images/theblitz.jpg

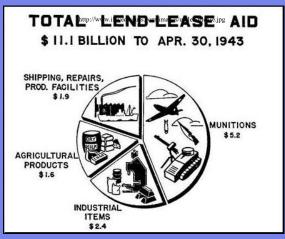
United States Neutrality



- Neutrality Acts declared the US would stay out of war
- Americans were fearful of getting involved in another European conflict
- Started Cash and Carry policy

FDR's Garden Hose





- "If your neighbor's house is on fire you would let him borrow your garden hose"
- ■FDR started the "Lend Lease Program" - Loaned war materials to the Allies

Japanese Attack



http://www.stargazette.com/blogs/genx/apbond/img/pearlharbor.jpg

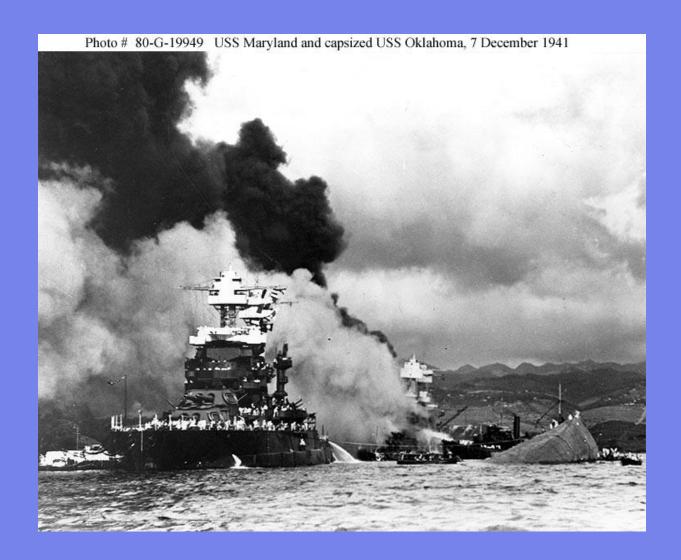
- The Japanese Empire set out to conquer South East Asia
- The US was in their way
- December 7, 1941 the
 Japanese attacked the US
 at Pearl Harbor in the
 Pacific Ocean

Bombing of Pearl Harbor

http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/world-war-ii-history/videos/uss-arizona-under-attack-at-pearl-harborhttp://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/world-war-ii-history/videos/japanese-diplomats-arrive-in-us



"A day which live in infamy"



US Enters the War

- December 8, 1941 US declares war on Japan
- December 11, 1941
 Germany declares war
 on the United States

https://www.youtube.com/w
atch?v=ufoUtoQLGQY

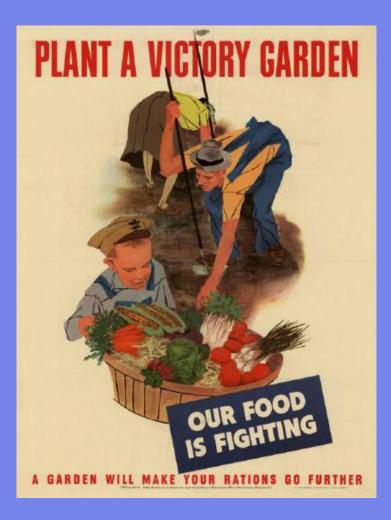


http://dase.laits.utexas.edu/media/american_politics_collection/viewitem/000117156_400.



The American Homefront

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HofnGQwPgqs



- The United States government stirs patriotic feelings
- Movies are used to build morale
- Propaganda is used to keep war effort going
- People rationed goods/supplies and started Victory Gardens

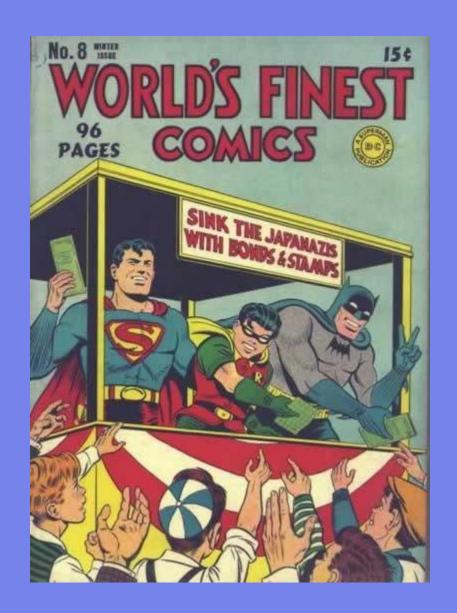
The American Homefront



- To raise money to fight the war the U.S. issued war bonds.
- A bond is like lending the government money.
- What did the government use in this ad motivate people to buy bonds?



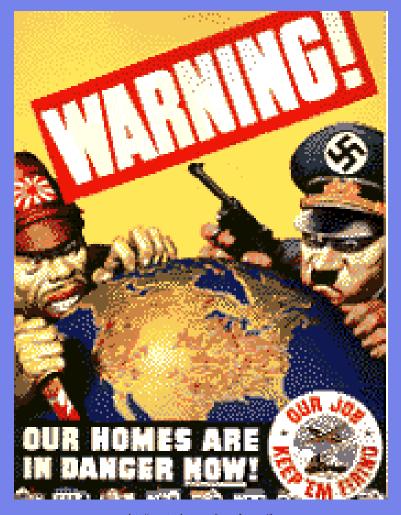






Continued War Effort





Women Enter the Workforce





http://www.rosietheriveterphotos.com/images/070705172615_Woman_Working_a_ War_Job_LG.jpg

Women Enter the Military





African Americans in the Military



Mexican Americans in the War Effort





Navajo Code Talkers



Japanese Americans

- Many Japanese
 Americans served
 heroically for the US in
 World War II
- The Nisei Regiment received high honors and awards of distinction for bravery

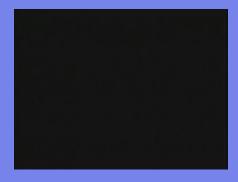
Japanese Americans Interned

- Many Americans were distrusting of Japanese Americans
- ■Thousands of Japanese Americans were forced into Internment Camps in the Midwest throughout WWII





Internment Camp



WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION

Presidio of San Francisco, California April 1, 1942

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

Living in the Following Area:

All that portion of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, lying generally west of the north-south line established by Junipero Serra Boulevard, Worchester Avenue, and Nineteenth Avenue, and lying generally north of the east-west line established by California Street, to the intersection of Market Street, and thence on Market Street

All Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above designated area by 12:00 o'clock noon Tuesday, April 7, 1942.

No Japanese person will be permitted to enter or leave the above described area after 8:00 a. m., Thursday, April 2. 1942, without obtaining special permission from the Provost Marshal at the Civil Control Station located at:

1701 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, California

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

- 1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
- 2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property including: real estate, business and professional equipment, buildings, household goods, boats, automobiles,
 - 3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
 - 4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence, as specified below.

The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Thursday, April 2, 1912, or between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Friday, April 3, 1942.

Invasion of the Soviet Union

- Hitler broke the nonaggression pact and invaded the Soviet Union
- -Germans wanted to obtain the Soviet oil fields quickly
- -The Germans were unsuccessful in the winter months



http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/images/highres_30018917%20copy.jpg

Stalingrad

Germans tried to siege Russian city of Stalingrad

- Russians pushed the Germans out of Stalingrad
- Turning point on the Eastern Front

&free=false

http://www.history.com/topics ii/world-war-ii-history/videos/world-war-II-battleofstalingrad?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1











El Alamein

- In 1942 German forces tried to seize Egypt and the Suez Canal
- British forces pushed Germans out
- Turning point in Africa
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrsRo P7Zyw



Operation Torch

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpUXR7HsYIM







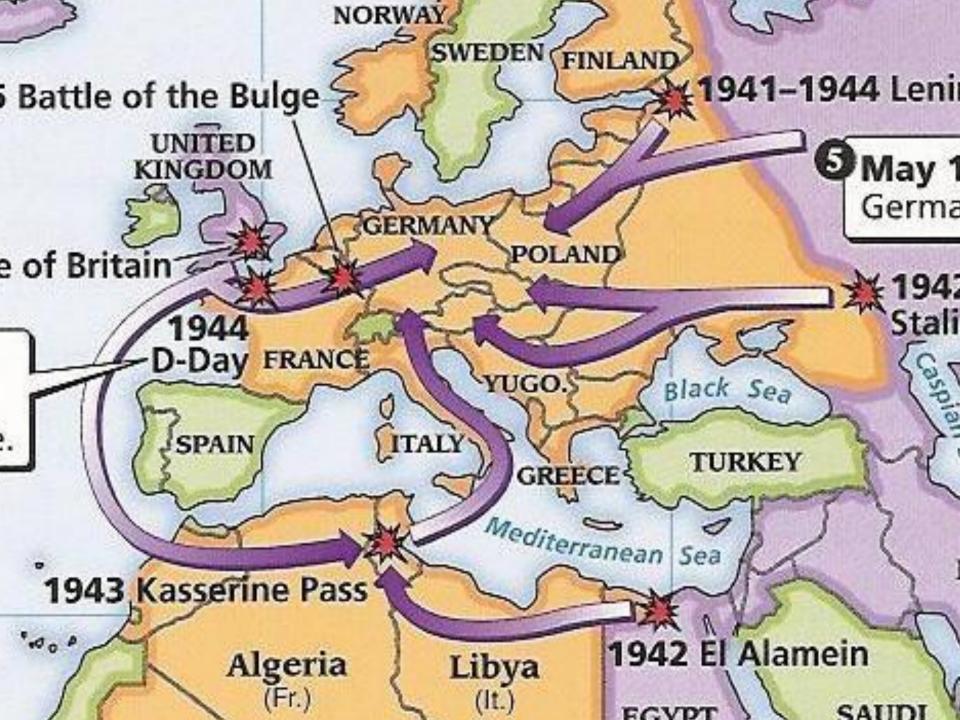
Fall of Italy

- Allies moved to Italy
- Mussolini was overthrown and moved his government to Northern Italy
- Allies freed Northern Italy
- Mussolini was shot and killed by Italians
- https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=0iRuxW5NOCc











D - Day Invasion

- June 6, 1944 Allies open operation to free France
- Landed on the Beaches of Normandy under the command of Dwight D. Eisenhower
- Heavy loss of life but successful in freeing France

The D-Day

"D-Day" is a day when a certain military operation starts. The most famous of the D-Days is 6th June 1944, when Allies invaded Normandy

PHASE 1:

Airborne drop Midnight - 2 A.M.

Over 13,000 paratroopers were dropped behind enemy lines, and managed to accomplish many objetives.

PHASE 2: Art of deceit

1 A.M. - 4 A.M.

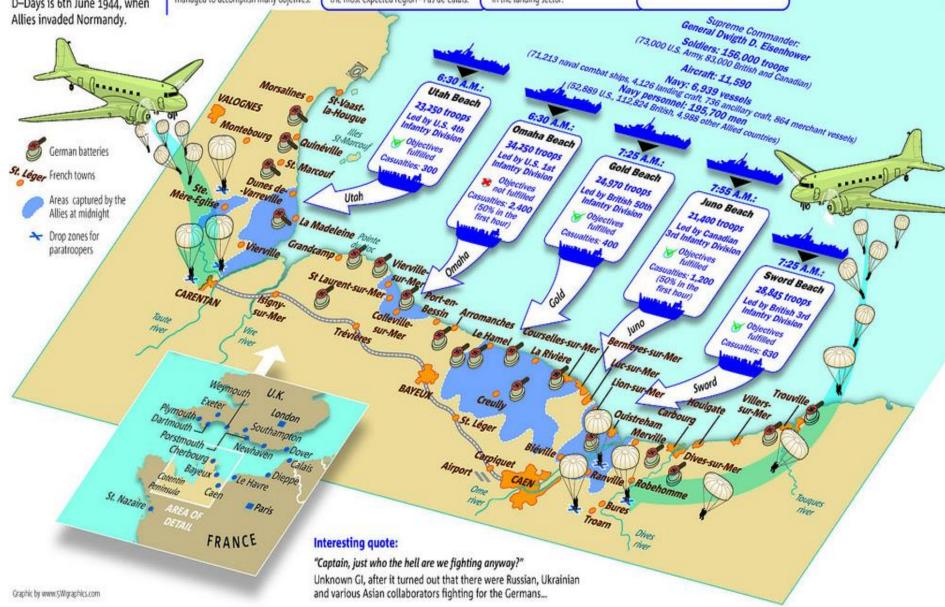
To distract the enemy, the Allies faked that another invasion was taking place in the most expected region - Pas de Calais.

PHASE 3: Aerial attack 3 A.M.

300 planes dropped 13,000 bombs on German defenses in the landing sector.

PHASE 4: Naval attack 5 A.M.

Naval bombardment preceded he invasion. PHASE 5: The invasion



Eisenhower Commands

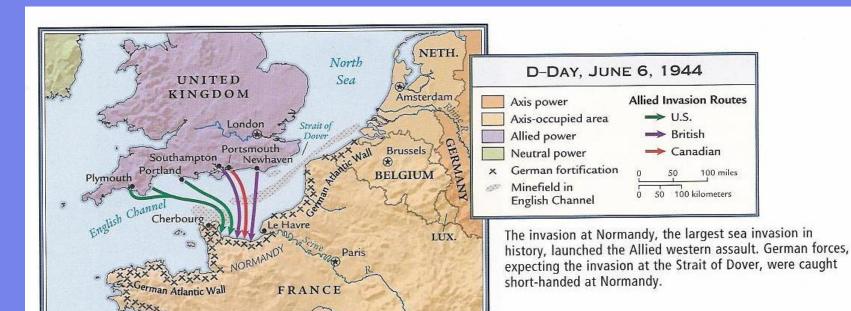


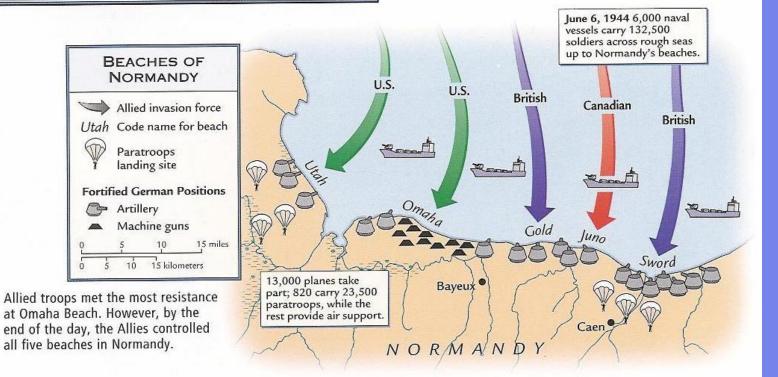
Amphibious Landing







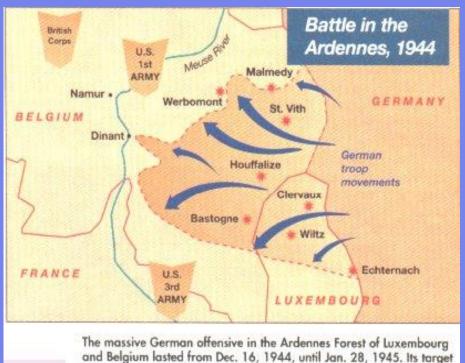




D-Day Invasion

• http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/d-day/videos/d-day-invasion-of-normandy

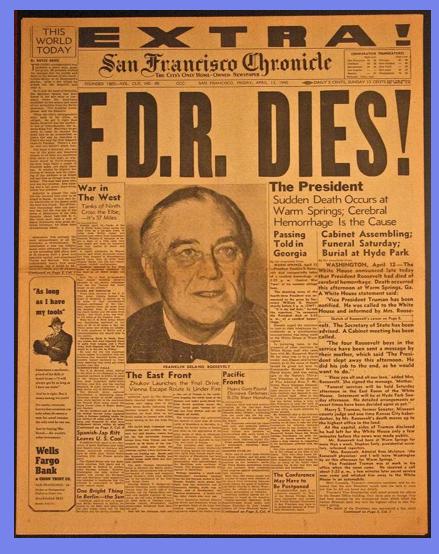
Battle of the Bulge



was Antwerp, Belgium.

- Nazi's last offensive attack
- Attacked area between France and Germany
- US soldiers attacked from the rear and defeated the Germans

FDR Dies in Office April 1945





Fuehrer Fell at CP, German Radio Says; Doenitz at Helm, Vows War Will Continue

Groups make assessment that might than AI-M filling had don't. Info. Yest therein, haven assessed absolute of the Groups have the successful how as year of the Group. The successful how as year of the Group. The successful has an early of the Group has been presented by the Groups and the successful has a property of the Groups and the successful has a property of the Groups and the successful has a property of the Groups and the successful has a property of the Groups and the successful has a property of the Groups and the successful has a property of the Groups and the successful has a property of the Groups and the successful has a property of the Groups and the successful has a property of the Groups and the Grou

Became made a ratio speeds remodered they are associated, there is not and Arment that became made contains to easy way. The tax were spiked poor enters which had been provided to more than a week in all world

Churchill Hints Peace Is at Hand



replyth.

The commonweal field any plan casy details of the Hill Developer dist. The appearance of the common distriction of the common details and the common matter. Including the Common matter, the plant of the Common and the Common matter of the Common and t

The beauty and a super such a fine and properties of the super such as the super such as the super such as the super such as the super sup

or play a many need all Rendered Security Server Server and played and the server at the server and the server

Haller's Built and March deposits to the first to the second to the seco

Property in his speech, sold that Home which helps of the comment profit below thereby sufficient and the his sold in the first below to be the his months of the sold that the sold the sold the property of the sold that the sold the sold the partners on the fig. THE WEATHER

NORFOLK LEDGER-DISPATCH

VCIL CXXXXII-NO 188

MORPOLE, VA., MONDAY AFFERNOON, MAY 7, 1946

20 PAGES-PRICE PINE CENTS

HOME EDITION

NAZIS QUIT V-E DAY OFFICIALLY TOMORROW

London, May 7. (AP)-The war against Germany, the greatest in history, ended today with unconditional surrender of the once mighty Wehrmacht. The surrended to the western Allies and Russia was made at General Eisenhower's headquarters at Reims, France, by the German High Command.

The British government announced that tomorrow will be celebrated as V-E Day. Prime Minister Churchill will broadcast at 9 a. m. Eastern War Time and King George VI at 3 p. m., EWT.

Norfolk Asked To Celebrate In Sober Mood V-E Day Disording Out; Wait For Transas Wait For Transas



In Weshington microphones were made needy for a broadcast by Procident Transan.

Prime Minister Cherchill, after a busy day at 10 Downing St., went to see King George VI.,

Many of the permeder come in an Associated Press dispotch from Rainer, at 9:35 e. no.,

(Norfalk Time), and immediately set the church belic tailing in Borne and elsewhere.

In the hear before the news from Reims, German broadcosts told the German people that Grand Admical Karl Doonite had ordered capitalation of all fighting loves, and called a fif the U-beat warfare.

Joy of the news was tempered only by the reclination that the war oppoint Japan remains to be resolved, with many cassalties still ahead.

The end of the European workers, greatest, blandlest and costlicit wor in human his

Victory in Europe Day



- Soviet army surrounded Berlin
- Nazis surrendered to Eisenhower
- ■May 7, 1945: V-E Day
- Hitler refuses to surrender and commits suicide

- Nazis proposed a new racial order
- Germanic people or Aryans were a "master race"
- All other people were inferior, particularly the Jews
- Long European history of hatred for Jews
- Hitler made the targeting of Jews a government policy
- Nuremberg Laws 1935: deprived Jews of their German citizenship and forbade marriage between Jews and non-Jews

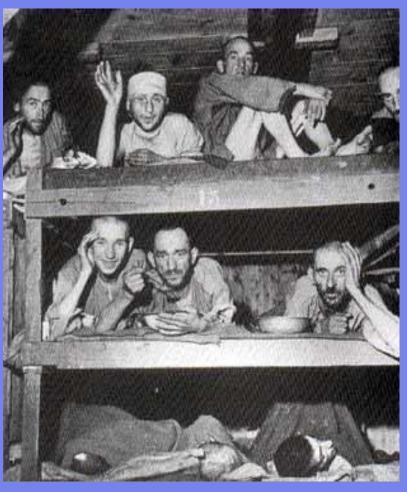
- Kristallnacht the "night of broken glass"
- Violent attack on the Jewish community
- Nazi storm troopers attacked Jewish homes, businesses and synagogues
- Close to 100 Jews were killed
- Some Jews left, others remained
- Hitler favored emigration
- But France, Britain and the U.S. closed their doors after admitting tens of thousands

- Isolating the Jews
 - Emigration of Jews did not solve "the Jewish Problem" so....
 - All Jews ordered into designated ghettos in cities sealed off with barbed wire and stone walls
 - Hoped they would die of disease and starvation
 - https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/media_fi.php?ModuleId=10005143&Media_Id=253

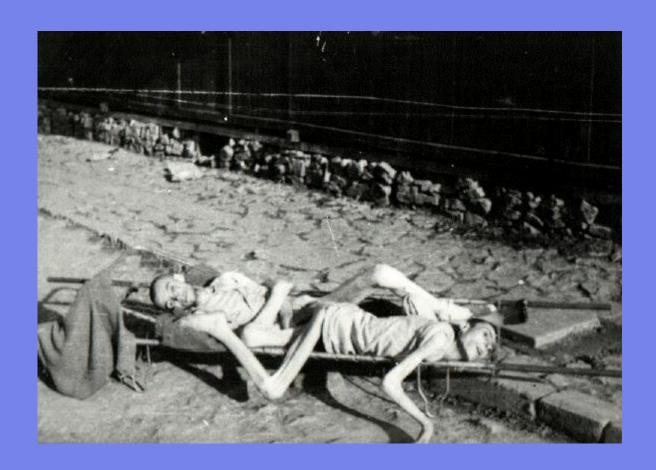
- The "Final Solution"
 - Hitler grew impatient
 - Program of genocide was begun, the systematic killing of an entire people
 - SS moved from town to town hunting down Jews
 - Others taken to concentration camps or slave-labor camps mainly in Germany and Poland
 - https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/media_nm.php?MediaId=3372
 - Rescue https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/media nm.php?MediaId=3374

- The Final Solution reached its last stage in 1942
- Nazis built extermination camps equipped with huge gas chambers capable of killing 6000 human beings a day
- 6 million European Jews were killed
 - Only 15 % of Polish Jews survived
 - Only 22% of Germany/Austrian Jews survived
 - Only 29% of Russian Jews survived

Hitler's Final Solution



- Anti Semitism: hatred of Jews
- •Holocaust
- People effected:
 - Jews, Poles, Slavs, Gypsies, homosexuals, disabled, mentally ill
 - Mobile Killing Units
 - https://www.ushmm.org/ wlc/en/media nm.php?M ediald=8862



http://isurvived.org/Pictures_iSurvived-4/HOLOCAUST-2corpses.GIF



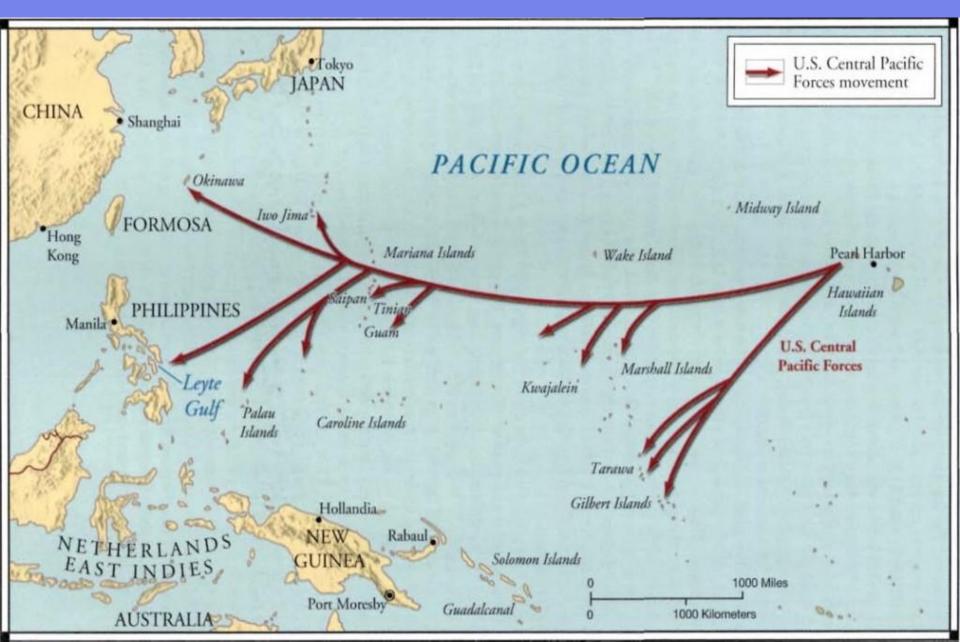
http://libcom.org/files/holocaust.jpg

War in the Pacific

- Focus turns to Japan
- US begins "Island Hopping" beginning with Guadalcanal
- Capture islands getting closer to Japan
- Japan begins to retreat



US Pacific Island Campaigns



Japan's Last Effort

- Battle of Leyte Gulf
- Japanese plan to destroy the American fleet so Allies could not resupply their ground troops

Disastrous results – within 4 days, Japanese navy was eliminated

 Only Kamikaze (suicide) pilots and army stood between the Allies and Japan



Allies Move Closer

http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-iwo-jima/videos/battle-of-iwo-jima?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=falsehttp://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-okinawa/videos/battle-of-okinawa?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=falsehttp://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-okinawa/videos/battle-of-okinawa?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=falsehttp://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-okinawa/videos/battle-of-okinawa?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=falsehttp://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-okinawa/videos/battle-of-okinawa?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=falsehttp://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-okinawa/videos/battle-of-okinawa?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=falsehttp://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-okinawa/videos/battle-of-okinawa?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=falsehttp://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-okinawa/videos/battle-of-okinawa?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=falsehttp://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-okinawa/videos/battle-of-okinawa?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=falsehttp://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-okinawa/videos/battle-okinawa/videos/battle-okinawa/videos/battl

- Iwo Jima
- 760 miles from Tokyo

- Okinawa
- 350 miles from southern Japan





IWO JIMA

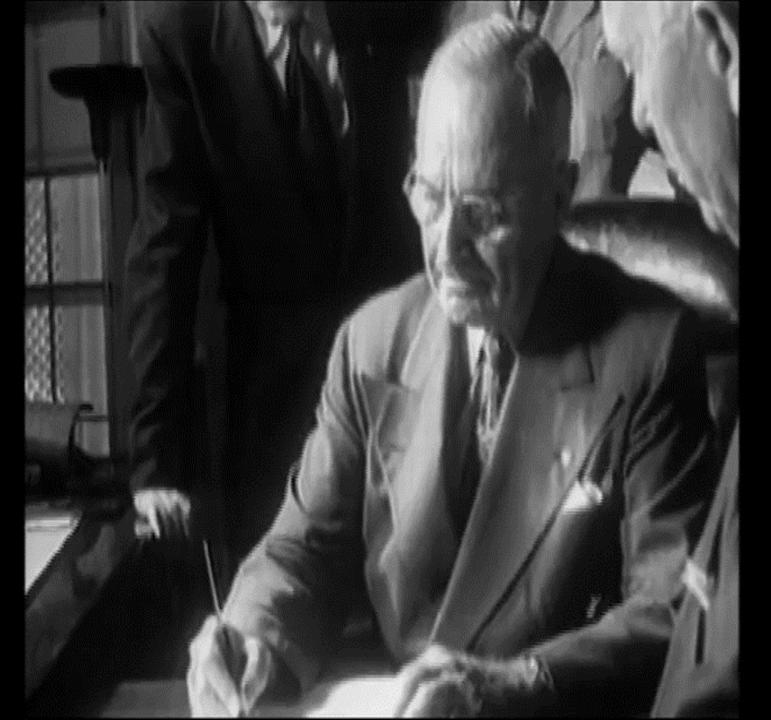
ttp://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-leyte-gulf/videos/battle-of-iwo-

SENTRY LYING IN WAIT FOR U.S. TUNNEL RATS PUNJI STAKE TRA NVA OFFICERS DISCUSS TACTICS AIR RAID SHELTER SUBMERGED ENTRANCE WATER TABLE WELL

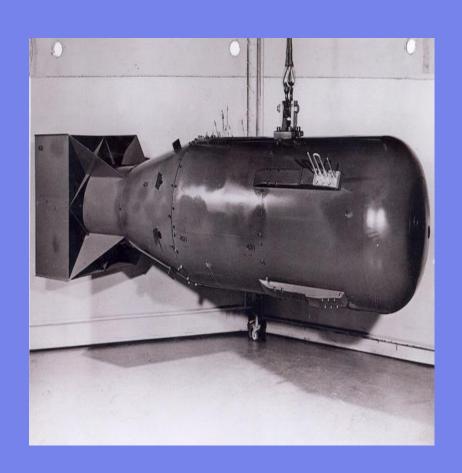
Japan Surrenders



- Truman told that invasion of Japan would cost 500,000 lives
- Decides to use a
 powerful new weapon
 developed by the
 Manhattan Project

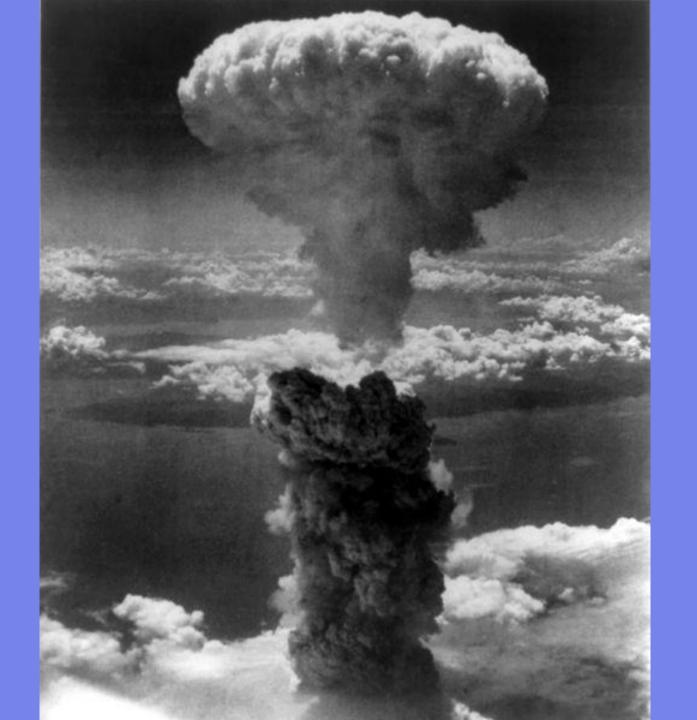


Atomic Bombs



















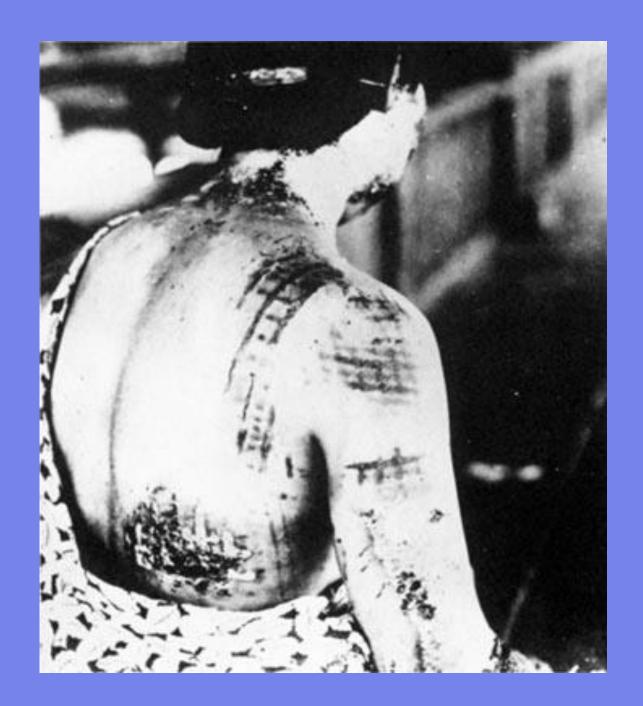






Photo # SC 213700 Foreign Minister Shigemitsu signs Japanese surrender instrument

• http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/bombing-of-hiroshima-and-nagasaki/videos/coroners-report-atomic-bomb

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncq Wye43TM
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jY9VwCE Dsg

Victory Over Japan Day



Effects of World War II



- Geneva Convention
 - Set guidelines for POWs
- Formation of Israel
 - Jewish Nation
- Creation of United Nations
 - Prevent future wars

The War Ends

Yalta Conference

- Big Three (Great Britain, USSR, and the U.S.)
- Yalta Declaration
 - Create a world organization to help deal with problems peacefully – the United Nations
 - Provide democracy in liberated nations
 - Dismember Germany
 - Divide Germany into 4 zones
 - Provide trial of war criminals

Yalta Conference

- Held in Soviet territory in early 1945; Allies on brink of military victory
- Primary goal to reach agreement on postwar Europe
- Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill agreed on plans for Germany
- Stalin got his way with Polish territory, made promises

United Nations

- Roosevelt got Stalin to agree to join fight against Japan once war in Europe over
- USSR would join new world organization—United Nations
- Meant to encourage international cooperation and prevent war
- June 1945 charter signed with five major Allies as Security Council

Effects of WWII



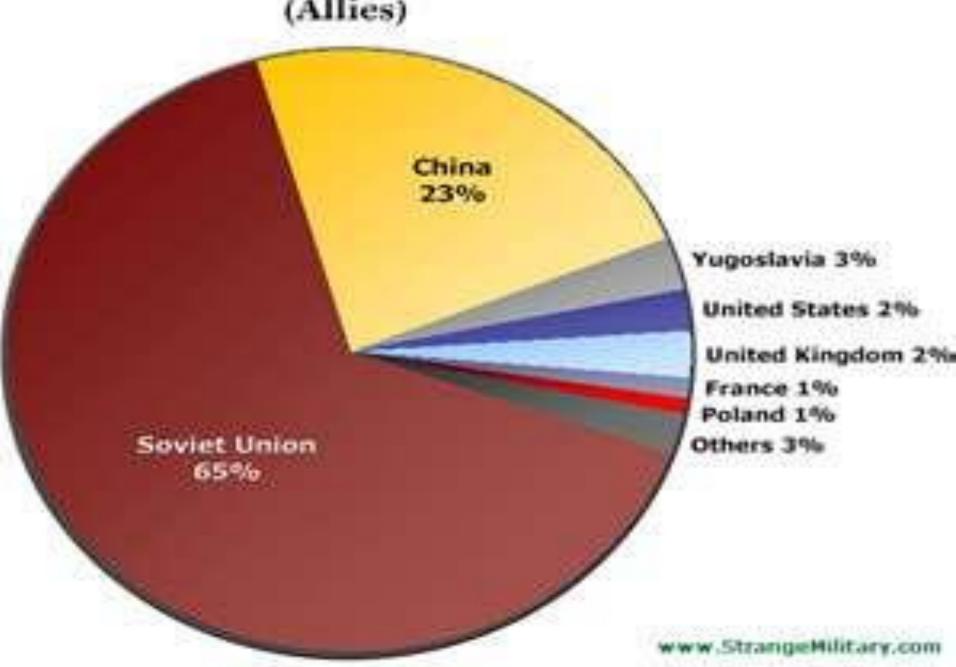
- Soviet Union 22 million dead
- Germany 8 million dead
- Japan 2 million dead
- USA 300,000 dead
- Jews 6 million dead
- Over 55 million dead
- Most destructive war in history

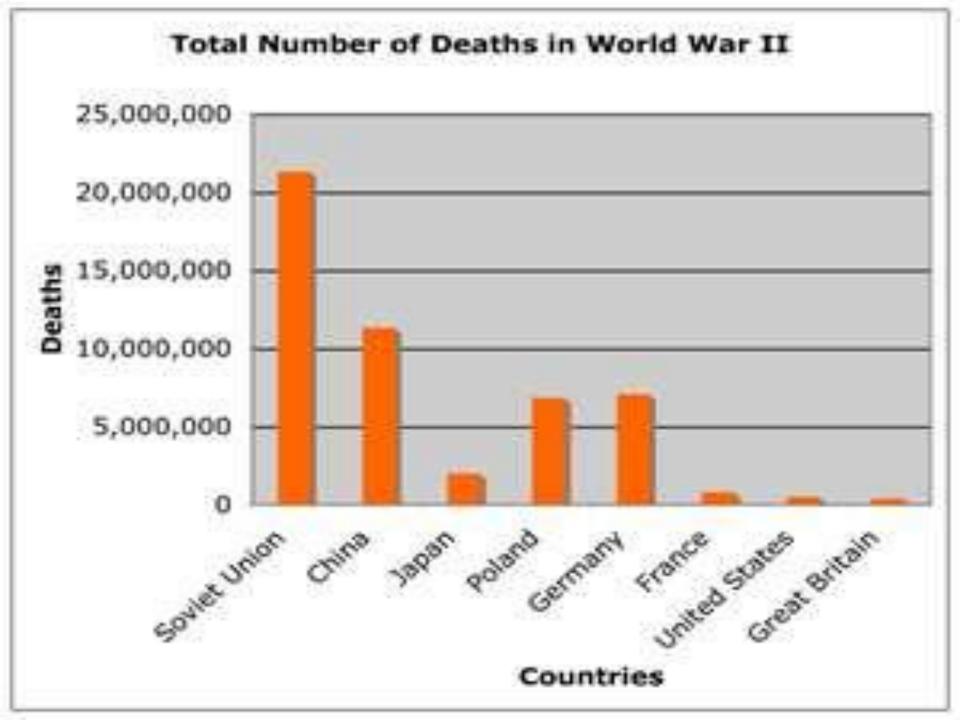
War Criminal Trials

- Nuremburg, Germany
- Nov. 1945 Sept. 1946
- Nazi war criminals
- "Crimes against humanity"



World War II Military Deaths (Allies)





Potsdam Conference

July 1945

- Small German city location for Potsdam Conference
- Growing ill will between Soviet Union and other Allies

Closing months

- American and British leaders worried about Stalin's intentions
- Concerned about spread of communism, growth of Soviet influence

Three sides

- Soviet Union, Britain, and United States
- Discussed many issues but had difficulty reaching agreement

Stalin

- Soon broke his promises
- Did not respect democracies in Eastern Europe
- Another struggle beginning

Causes and Effects of World War II



CAUSES

- Economic hardship and political unrest following World War I
- Aggressive leaders in Germany, Italy, and Japan wanted to expand their nations.
- · Germany invaded Poland, and Japan attacked the United States.

EFFECTS

- Millions of people were killed, and large areas of Europe and Asia were damaged or destroyed.
- The Allies occupied Japan and parts of Europe.
- The United Nations was created to help prevent future wars.
- Conflict began between the Soviet Union and the other Allies over the fate of Eastern Europe.
- The United States and the Soviet Union emerged as the world's two major powers.

VISUAL STUDY GUIDE



World War II: 1939-1945

German aggression leads to war

- · Rhineland militarized
- Austria and parts of Czechosolvakia annexed
- · Poland invaded

Axis Powers make early gains

- Germany conquers Denmark, Norway, France, invades Soviet Union
- Nazis adopt the Final Solution and establish death camps
- Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, rules the Pacific

The Allies fight back

- British and Americans win in North Africa, Italy
- · Soviets win at Stalingrad
- Americans win at Midway, begin island hopping

The war ends

- Soviets push back Germans from the east
- After D-Day, other Allies push toward Germany from the west
- Americans win in Pacific; atomic bomb ends war

Major Events of World War II

- 1939 Nazi-Soviet nonaggression pact
 - German troops invade Poland and the war begins
- 1940 Germany conquers France
 - Battle of Britain begins
- 1941 Germany invades the Soviet Union
 - Japan attacks Pearl Harbor
 - United States enters the war
- 1942 Allies win the Battle of Midway
 - Allied victory at El Alamein
 - Allies begin to hear reports of widespread killings of Jews in Europe

- 1943 Soviets win the Battle of Stalingrad
 - Allies invade Italy
- 1944 Allies invade France in D-Day
 - Allies begin to discover death camps
- 1945 Allies meet at Yalta and Potsdam
 - Germany surrenders
 - Allies win battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa
 - Allies drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
 - Japan surrenders and the war ends