

WORLD WAR II

After World War 1

- Nations thought democracy was too weak to solve their hardships
- Turned to dictators
 - Led nations into military action, igniting WWII
 - Imprisoned or killed citizens who opposed them
- America aimed to remain neutral

Soviet Union

- Joseph Stalin held total control of the country.

Italy

- Benito Mussolini gained absolute power
- used Fascism
 - a form of rule based on militarism, radical nationalism, and blind loyalty

Germany

- Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party rose to power
- Nazism was a form of fascism.
- Stated Germans were a "Master Race"
- preached a racist theory of anti-Semitism, or hatred of Jews.
- began a policy of violent persecution of Jews.

Japan

- Emperor Hirohito and military leaders gained control
- used racism to justify the invasion of nearby countries.

Military Aggression

- The League of Nations was founded after WWI to stop aggression, or warlike actions against another country without cause.
- the League failed to act when Japan, Italy, and Germany invaded other countries.
- In 1931, Japan took over Manchuria in China.
- In 1937, Japanese troops pillaged China, killing about 250,000 people.
- In 1935, Italy invaded Ethiopia in Africa.
 - The emperor of Ethiopia asked the League of Nations for help
 - League of Nations could do nothing.
- Hitler rebuilt Germany's military might

- invaded the Rhineland in 1936 and Austria in 1938.
- When he threatened Czechoslovakia, France and Great Britain stepped in.
 - To avoid war they signed the Munich Pact
 - This gave Hitler a German speaking area of Czechoslovakia.
 - Hitler soon defied the Munich Pact and took over all of Czechoslovakia.

American Neutrality

- U. S. declared itself neutral
- Passed the Neutrality Act of 1935 - forbade providing loans, arms, or assistance to any nation at war

War Begins in Europe

- Policy of appeasement (agreeing to tolerate aggression to avoid war) had failed.
- Germany and the Soviet Union signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact
 - pledged not to attack each other
 - agreed to divide up Poland when Germany attacked.

Nazis Overrun Europe

- On September 1, 1939, Germany launched a swift, massive attack against Poland using planes and tanks.
- Poland resisted the German blitzkrieg (lightning war).
- Poland outmatched soon surrendered.
- France and Great Britain declare war on Germany.
- In April 1940, Hitler's armies marched through Denmark and Norway
- In May, Hitler overran Holland and Belgium
- Hitler pushed into France and Italy attacked from the south.
- France surrendered on June 22, 1940.
- Britain now stood alone against the Nazis.
- Britain withstood German bombing and Hitler gave up his planned invasion of Great Britain.
- In June 1941, Hitler attacked the Soviet Union.
- The Soviet Union joins the Allies.

Moving Toward War

- In 1940, Franklin Roosevelt became the 1st president to win a 3rd term in office.
- In March 1941, Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act.

- allowed sales or loans of war materials to any country whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the U.S."
- Under the Lend-Lease Act the U.S. sent airplanes, tanks, guns, and ammunition to Britain.
- The U.S. became "the great arsenal of democracy."
- The U.S. passed the first peacetime draft to build up its armed forces.
- Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill showed their alliance by meeting and issuing the Atlantic Charter, which set postwar goals
 - Both countries agreed that they would not seek territory after the war
 - called for an effective international organization to replace the League of Nations.

The U.S. Enters the War

- The Japanese invaded Indochina in July 1941
 - President Roosevelt banned exports of scrap metals and oil to Japan.
 - Facing shortages for their navy propelled Japan to set a course of war with the United States.
- On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes attacked the U.S. naval forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- the United States declared war. In turn, Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S.
- The AXIS powers were: Germany, Italy, and Japan.
- The ALLIED powers were: Great Britain, France, Soviet Union, China, and the U. S.

Europe and North Africa

- In late 1941, Soviet fighters and winter halted the Germans outside of Moscow
- After a 2nd major defeat at Stalingrad in 1942, Hitler's army lost ground.
- It began to be pushed back by the Soviets.
- In October 1942, the British defeated the German forces in Egypt.
- The German tank commander Erwin Rommel was pushed westward.
- General Dwight Eisenhower arrived with fresh American troops in November and occupied Morocco and Algeria.
- Hemmed in by Americans and British, Gen. Rommel surrendered in May, 1943.

Japan Sweeps Through the Pacific

- Japan invaded country after country in the Pacific region, including the Philippine Islands, which were governed by the United States.

- General Douglas Mac Arthur was the commander of the U.S. troops
- He was ordered to leave the Philippines, but vowed to return.
- In 1942 the Philippines fell
- 60,000 American and Filipino soldiers were captured by the Japanese. They were marched 165 miles with little food or water to a Japanese prison camp. About 10,000 people died or were killed. It was called the Bataan Death March.
- In May 1942, naval battles helped turn the tide.
- The Battle of the Coral Sea became the first battle ^{where} planes were launched from Aircraft carriers instead of ships firing at each other.
- At the Battle of Midway in June, 1942 the U.S. sank 4 Japanese carriers and shot down 322 planes. Japan's navy had been delivered a severe blow.

Organizing For War

- More than 15 million men served in the military.
- Hundreds of thousands of women served as nurses and in non-combat roles.
- U.S. factories shifted from producing consumer goods to creating military goods.
- The War Production Board was a government agency that set production goals.
- Americans followed rationing (setting limits on the purchase of specific items) of sugar, rubber, and gasoline that were needed for the war effort.
- They used ration coupons to buy these goods.
- They also planted victory gardens and bought war bonds to show support.

Women in Industry

- Millions of women went to work in factories and shipyards.
- Worked as welders and riveters.
- "Rosie the Riveter" became a symbol of all women who worked for the war effort.

Japanese Americans

- In February 1942, President Roosevelt issued an order to intern, (temporarily imprison) Japanese Americans in the U.S.
- About 110,000 were forced to live in prison-type camps until the end of the war.
- No evidence of Japanese American disloyalty was ever found.

Victory in Europe

Italy

- The U.S. and Britain capture Sicily in 1943 and advance to Italy.
- Italians had overthrown Mussolini and the new government sided with the Allies.
- The Allies fought their way up the Italian Peninsula.
- On June 4, 1944 Allied troops reached Rome.
- It was the 1st European capital to be freed from Nazi control.

Russian Front

- In 1943 the Soviet army pushed the Germans back from Leningrad.
- At Stalingrad Soviet soldiers forced the German army to surrender.
- Slowly, the Germans were pushed westward through Eastern Europe.

D-Day

- On June 6, 1944 Allied forces under the command of General Dwight Eisenhower landed at Normandy in western France.
- 2,500 American soldiers killed at Omaha Beach.
- The Allies pushed forward and liberated Paris on August 25, 1944.

Battle of the Bulge

- On December 16, 1944 German forces began a counter attack.
- They pushed the Allies back, creating a bulge in the front lines.
- In January 1945, Allied troops invaded Germany from the west as the Soviets closed in from the east.

End of War in Europe

- On April 12, 1945 President Roosevelt died of a stroke.
- On April 30, Hitler committed suicide which allowed his generals to surrender.
- V-E Day, May 8, 1945 celebrated the end of war in Europe.

Victory in the Pacific

- The Allies used a strategy of island hopping, or capturing some Japanese-held islands and going around others, to create a path for the invasion of Japan.
- General MacArthur returned to the Philippines in January 1945.
- Fierce battles were fought at Iwo Jima and Okinawa
- Japanese Kamikaze pilots willingly committed suicide by crashing into U.S. ships.

- In July 1945, President Truman, Winston Churchill, and Josef Stalin met at Potsdam and issued the Potsdam Declaration to Japan.
- It stated that Japan must surrender or face "prompt and utter destruction."
- Japan ignored the message.
- On August 6, 1945 the *Enola Gay*, an American bomber, dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima.
 - It killed at least 70,000 people and injured an equal number.
 - It destroyed 80% of the city.
- On August 9, 1945 a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.
 - About 40,000 died instantly.

Japan Surrenders

- The emperor of Japan announced it would surrender on August 14, 1945.
- It is known as V-J Day for victory over Japan.
- The formal surrender took place on the *USS Missouri* to General MacArthur on September 2.

The Holocaust

- During the war, the Nazis imprisoned Jews from Germany, Poland, and other nations.
- They tortured, starved, and murdered more than 6 million Jews.
- His "final solution" was genocide (the deliberate attempt to wipe out an entire nation or group of people).
- Railway cars carried men, women, and children to the death camps, where most were killed in gas chambers.
- The Nazis murdered other groups as well. Nearly 6 million Poles, Slavs, and Gypsies were also victims of the death camps.
- They killed prisoners of war and people they considered unfit because of physical or mental disabilities.

War Crimes Trials

- The Allies charged the German and Japanese leaders with war crimes,
 - wartime acts of cruelty and brutality that are judged to be beyond the accepted rules of war and human behavior.
- At the Nuremberg Trials 12 Nazi leaders were sentenced to death.
- Thousands of other Nazis were imprisoned.
- The Allies also tried and executed Japanese leaders accused of war crimes.