



*This material is designed to help you think about large historical topics in a manageable and meaningful way and to connect the content to the California standards.*

## Why was the death toll so high during World War II?

World War II was the most deadly and destructive conflict in history. It is estimated that 60 million people, or 3 percent of the total world population, died as a result of the war. Forty million people died in Europe, two-thirds of them being civilians who were killed in ground campaigns or were victims of bombings. Twenty million of the total deaths occurred in the Soviet Union alone. Keep this question in mind as you move through the module.

## What were the key goals of the Axis and Allied powers? How was the war mobilized on different fronts?

The principal partners in the Axis alliance were Germany, Italy, and Japan. In 1937 Germany, Japan, and Italy signed the Anti-Comintern Pact directed at the Soviet Union, and in 1940 the three nations signed the Tripartite Pact, known as the Axis alliance. The main goal of the Axis nations was territorial expansion through military conquest. They also wanted to destroy or neutralize Soviet communism.

France and Britain were the original Allied powers opposing Germany. Both were strong democracies opposed to totalitarianism and to Hitler's expansionist ideology. After the fall of France, Britain and its overseas possessions were alone in opposing Hitler. After being betrayed by Germany, the Soviet Union sided with Britain, and the United States entered on the side of the Allies after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. On January 1, 1942, 26 nations signed the Declaration of the United Nations, declaring opposition to the aggression of the Axis powers and their commitment to the defense of "life, liberty, independence, and religious freedom." With the Atlantic Charter, Britain and the United States declared that they sought no territorial gains. Over the course of the war, some nations would switch sides for different reasons. Lesson 1 shows how the war began and expanded in the European theater. The mobilization effort varied depending on the front.

In August 1939 the Soviet Union signed a ten-year nonaggression pact with Germany. It was an unlikely alliance between traditional enemies—Communist Soviet Union and fascist Germany. They planned to divide Poland between them, and the Soviets would take over Finland and the Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. When Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, France and Britain declared war on Germany. The German army defeated Poland in a little

over a month. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union occupied eastern Poland, the Baltic states, and Finland. Britain and France deployed their armies along France's border with Germany. Germany, however, launched a surprise invasion around the Allies through the Ardennes Forest in Belgium and northern France, a region that the Allies did not think the Germans could move their armor through quickly and effectively. France surrendered in June 1940. Hitler then began to attack Britain with heavy airstrikes, which would become known as the Battle of Britain. At first the Germans bombed military targets, such as airfields, but in September 1940 they began bombing cities to break morale. The British resisted and fought back. In May 1941 Hitler called off the air war against Britain, focusing his efforts elsewhere.

In September 1940 Italy invaded North Africa to capture Egypt's Suez Canal, a key transportation route between Middle Eastern oil fields and the Mediterranean. In December, British and Allied forces struck back, forcing Hitler to send in fast-moving tank units to counter the Allied advance. After securing the Balkans, Hitler launched his invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941. The Germans saw great initial success, but they would soon meet fierce resistance in the Soviet defenses of Leningrad, Stalingrad, and Moscow.

In Lesson 2 you will read about Japan's expansion in Asia and the war in the Pacific. Japan had begun expanding in 1931 by taking over Manchuria in northeastern China. When they attacked the heart of China, however, they met great resistance and strained their resources. Japan turned to the valuable European colonies of Southeast Asia and American outposts in the Pacific, leading to a confrontation with the West. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed the U.S. naval installation at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, which brought the United States into the war. Japan followed this with bombing raids and attacks on the British colony of Hong Kong, American-controlled Guam and Wake Island, Thailand, the Philippines, and other Southeast Asian targets, achieving a series of victories and gaining resources to support their war efforts.

Naval mobilization played a much greater role in the Pacific theater than in Europe. In Europe the Allies primarily had to fend off German submarines, which threatened supply convoys. In the Pacific a new type of naval warfare developed around aircraft carriers. Airplanes could do devastating damage to naval fleets and provide support for ground assaults, making the strategic use of carriers key to winning the war in the Pacific. In June the Japanese targeted the important American airfield at Midway Island. Having broken Japanese codes, the American fleet knew the Japanese were coming and surprised them, crippling their fleet and driving them away. The Battle of Midway would prove a major turning point in the war against Japan.

In Lesson 4 you will read about the Allied victories that would turn the war in favor of the Allies. In November 1942 more than 100,000 Allied troops landed in Morocco and Algeria. With British forces in Egypt, the German army found itself trapped between two Allied armies and was finally defeated in May 1943. Meanwhile, on the eastern front, Germany made a push to seize the oil fields in the Caucasus Mountains and capture Stalingrad, a major industrial center. At the height of the fighting, the Germans controlled nearly 90 percent of the city. Soviet forces held on, however. The Battle of Stalingrad ended in February 1943 with the surrender of 90,000 German troops—all that remained of the original army of 330,000. After Stalingrad, the Soviet army would go on the offensive.

While Stalin wanted Britain and the United States to invade France, forcing Germany to fight on two fronts, they decided instead to invade Italy in July 1943. Hitler would have to send his own forces to stall the Allied advance up the Italian peninsula. At the same time, the Allies were secretly planning to cross the English Channel and invade German-held France. The invasion began on June 6, 1944, which became known as D-Day. By September, France, Belgium, and Luxembourg had been liberated, and the Allies were moving in on Germany. The Germans counterattacked in the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest, but the Allies drove them back. In March 1945 the Allies entered Germany from the west. Soviet troops advancing from the east surrounded Berlin. On May 9, Germany officially surrendered.

Meanwhile in the Pacific, the Allies stopped the Japanese advance and had begun to make gains by the fall of 1944. In October U.S. forces returned to the Philippines. U.S. troops continued to advance through the South Pacific, moving from one island to another. Capturing Japan itself, however, would not be so easy. Estimates suggested an invasion might cost the Allies half a million soldiers. President Truman was advised to use a powerful new weapon, the atomic bomb, to quickly end the war. In August 1945 the United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing more than 140,000 people. The Japanese officially surrendered on September 2.

### How was World War II a total war?

As you will recall from Module 11, World War I was a “total war,” meaning that countries devoted all their resources, both civilian and military, to the war effort. Governments created propaganda aimed at encouraging the civilian population to support the war effort. Entire societies and economies were focused on war.

World War II required similar mobilization. Even before the United States became involved in the war, American factories increased their production of weapons to help the Allies. When the United States entered the

war, factories converted their peacetime operations to wartime production. This resulted in a shortage of consumer goods in the United States. The American government rationed scarce items, from meat and sugar to tires and gasoline. Rationing was even more severe in Europe.

As was the case during World War I, Allied governments used propaganda to encourage people to help the war effort by conserving resources through recycling and other means. Americans were encouraged to buy war stamps and war bonds to help finance the war. Lesson 4 looks at how citizens on the home front contributed to the Allied victory.

Supply routes were critical to the war effort and also had a great impact on the local populations. Even before the United States entered the war, the U.S. Navy escorted British ships carrying U.S. arms. In response, Hitler ordered his submarines to sink any supply ships they met. When they invaded the Soviet Union, the Germans cut off supplies to Leningrad. With the city under siege, nearly one million Russians died during the winter of 1941–1942. Early in the war, getting supplies to the Soviets became critical, and the Persian Corridor, an overland route through Iran and the Caucasus, became one of the most important supply routes. The cooperation of the Iranian government and its people was critical in keeping this supply route open and functioning. While the increased exchange and movement of goods might have some benefits for local populations, civilians living and working near these supply routes would inherently be in danger of attack. Elsewhere, MacArthur’s “island-hop” strategy cut off supply lines supporting the Japanese navy. With the Battle of the Bulge, Hitler tried to break up Allied supply lines in a last-ditch effort to stop their advance toward Germany.

### How did technology affect World War II?

Technological changes dramatically affected the way that World War II was fought. The defensive-focused strategies of World War I were no longer effective. Tanks and planes were capable of destroying fortifications and breaking through trench systems. Bombers and fighters were equipped with larger bombs and heavier guns. The technological advances were devastating to both military and civilian targets. At the end of the war, the death toll would speak to the effectiveness of these new weapons; more than 60 million people were killed.

During the mid-1930s Germany had embarked on a massive program to rebuild its military. By 1939 the Germans had produced thousands of state-of-the-art fighter planes, bombers, and tanks. With its highly mechanized army and blitzkrieg, or “lightning war,” tactic, Germany could strike hard and fast. The German invasion of Poland was the first test of Germany’s blitzkrieg strategy. Air strikes were followed by artillery attacks and



fast tanks. The speed of the tank advances was a major change from the slower tanks of World War I. Soldiers would ride into battle on trucks, arriving at key points in overwhelming numbers. The rapid defeats of Poland, Denmark, Belgium, and France proved the effectiveness of Germany's style of mobile warfare.

Between World Wars I and II, air technology changed drastically. Military aircraft became larger and faster and increased their range. All countries developed fast fighter planes with machine guns mounted on the wings. Dive bombers allowed for accurate low-altitude bombing. Other bombers were developed for strategic bombing of cities and military targets. In England the threat of bomber attacks led to the development of radar, which made it possible to track incoming enemy planes. By start of the war, Great Britain had already built radar stations along the coast.

On the seas battleships soon gave way to the aircraft carrier. Aircraft carriers functioned as floating airfields. Heavy naval guns might have a range of 20 miles, but a squadron of planes on an aircraft carrier could strike targets as far as 300 miles away. The British navy had created the first true aircraft carrier during World War I, but the war ended before it could be put into use. The U.S. and Japanese navies quickly developed their own carriers. Japan used carriers to attack Pearl Harbor in 1941, and aircraft carriers played leading roles in the sea battles of the Pacific theater.

Shortly before the war, German scientists discovered nuclear fission, a process releasing large amounts of energy by splitting uranium atoms. Scientists in the United States figured out how to create a nuclear chain reaction, leading to the prospect of weaponizing these discoveries. The possibility that the Nazis might develop nuclear weapons led the U.S. government to start the top-secret Manhattan Project, and the race began as to who would develop atomic weapons first. The United States detonated an atomic bomb on July 16, 1945, at the Alamogordo Bombing Range in New Mexico. Less than a month later, the United States dropped atomic bombs on two cities in Japan, showing the world the destructive power of these weapons.

### How was the Holocaust enacted?

In Module 13 you read about the racial policies and nationalist sentiments accompanying the Nazi rise to power. The Nazis believed that the Germanic peoples were a “master race.” To protect racial purity, the Nazis set out to eliminate other races, nationalities, or groups they viewed as inferior. They targeted Roma, Poles, Slavs, homosexuals, the disabled, and other minority groups. Political dissenters and those resisting Nazi policies, such as Jehovah's Witnesses, were also persecuted. But Jews were the particular targets of Nazi violence. This doctrine of hate would eventually lead to the Holocaust, the systematic mass slaughter of Jews.

Nazi policies and actions evolved over time, taking root even before the war began. Driven by notions of racial purity and eugenics policies, the Nuremberg Laws passed in 1935 stripped Jews of their German citizenship and forbade marriages between Jews and Germans. Further laws would limit the kinds of jobs available to Jews. The persecution became violent on November 9, 1938, when Nazi storm troopers attacked Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues across Germany and Austria, murdering close to 100 Jews and rounding up 30,000 who were shipped to concentration camps. The event became known as *Kristallnacht*, or “Night of Broken Glass.” After *Kristallnacht*, many German Jews tried to flee to other countries.

Hitler at first viewed emigration as a solution to “the Jewish problem.” When sealing Jews off in ghettos also failed to get rid of them, Hitler began turning to a program of genocide, the systematic murder of an entire people. Nazi killing squads hunted down Jews in territories occupied by Germany, engaging in mass murder.

In 1942 the Nazis implemented the Final Solution. They built extermination camps with huge gas chambers where Jews were sent and systematically murdered. Around six million European Jews died as a result of the Final Solution. Millions of other people—Roma, Poles, Slavs, homosexuals, and the disabled—also died in these camps.

The policies of systematic genocide were supported by German people, civil institutions, the German police-state, and economy, alongside the Nazi government and military. The SS—the Nazi secret police—rounded up and killed large numbers of Jews, as did the German military. But the Final Solution could not have been carried out without the cooperation of the military bureaucracy and German civil authorities.

Germany's central bank served as a depository for confiscated currency and gold, which was used to finance killing operations. German physicians implemented Nazi euthanasia programs and conducted unethical and inhumane medical experiments. Factory owners accepted Jews and other persecuted groups as slave labor. Many individuals in countries under Nazi control collaborated in the Final Solution programs as well, motivated by anti-Semitism, greed, fear, resentment, need for peer approval, desire for advancement, or other reasons. Such examples illustrate how ordinary people often do terrible things in wartime that they would not do otherwise.

During 1945 and 1946, an International Military Tribunal opened in Nuremberg, Germany, to try Nazi war criminals. Twenty-three nations participated in the trials. Twenty-two Nazi leaders were prosecuted for “crimes against humanity,” being held responsible for the deaths of 11 million people. With the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide by the United Nations in 1948, genocide was established as a crime under international law.

## ACTIVITY

### Perspectives on War

During World War II Americans followed news of the war through radio broadcasts, newspapers and magazines, and the newsreels that preceded the films at theaters—all likely to be censored by the government. Photographers like Margaret Bourke-White and Edward Steichen documented the war for newspapers and magazines. During and after the war, thousands of eyewitness accounts were produced by politicians, soldiers, civilians on the home front, and survivors of battles or the Holocaust. Many of these accounts are available online. By studying them, you can gain a better understanding of the struggles faced by both soldiers and civilians.

Your task is to select a primary source to read, watch, or listen to that provides a perspective on the war.

- 1. Planning** Use the library or Internet to find primary sources and select one that provides a perspective on the war.
- 2. Reading** Read, watch, or listen to the source you selected and take notes.
- 3. Summarizing** Write a paragraph summarizing what you learned from your primary source, citing evidence.
- 4. Presenting and Comparing** Share your paragraph with the class. When all students have presented their paragraphs, discuss the different perspectives presented.

## ACTIVITY

### Comparing World Wars

In this activity, your task is to compare the similarities and differences of World War I and II. Compare the actors, goals, and strategies of the two world wars.

- 1. Planning** Choose a comparable time frame from each conflict—beginning, middle, or end of the conflict. Use primary sources whenever possible in your research. Create a two-column chart in which you can summarize your comparison. At the top of the chart, indicate which period of the war you are examining. Label the first column *World War I* and the second one *World War II*. Create three rows, labeled *Actors*, *Goals*, and *Strategies*.
- 2. Comparing** Fill in the chart with information you have learned about each of the three categories.
- 3. Presenting** Present your chart to the class. Support your comparisons with your reasons and evidence.

## PRIMARY SOURCE

### Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1941 State of the Union Address (“Four Freedoms Speech”)

In his 1941 State of the Union Address to Congress, President Franklin D. Roosevelt hoped to move the nation away from its foreign policy of neutrality. He had watched as one nation after another fell under Axis control. He told Americans that the people of all nations are entitled to the same four freedoms that Americans enjoy. The following is an excerpt from his speech:

*In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.*

*The first is freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world.*

*The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way—everywhere in the world.*

*The third is freedom from want—which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world.*

*The fourth is freedom from fear—which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor—anywhere in the world.*

*That is no vision of a distant millennium. It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation. That kind of world is the very antithesis of the so-called new order of tyranny which the dictators seek to create with the crash of a bomb.*

—President Franklin D. Roosevelt, January 6, 1941

## Module 14

# World War II



### Essential Question

Why did the Allies win World War II?



**About the Illustration:** A German bombing raid on London during the Battle of Britain.

In this module you will learn that, during World War II, the Allied forces defeated the Axis powers, the Jewish people suffered through the Holocaust, and Europe and Japan were left devastated.

### Explore ONLINE!



#### VIDEOS, including...

- A Global Battleground
- The Bataan Death March
- The Holocaust

- ✓ Document-Based Investigations
- ✓ Graphic Organizers
- ✓ Interactive Games
- ✓ Image Compare: Jewish Resistance
- ✓ Carousel: The Atomic Bomb



**10.7.3** Analyze the rise, aggression, and human costs of totalitarian regimes (Fascist and Communist) in Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union, noting especially their common and dissimilar traits. **10.8.1** Compare the German, Italian, and Japanese drives for empire in the 1930s, including the 1937 Rape of Nanking, other atrocities in China, and the Stalin-Hitler Pact of 1939. **10.8.3** Identify and locate the Allied and Axis powers on a map and discuss the major turning points of the war, the principal theaters of conflict, key strategic decisions, and the resulting war conferences and political resolutions, with emphasis on the importance of geographic factors. **10.8.4** Describe the political, diplomatic, and military leaders during the war (e.g., Winston Churchill, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Emperor Hirohito, Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Joseph Stalin, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower). **10.8.5** Analyze the Nazi policy of pursuing racial purity, especially against the European Jews; its transformation into the Final Solution; and the Holocaust that resulted in the murder of six million Jewish civilians. **10.8.6** Discuss the human costs of the war, with particular attention to the civilian and military losses in Russia, Germany, Britain, the United States, China, and Japan. **10.9.1** Compare the economic and military power shifts caused by the war, including the Yalta Pact, the development of nuclear weapons, Soviet control over Eastern European nations, and the economic recoveries of Germany and Japan. **CST.1** Students compare the present with the past, evaluating the consequences of past events and decisions and determining the lessons that were learned. **HI.6** Students conduct cost-benefit analyses and apply basic economic indicators to analyze the aggregate economic behavior of the U.S. economy.

## Europe and the Mediterranean

## Pacific

1939



< **Sept. 1939** Germany invades Poland; France and Great Britain declare war on Germany.

**June–July 1940** France surrenders to Germany; Battle of Britain begins.

**June 1941** Germans invade Soviet Union.

**Dec. 1941** Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. ^

**June 1942** Allies defeat Japan at Battle of Midway.

**Nov. 1942** Allies invade North Africa.

**Feb. 1943** Germans surrender at Stalingrad.

**Feb. 1943** Allies defeat Japan at Guadalcanal.



< **June 1944** D-Day invasion takes place.

**Oct. 1944** Japanese suffer devastating defeat at the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

**Aug.–Sept. 1945** Allies use atomic bombs; Japan surrenders. >

1945





# Hitler's Lightning War

## The Big Idea

Using the sudden mass attack called the blitzkrieg, Germany overran much of Europe and North Africa.

## Why It Matters Now

Hitler's actions set off World War II. The results of the war still affect the politics and economics of today's world.

## Key Terms and People

nonaggression pact

blitzkrieg

Charles de Gaulle

Winston Churchill

Battle of Britain

Erwin Rommel

Atlantic Charter

## Setting the Stage

During the 1930s, Hitler played on the hopes and fears of the Western democracies, and acted on his promise to restore Germany to greatness and expand its territory. Each time the Nazi dictator grabbed new territory, he would declare an end to his demands. Peace seemed guaranteed—until Hitler moved again. Germany's expansionism and Britain and France's policy of appeasement were on a crash course toward war. After his moves into the Rhineland, Austria, and Czechoslovakia, Hitler turned his eyes to Poland. After World War I, the Allies had cut out the Polish Corridor from German territory to give Poland access to the sea. In 1939, Hitler demanded that the Polish Corridor be returned to Germany.

## Germany Sparks a New War in Europe

In August of 1939, Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin signed a ten-year **nonaggression pact** with Hitler. After being excluded from the Munich Conference, Stalin was not eager to join with the West. Also, Hitler had promised him territory. In a secret part of the pact, Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to divide Poland between them. They also agreed that the USSR could take over Finland and the Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. It was an unlikely alliance between the fascist and Communist leaders of two traditionally enemy countries, and it shocked Britain and France, who had been discussing an alliance with Stalin. His pact with Hitler indicated that war with Germany was inevitable.

## Germany's Lightning Attack

After the nonaggression pact with the Soviets was revealed, Hitler quickly moved ahead with plans to conquer Poland. His surprise attack took place at dawn on September 1, 1939. German tanks and troop

German soldiers invading Poland, September 1939



10.7.3; 10.8.1; 10.8.3; 10.8.4; 10.8.6

trucks rumbled across the Polish border. At the same time, German aircraft and artillery began a merciless bombing of Poland's capital, Warsaw.

France and Great Britain declared war on Germany on September 3. But Poland fell some time before those nations could make any military response. After his victory, Hitler annexed the western half of Poland. That region had a large German population.

The German invasion of Poland was the first test of Germany's newest military strategy—the **blitzkrieg** (BLIHTS•kreeg), or “lightning war.” The massive rearmament and conscription programs that Hitler began in the mid-1930s had produced thousands of state-of-the-art fighter and bomber planes, tanks, and a greatly expanded infantry force. The blitzkrieg involved using air strikes, fast tanks, and artillery, followed by soldiers sped into battle on trucks, to take enemy defenders by surprise and quickly overwhelm them. It was a mobile assault quite advanced from the limited air power and slower tanks available in World War I. In the case of Poland, the strategy worked.

**The Soviets Make Their Move** On September 17, Stalin sent Soviet troops to occupy the eastern half of Poland. Stalin then moved to annex countries to the north of Poland. Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia fell without a struggle, but Finland resisted. In November, Stalin sent nearly one million Soviet troops into Finland. The Soviets expected to win a quick victory, so they were not prepared for winter fighting. This was a crucial mistake.

The Finns were outnumbered and outgunned, but they fiercely defended their country. In the freezing winter weather, soldiers on skis swiftly attacked Soviet positions. In contrast, the Soviets struggled to make progress through the deep snow. The Soviets suffered heavy losses, but they finally won through sheer force of numbers. By March 1940, Stalin had forced the Finns to accept his surrender terms.

**The Phony War** After they declared war on Germany, the French and British had mobilized their armies. They stationed their troops along the Maginot (MAZH•uh•noh) Line, a system of fortifications along France's border with Germany. There they waited for the Germans to attack—but nothing happened. With little to do, the bored Allied soldiers stared eastward toward the enemy. Equally bored, German soldiers stared back from their Siegfried Line a few miles away. Germans jokingly called it the *sitzkrieg*, or “sitting war.” Some newspapers referred to it simply as “the phony war.”

Suddenly, on April 9, 1940, the calm ended. Hitler launched a surprise invasion of Denmark and Norway. In just four hours after the attack, Denmark fell. Two months later, Norway surrendered as well. The Germans then began to build bases along the Norwegian and Danish coasts from which they could launch strikes on Great Britain.

### Reading Check

**Analyze Motives**  
What were Stalin's goals in Europe at the beginning of World War II?



## World War II: German Advances, 1939-1941



### Interpret Maps

- 1. Region** Which countries did Germany invade?
- 2. Location** In what way was Germany's geographic location an advantage when it was on the offensive in the war?

## The Fall of France

In May of 1940, Hitler began a dramatic sweep through the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. This was part of a strategy to strike at France. Keeping the Allies' attention on those countries, Hitler then sent an even larger force of tanks and troops south to slice through the Ardennes (ahr•DEHN). This was a heavily wooded area in northern France, Luxembourg, and Belgium. The Allies considered the forest, hills, and poor roads of the Ardennes a hindrance to the heavily armored Nazi offensive, and so it was lightly defended. German forces moved steadily through the forest, and fought their way around the Maginot Line. From there, they moved across France and reached the country's northern coast in ten days.

**Rescue at Dunkirk** After reaching the French coast, the German forces swung north again and joined with German troops in Belgium. By the end of May 1940, the Germans had trapped the Allied forces around the northern French city of Lille (leel). Outnumbered, outgunned, and pounded from the air, the Allies retreated to the beaches of Dunkirk, a French port city near the Belgian border. They were trapped with their backs to the sea.

In one of the most heroic acts of the war, Great Britain set out to rescue the army. It sent a fleet of about 850 ships across the English Channel to Dunkirk. Along with Royal Navy ships, civilian craft—yachts, lifeboats, motorboats, paddle steamers, and fishing boats—joined the rescue effort. From May 26 to June 4, this amateur armada, under heavy fire from German bombers, sailed back and forth from Britain to Dunkirk. The boats carried some 338,000 battle-weary soldiers to safety.

**France Falls** Following Dunkirk, resistance in France began to crumble. By June 14, the Germans had taken Paris. Accepting the inevitable, French leaders surrendered on June 22, 1940. The Germans took control of the northern part of the country. They left the southern part to a puppet government headed by Marshal Philippe Pétain (pay•TAN), a French hero from World War I. The headquarters of this government was in the city of Vichy (VEESH•ee).

After France fell, **Charles de Gaulle** (duh-GOHL), a French general, set up a government-in-exile in London. He committed all his energy to reconquering France. In a radio broadcast from England, de Gaulle called on the people of France to join him in resisting the Germans:

*“It is the bounden [obligatory] duty of all Frenchmen who still bear arms to continue the struggle. For them to lay down their arms, to evacuate any position of military importance, or agree to hand over any part of French territory, however small, to enemy control would be a crime against our country.”*

—General Charles De Gaulle, quoted in  
*Charles de Gaulle: A Biography*

De Gaulle went on to organize the Free French military forces that battled the Nazis until France was liberated in 1944.

## The Battle of Britain

With the fall of France, Great Britain stood alone against the Nazis.

**Winston Churchill**, the new British prime minister, had already declared that his nation would never give in. In a rousing speech, he proclaimed, “We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets . . . we shall never surrender.” Hitler now turned his mind to an invasion of Great Britain. His plan was first to knock out the Royal Air Force (RAF) and then to land more than 250,000 soldiers on England’s shores. In the summer of 1940, the Luftwaffe (Looft•VAHF•uh), Germany’s air force, began bombing Great Britain. At first, the Germans targeted British airfields and aircraft

### Reading Check

#### Analyze Effects

How was Hitler’s attack through the Ardennes forest a bold strike and an early turning point in the war?

### Vocabulary

**Luftwaffe** the German word for “air weapon”

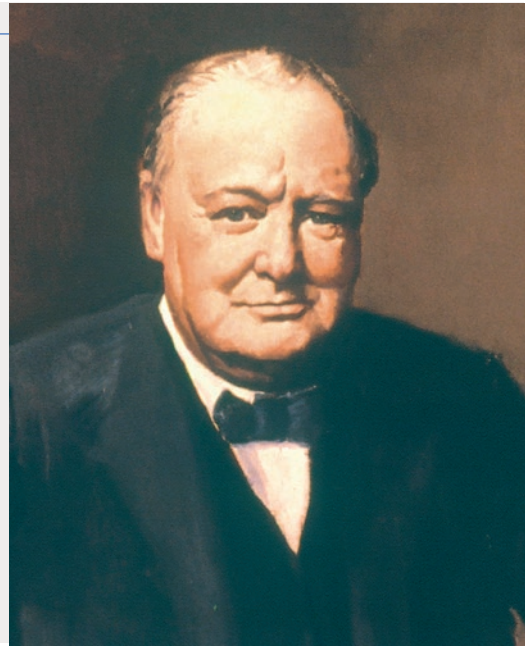
## Winston Churchill

(1874–1965)

Possibly the most powerful weapon the British had as they stood alone against Hitler's Germany was the nation's prime minister—Winston Churchill. "Big Winnie," Londoners boasted, "was the lad for us."

Although Churchill had a speech defect as a youngster, he grew to become one of the greatest orators of all time. He used all his gifts as a speaker to rally the people behind the effort to crush Germany. In one famous speech he promised that Britain would

*"... wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us... against a monstrous tyranny."*



### Reading Check

#### Analyze Effects

Why was the outcome of the Battle of Britain important for the Allies?

factories. Then, on September 7, 1940, they began focusing on the cities, especially London, to break British morale. Despite the destruction and loss of life, the British did not waver. The RAF, although badly outnumbered, began to hit back hard. Two technological devices helped turn the tide in the RAF's favor. One was an electronic tracking system known as radar. Developed in the late 1930s, radar could tell the number, speed, and direction of incoming warplanes. The other device was a German code-making machine named Enigma. A complete Enigma machine had been smuggled into Great Britain in the late 1930s. Enigma enabled the British to decode German secret messages. With information gathered by these devices, RAF fliers could quickly launch attacks on the enemy. To avoid

the RAF's attacks, the Germans gave up daylight raids in October 1940 in favor of night bombing. At sunset, the wail of sirens filled the air as Londoners flocked to the subways, which served as air-raid shelters. Some rode out the bombing raids at home in smaller air-raid shelters or basements. This **Battle of Britain** continued until May 10, 1941. Stunned by British resistance, Hitler decided to call off his attacks. Instead, he focused on the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe. The Battle of Britain taught the Allies a crucial lesson. Hitler's attacks could be blocked.



A London bus is submerged in a bomb crater after a German air raid.

**Vocabulary**  
**Middle East**  
region that includes the  
countries of Southwest  
Asia and northeast  
Africa

## The Mediterranean and the Eastern Front

The stubborn resistance of the British in the Battle of Britain caused a shift in Hitler's strategy in Europe. He decided to deal with Great Britain later. He then turned his attention east to the Mediterranean area and the Balkans—and to the ultimate prize, the Soviet Union.

**Axis Forces Attack North Africa** Germany's first objective in the Mediterranean region was North Africa, mainly because of Hitler's partner, Mussolini. Despite its alliance with Germany, Italy had remained neutral at the beginning of the war. With Hitler's conquest of France, however, Mussolini knew he had to take action. After declaring war on France and Great Britain, Mussolini moved into France.

Mussolini took his next step in North Africa in September 1940. While the Battle of Britain was raging, he ordered his army to attack British-controlled Egypt. Egypt's Suez Canal was key to reaching the oil fields of the Middle East from the Mediterranean, so it was a crucial colonial interest for both the Allies and Axis powers. Within a week, Italian troops had pushed 60 miles inside Egypt, forcing British units back. Then both sides dug in and waited.

**Britain Strikes Back** Finally, in December, the British forces—including troops from its colony, India, and Commonwealth nations Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa—struck back. The result was a disaster for the Italians. By February 1941, the British had swept 500 miles across North Africa and had taken 130,000 Italian prisoners. Hitler had to step in to save his Axis partner. To reinforce the Italians, Hitler sent a crack German tank force, the Afrika Korps, under the command of General **Erwin Rommel**. In late March 1941, Rommel's Afrika Korps attacked. Caught by surprise, British forces retreated east to Tobruk, Libya.

After fierce fighting for Tobruk, the British began to drive Rommel back. By mid-January 1942, Rommel had retreated to where he had started. By June 1942, the tide of battle turned again. Rommel regrouped, pushed the British back across the desert, and seized Tobruk—a shattering loss for the Allies. Rommel's successes in North Africa earned him the nickname "Desert Fox."

**The War in the Balkans** While Rommel campaigned in North Africa, other German generals were active in the Balkans. Hitler had begun planning to attack his ally, the Soviet Union, as early as the summer of 1940. The Balkan countries of southeastern Europe were the key to Hitler's plan. Hitler wanted to build bases there for the attack on the Soviet Union. He also wanted to make sure that the British did not interfere.

To prepare for his invasion, Hitler moved to expand his influence in the Balkans. By early 1941, through the threat of force, he had persuaded Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary to join the Axis powers. Yugoslavia and Greece, which had pro-British governments, resisted. In early April 1941, Hitler invaded both countries. Yugoslavia fell in 11 days. Greece surrendered in 17. In Athens, the Nazis celebrated their victory by raising swastikas on the Acropolis.



Russian soldiers prepare to attack German lines outside Leningrad.

**Hitler Invades the Soviet Union** With the Balkans firmly in control, Hitler could move ahead with Operation Barbarossa, his plan to invade the Soviet Union. Early in the morning of June 22, 1941, the roar of German tanks and aircraft announced the beginning of the invasion. The Soviet Union was not prepared for this attack. Although it had the largest army in the world, its troops were neither well equipped nor well trained.

The invasion rolled on week after week until the Germans had pushed 500 miles inside the Soviet Union. As the Soviet troops retreated, they burned and destroyed everything in the enemy's path. The Russians had used this scorched-earth strategy against Napoleon.

On September 8, German forces put Leningrad under siege. By early November, the city was completely cut off from the rest of the Soviet Union. To force a surrender, Hitler was ready to starve the city's more than 2.5 million inhabitants. German bombs destroyed warehouses where food was stored. Desperately hungry, people began eating cattle and horse feed, as well as cats and dogs and, finally, crows and rats. Nearly one million people died in Leningrad during the winter of 1941–1942. Yet the city refused to fall.

Impatient with the progress in Leningrad, Hitler looked to Moscow, the capital and heart of the Soviet Union. A Nazi drive on the capital began on October 2, 1941. By December, the Germans had advanced to the outskirts of Moscow. Soviet General Georgi Zhukov (ZHOO•kuhf) counterattacked. As temperatures fell, the Germans, in summer uniforms, retreated. Ignoring Napoleon's winter defeat 130 years before, Hitler sent his generals a stunning order: "No retreat!" German troops dug in about 125 miles west of Moscow. They held the line against the Soviets until March 1943. Hitler's advance on the Soviet Union gained nothing but cost the Germans 500,000 lives.

### Reading Check

#### Make Inferences

What does the fact that German armies were not prepared for the Russian winter indicate about Hitler's expectations for the Soviet campaign?

## The United States Aids Its Allies

Most Americans felt that the United States should not get involved in the war. Between 1935 and 1937, Congress passed a series of Neutrality Acts. The laws made it illegal to sell arms or lend money to nations at war. But President Roosevelt knew that if the Allies fell, the United States would be drawn into the war. In September 1939, he asked Congress to allow the Allies to buy American arms. The Allies would pay cash and then carry the goods on their own ships.

Under the Lend-Lease Act, passed in March 1941, the president could lend or lease arms and other supplies to any country vital to the United States. By the summer of 1941, the U.S. Navy was escorting British ships carrying U.S. arms. In response, Hitler ordered his submarines to sink any cargo ships they met.

Although the United States had not yet entered the war, Roosevelt and Churchill met secretly and issued a joint declaration called the **Atlantic Charter**, which outlined their purpose for the war. It stated that they sought no territorial gain in the war, and it upheld the principles of free trade among nations and the right of people to choose their own government.

On September 4, a German U-boat fired on a U.S. destroyer in the Atlantic. In response, Roosevelt ordered navy commanders to shoot German submarines on sight. The United States was now involved in an undeclared naval war with Hitler. To almost everyone's surprise, however, the attack that actually drew the United States into the war did not come from Germany. It came from Japan.

### Reading Check

#### Find Main Ideas

Why did President Franklin Roosevelt want to offer help to the Allies?

### Lesson 1 Assessment

1. **Organize Information** Which of the listed events might be considered a turning point for the Allies? Why?

Cause	Effect
First blitzkrieg	
Allies stranded at Dunkirk	
Lend-Lease Act	

2. **Key Terms and People** For each key term or person in the lesson, write a sentence explaining its significance.
3. **Compare and Contrast** Review the events that led directly to World War I. Then compare and contrast them with the events that led directly to World War II.
4. **Synthesize** What do you think is meant by the statement that Winston Churchill was possibly Britain's most powerful weapon against Hitler's Germany?
5. **Make Inferences** What factors do you think a country's leaders consider when deciding whether to surrender or fight?
6. **Compare** In what ways were the consequences of Hitler's decisions on the Eastern Front similar to those of Napoleon when he invaded Russia?



# Japan's Pacific Campaign

## The Big Idea

Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and brought the United States into World War II.

## Why It Matters Now

World War II established the United States as a leading player in international affairs.

## Key Terms and People

Isoroku Yamamoto

Pearl Harbor

Battle of Midway

Douglas MacArthur

Battle of Guadalcanal

## Setting the Stage

Like Hitler, Japan's military leaders also had dreams of empire. Japan's expansion had begun in 1931. That year, Japanese troops took over Manchuria in northeastern China. Six years later, Japanese armies swept into the heartland of China. They expected quick victory. Chinese resistance, however, caused the war to drag on. This placed a strain on Japan's economy. To increase their resources, Japanese leaders looked toward the rich European colonies of Southeast Asia, signaling a confrontation with the West.

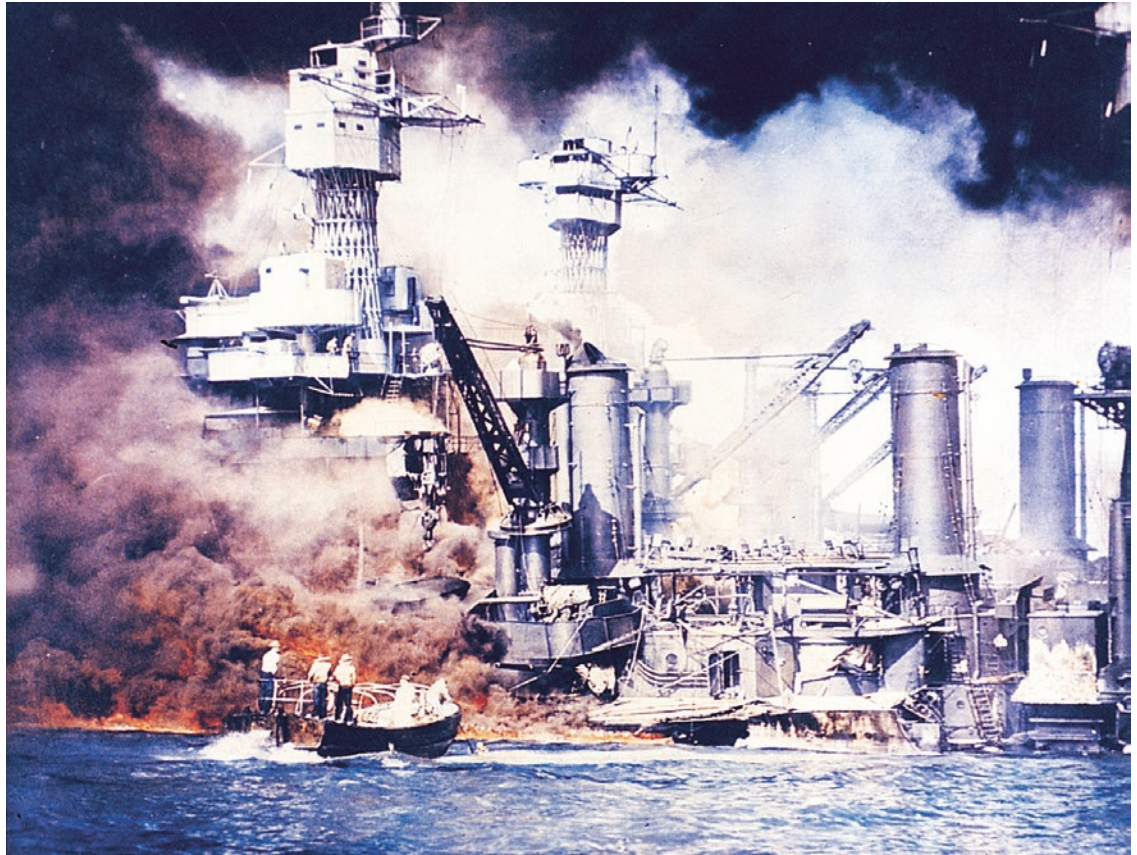
## Surprise Attack on Pearl Harbor

By October 1940, Americans had cracked one of the codes that the Japanese used in sending secret messages. Therefore, they were well aware of Japanese plans for Southeast Asia. If Japan conquered European colonies there, it could also threaten the American-controlled Philippine Islands and Guam. To stop the Japanese advance, the U.S. government sent aid to strengthen Chinese resistance. And when the Japanese overran French Indochina—Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos—in July 1941, Roosevelt cut off oil shipments to Japan.

Despite an oil shortage, the Japanese continued their conquests. They hoped to catch the European colonial powers and the United States by surprise. So they planned massive attacks on British and Dutch colonies in Southeast Asia and on American outposts in the Pacific—at the same time. Admiral **Isoroku Yamamoto** (ih•soh•ROO•koo-yah•muh•MOH•toh), Japan's greatest naval strategist, also called for an attack on the U.S. fleet in Hawaii. It was, he said, “a dagger pointed at [Japan's] throat” and must be destroyed.



10.8.1; 10.8.3; 10.8.4; 10.8.6



The U.S.S. *West Virginia* is engulfed by flames after taking a direct hit during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

**Day of Infamy** Early in the morning of December 7, 1941, American sailors at **Pearl Harbor** in Hawaii awoke to the roar of explosives. A Japanese attack was under way. U.S. military leaders had known from a coded Japanese message that an attack might come. But they did not know when or where it would occur. Within two hours, the Japanese had sunk or damaged 19 ships, including 8 battleships, moored in Pearl Harbor. More than 2,300 Americans were killed—with over 1,100 wounded. News of the attack stunned the American people. The next day, President Roosevelt addressed Congress, which quickly accepted his request for a declaration of war on Japan and its allies.

*“Yesterday, December 7th, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. . . . As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us. . . . I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us.”*

—President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, *Address to Congress*, Dec. 8, 1941



### Reading Check

**Analyze Causes and Effects** What were the causes and effects of Japan's attack on the United States?

Almost at the same time as the Pearl Harbor attack, the Japanese launched bombing raids on the British colony of Hong Kong and American-controlled Guam and Wake Island. (See the map World War II in Asia and the Pacific, 1941–1945.) They also landed an invasion force in Thailand. The Japanese drive for a Pacific empire was under way.

## Japanese Victories

Lightly defended, Guam and Wake Island quickly fell to Japanese forces. The Japanese then turned their attention to the Philippines, controlled by the United States with several military bases there. In January 1942, they marched into the Philippine capital of Manila. American and Filipino forces took up a defensive position on the Bataan (buh•TAN) Peninsula on the northwestern edge of Manila Bay. At the same time, the Philippine government moved to the island of Corregidor just to the south of Bataan. After about three months of tough fighting, the Japanese took the Bataan Peninsula in April. Corregidor fell the following month.

The Japanese also continued their strikes against British possessions in Asia. After seizing Hong Kong, they invaded Malaya from the sea and overland from Thailand. By February 1942, the Japanese had reached Singapore, strategically located at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula. After a fierce pounding, the colony surrendered. Within a month, the Japanese had conquered the resource-rich Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia), including the islands of Java, Sumatra, Borneo, and Celebes (SEHL•uh•beez). These British and Dutch colonies in Southeast Asia held much-needed oil, rubber, and other raw materials needed to defend Japan's expansion. The Japanese also moved westward, taking Burma. From there, they planned to launch a strike against India, the largest of Great Britain's colonies.

By the time Burma fell, Japan had taken control of more than 1 million square miles of Asian land. About 150 million people lived in this vast area. Before these conquests, the Japanese had tried to win the support of Asians with the anticolonialist idea of "East Asia for the Asiatics." After victory, however, the Japanese quickly made it clear that they had come as conquerors. They often treated the people of their new colonies with extreme cruelty.

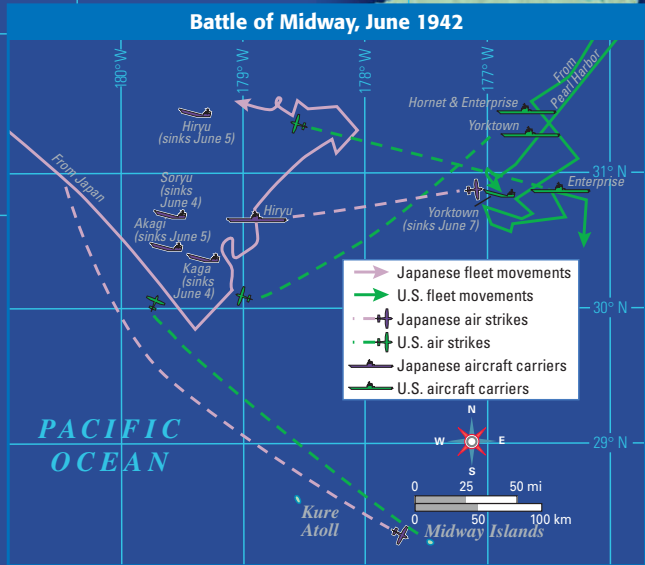
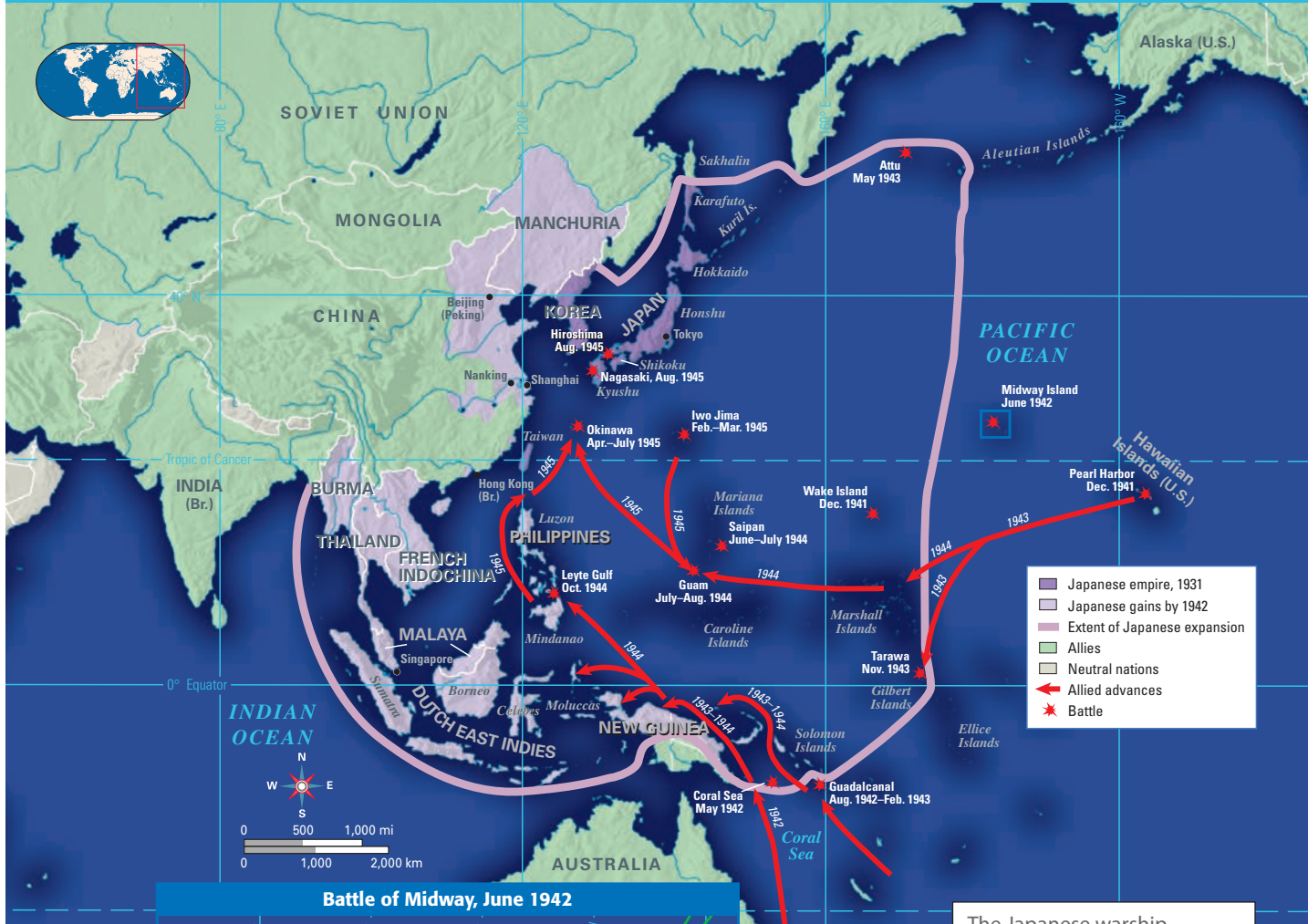
However, the Japanese reserved the most brutal treatment for Allied prisoners of war. The Japanese considered it dishonorable to surrender, and they had contempt for the prisoners of war in their charge. On the Bataan Death March—a forced march of more than 50 miles up the peninsula—the Japanese subjected their captives to terrible cruelties. 500 Americans and approximately 2,500 Filipino prisoners died on the march. Thousands more later perished at the inhumane prison camp. Of the approximately 76,000 prisoners who started the Bataan Death March, only 54,000 survived.

### Reading Check

#### Find Main Ideas

How did the Japanese often treat the native people of East Asia and their prisoners of war in territory they conquered?

# World War II in Asia and the Pacific, 1941–1945



The Japanese warship *Mikuma* lists and begins to sink after being struck by bombs from American aircraft during the Battle of Midway.

Some Japanese search aircraft were late getting into the air. As a result, the Japanese were completely unaware that U.S. ships were nearby.

**Interpret Maps**

- Location** Which battle was fought in the most northern region?
- Movement** From what two general directions did Allied forces move in on Japan?

### Vocabulary

invincible  
unable to be  
overcome by force

## The Allies Strike Back

After a string of victories, the Japanese seemed unbeatable. Nonetheless, the Allies—mainly Americans and Australians—were anxious to strike back in the Pacific. The United States in particular wanted revenge for Pearl Harbor. In April 1942, a squadron of 16 B-25 bombers under the command of Lieutenant Colonel James H. Doolittle bombed Tokyo and several other Japanese cities. The bombs did little damage. The raid, however, made an important psychological point to both Americans and Japanese: Japan was vulnerable to attack.

**The Allies Turn the Tide** Doolittle's raid on Japan raised American morale and shook the confidence of some in Japan. As one Japanese citizen noted, "We started to doubt that we were invincible." In addition, some Japanese worried that defending and controlling a vast empire had caused them to spread their resources too thin.

Slowly, the Allies began to turn the tide of war. Early in May 1942, an American fleet with Australian support intercepted a Japanese strike force headed for Port Moresby in New Guinea. This city housed a critical Allied air base. Control of the air base would put the Japanese in easy striking distance of Australia.

In the battle that followed—the Battle of the Coral Sea—both sides used a new kind of naval warfare. The opposing ships did not fire a single shot. In fact, they often could not see one another. Instead, airplanes taking off from huge aircraft carriers attacked the ships. The Allies suffered more losses in ships and troops than did the Japanese. However, the Battle of the Coral Sea was something of a victory, for the Allies had stopped Japan's southward advance.

**The Battle of Midway** Japan next targeted Midway Island, some 1,500 miles west of Hawaii, the location of a key American airfield. Thanks to Allied code breakers, Admiral Chester Nimitz, commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, knew that a huge Japanese force was heading toward Midway. Admiral Yamamoto himself was in command of the Japanese fleet. He hoped that the attack on Midway would draw the whole of the U.S. Pacific Fleet from Pearl Harbor to defend the island.

On June 4, with American forces hidden beyond the horizon, Nimitz allowed the Japanese to begin their assault on the island. As the first Japanese planes got into the air, American planes swooped in to attack the Japanese fleet. Many Japanese planes were still on the decks of the aircraft carriers. The strategy was a success. American pilots destroyed 332 Japanese planes, all four aircraft carriers, and one support ship. Yamamoto ordered his crippled fleet to withdraw. By June 7, 1942, the battle was over. The **Battle of Midway** turned the tide of war in the Pacific. (See the map World War II in Asia and the Pacific, 1941–1945.)

### Reading Check

#### Analyze Motives

Why might the Americans send their entire Pacific Fleet to defend Midway Island?



U.S. Marines storm ashore at Guadalcanal.

## An Allied Offensive

With morale high after their victory at Midway, the Allies took the offensive. The war in the Pacific involved vast distances. Japanese troops had dug in on hundreds of islands across the ocean. General **Douglas MacArthur**, the commander of the Allied land forces in the Pacific, developed a plan to handle this problem.

MacArthur believed that storming each island would be a long, costly effort. Instead, he wanted to “island-hop” past Japanese strongholds. His strategy was to capture weaker Japanese-controlled islands, then use these bases to seize islands closer to Japan. In the process, the Allies would cut off supply lines needed to keep the Japanese navy afloat.

MacArthur’s first target soon presented itself.

U.S. military leaders had learned that the Japanese were building a huge air base on the island of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. The Allies had to strike fast before the base was completed and became another Japanese stronghold. At dawn on August 7, 1942, several thousand U.S. Marines, with Australian support, landed on Guadalcanal and the neighboring island of Tulagi.

### BIOGRAPHY

#### *General Douglas MacArthur*

(1880–1964)

Douglas MacArthur’s qualities as a leader and a fighting soldier emerged in France during World War I. Showing incredible dash and courage on the battlefield, he received several decorations for bravery. And he won promotion from the rank of major to brigadier general.

After serving in several positions in the United States, MacArthur received a posting to the Philippines in 1935. He remained there until shortly before the islands fell in 1941. But he left very reluctantly. In a message to the troops who remained behind, he vowed, “I shall return.” As you will read later, MacArthur kept his promise.



The marines had little trouble seizing Guadalcanal's airfield. But the battle for control of the island turned into a savage struggle as both sides poured in fresh troops. In February 1943, after six months of fighting on land and at sea, the **Battle of Guadalcanal** finally ended. After losing more than 24,000 of a force of 36,000 soldiers, the Japanese abandoned what they came to call "the Island of Death."

To American war correspondent Ralph Martin and the U.S. soldiers who fought there, Guadalcanal was simply "hell":

*"Hell was red furry spiders as big as your fist, . . . enormous rats and bats everywhere, and rivers with waiting crocodiles. Hell was the sour, foul smell of the squishy jungle, humidity that rotted a body within hours. . . . Hell was an enemy . . . so fanatic that it used its own dead as booby traps."*

—Ralph G. Martin, *The GI War*

As Japan worked to establish a new order in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, the Nazis moved ahead with Hitler's design for a new order in Europe. This design included plans for dealing with those Hitler considered unfit for the Third Reich. You will learn about these plans in the next lesson.

### Reading Check

#### Identify Problems

If the vast distances of the Pacific caused problems for the Allies, how might they have caused military problems for the Japanese also?

## Lesson 2 Assessment

1. **Organize Information** Which event was most important in turning the tide of the war in the Pacific against the Japanese? Why?

Event	Effect

2. **Key Terms and People** For each key term or person in the lesson, write a sentence explaining its significance.

3. **Evaluate** Did Admiral Yamamoto make a wise decision in bombing Pearl Harbor? Why or why not?

4. **Analyze Motives** Why do you think the Japanese changed their approach from trying to win the support of the colonized peoples to acting as conquerors?

5. **Identify Problems** What problems did Japan face in building an empire in the Pacific?



# The Holocaust

## The Big Idea

During the Holocaust, Hitler's Nazis killed six million Jews and five million other "non-Aryans."

## Why It Matters Now

The violence against Jews during the Holocaust led to the founding of Israel after World War II.

## Key Terms and People

Aryan  
Holocaust  
*Kristallnacht*  
ghetto  
Final Solution  
genocide

## Setting the Stage

As part of their vision for Europe, the Nazis proposed a new racial order. They proclaimed that the Germanic peoples, or **Aryans**, were a "master race." (This was a misuse of the term *Aryan*. The term actually refers to the Indo-European peoples who began to migrate into the Indian subcontinent around 1500 BCE.) The Nazis claimed that all non-Aryan peoples, particularly Jewish people, were inferior. This racist message would eventually lead to the **Holocaust**, the systematic mass slaughter of Jews. In addition, the Nazis murdered millions of other people they deemed inferior.

## The Holocaust Begins

To gain support for his racist ideas, Hitler knowingly tapped into a hatred for Jews that had deep roots in European history. Anti-Semitism, a hostility toward or prejudice against Jews, had existed in Christian Europe since the Middle Ages. For generations, many Germans, along with other Europeans, had targeted Jews as the cause of their failures. Some Germans even blamed Jews for their country's defeat in World War I and for its economic problems after that war.

In time, Hitler made the targeting of Jews a government policy. The Nuremberg Laws, passed in 1935, deprived Jews of their rights to German citizenship and forbade marriages between Jews and non-Jews. Laws passed later also limited the kinds of work that Jews could do.

**"Night of Broken Glass"** Worse was yet to come. Early in November 1938, 17-year-old Herschel Grynszpan (GRIHN•shpahn), a Jewish youth from Germany, was visiting an uncle in Paris. While Grynszpan was there, he received a postcard. It said that after living in Germany for 27 years, his father had been deported to Poland. On November 7, wishing to avenge his father's deportation, Grynszpan shot a German diplomat living in Paris.



10.7.3; 10.8.4; 10.8.5; 10.8.6

When Nazi leaders heard the news, they used this pretext to launch a violent attack on the Jewish community. On November 9, Nazi storm troopers attacked Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues across Germany and Austria and murdered close to 100 Jews. Using the practice of ethnic cleansing, they rounded up 30,000 Jews and sent them to concentration camps, where many died. An American in Leipzig wrote, “Jewish shop windows by the hundreds were systematically . . . smashed. . . . The main streets of the city were a positive litter of shattered plate glass.” The night of November 9 became known as **Kristallnacht** (krih•STAHL•nahkt), or “Night of Broken Glass.” A 14-year-old boy described his memory of that awful night:

*“All the things for which my parents had worked for eighteen long years were destroyed in less than ten minutes. Piles of valuable glasses, expensive furniture, linens—in short, everything was destroyed. . . . The Nazis left us, yelling, “Don’t try to leave this house! We’ll soon be back again and take you to a concentration camp to be shot.”*

—M. I. Libau, quoted in *Never to Forget: The Jews of the Holocaust*

*Kristallnacht* marked a major step-up in the Nazi policy of Jewish persecution. The future for Jews in Germany looked truly grim.

**A Flood of Refugees** After *Kristallnacht*, some Jews realized that violence against them was bound to increase. By the end of 1939, a number of German Jews had fled to other countries. Many, however, remained in Germany. Later, Hitler’s forces conquered territories in which millions more Jews lived.

At first, Hitler favored emigration as a solution to what he called “the Jewish problem.” Getting other countries to continue admitting Germany’s Jews became an issue, however. After admitting tens of thousands of Jewish refugees, such countries as France, Britain, and the United States abruptly closed their doors to further immigration. Germany’s foreign minister observed, “We all want to get rid of our Jews. The difficulty is that no country wishes to receive them.”

**Isolating the Jews** When Hitler found that he could not get rid of Jews through emigration, he put another plan into effect. He ordered Jews in all countries under his control to be moved to designated cities. In those cities, the Nazis herded the Jews into dismal, overcrowded **ghettos**, or segregated Jewish areas. The Nazis then sealed off the ghettos with barbed wire and stone walls. They hoped that the Jews inside would starve to death or die from disease.

Even under these horrible conditions, the Jews hung on. Some, particularly the Jews in Warsaw, Poland, formed resistance organizations within the ghettos. They also struggled to keep their traditions. Ghetto theaters produced plays and concerts. Teachers taught lessons in secret schools. Scholars kept records so that one day people would find out the truth.



After 1941, all Jews in German-controlled areas had to wear a yellow Star of David patch.

### Reading Check

#### Find Main Ideas

What steps did Hitler take to rid Germany of Jews?

## The “Final Solution”

Hitler soon grew impatient and decided to take more direct action. His plan was called the **Final Solution**. It was actually a program of **genocide**, the systematic murder of an entire people.

Hitler believed that his plan of conquest depended on the purity of the Aryan race. He had adopted the view of late 19th-century European anti-Semites that Jews constituted not only a separate religion, but a separate race, one intent on polluting Aryan blood. To protect racial purity, the Nazis had to eliminate other races, nationalities, or groups they viewed as inferior—as “subhumans.” These included the Roma (gypsies), who were regarded as nomadic outsiders of mixed race, as well as Poles, Russians, homosexuals, the insane, the disabled, and the incurably ill. But the Nazis focused especially on the Jews.

**The Mass Killings Begin** As Nazi troops swept across Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the mass killings began. Units from the SS (Hitler’s elite security force) moved from town to town to hunt down Jews. The SS and their collaborators rounded up men, women, children, and even babies and took them to isolated spots. They then shot their prisoners in pits that became the prisoners’ graves.

German soldiers round up Jews in the Warsaw ghetto.





Jews in communities not reached by the killing squads were rounded up and taken to concentration camps, or slave-labor prisons. These camps were located mainly in Germany and Poland. Hitler hoped that the horrible conditions in the camps would speed the total elimination of the Jews.

The prisoners worked seven days a week as slaves for the SS or for German businesses. Guards severely beat or killed their prisoners for not working fast enough. With meals of thin soup, a scrap of bread, and potato peelings, most prisoners lost 50 pounds in the first few months. Hunger was so intense, recalled one survivor, “that if a bit of soup spilled over, prisoners would . . . dig their spoons into the mud and stuff the mess in their mouths.”

**The Final Stage** Hitler’s war on the Jews turned toward the Final Solution in 1942. The Nazis built extermination camps equipped with huge gas chambers that could kill as many as 6,000 human beings in a day.

When prisoners arrived at Auschwitz (OUSH•vihts), the largest of the extermination camps, they paraded before a committee of SS doctors. With a wave of the hand, these doctors separated the strong—mostly men—from the weak—mostly women, young children, the elderly, and the sick. Those labeled as weak would die that day. They were told to undress for a shower and then led into a chamber with fake showerheads. After the doors were closed, cyanide gas poured from the showerheads or holes in the ceiling. All inside were killed in a matter of minutes. Later, the Nazis installed crematoriums, or ovens, to burn the bodies.



## History in Depth

### Jewish Resistance

Even in the extermination camps, Jews rose up and fought against the Nazis. At Treblinka in August 1943, and at Sobibor in October 1943, small groups of Jews revolted. They killed guards, stormed the camp armories, stole guns and grenades, and then broke out. In both uprisings, about 300 prisoners escaped. Most were killed soon after. Of those who survived, many joined up with partisan groups and continued to fight until the end of the war.

Late in 1944, prisoners at Auschwitz revolted, too. Like the escapees at Treblinka and Sobibor, most were caught and killed. Young women like Ella Gartner and Roza Robota made the Auschwitz uprising possible. Gartner smuggled gunpowder into the camp from the munitions factory where she worked. Robota helped organize resistance in the camp. Gartner and Robota were executed on January 6, 1945. Less than a month later, Auschwitz was liberated.



Ella Gartner



Roza Robota

### Critical Thinking

**Form Generalizations** What do you think Gartner, Robota, and other Jews who revolted had in common?

Jews Murdered Under Nazi Rule*			
	Original Jewish Population	Jews Murdered	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, <i>The Burden of Guilt</i>	

**Response from the Allies** Reports of the deportation and mass executions of Jews reached Allied leaders as early as 1942. The Allies officially condemned the Nazi's extermination of Jews in Europe and promised punishment, but it is not clear that they truly believed or understood the full ramifications of the Final Solution. In 1944, the War Refugee Board was created in the U.S., and this helped rescue some 200,000 European Jews. No military action, however, was undertaken to disrupt the transport and murder of Jews during the war.

**The Survivors** Some six million European Jews died in the extermination camps and in Nazi massacres. Fewer than four million survived. Some escaped the horrors of the extermination camps with help from non-Jewish people. These rescuers, at great risk to their own lives, hid Jews in their homes or helped them escape to neutral countries.

The Roma of Europe were also exterminated in the Nazi death camps. It is estimated that 25% of the one million Roma in Europe did not survive the Holocaust. Millions of others – including Poles, Slavs, homosexuals, and the disabled – died in the camps.

Those who survived the camps were changed forever by what they had experienced. Elie Wiesel, a Jew who was nearly 15 years old when he entered Auschwitz, wrote:

*“Never shall I forget the small faces of the children whose bodies I saw transformed into smoke under a silent sky. Never shall I forget those flames that consumed my faith forever. . . . Never shall I forget those moments that murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to ashes. . . . Never.”*

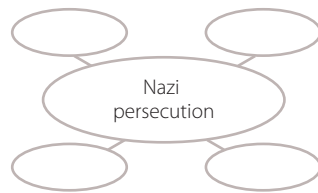
—Elie Wiesel, quoted in *Night*

### Reading Check

**Analyze Effects**  
How was the Final Solution a logical outcome of Nazi racial theory?

## Lesson 3 Assessment

1. **Organize Information** What Nazi actions were part of the Final Solution?



2. **Key Terms and People** For each key term or person in the lesson, write a sentence explaining its significance.

3. **Analyze Motives** Why might people want to blame a minority group for most of their country's problems?
4. **Draw Conclusions** Why do you think the Allies did not respond to the forced removal, or ethnic cleansing, and genocide of Jews in countries under Nazi control?
5. **Make Inferences** Why do you think German people were bystanders, and went along with the Nazi policy of persecution of the Jews?
6. **Identify Effects** What impact did the Holocaust have on the Jewish and Roma population of Europe?



# The Allied Victory

## The Big Idea

Led by the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union, the Allies scored key victories and won the war.

## Why It Matters Now

The Allies' victory in World War II set up conditions for both the Cold War and today's post-Cold War world.

## Key Terms and People

Dwight D. Eisenhower  
 Battle of Stalingrad  
 D-Day  
 Battle of the Bulge  
 kamikaze

## Setting the Stage

On December 22, 1941, just after Pearl Harbor, Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt met at the White House to develop a joint war policy. Stalin had asked his allies to relieve German pressure on his armies in the east. He wanted them to open a second front in the west. This would split the Germans' strength by forcing them to fight major battles in two regions instead of one. Churchill agreed with Stalin's strategy. The Allies would weaken Germany on two fronts before dealing a deathblow. At first, Roosevelt was torn, but ultimately he agreed.

## The Tide Turns on Two Fronts

Churchill wanted Britain and the United States to strike first at North Africa and southern Europe. The strategy angered Stalin. He wanted the Allies to open the second front in France. The Soviet Union, therefore, had to hold out on its own against the Germans. All Britain and the United States could offer in the way of help was supplies. Nevertheless, late in 1942, the Allies began to turn the tide of war both in the Mediterranean and on the Eastern Front.

**The North African Campaign** General Erwin Rommel took the key Libyan port city of Tobruk in June 1942. With Tobruk's fall, London sent General Bernard Montgomery—"Monty" to his troops—to take control of British forces in North Africa. These included British, Indian, and British Commonwealth troops from Canada, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand. By the time Montgomery arrived, however, the Germans had advanced to an Egyptian village called El Alamein (al•uh•MAYN), west of Alexandria. (See the map World War II: Allied Advances, 1942–1945.) They were dug in so well that British forces could not go around them. The only way to dislodge them, Montgomery decided, was with a massive frontal attack. The Battle of El Alamein began on the night of October 23. The roar of approximately



10.8.3; 10.8.4; 10.8.6; 10.9.1; HI.6

1,000 British guns took the Axis soldiers totally by surprise. They fought back fiercely and held their ground for several days. By November 4, however, Rommel's army had been beaten. He and his forces fell back.

As Rommel retreated west, the Allies launched Operation Torch. On November 8, an Allied force of more than 100,000 troops—mostly Americans—landed in Morocco and Algeria. American general **Dwight D. Eisenhower** led this force. Caught between Montgomery's and Eisenhower's armies, Rommel's Afrika Korps was finally crushed in May 1943.

**The Battle for Stalingrad** As Rommel suffered defeats in North Africa, German armies also met their match in the Soviet Union. The German advance had stalled at Leningrad and Moscow late in 1941. The bitter winter made the situation worse. When the summer of 1942 arrived, however, Hitler sent his Sixth Army, under the command of General Friedrich Paulus, to seize the oil fields in the Caucasus Mountains. The army was also to capture Stalingrad (now Volgograd), a major industrial center on the Volga River. (See the map World War II: Allied Advances, 1942–1945.)

The **Battle of Stalingrad** began on August 23, 1942. The Luftwaffe went on nightly bombing raids that set much of the city ablaze and reduced the rest to rubble. The situation looked desperate. Nonetheless, Stalin had already told his commanders to defend the city named after him to the death.

By early November 1942, Germans controlled 90 percent of the ruined city. Then another Russian winter set in. On November 19, Soviet troops outside the city launched a counterattack. Closing in around Stalingrad, they trapped the Germans inside and cut off their supplies. General Paulus begged Hitler to order a retreat. But Hitler refused, saying the city was “to be held at all costs.”

On February 2, 1943, some 90,000 frostbitten, half-starved German troops surrendered to the Soviets. These pitiful survivors were all that remained of an army of 330,000. Stalingrad's defense had cost the Soviets over one million soldiers. The city was 99 percent destroyed. However, the Germans were now on the defensive, with the Soviets pushing them steadily westward.



Soviet troops launch an attack during the battle for Stalingrad.

## World War II: Allied Advances, 1942–1945



**The Invasion of Italy** As the Battle of Stalingrad raged, Stalin continued to urge the British and Americans to invade France. However, Roosevelt and Churchill decided to attack Italy first. On July 10, 1943, Allied forces landed on Sicily and captured it from Italian and German troops about a month later.

### Reading Check

#### Make Inferences

What advantages might a weaker army fighting on its home soil have over a stronger invading army?

The conquest of Sicily toppled Mussolini from power. On July 25, King Victor Emmanuel III had the dictator arrested. On September 3, Italy surrendered. But the Germans seized control of northern Italy and put Mussolini back in charge. Finally, the Germans retreated northward, and the victorious Allies entered Rome on June 4, 1944. Fighting in Italy, however, continued until Germany fell in May 1945. On April 27, 1945, Italian resistance fighters ambushed some German trucks near the northern Italian city of Milan. Inside one of the trucks, they found Mussolini disguised as a German soldier. They shot him the next day and later hung his body in downtown Milan for all to see.

## The Allied Home Fronts

Wherever Allied forces fought, people on the home fronts rallied to support them. In war-torn countries like the Soviet Union and Great Britain, civilians endured extreme hardships. Many lost their lives. Except for a few of its territories, such as Hawaii, the United States did not suffer invasion or major bombing. Nonetheless, Americans at home made a crucial contribution to the Allied war effort. Americans produced the weapons and equipment that would help win the war.

**Mobilizing for War** Defeating the Axis powers required mobilizing for total war. In this feature of warfare in the 20th century, entire national economies were directed toward the war effort. Increased armament production in the United States provided an indispensable boost to the Allied war effort. In 1939, the United States manufactured 3,000 military aircraft. From 1941–1945, the United States produced 300,000 more, as well as 61,000 tanks; 200 submarines; 27 aircraft carriers; and much more military weaponry and materials. Factories converted their peacetime operations to wartime production and made everything from machine guns to boots. Automobile factories produced tanks. A typewriter company made armor-piercing shells. By 1944, between 17 and 18 million U.S. workers had jobs in war industries. Production boomed as citizens—many of them women entering the work force for the first time—flocked to meet the labor demand, working long hours to help win the war.

With factories turning out products for the war, a shortage of consumer goods hit the United States. From meat and sugar to tires and gasoline, from nylon stockings to laundry soap, the American government rationed scarce items. Setting the speed limit at 35 miles per hour also helped to save gasoline and rubber. In European countries directly affected by the war, rationing was even more drastic.

To inspire their people to greater efforts, Allied governments conducted highly effective propaganda campaigns, in which citizens were asked to do their part to conserve and contribute resources to the war effort. In the Soviet Union, a Moscow youngster collected enough scrap metal to produce 14,000 artillery shells. A Russian family used its life savings to buy a tank for the Red Army. Other propaganda campaigns used nationalistic sentiment to request money to support the troops fighting for freedom.

### Vocabulary

rationed distributed  
in limited amounts





American school children helped the war effort by recycling scrap metal and rubber and by buying war bonds.

In the United States, youngsters saved their pennies and bought government war stamps and bonds to help finance the war.

**War Limits Civil Rights** Government propaganda also had a negative effect. After Pearl Harbor, a wave of prejudice arose in the United States against Japanese Americans. Most lived in Hawaii and on the West Coast. The bombing of Pearl Harbor frightened Americans. This fear, encouraged by government propaganda, was turned against Japanese Americans. They were suddenly seen as “the enemy.” On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt issued an executive

order calling for the internment of Japanese Americans because they were considered a threat to the country.

In March, the military began rounding up “aliens” and shipping them to relocation camps. The camps were restricted military areas located far away from the coast. Such locations, it was thought, would prevent these “enemy aliens” from assisting a Japanese invasion. However, two-thirds of those interned were Nisei, native-born American citizens whose parents were Japanese. Many of them volunteered for military service and fought bravely for the United States, even though their families remained in the camps.

## Victory in Europe

While the Allies were dealing with issues on the home front, they also were preparing to push toward victory in Europe. In 1943, the Allies began secretly building an invasion force in Great Britain. Their plan was to launch an attack on German-held France across the English Channel.

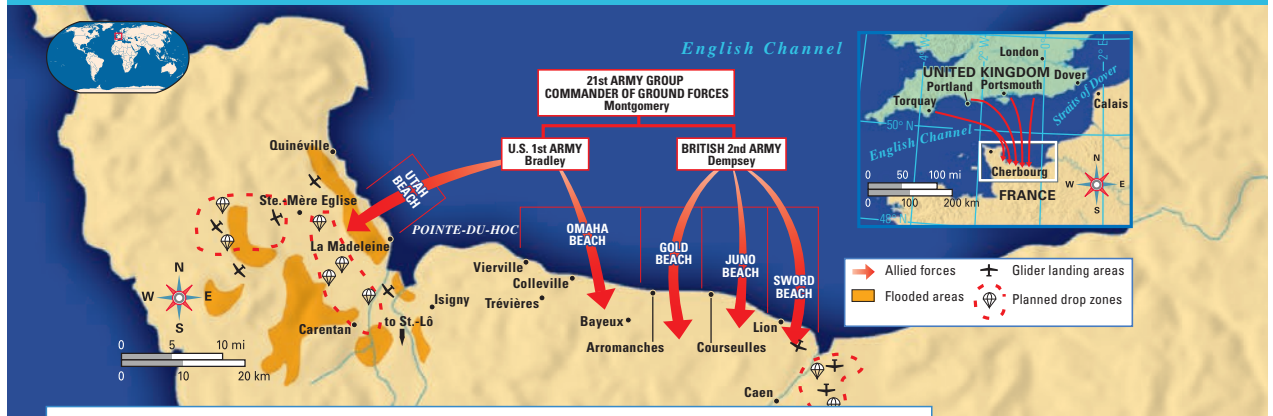
**The D-Day Invasion** By May 1944, the invasion force was ready. Thousands of planes, ships, tanks, and landing craft and more than three million troops awaited the order to attack. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the commander of this enormous force, planned to strike on the coast of Normandy, in northwestern France. The Germans knew that an attack was coming. But they did not know where it would be launched. To keep Hitler guessing, the Allies set up a huge dummy army with its own headquarters and equipment. This make-believe army appeared to be preparing to attack the French seaport of Calais (ka•LAY).

### Reading Check

#### Analyze Issues

What were some costs and benefits for workers and businesses in converting factories to wartime production?

## The D-Day Invasion, June 6, 1944



### Interpret Maps

- Human-Environment Interaction** What environmental problem might have been encountered by 1st Army soldiers landing at Utah Beach?
- Movement** Looking at the map, what might have been the Allied strategy behind parachuting troops into France?

Code-named Operation Overlord, the invasion of Normandy was the largest land and sea attack in history. The invasion began on June 6, 1944—known as **D-Day**. At dawn on that day, British, American, French, and Canadian troops fought their way onto a 60-mile stretch of beach in Normandy. (See the map *The D-Day Invasion, June 6, 1944*.) The Germans had dug in with machine guns, rocket launchers, and cannons. They sheltered behind concrete walls three feet thick. Not surprisingly, the Allies took heavy casualties. Among the American forces alone, more than 2,700 men died on the beaches that day.

### BIOGRAPHY

#### General Dwight D. Eisenhower

(1890–1969)

In his career, U.S. General Dwight Eisenhower had shown an uncommon ability to work with all kinds of people—even competitive Allies. His chief of staff said of Eisenhower, “The sun rises and sets on him for me.” He was also wildly popular with the troops, who affectionately called him “Uncle Ike.”

So it was not a surprise when, in December 1943, U.S. Army Chief of Staff George Marshall named Eisenhower as supreme commander of the Allied forces in Europe. The new commander’s “people skills” enabled him to join American and British forces together to put a permanent end to Nazi aggression.



## Vocabulary

**beachheads** enemy shoreline captured just before invading forces move inland

Despite heavy losses, the Allies held the beachheads. Within a month of D-Day, more than one million additional troops had landed. Then, on July 25, the Allies punched a hole in the German defenses near Saint-Lô (san•LOH), and the United States Third Army, led by General George Patton, broke out. A month later, the Allies marched triumphantly into Paris. By September, they had liberated France, Belgium, and Luxembourg. They then set their sights on Germany.

**The Battle of the Bulge** As Allied forces moved toward Germany from the west, the Soviet army was advancing toward Germany from the east. Hitler now faced a war on two fronts. In a desperate gamble, he decided to counterattack in the west. Hitler hoped a victory would split American and British forces and break up Allied supply lines. Explaining the reasoning behind his plan, Hitler said, “This battle is to decide whether we shall live or die. . . . All resistance must be broken in a wave of terror.”

On December 16, German tanks broke through weak American defenses along a 75-mile front in the Ardennes. The push into Allied lines gave the campaign its name—the **Battle of the Bulge**. Although caught off guard, the Allies eventually pushed the Germans back. The Germans had little choice but to retreat, since there were no reinforcements available.

**Germany’s Unconditional Surrender** After the Battle of the Bulge, the war in Europe rapidly drew to a close. In late March 1945, the Allies rolled across the Rhine River into Germany. By the middle of April, a noose was closing around Berlin. About three million Allied soldiers approached Berlin from the southwest. Another six million Soviet troops approached from the east. By April 25, 1945, the Soviets had surrounded the capital and were pounding the city with artillery fire.

While Soviet shells burst over Berlin, Hitler prepared for his end in an underground headquarters beneath the crumbling city. On April 29, he married his long-time companion, Eva Braun. The next day, Hitler and Eva Braun committed suicide. Their bodies were then carried outside and burned.

On May 7, 1945, General Eisenhower accepted the unconditional surrender of the Third Reich from the German military. President Roosevelt, however, did not live to witness the long-awaited victory. He had died suddenly on April 12, as Allied armies were advancing toward Berlin. Roosevelt’s successor, Harry Truman, received the news of the Nazi surrender. On May 9, the surrender was officially signed in Berlin. The United States and other Allied powers celebrated V-E Day—Victory in Europe Day. After nearly six years of fighting, the war in Europe had ended.

## Victory in the Pacific

Although the war in Europe was over, the Allies were still fighting the Japanese in the Pacific. With the Allied victory at Guadalcanal, however, the Japanese advances in the Pacific had been stopped. For the rest of the war, the Japanese retreated before the counterattack of the Allied powers.

### Reading Check

Find Main Ideas

How did the Allies try to conceal the true location for the D-Day landings?

**The Japanese in Retreat** By the fall of 1944, the Allies were moving in on Japan. In October, Allied forces landed on the island of Leyte (LAY•tee) in the Philippines. General Douglas MacArthur, who had been ordered to leave the islands before their surrender in May 1942, waded ashore at Leyte with his troops. On reaching the beach, he declared, “People of the Philippines, I have returned.”

Actually, the takeover would not be quite that easy. The Japanese had devised a bold plan to halt the Allied advance. They would destroy the American fleet, thus preventing the Allies from resupplying their ground troops. This plan, however, required risking almost the entire Japanese fleet. They took this gamble on October 23, in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Within four days, the Japanese navy had lost disastrously—eliminating it as a fighting force in the war. Now, only

the Japanese army and the feared kamikazes stood between the Allies and Japan. The **kamikazes** were Japanese suicide pilots. They would sink Allied ships by crash-diving their bomb-filled planes into them.

In March 1945, after a month of bitter fighting and heavy losses, American Marines took Iwo Jima (EE•wuh-JEE•muh), an island 760 miles from Tokyo. On April 1, U.S. troops moved onto the island of Okinawa, only about 350 miles from southern Japan. The Japanese put up a desperate fight. Nevertheless, on June 21, one of the bloodiest land battles of the war ended. The Japanese lost over 100,000 troops, and the Americans 12,000.

**The Japanese Surrender** After Okinawa, the next step for the Allies had to be Japan. President Truman’s advisers had informed him that an invasion of the Japanese homeland might cost the Allies half a million lives. Truman had to make a decision whether to use a powerful new weapon called the atomic bomb, or A-bomb. Most of his advisers felt that using it would bring the war to the quickest possible end. The bomb had been developed by the top-secret Manhattan Project, headed by General Leslie Groves and Jewish scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer. Truman first learned of the new bomb’s existence when he became president.



U.S. marines raise the Stars and Stripes after their victory at Iwo Jima.

### Vocabulary

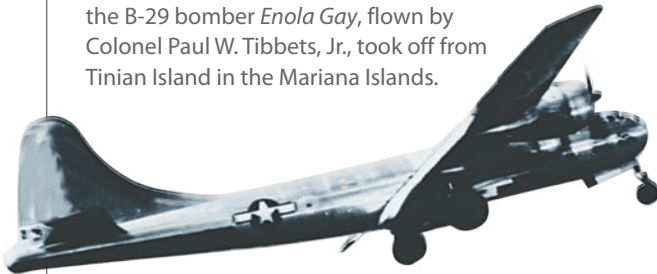
**kamikaze** Japanese word for “divine wind”; the term was originally applied to a storm that saved Japan from a Mongol invasion in 1281

## History in Depth

### The Atomic Bomb

On the eve of World War II, scientists in Germany succeeded in splitting the nucleus of a uranium atom, releasing a huge amount of energy. Albert Einstein wrote to President Franklin Roosevelt and warned him that Nazi Germany might be working to develop atomic weapons. Roosevelt responded by giving his approval for an American program, later code-named the Manhattan Project, to develop an atomic bomb. In 1942, a Nobel Prize-winning Italian physicist at the University of Chicago, Enrico Fermi, produced the first nuclear chain reaction. In 1945, the Manhattan Project completed its goal of creating the world's first atomic bomb.

▼ On the morning of August 6, 1945, the B-29 bomber *Enola Gay*, flown by Colonel Paul W. Tibbets, Jr., took off from Tinian Island in the Mariana Islands.



Nagasaki citizens trudge through the still smoldering ruins of their city in this photograph by Yosuke Yamahata. ▼



#### Critical Thinking

**1. Develop Historical Perspective** If you were to design a memorial to the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, what symbol would you use? Make a sketch of your memorial.



► At precisely 8:16 a.m., the atomic bomb exploded above Hiroshima, a city on the Japanese island of Honshu.

### Hiroshima: Day of Fire

Impact of the Bombing	
Ground temperatures	7,000 °F
Catastrophic 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	210,000 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.

The first atomic bomb was exploded in a desert in New Mexico on July 16, 1945. President Truman then warned the Japanese. He stated that unless they surrendered, they could expect a “rain of ruin from the air.” The Japanese did not reply. So, on August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, a Japanese city of nearly 350,000 people. Between 70,000 and 80,000 people died in the attack. Three days later, on August 9, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, a city of 270,000. More than 70,000 people were killed immediately. Radiation fallout from the two explosions killed many more.

The Japanese finally surrendered to General Douglas MacArthur on September 2. The ceremony took place aboard the United States battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. With Japan’s surrender, the war had ended. Now, countries faced the task of rebuilding a war-torn world.



J. Robert Oppenheimer (left) and General Leslie Groves inspect the site of the first atomic bomb test near Alamogordo, New Mexico.

**Reading Check**  
Find Main Ideas  
What brought about Japan’s surrender?

### Lesson 4 Assessment

1. **Organize Information** Which battle do you think was most important in turning the war in favor of the Allies? Why?

Battle	Outcome
Battle of El Alamein	
Battle of Stalingrad	
D-Day Invasion	

2. **Key Terms and People** For each key term or person in the lesson, write a sentence explaining its significance.
3. **Synthesize** How do governments gather support for a war effort on the home front?
4. **Analyze Issues** Should governments have the power to limit the rights of their citizens during wartime? Explain your answer.
5. **Form Opinions** Did President Truman make the correct decision in using the atomic bomb? What would the consequences have been if he had chosen not to drop the bomb?



# Europe and Japan in Ruins

## The Big Idea

World War II cost millions of human lives and billions of dollars in damages. It left Europe and Japan in ruins.

## Why It Matters Now

The United States survived World War II undamaged, allowing it to become a world leader.

## Key Terms and People

Nuremberg Trials  
demilitarization  
democratization

## Setting the Stage

After six long years of war, the Allies finally were victorious. However, their victory had been achieved at a very high price. World War II had caused more death and destruction than any other conflict in history. It left over 60 million dead. About one-third of these deaths occurred in one country, the Soviet Union. Another 50 million people had been uprooted from their homes and wandered the countryside in search of somewhere to live. Property damage ran into billions of U.S. dollars.

## Devastation in Europe

By the end of World War II, Europe lay in ruins. Close to 40 million Europeans had died, two-thirds of them civilians. Constant bombing and shelling had reduced hundreds of cities to rubble. The ground war had destroyed much of the countryside. Displaced persons from many nations were left homeless.

**A Harvest of Destruction** A few of the great cities of Europe—Paris, Rome, and Brussels—remained largely undamaged by war. Many, however, had suffered terrible destruction. The Battle of Britain left huge areas of London little more than blackened ruins. Warsaw, the capital of Poland, was almost completely destroyed. In 1939, Warsaw had a population of nearly 1.3 million. When Soviet soldiers entered the city in January 1945, only 153,000 people remained. Thousands of tons of Allied bombs had demolished 95 percent of the central area of Berlin. One U.S. officer stationed in the German capital reported, “Wherever we looked we saw desolation. It was like a city of the dead.” Civilians had died by the millions as a result of military operations, concentration camps, the bombing of towns and cities, and starvation and disease.

Many of the surviving civilians stayed where they were and tried to get on with their lives. Some lived in partially



10.8.3; 10.8.4; 10.8.6; 10.9.1; CST.1

destroyed homes or apartments. Others huddled in cellars or caves made from rubble. They had no water, no electricity, and very little food. Most no longer had a workplace to provide income or a farm that supplied food.

A large number of people did not stay where they were. Rather, they took to the roads. These displaced persons included the survivors of concentration camps, prisoners of war, and refugees who found themselves in the wrong country when postwar treaties changed national borders. They wandered across Europe, hoping to find their families or to find a safe place to live.

Simon Weisenthal, a prisoner at Auschwitz, described the search made by Holocaust survivors:

*“Across Europe a wild tide of frantic survivors was flowing. . . . Many of them didn’t really know where to go. . . . And yet the survivors continued their pilgrimage of despair. . . . ‘Perhaps someone is still alive. . . .’ Someone might tell where to find a wife, a mother, children, a brother—or whether they were dead. . . . The desire to find one’s people was stronger than hunger, thirst, fatigue.”*

—Simon Weisenthal, quoted in *Never to Forget: The Jews of the Holocaust*

### Costs of World War II: Allied Powers and Axis Powers

	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†
Soviet Union	\$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
China	unknown	1,310,224†††	unknown

\* In 1945 dollars

\*\* An additional 115,187 servicemen died from nonbattle causes.

\*\*\* Before surrender to Nazis

† Includes 65,000 murdered Jews

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

††† Includes China’s war with Japan beginning in 1937

#### Interpret Charts

**1. Draw Conclusions** Which of the nations listed in the chart suffered the greatest human costs?



### Reading Check

#### Analyze Effects

What were some immediate after-effects of the war in Europe?

**Misery Continues After the War** The misery in Europe continued for years after the war. The fighting had ravaged Europe's countryside, and agriculture had been completely disrupted. Most able-bodied men had served in the military, and the women had worked in war production. Few remained to plant the fields. With the transportation system destroyed, the meager harvests often did not reach the cities. Thousands died as famine and disease spread through the bombed-out cities. The first postwar winter brought more suffering as people went without shoes and coats.

## Postwar Governments and Politics

Despairing Europeans often blamed their leaders for the war and its aftermath. Once the Germans had lost, some prewar governments—like those in Belgium, Holland, Denmark, and Norway—returned quickly. In countries like Germany, Italy, and France, however, a return to the old leadership was not desirable. Hitler's Nazi government had brought Germany to ruins. Mussolini had led Italy to defeat. The Vichy government had collaborated with the Nazis. Much of the old leadership was in disgrace. Also, in Italy and France, many resistance fighters were Communists.

After the war, the Communist Party promised change, and millions were ready to listen. In both France and Italy, Communist Party membership skyrocketed. The Communists made huge gains in the first postwar elections. Anxious to speed up a political takeover, the Communists staged a series of violent strikes. Alarmed French and Italians reacted by voting for anti-Communist parties. Communist Party membership and influence began to decline. And they declined even more as the economies of France and Italy began to recover.

**The Nuremberg Trials** While nations were struggling to recover politically and economically, they also tried to deal with the issue of war crimes. During 1945 and 1946, an International Military Tribunal representing 23 nations put Nazi war criminals on trial in Nuremberg, Germany. In the first of these **Nuremberg Trials**, 22 Nazi leaders were charged with waging a war of aggression. They were also accused of committing "crimes against humanity"—the murder of 11 million people.

Adolf Hitler, SS chief Heinrich Himmler, and Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels had committed suicide long before the trials began. However, Hermann Göring, the commander of the Luftwaffe; Rudolf Hess, Hitler's former deputy; and other high-ranking Nazi leaders remained to face the charges.

Hess was found guilty and was sentenced to life in prison. Göring received a death sentence, but cheated the executioner by committing suicide. Ten other Nazi leaders were hanged on October 16, 1946. Hans Frank, the "Slayer of Poles," was the only convicted Nazi to express remorse: "A thousand years will pass," he said, "and still this guilt of Germany will not have been erased." The bodies of those executed were burned at the concentration camp of Dachau (DAHK•ow). They were cremated in the same ovens that had burned so many of their victims.

### Reading Check

#### Identify Problems

Why might it have been difficult to find democratic government leaders in post-Nazi Germany?

### A New War Crimes Tribunal

In 1993, the UN established the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to prosecute war crimes committed in the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s. This was the first international war crimes court since those held in Nuremberg and Tokyo after World War II.

The ICTY, located in The Hague, Netherlands, issued its first indictment in 1994 and began trial proceedings in 1996. By mid-2007, a total of 161 defendants had been indicted. The most prominent of these, Slobodan Milosevic (shown), the former president of Yugoslavia, was charged with 66 counts of genocide, crimes against humanity, and other war crimes. On March 11, 2006, Milosevic, who had suffered from poor health, was found dead in his cell. Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, the leaders of the Bosnian Serbs, were arrested in 2008 and 2011, respectively. Both were put on trial in The Hague, charged with multiple war crimes.



### Postwar Japan

The defeat suffered by Japan in World War II left the country in ruins. Two million lives had been lost. The country's major cities, including the capital, Tokyo, had been largely destroyed by bombing raids. The atomic bomb had turned Hiroshima and Nagasaki into blackened wastelands. The Allies had stripped Japan of its colonial empire.

**Occupied Japan** General Douglas MacArthur, who had accepted the Japanese surrender, took charge of the U.S. occupation of Japan. MacArthur was determined to be fair and not to plant the seeds of a future war. Nevertheless, to ensure that peace would prevail, he began a process of **demilitarization**, or disbanding the Japanese armed forces. He achieved this quickly, leaving the Japanese with only a small police force. MacArthur also began bringing Japan's major war criminals to trial. The Tokyo Trials took place from 1946 to 1948, prosecuting the same war crimes as those introduced at Nuremberg. All of the 25 surviving defendants were found guilty. Former Premier Hideki Tojo and six others were condemned to hang. The Nuremberg and Tokyo Trials were the first international criminal tribunals to prosecute high-level political and military leaders for war crimes.

MacArthur then turned his attention to **democratization**, the process of creating a government elected by the people. In February 1946, he and his American political advisers drew up a new constitution. It changed the empire into a constitutional monarchy like that of Great Britain. The Japanese accepted the constitution. It went into effect on May 3, 1947.

MacArthur was not told to revive the Japanese economy. However, he was instructed to broaden land ownership and increase the participation of workers and farmers in the new democracy. To this end, MacArthur put forward a plan that required absentee landlords with huge estates to sell land to the government. The government then sold the land to tenant farmers at reasonable prices. These land reforms, as well as government agricultural subsidies and price supports, quickly led to a prosperous agricultural economy. This, in turn, contributed to Japan's growth as a consumer economy. Other reforms pushed by MacArthur gave workers the right to create independent labor unions.

### Reading Check

#### Make Inferences

How would demilitarization and a revived economy help Japan achieve democracy?

## Occupation Brings Deep Changes

The new constitution was the most important achievement of the occupation. It brought deep changes to Japanese society. A long Japanese tradition had viewed the emperor as divine. He was also an absolute ruler whose will was law. The emperor now had to declare that he was not divine. That admission was as shocking to the Japanese as defeat. His power was also dramatically reduced. Like the ruler of Great Britain, the emperor became largely a figurehead—a symbol of Japan.



Emperor Hirohito and U.S. General Douglas MacArthur look distant and uncomfortable as they pose here. Although Hirohito's power was greatly reduced after the war, MacArthur felt retaining him as the head of a constitutional monarchy would help the Japanese accept the changes imposed upon them.

The new constitution guaranteed that real political power in Japan rested with the people. The people elected a two-house parliament, called the Diet. All citizens over the age of 20, including women, had the right to vote. The government was led by a prime minister chosen by a majority of the Diet. A constitutional bill of rights protected basic freedoms. One more key provision of the constitution—Article 9—stated that the Japanese could no longer make war. They could fight only if attacked.

In September 1951, the United States and 47 other nations signed a formal peace treaty with Japan. The treaty officially ended the war. Some six months later, the U.S. occupation of Japan was over. However, with no armed forces, the Japanese agreed to a continuing U.S. military presence to protect their country. The United States and Japan, once bitter enemies, were now allies.

In the postwar world, enemies not only became allies. Sometimes, allies became enemies. World War II had changed the political landscape of Europe. The Soviet Union and the United States emerged from the war as the world's two major powers. They also ended the war as allies. However, it soon became clear that their postwar goals were very different. This difference stirred up conflicts that would shape the modern world for decades.

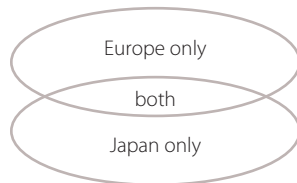
### Reading Check

#### Analyze Causes

Why did the Americans choose the British system of government for the Japanese, instead of the American system?

## Lesson 5 Assessment

1. **Organize Information** How did the aftermath of the war in Europe differ from the aftermath of the war in Japan?



2. **Key Terms and People** For each key term or person in the lesson, write a sentence explaining its significance.

3. **Analyze Causes** Why do you think that many Europeans favored communism after World War II?
4. **Form Opinions** Do you think it was right for the Allies to try only Nazi and Japanese leaders for war crimes? Why or why not?
5. **Make Inferences** How do you think MacArthur's reforms impacted Japan culturally?
6. **Compare and Contrast** Compare and contrast how life in Europe was affected in the immediate aftermath of World War I and World War II.

# Module 14 Assessment

## Key Terms and People

For each term or name below, write a sentence explaining its connection to World War II.

1. blitzkrieg
2. Battle of Britain
3. Atlantic Charter
4. Battle of Midway
5. Douglas MacArthur
6. Holocaust
7. genocide
8. D-Day
9. Battle of the Bulge
10. Nuremberg Trials
11. demilitarization

## Main Ideas

Use your notes and the information in the module to answer the following questions.

### Hitler's Lightning War

1. How were Hitler's pact with Stalin and Germany's invasion of Poland direct causes of World War II?
2. How did German blitzkrieg tactics rely on new military technology?
3. Why were the early months of World War II referred to as the "phony war"?
4. Why was capturing Egypt's Suez Canal so important to the Axis powers?
5. What was the Atlantic Charter and what did it state?

### Japan's Pacific Campaign

6. What was Yamamoto's objective at Pearl Harbor?
7. How did Japan try to win support from other Asian countries?
8. In what way was the Battle of the Coral Sea a new kind of naval warfare?
9. What was General Douglas MacArthur's island-hopping strategy?

### The Holocaust

10. What was the new racial order proposed by the Nazis?
11. Name two tactics that Hitler used to rid Germany of Jews before creating his Final Solution.
12. What Nazi action marked the final stage of the Final Solution?
13. How did some non-Jews oppose Hitler's war on the Jews?

### The Allied Victory

14. Why did Stalin want the United States and Britain to launch a second front in the west?
15. Why were consumer goods rationed during the war?
16. What was Operation Overlord?

### Europe and Japan in Ruins

17. Why did so many Europeans take to the roads and wander the countryside after the war?
18. How did the governments of non-Axis nations respond to the issue of genocidal war crimes in Europe?
19. What were two of the most important steps that MacArthur took in Japan following the war?

# Module 14 Assessment, continued

## Critical Thinking

1. **Organize Information** Copy the chart into your notebook and specify for each listed battle or conflict whether the Axis powers or the Allied powers gained an advantage.

Battle/ Conflict	Allied or Axis Powers?
Battle of Britain	
War in the Balkans	
Pearl Harbor	
Battle of the Coral Sea	
Battle of Midway	

2. **Draw Conclusions** Consider the personalities, tactics, and policies of Hitler, Rommel, MacArthur, and Churchill. What qualities make a good war leader?
3. **Compare And Contrast** Compare and contrast Japan's and Germany's goals in World War II. What actions did they take in pursuit of these goals that caused Britain, France, and then the United States to declare war?
4. **Evaluate** Why do you think the governments of the United States and other countries encouraged people on the home front to organize programs for such activities as scrap collection?

## Engage with History

Reread the quotation from Elie Wiesel's *Night* in Lesson 3. Then find other sources of personal reflections on the Holocaust from survivors, as well as from non-Jews living in Germany during World War II. Determine how these writings help contribute to an understanding of the Holocaust. What kind of voice and perspective is apparent? How are events interpreted? Consider how these reflections may help shape your interpretation of the past.

## Focus on Writing

Conduct research on the scientific and technological developments used in the Allied war effort. Use your findings to create several **information cards** for a card series titled "Science and Technology During World War II." Organize the information on your cards in the following categories:

- name of invention or development
- country
- year
- use in the war
- use today

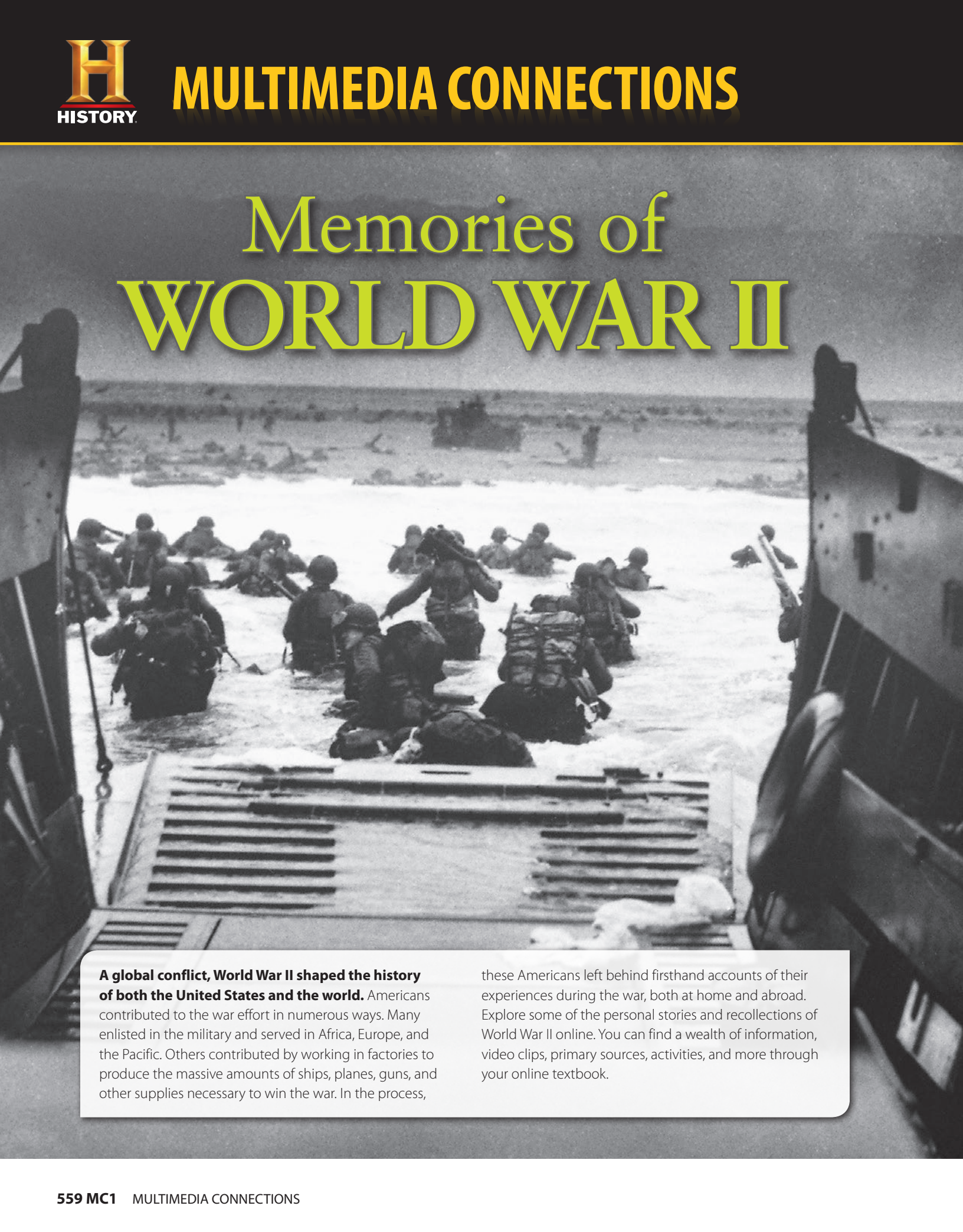
## Multimedia Activity

During World War II, many consumer-goods manufacturers switched to the production of military goods. Many of these companies still exist. Working with a partner, use the Internet to research one such company. Find out what products the company made before and during the war, and how the company's wartime role affected its reputation.

Present the results of your research in a well-organized paper. Be sure to

- apply a search strategy when using directories and search engines to locate Web resources
- judge the usefulness and reliability of each website
- correctly cite your Web sources
- edit for organization and correct use of language

## Memories of WORLD WAR II



**A global conflict, World War II shaped the history of both the United States and the world.** Americans contributed to the war effort in numerous ways. Many enlisted in the military and served in Africa, Europe, and the Pacific. Others contributed by working in factories to produce the massive amounts of ships, planes, guns, and other supplies necessary to win the war. In the process,

these Americans left behind firsthand accounts of their experiences during the war, both at home and abroad. Explore some of the personal stories and recollections of World War II online. You can find a wealth of information, video clips, primary sources, activities, and more through your online textbook.





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