

World War II

1939 – 1945

Germany Sparks War

- Hitler demands Danzig port in Poland April 29, 1939
 - Great Britain & France back Poland
 - Soviet Union (Stalin) signed a non-aggression pact
 - Removed the threat of Soviets from the east

Germany's Blitzkrieg

- Surprise attack on Poland
 - “Lightning War”
- Dawn September 1, 1939
- Tanks, planes, & 1.5 million soldiers attack Poland
- Britain & France declare war on Germany September 3, 1939
 - Militaries could not mobilize quick enough

Soviets Gain Ground

- Soviet Union claim their half of Poland
September 17, 1939
- Stalin takes Lithuania, Latvia & Estonia
- Stalin attacks Finland November 1939
 - 1 Million men
 - After heavy losses Stalin takes Finland

Germany's Sitzkrieg

- No action from Germany for 7 months after blitzkrieg
- France & Britain stationed troops along the border of France & Germany
- Allied soldiers (Britain & France) move eastward toward Germany
- Hitler invades Denmark & Norway April 9, 1940
 - Began to build bases to attack Britain

Germany Advances

- Hitler takes Holland, Belgium, & Luxembourg by May 1940
 - Surrounds France
- Hitler sends troops & tanks to the Ardennes
 - Forest area of Northeast France
 - Moved across northern France to the coast in 10 days
 - German troops in France joined those in Belgium

France Falls & Soviet Union is Attacked

France Falls

- Great Britain amateur armada rescues troops
 - Sent 850 ships across the English Channel to Dunkirk
 - 338,000 Soldiers were saved May 26 – June 4
- Mussolini joins Hitler & declares war on Great Britain & France June 10, 1940
 - Italy attacked France from the south
 - Paris fell by June 14th
 - France surrenders June 22, 1940
- Charles de Gaulle fled to England & planned to take back France

Germany Attacks Great Britain

- PM Winston Churchill prepared Britain for war
- Hitler prepares Operation Sea Lion
 - Attack the Royal Air Force → Land 250,000 men on Britain's beaches
 - Summer 1940
 - Focused on airbases and factories & turned on cities
- Britain fought back
 - Enigma
 - Code-breaking machine
 - Radar to track planes

The Battle of Britain

- October 1940 – May 1941
- Germany attacked at night to avoid the RAF
 - People take cover at sunset as sirens sounded
- Hitler called off attacks
- Showed Hitler could be blocked

Germany & Italy Turn to Africa

- Germany & Italy move for the Suez Canal
 - Give access to oil fields in the Middle East
 - Italy backs Britain out of Egypt to gain control
- Britain fights back
 - 130,000 Italian prisoners
 - Hitler sent General Erwin Rommel to Libya to help support Italy
 - Desert Fox

Hitler Invades the Soviet Union

- Operation Barbarossa
 - Morning of June 22, 1941
 - Hitler begins the blitzkrieg on SU
 - Soviet Union was unprepared
- Germany pushed 500 miles into SU in 1 week
 - Soviets practiced slash & burn techniques
- Hitler surrounded Leningrad by September 1941
 - German bombs destroyed food warehouses
 - 1 Million people starved to death
 - Soviets did not surrender

Invading the Soviet Union

- Hitler turned attention to Moscow to hurt Soviets in October 1941
- Germans held up outside Moscow due to winter
 - German's in summer uniforms
 - "No retreat" order
 - 500,000 Germans died

Japan Attacks

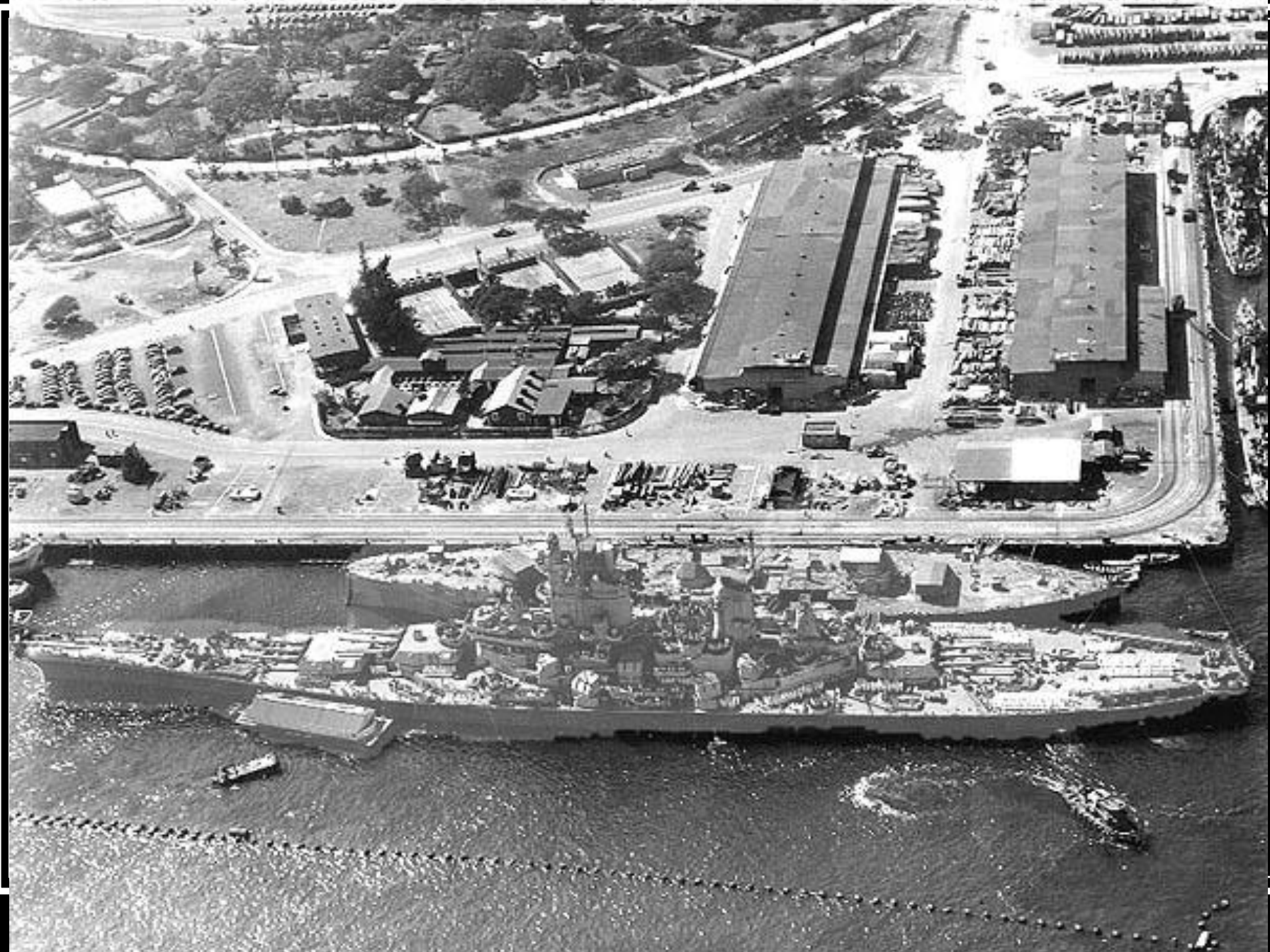
Japan Seeks an Empire

- Expansion began in 1931 with Manchuria
- Expansion grew by taking China in 1937
 - Difficult war caused a strain on Japan's economy
 - Japan looked to attack European colonies in Southeast Asia
 - U.S. was concerned about the Philippines
- United States sent support to China
- Roosevelt cut supply of iron & oil to Japan 1941
 - 90% Scrap Metal & 60% Oil
 - Sanction Japan for taking French Indochina

Japan Seeks an Empire

- Japan planned a surprise attack on S.E. Asia & the Pacific
 - Isoroku Yamamoto argued that the U.S. fleet in Hawaii needed to be destroyed
- Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941
 - 7:55 AM
 - United States knew of attack but didn't know where
 - Damaged or sunk 18 ships
 - 2,400 Americans killed & 1,000 Wounded
- December 8, 1941 America declares war on Japan
 - "A date that will live in infamy"

Photo # NH 78940 USS Wisconsin alongside hulk of USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor, 1944



Japanese Victories

- Japan gains Philippines & Guam 1942
- Gained Hong Kong in February 1942
- Gained Dutch East Indies by March 1942
 - Rich in minerals
- Threaten to attack India
 - Held by Britain
- POWs are treated brutally

Allies Strike Back

■ The Doolittle Bombers

- L.C. James H. Doolittle
- United States sent 16 B-25 bombers to bomb Tokyo & other major cities
- Bombing did little damage but made a psychological point

■ Turn the Tides of War

- Battle of Coral Sea
 - Fought by planes off of aircraft carriers
- U.S. intercepted a Japanese strike force heading for New Guinea

Allies Strike Back

- Battle of Midway
 - Home of American airfields
 - America broke a Japanese code
 - Admiral Chester Nimitz planned an ambush to stop Japan
 - Sneak in from behind as Japan attacked Midway Island
 - Destroyed 332 Japanese planes & 4 aircraft carriers

The Allies Attack

- General Douglas MacArthur commander of Allied forces in the Pacific
 - Nimitz & MacArthur wanted to use “leap frog” attacks
 - Hit several different islands of Japanese control, cut shipping supplies, & starve the enemy troops
- U.S. learned of Japanese airbase on Guadalcanal
 - 19,000 Marines + Australian soldiers attacked 8/7/42
 - Allies claimed the island after 6 months of fighting
 - Took the airbase at the start of the battle
 - The Island of Death

The Holocaust

The Holocaust Begins

- Hitler & the Nazis proclaimed the Aryans as the “master race”
 - Jews and non-Aryans were inferior
- Holocaust: Mass slaughter of people
- Nazis use anti-Semitism campaign
 - Encouraged persecution across Germany
 - Blamed Jews for the loss of World War I and the economic problems that followed
- Nuremburg Laws
 - Deprive Jews the rights to citizenship, jobs, & property
 - Jews were ordered to wear a bright yellow Star of David

The Holocaust Begins

- The Flood of Refugees
 - Jews feared increase of violence
 - Many fled Germany
 - Hitler believed emigration would solve “the Jewish problem”
 - Found more Jews in conquered areas
- Hitler forced Jews to emigrate
 - France admitted 25,000
 - Britain admitted 80,000
 - 40,000 Jews in Latin America
 - United States admitted 100,000
 - Included Albert Einstein

The Holocaust Begins

- Isolating the Jews
 - Hitler could not force all Jews out
 - Ordered all remaining Jews to live in assigned areas in Poland
 - Ghettos were used to segregate the Jews
 - Nazis sealed off the ghettos with barbed wire & walls
 - Wanted Jews to starve or die from disease

Hitler's Final Solution

■ Plan known as “Final Solution”

■ Program of genocide

- Included Jews, gypsies, Poles, Russians, homosexuals, the insane, the disabled, & the incurably ill

■ Make a pure Aryan race

■ Mass Killing

■ Hitler used the SS to wipe out Jews

■ Shot men, women, children, & babies in mass graves

■ Jews were taken to concentration camps or labor camps

- Mostly in Germany & Poland

Mass Killings

- Prisoners fed scraps of bread & potato peelings
 - Most Jews lost 50 lbs. in first month
- Mass Extermination
 - Early 1942
 - Camps built with gas chambers
 - Killed 6,000 humans per day
- Auschwitz was the largest death camp
 - Doctors checked & separated the strong & weak
 - Weak killed the day they arrived
 - Told to undress for showers & killed with poison gas
 - Cremators burned the dead bodies

Jews Killed Under Nazi Rule*

	Original Jewish Population	Jews Killed	Percent Surviving
Poland	3,300,000	2,800,000	15%
Soviet Union (area occupied by Germans)	2,100,000	1,500,000	29%
Hungary	404,000	200,000	49%
Romania	850,000	425,000	50%
Germany/Austria	270,000	210,000	22%

*Estimates

Source: Hannah Vogt, The Burden of Guilt

The Survivors

- 6 Million Jews killed in death camps
 - Fewer than 4 million Jews survived
 - 6 Million additional people killed
- People were hidden & smuggled to neutral countries
 - Switzerland & Sweden

The Allies Are
Victorious

Allies Plan for Victory

- Churchill & Roosevelt plan to defeat Hitler in December 1941
- Stalin asked the Allies for 3 things
 - Massive supplies
 - Territorial concessions in Eastern Europe
 - A second front in Western Europe
 - Split the German forces

War on Two Fronts

■ The North Africa Campaign

- Erwin Rommel was taking parts of Africa
- Britain sent Bernard Montgomery “Monty” to lead the British forces in Africa
 - Planned a night invasion that caught the Germans by surprise
 - Severely weakened Rommel by November 1942 (5 Months)

■ Operation Torch

- November 8, 1942
- Allied forces (mostly U.S.) launched attacks
 - 107,000 Troops
- Attacked in Morocco & Algeria (Led by Dwight D. Eisenhower)
- Defeated Rommel’s forces by May 1943

War on Two Fronts

- Fighting in Stalingrad
 - Germans stalled in Leningrad & Moscow
 - Soviet winter hindered the German forces
 - Germany prepared for war on Stalingrad (Summer of 1942)

Battle of Stalingrad

- August 23, 1942
- Germans bombed the city for days
 - Reduced the buildings to rubble
- Germans controlled 90% of the city by November
 - Soviet winter set in
- Soviets attacked Germany November 19, 1942
 - Cut the German supply lines
- Germans surrendered their advance on February 2, 1943
 - 90,000 German troops surrendered
 - Lost 240,000 soldiers
- Soviet Union began pushing Germany westward after the battle

The Invasion of Italy

- Stalin urged Allies for a second front in France
 - Churchill & Roosevelt decided to attack Italy first
- Allies of 180,000 men landed in Sicily July 10, 1943
 - Captured the island from Germany by August
 - King Victor Emanuel III fired Mussolini & had him arrested (July 1943)
- Italy surrendered on September 3, 1943
 - Germans seized control of Northern Italy & put Mussolini back in power
 - Allies pushed Germany to Rome by 1944 but fighting continued until Germany fell in May 1945
- Mussolini was found disguised as a German soldier
 - Shot the following day and was hanged in the Milan town square

D-Day Invasion

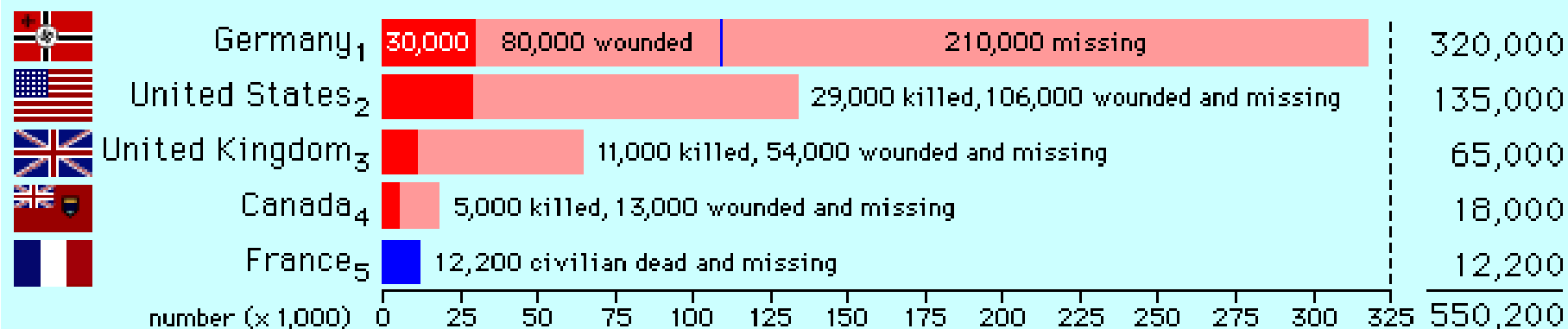
D-Day Invasion

- Allies building forces secretly in Great Britain 1942
 - May 1944 invasion force was ready
- Dwight D. Eisenhower planned to attack at Normandy (N.W. France)
 - Planes, ships, tanks, landing craft, & 3.5 million men
 - Move across the English Channel
- Germany expected an attack
 - False army attacked at Calais, France
 - Small army to distract Hitler

D-Day Invasion

- Largest sea-to-land attack in history
- D-Day June 6, 1944
- American, French, & Canadian troops attacked 60 mile stretch of beach
 - 6/10 Died in first wave
- Germans protected themselves with machine guns, canons, rocket launchers, & concrete bunkers
- 3,000 American soldiers died on the beach on 1st day
- 1 Million troops landed in a month
 - Led through by General George Patton

Estimated Battle Casualties, Normandy Invasion, World War II



- 1 Extrapolated from report of German OB West, Sept. 28, 1944, and from report of German army surgeon for period June 6–August 31, 1944. More than 70 percent of missing were eventually reported as captured.
- 2 Taken from Office of the Adjutant General, *Army Battle Casualties and Nonbattle Deaths in World War II: Final Report 7 December 1941–31 December 1946*, page 92. Figures are for Army and Army Air Forces casualties in Normandy and northern France, June 6–September 14.
- 3 Taken from L. F. Ellis *et al.*, *Victory in the West*, vol. 1, *The Battle of Normandy* (1962, reissued 1993), page 493. Figures are for 21st Army Group, June 6–August 31, minus Canadian figures given in C. P. Stacey, below.
- 4 Taken from C. P. Stacey, *The Victory Campaign: The Operations in North-West Europe, 1944–1945* (1960), page 271. Figures are for June 6–August 23. Under Canadian command were the Poles, who suffered some 1,350 casualties from August 1 to August 23.
- 5 Provided by the Mémorial de Caen, France. Figures are for the *départements* of Calvados, Manche, and Orne from June 6 to August 31.

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D-Day Invasion

- By August 25, 1944 Allied troops marched into Paris
- September Allies liberated France, Belgium, Luxembourg, & the Netherlands
 - Ended 4 years of German occupation
 - Began moving towards Germany

Battle of the Bulge

- Allied moved towards Germany from West
- Soviets moved towards Germany from East
 - War on two fronts
- Hitler attacked U.S. forces in the Ardennes Forest
 - Pushed through some lines by December 1944
 - Hitler lost too many men to hold their gain
 - Began sending 14-year-old boys to the front

Germany Surrenders

- March 1945 Allies crossed the Rhine River into Germany
 - Allies aimed for Berlin with 3 million soldiers from West
 - Soviets pushed with 6 million soldiers from east
 - Surrounded Berlin by April 1945
- Hitler hid in secret bunker
 - Final address blamed Jews for starting war & generals for the loss
 - Hitler & Wife chose to die instead of facing disgrace
 - Committed suicide on May 1, 1945

Germany Surrenders

- Churchill urged U.S. to gain as much ground as possible
 - Beat Soviets to Berlin
- May 7, 1945 Eisenhower accepted unconditional surrender
- Franklin Roosevelt did not witness surrender
 - Died on April 12, 1945
 - Harry S. Truman took office
- V-E Day May 8, 1945
 - Victory in Europe Day

Life at Home & Defeating Japan

Life on Allied Home Fronts

- Mobilizing for a Total War
 - U.S. factories converted from peacetime to wartime operations
 - Machine guns
 - Boots
 - Automobiles → Tanks & Planes
 - 1944 Almost 18 million Americans working for war industries
 - Many were women

Life on Allied Home Fronts

- American government rationed goods
 - Gasoline, tires, meat, sugar, nylon stockings, laundry soap
 - Setting speed limits at 35 MPH saved gas & rubber
- Governments introduced propaganda
 - Soviet Union had individual contributions
 - Moscow child collected scrap metal to produce 14,000 artillery shells
 - Family spent life savings to buy Soviets a tank
 - U.S. children bought war stamps and bonds

Life on Allied Home Fronts

- Japanese Americans Imprisoned
 - Negative effects to propaganda
- Bombing of Pearl Harbor frightened Americans
 - February 19, 1942 Roosevelt set up a program for internment camps
- Military rounded up Japanese & sent them to relocation camps
 - 2/3 Were American born
 - Kept Japanese from helping Japan with invasions
- A total of 31,275 Japanese Americans were captured from 1941 – 1946

Victory in the Pacific

- Fall of 1944 Allies moving towards Japan
- Japanese used kamikaze tactics to damage the U.S.
 - Japanese suicide pilots
- U.S. forces take Iwo Jima island March 1945
 - 600 Miles from Tokyo
- U.S. forces take Okinawa April 1945
 - 350 Miles from southern Japan
 - Japanese lost 110,000 troops
 - U.S. lost 12,500 troops

Ending the War

- Truman looked to take Japan
 - Information told of significant losses possible
 - Over 500,000 men
- The atomic bomb (A-Bomb) promised a quick end
 - The Manhattan Project
 - Totally secret project
 - Employed 100,000 people
 - Cost \$2 billion
 - J. Robert Oppenheimer & Albert Einstein led the effort

Ending the War

- Testing the A-bomb
 - First tested July 16, 1945 in New Mexico
 - President Truman warned Japan of complete destruction
 - Japan did not understand the warning
- U.S. dropped the bomb August 6, 1945 on Hiroshima
 - Killed 73,000 people
- U.S. dropped a second bomb August 9, 1945 on Nagasaki
 - Killed 37,500 people
- Radiation killed more in later months

Hiroshima: Day of Fire

Impact of the Bombing

Ground temperatures	7,000°F
Hurricane force winds	980 miles per hour
Energy released	20,000 tons of TNT
Buildings destroyed	62,000 buildings
Killed immediately	70,000 people
Dead by the end of 1945	140,000 people
Total deaths related to A-bomb	200,000 people

The overwhelming destructive power of the Hiroshima bomb, and of the bomb dropped on Nagasaki three days later, changed the nature of war forever. Nuclear destruction also led to questions about the ethics of scientists and politicians who chose to develop and use the bomb.

Japan Surrenders

- Japan surrenders to General Douglas MacArthur September 2, 1945
 - Took place aboard the battleship *Missouri*

The Devastation of Europe & Japan

Europe in Ruins

■ War Totals

- 60 Million dead
 - 40 Million Europeans
 - 2/3 Civilian
 - Warsaw (Capital of Poland) had a population of 1,289,000 people (1939)
 - 153,000 People remained in 1945
- 50 Million displaced
- Property damage in the billions

■ 25,000 Tons of allied bombs dropped on Berlin

■ Factories & homes destroyed

- Hungry, homeless, & jobless
- Agriculture disrupted

Costs of World War II: Allies and Axis

	Direct War Costs	Military Killed/Missing	Civilians Killed
United States	\$288.0 billion*	292,131**	—
Great Britain	\$117.0 billion	272,311	60,595
France	\$111.3 billion	205,707***	173,260†
USSR	\$93.0 billion	13,600,000	7,720,000
Germany	\$212.3 billion	3,300,000	2,893,000††
Japan	\$41.3 billion	1,140,429	953,000

* In 1994 dollars.

** An additional 115,187 servicemen died from non-battle causes.

*** Before surrender to Nazis.

† Includes 65,000 murdered Jews.

†† Includes about 170,000 murdered Jews and 56,000 foreign civilians in Germany.

The Nuremberg Trials

- Allies tried to ensure the holocaust never happened again
- International Military Tribunal (1946)
 - Represented 23 nations
 - Put war criminals on trial in Nuremberg, Germany
- First Trial: 22 Nazi leaders charged with waging a war of aggression
 - Committed crimes against humanity (Killed 11 million people)
 - 12 Sentenced to death (1 committed suicide, 11 Hanged)
 - Bodies cremated in Dachau (Same ovens as the Jews)

Effects of Defeat in Japan

- Japan left in ruins & the Allies occupied Japan
 - Japanese military leaders wanted to continue the fight
 - Emperor Hirohito urged the rebuilding of Japan
- U.S. Occupies Japan
 - MacArthur leader of Allied forces
 - Determined to be fair & avoid future wars
 - Led the demilitarization of Japanese armed forces
 - Left with only a small police force
 - MacArthur wanted to create a democratic government
 - Created a parliamentary democracy like Great Britain
 - Went into effect on May 3, 1947
 - Made the Emperor appear as less than God (Insulting)

U.S. Occupying Japan

- United States spent \$2 billion in aid for Japan
- People elected a 2-House parliament
 - Called the Diet
 - Women over 20 had voting rights
 - Led by a prime minister chosen by the Diet
- New Constitution
 - Japan could not make war; only protect itself
- U.S. military protected Japan through 1951
 - Signed a peace treaty & became allies