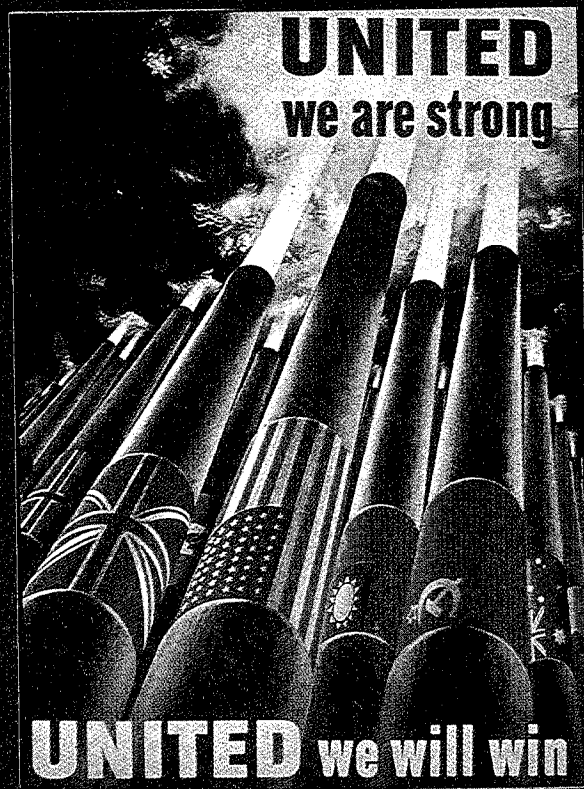
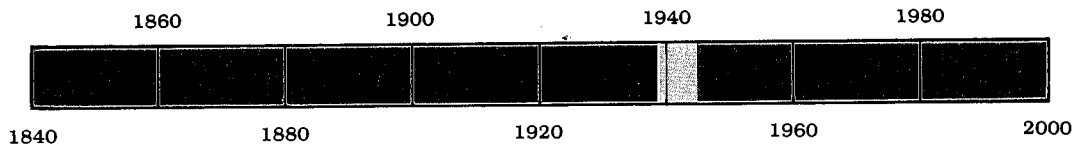


Part **8**

*The U.S. in  
World War II*



# Looking Ahead



Headlights glared against the wet pavement. Cars inched along the busy street. Shouts and laughter rang out in the cool autumn evening. Another workday was ending at a large U.S. factory.

This was no ordinary daytime rush hour. It was midnight in Seattle, Washington, in November 1941. The aircraft factories of the Boeing Corporation were working around the clock. So were plants of other companies in places such as Santa Monica, California, and East Hartford, Connecticut. Workers were making weapons for a war they hoped would never come to the United States.

Far across the Pacific Ocean, a struggle for power was raging in China. Across the Atlantic Ocean in Europe, a similar struggle was under

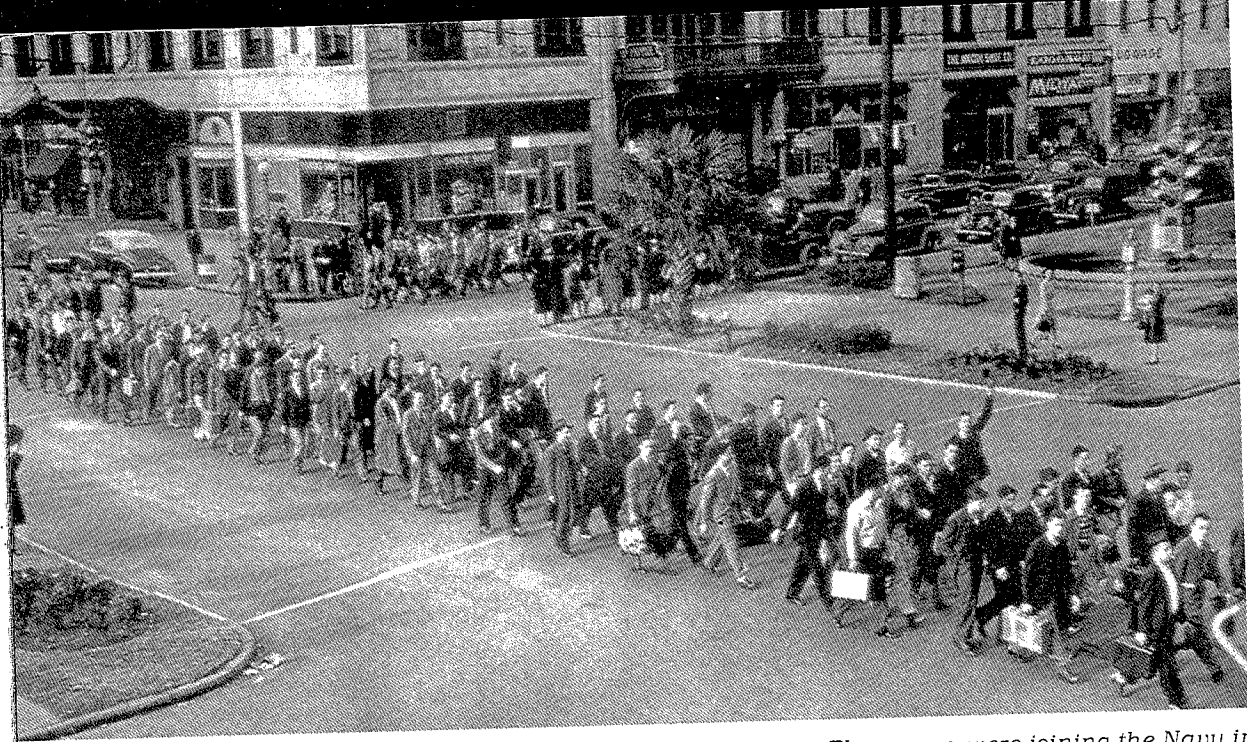
*In 1941, Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union, and the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. In response, the Soviet Union and the United States joined the war against the Axis powers.*

way. In 1941 these wars still seemed distant. Yet they were moving closer to the United States with almost every passing day.

**War menaces.** The trouble in Europe had started back in 1933, when Hitler and his National Socialist (Nazi) party took power in Germany. Hitler was a dictator who believed in using force. Soon the Nazis rebuilt the German army, navy, and air force. Threatening war, they took control of neighboring countries—first Austria, then parts of Czechoslovakia.

Germany was not the only country grabbing land in the 1930's. Italian dictator Benito Mussolini also talked of greatness for his people. He marched armies into Ethiopia in Africa and Albania in Eastern Europe. He promised Italians an empire as great as that of ancient Rome.

In Asia, meanwhile, an old rivalry had long been brewing between China and Japan. Japan had won victories against China in 1895, and against



Americans cheered new recruits marching off to war. These men were joining the Navy in Macon, Georgia.

Russia in 1905. Those victories had given the Japanese a new feeling of confidence. Military leaders had become a powerful force in Japanese life. In 1931, Japanese troops invaded the Chinese province of Manchuria. Fighting between China and Japan continued throughout the 1930's.

**Lightning war.** The shooting war in Europe began on September 1, 1939. On that day, Nazi Germany attacked Poland. Two days later, Britain and France declared war on Germany. In Poland, German dive bombers and tanks smashed all opposition. German armies rolled quickly across the Polish plains. The Nazis surprised the Poles with this new form of warfare. They called it **blitzkrieg** (BLITZ-kreeg)—“lightning war.”

Germany, Italy, and Japan formed a war partnership known as the

**Axis.** In 1940 and 1941, the Axis grew in strength. Germany and Italy took control of much of Europe. They also gained a foothold in North Africa. Japan was on the march in the Pacific.

In June 1941, Hitler attacked the Soviet Union. This later turned out to have been one of his greatest mistakes. The Soviet Union joined Britain, Canada, Australia, and other nations in a fight to the finish against Germany. These nations became known as the *Allies*.

**Sneak attack.** Many Americans believed that the U.S. should also join the Allies. But some said that the U.S. had no business getting into other people's wars. On December 7, 1941, Japan settled the matter. Japanese warplanes attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The next day, the U.S. declared war on Japan. Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S.

**Three battlegrounds.** American forces were soon fighting a war on three continents. At first, the U.S. suffered military setbacks. In the South Pacific, Japan had taken over most of the important islands and coastal regions. But in May 1942, American ships and planes turned the tide. They halted Japan's advance at the Battle of the Coral Sea and then at Midway Island.

American and French forces landed in North Africa in late 1942. They joined the British in defeating Germany's Afrika Korps. Meanwhile, in Eastern Europe, the Soviets suffered huge losses but beat back Hitler's armies.

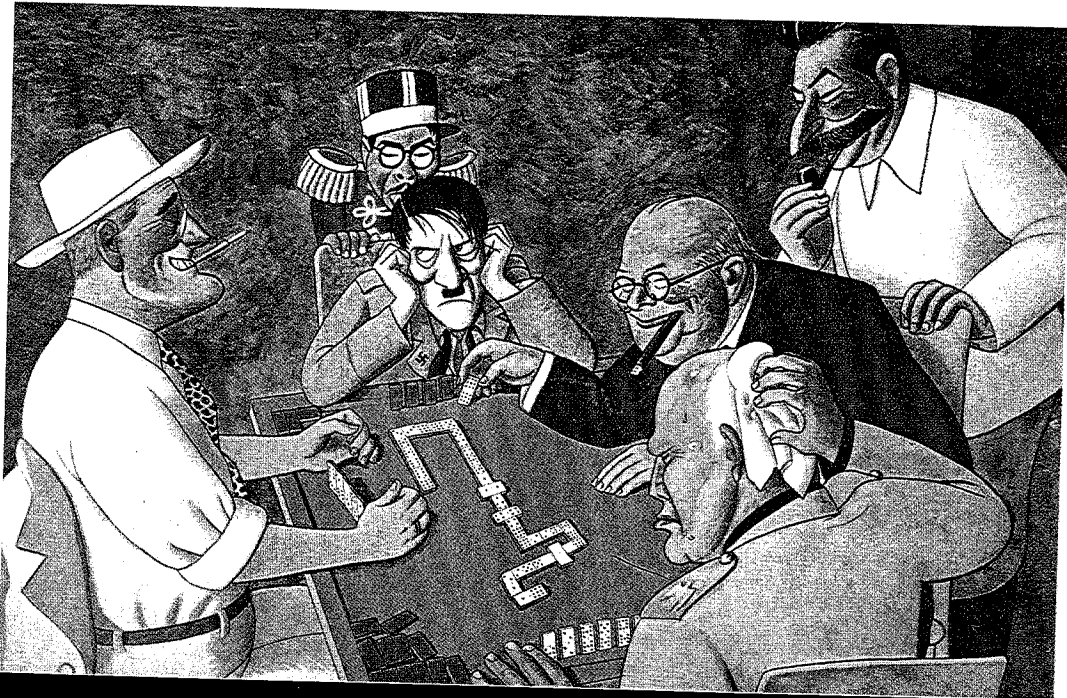
In 1943, Allied troops invaded Italy and forced it to surrender. The next year, other Allied forces crossed the English Channel from Britain. The invasion of Nazi-held France was one

of the greatest military operations in history. It spelled the beginning of the end for the Nazis. In less than a year, Allied armies were in Germany, and Hitler was dead.

Franklin Roosevelt did not live to see the end of the war. He died suddenly in April 1945, a few months after being elected to a fourth Presidential term. Vice-President Harry Truman followed FDR as President. Truman's first major decision was to use the atomic bomb against Japan. The bomb ended the war in the Pacific, but it began a new, and possibly deadly, time in human history. The period became known by a word used to describe atomic energy. It was called the **Nuclear Age**.

At war's end, most of the Allies were exhausted, and the Axis was in ruins. The United States had become the most powerful nation in the world. But the U.S. could no longer think of returning to the ways of its isolated past.

*This cartoon appeared in 1944, when the war was nearly over. The Allied leaders—Roosevelt (left), Churchill (right), and Stalin (behind Churchill)—look very pleased with their game. The Axis chiefs—Hitler (center), Mussolini (wiping his head), and Japanese Emperor Hirohito—aren't exactly smiling.*



## CHAPTER 45

# Blitzkrieg

**T**he Polish farmer bent to grab a handful of soil from his field. As he did, he heard a sound on the road behind him. Motors! And clanking like moving tractor treads. Whose tractor was this? Where was it going? And why?

The farmer turned to get a glimpse of the tractor. He soon saw that it was not a tractor at all but a German tank. Then came another tank, and another. The farmer hurried toward his house. Oddly, the first thought to cross his mind was the date. It was his son's fourth birthday—September 1, 1939.

The tanks were part of a new kind of war. The Germans called it *blitzkrieg*. Blitzkrieg meant speed and surprise—armies that traveled fast, sudden death from the skies. Nazi bomber planes led the way. They smashed Polish cities and towns. *Stuka* "dive bombers" swooped low and gunned soldiers and ordinary people alike.

On the ground, German tanks and motorcycles raced along Polish roads.

Nazi troops, taking orders by radio and telephone, spread fire and death. Polish soldiers fought back bravely, but their guns were old. The Polish army was not prepared for such a war.

Britain and France declared war on Germany on September 3. But they were not much help to Poland. The Germans wrecked the Polish army within a week. Then Soviet armies moved in and grabbed eastern Poland. The Poles gave up on September 27. Germany and the Soviet Union divided Poland between them.

**Military build-up.** To most Americans, the war still seemed a long way off. They weren't in any danger—or so they thought. Still, President Roosevelt was worried. He was sure that Germany, Italy, and Japan planned to take over all of Europe and Asia. He did not want the U.S. to sit back and let this happen. "When you see a rattlesnake getting ready to strike," he said, "you do not wait till he has struck before you crush him."

Slowly, the President persuaded



Congress to help Hitler's enemies. First, Britain and France were allowed to buy U.S. guns. Then the President asked for—and got—money to start building thousands of warplanes.

In June 1940, the Nazis crushed France. Britain stood almost alone. If it were beaten, the U.S. would be without any friendly nations in Western Europe. In September, the President sent Britain 50 old destroyers to help its fleet. In return, Britain gave the U.S. the right to lease naval bases in the Caribbean and part of Canada.

The U.S. also began beefing up the size of its Army and Navy. Under a 1940 law, all men between the ages of 21 and 35 were required to sign up as candidates for military service. Then certain of these men were chosen by lot from the larger group and drafted (called into the armed forces). This was the first peacetime draft in U.S. history. President Roosevelt approved it because he believed the country had to be ready to defend itself.

**Lend-Lease.** In the meantime, Britain was being pounded by German bombers at home. German tanks were overrunning the British in North Africa. Roosevelt knew that Britain had to have more weapons. But he also knew that the British did not have money to pay for them. Roosevelt suggested to Congress that the U.S. lend or lease weapons to Britain. He suggested that Britain could pay for the weapons later. Congress

*The Nazi blitz broke homes and hearts. German bombs forced this Belgian family to flee.*



agreed to this Lend-Lease idea in March 1941. The U.S. was soon speeding weapons to the defense of Britain.

In the fall of 1940, Roosevelt ran for President for the third time. His Republican opponent, Wendell Willkie, was also "for Britain and against Hitler." But some Republicans said that Roosevelt was leading the country into war. Some Democrats said that Republicans wanted to ignore Hitler. Willkie worked hard, but Roosevelt won easily. He was the first President to be elected for a third term. (He is still the only President ever to have served more than two terms.)

By 1941 U.S. factories were busy day and night turning out all kinds of guns and other war materials. Our aim, the President said, was to give Britain all help "short of war." Mil-

lions of Americans agreed, including Kansas editor William Allen White. Americans, said White, must show that we are "not too blind or too timid to help those who are fighting tyranny abroad."

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## Chapter Check

1. What was the blitzkrieg? Why were the Germans able to beat the Poles so quickly and easily?
2. How did the United States help Britain fight Germany? Why did Britain need help from America?
3. What actions did the United States take in 1940 and 1941 to prepare for war?
4. Franklin Roosevelt was the first President to run for re-election for a third term. Why do you think he did this?

*Hitler made a point of following his troops into captured capitals. In October 1939, he reviewed soldiers from a victory stand in Warsaw, Poland. His photographer, Hugo Jaeger, recorded the scene.*



## CHAPTER 46

# “This Is No Drill”

**G**eneral Hideki Tojo (hih-DECK-ee TOE-joe) was carrying out a plan. It was to take over most of Asia. Tojo was one of the proud military men who ran Japan. These men thought Japan had a special right to rule Asia. Besides, Japan needed oil, tin, and rubber for its many factories. There was a large supply of such materials in the lands to the south and west of Japan.

The plan to rule Asia had begun long before Tojo became premier (head of government) in 1941. It had started a full 10 years earlier. In September 1931, Japanese armies had marched into Manchuria. In less than four months, they had taken complete control of it. This attack had set off a long war between Japan and China. By the end of 1940, Japan held sway over much of China. Japanese armies had also marched into the French colony of Indochina and occupied it.

**Embargo on iron.** U.S. leaders had grown more and more concerned. It seemed clear to many of them that

the Japanese had to be prevented from grabbing more land. In 1940 the U.S. had stopped selling scrap iron to Japan. In 1941 it had stopped selling the Japanese oil. Such a ban on commerce and trade is called an embargo. These U.S. embargoes set back Japanese plans.

In November 1941, the U.S. was having peace talks with the Japanese. The talks were going badly. The Japanese wanted a free hand in China. The United States wanted them to get out of China. Neither side would give in.

General Tojo secretly set November 25 as the last day for a peaceful agreement. After that, he planned to bomb Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Pearl Harbor was the chief U.S. Navy base in the Pacific. By smashing the U.S. fleet, Japan could grab what it wanted in Asia before the United States could hit back.

On November 26, a large Japanese fleet sailed secretly toward Pearl Harbor. A few days later, the Japanese admiral got a message. It said,



"Climb Mount Nitaka." This was a code meaning, "Attack Pearl Harbor." In Washington, D.C., the Japanese ambassador and his helpers were still holding "peace" talks.

**"Blips" on a screen.** The date for the Japanese attack was set for Sunday, December 7, 1941. That Sunday morning the weather over Hawaii was clear. Two U.S. Army privates were watching their radar screen. This new equipment was supposed to spot planes from far away.

At 7:02 A.M., the men noticed a "blip" on the screen. This little spot on the screen meant that planes were coming near. The men phoned their command post. The only man on duty there was new at his job. He said, "Don't worry." The blips were probably U.S. planes.

At 7:55 the first Japanese planes attacked. They dropped bundles of bombs. U.S. warships lying at anchor along "Battleship Row" in Pearl Harbor were easy targets. So were the planes neatly lined up on the airfields. Minutes later a Navy loud-speaker blared: "Air raid, Pearl Harbor. *This is no drill.*"

Not everyone could hear the announcement. A few guessed that it was a Japanese attack. But others thought U.S. planes were bombing the place by mistake. Still others thought it was a "practice" raid.

Finally, the men on the ships realized that this really was not a drill. The Japanese were bombing them. Sailors climbed up ladders, trying to reach their battle stations. On some ships, they found the ammunition boxes locked. On shore there was great confusion too. But many men fought bravely against the attackers.

**A base on fire.** By 10 A.M., it was all over. The last of the Japanese planes had left. The great U.S. base at Pearl Harbor was a burning wreck. When the smoke cleared, the Japanese attack had left 2,400 people dead and 1,200 wounded. The Japanese had sunk 18 ships, including six big battleships. The enemy had destroyed 188 U.S. planes.

In just two hours, most of the U.S. Pacific fleet was put out of action. Half the planes in Hawaii had been destroyed. The Japanese had caught the U.S. off guard.

The next day, President Roosevelt called Congress together and reported the great damage done by the Japanese sneak attack. He asked Congress to declare war on Japan. Within 40 minutes the voting was over. The United States was now in World War II until the end.

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## Chapter Check

1. What was General Tojo's secret plan against the United States?
2. Was the attack on Pearl Harbor a success for Japan? Why or why not?
3. In what ways was the attack on Pearl Harbor a disaster for the U.S.? How much damage did the Japanese do?
4. What did Tojo and Hitler have in common? Do you think that Japan and Germany were both threats to world peace? Could the U.S. have fought against one of these nations without fighting against the other? Give reasons for your answers.

## CHAPTER 47

# The Home Front

**I**n the 1940's, most local movie theaters ran newsreels along with their features. Newsreels recorded news events of the recent past. And by 1942 many newsreel scenes from the home front were familiar. There were soldiers and sailors kissing their wives, mothers, and sweethearts good-bye. There were women in Army, Navy, and Air Force uniforms or working in overalls in war factories. There were young people collecting aluminum pots and pans for the war drive.

Most Americans at home did not suffer much. There were air-raid drills and blackouts, but U.S. towns and cities were never bombed. Many goods and foods were hard to get, but few Americans went hungry. Taxes were higher, but people were working hard and earning good pay.

Americans took pride in the way they helped win the war. Millions of people pitched in. Airplane factories were built in cornfields. Soon the U.S. was making 5,000 planes a month. Shipyards sprang up almost

overnight. Some ships were built in just six weeks.

**"Arsenal of democracy."** Factories almost everywhere started to make war goods. Automobile factories turned out tanks—86,000 of them. Typewriter factories made machine guns. Vacuum cleaner factories made shells and bullets. A flood of war goods poured out of these factories. There was enough for our armies and for our allies too. Some people compared the United States to an **arsenal** (a workshop and storehouse for guns and ammunition). It was called the "arsenal of democracy."

Americans paid for these war goods with higher taxes and by buying war bonds. War bonds were certificates issued by the U.S. government to raise money for the war effort. The government promised to repay the buyer, with interest, over a given time. Americans also had to put up with empty store shelves. It was hard to get such things as hairpins, nylon stockings, cigarettes, and alarm clocks. If people complained,

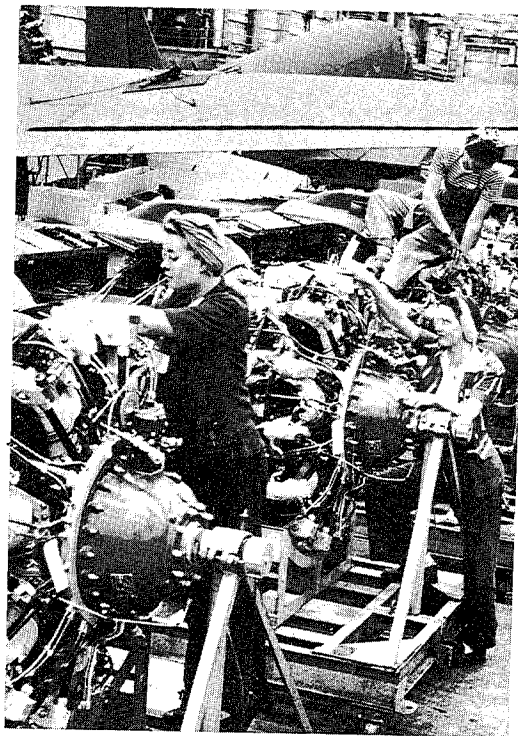
storekeepers had an answer: "Don't you know there's a war on?"

Many foods were **rationed** (strictly limited). Under the rationing program, each U.S. family received a fixed amount of such food. Housewives needed ration stamps to buy meat, butter, sugar, coffee, and canned goods. Many people grew food in "victory gardens." These gardens soon turned out 40 percent of the nation's fresh vegetables. Ration stamps were also needed to buy gasoline and shoes. There were no new cars, tires, or refrigerators.

**"Black markets."** The government "froze" wages and prices—wages and prices could not be raised. Most Americans did all they could to cooperate, but some people cheated. They hoarded (stored up) goods and foods that were hard to get. **Black markets** were places where you could buy rationed or hard-to-get items such as meat, tires, or cigarettes. Black-market buyers paid high prices—prices higher than the stores charged.

More than six million women went to work in offices and factories. They performed such jobs as hammering rivets in planes and ships. About 200,000 women joined the armed forces. Children also did their part. They collected pots, pans, and tin cans for scrap metal.

There was a sadder side to the war on the home front, however. This sad story concerned the treatment of one of the smallest U.S. minority groups. Early in 1942, prejudice against Japanese Americans began to grow. Anti-Asian groups spread fears that Japanese spies would blow up oil refineries or do other damage. Could most people of Japanese descent be



*Most of America's industrial power went into the war effort. These women assembled airplane engines in a factory kept open round-the-clock.*

trusted? Without any solid evidence to support their case, these anti-Asian groups said, "No!"

Such groups called for the imprisonment of everyone of Japanese descent. They urged that such a policy include American-born citizens and foreign-born aliens alike. As pressure grew, some high-ranking military leaders joined in the call. On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt gave in to these pressures. He signed an order permitting the setting up of "military areas" within the U.S. Military leaders could remove people from these areas as they saw fit.

**“Relocation” program.** The military acted quickly. It removed all Japanese Americans who lived in California, Oregon, the western part of Washington, and the southern part of Arizona. More than 110,000 people were rounded up, about 70,000 of them U.S. citizens. They became prisoners in two main stages. First, they were moved to assembly centers—temporary dwellings built mostly at racetracks and fairgrounds. Then they were sent to one of 10 specially built “relocation centers” in wilderness areas of the West.

This program was known as **internment**. The move wrenched fami-

lies from their homes, their friends, even their household pets. It also forced them to sell or store their belongings, often at great cost. Yet, in almost every instance, the Japanese Americans accepted the move peacefully. Some simply said, “It cannot be helped.”

The move was difficult, but camp life was even harder. Each relocation center differed, of course, but most had several things in common. All were lined with tar-paper barracks and encircled by heavy barbed wire and watchtowers. The wire was meant to keep Japanese Americans in and other people out.

*The tags on these Japanese Americans showed that they were bound for internment camps. Few Americans of German or Italian descent were confined by the U.S. government during the war.*



Life in the camps caused many Japanese Americans to ask some searching questions. Why had this happened to *them*? After all, German and Italian Americans had not been victims of mass imprisonment. Were the Japanese more dangerous? If so, why hadn't most Japanese Americans who lived in Hawaii been put into camps?

Many people in the camps decided they must prove their loyalty to the U.S. in whatever way they could. As soon as it became possible, hundreds of men signed up for military service. Many went to Europe to fight in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

**Honored unit.** The famed 442nd was made up entirely of Japanese Americans from Hawaii and the mainland. Battling its way through Italy and eastern France, it saw some of the heaviest fighting of the war. By war's end, it had become one of the most decorated units in U.S. military history. When it came time to honor these soldiers, however, their relatives rarely attended. Most remained confined in relocation camps.

Many people stayed in the centers for more than two years. When the war ended in 1945, a few Japanese Americans asked to be sent to Japan. But most returned to the West Coast—to towns and villages that had been home, to neighbors who had once been friends. These people were betting on the future, and the odds were about to turn in their favor.

Over the next few years, prejudice against them would begin to fade. As the fame of the 442nd spread, many Americans would realize that loyalty

could not be measured by the color of one's skin. The U.S. government would also make up for some of the damage done by internment. It would repay Japanese Americans for some of their property losses.

The internment program had cost U.S. taxpayers more than one quarter of a *billion* dollars. It had cost Japanese Americans millions more in losses never recovered. Much more painful was the human cost—the two-and-a-half years of hardship borne by Japanese Americans themselves. Historians now agree that little or nothing would have been lost by leaving these people at liberty throughout the war.

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## Chapter Check

1. During World War II, the United States was called the "arsenal of democracy." Why was this a fitting nickname?
2. How did Americans on the home front help in the war effort? List as many ways as you can.
3. What changes did the war make in the lives of women? Do you think these changes have affected the way women live today? Explain your answer.
4. How was prejudice toward Japanese Americans shown during the war? What reasons were given for the government's policy? Do you think this policy was a good idea? Explain your reasons.
5. During World War II, some people hoarded goods and foods that were hard to get. Why do you suppose such hoarding was considered cheating in wartime?



## CHAPTER 48

# Fighting on Three Continents

**M**acArthur stood on the deck of the Navy patrol boat. He was pale and thin from months of near-starvation. He saluted the Filipino and American troops massed on the shore. Then, the boat carried him off into the darkness.

General Douglas MacArthur had fought hard to save the Philippines. But by March of 1942, the situation looked hopeless. His forces were trapped by the Japanese on the Bataan peninsula. They could not last much longer. And now MacArthur was leaving. He had been ordered to escape to Australia to direct Allied war efforts in the South Pacific. When he reached Australia, MacArthur remarked to some reporters: "I have come through and I shall return." His words were to take on the force of a promise. "I shall return" became the battle cry of those who remained in the Philippines to fight the Japanese.

A month later, the American and Filipino troops on Bataan surrendered. Their resistance had slowed

down the Japanese a little. But by May 1942, the Japanese had seized every important island and coastal region between Australia and India. The long list of places they had conquered included Guam, Wake Island, the Philippines, Malaya, Hong Kong, Singapore, Burma, Thailand, and the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia). The Japanese pressed on in their drive to take over the Pacific.

**"Get Hitler first."** After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, many Americans just wanted revenge. But the nation was not ready for war. It took five months to build the armed forces up to fighting strength. It also took time for American factories to switch over to the production of guns and planes.

Besides, the government had decided that Europe came first. Back in 1940, it had drawn up a plan of action for American participation in the war. The strategy would be to "get Hitler first"—before Hitler gobbled up all of Europe. Otherwise, America might have to fight alone



*British and American troops began their campaign against the Axis in North Africa. This photo was taken during the fighting in Tunisia in 1943.*

without its European Allies. The Allies chose North Africa as the place to begin their campaign against Hitler.

**El Alamein.** In early 1942, Germany and Italy controlled all of North Africa. The Germans were threatening to seize the Suez Canal, a vital supply line for the Allies. In November, British forces defeated the German army at El Alamein (ehl al-uh-MAYN) in Egypt. It was a major breakthrough for the Allies. A few days later, the first of 400,000 Allied troops landed along the coasts of Morocco and Algeria. They were led by

General Dwight D. Eisenhower. In January 1943, the British took Tripoli. Then, the Allied troops cornered the Axis forces in Tunisia. About 250,000 German and Italian troops surrendered in May 1943. North Africa had been won. The Mediterranean Sea could be opened again to Allied ships. And the way was cleared for an invasion of Italy.

**The Russian front.** During 1942, the Germans drove deep into the Soviet Union. They came within 15 miles (24 kilometers) of Moscow, the Soviet capital. Millions of Russian people died. In August, the Germans

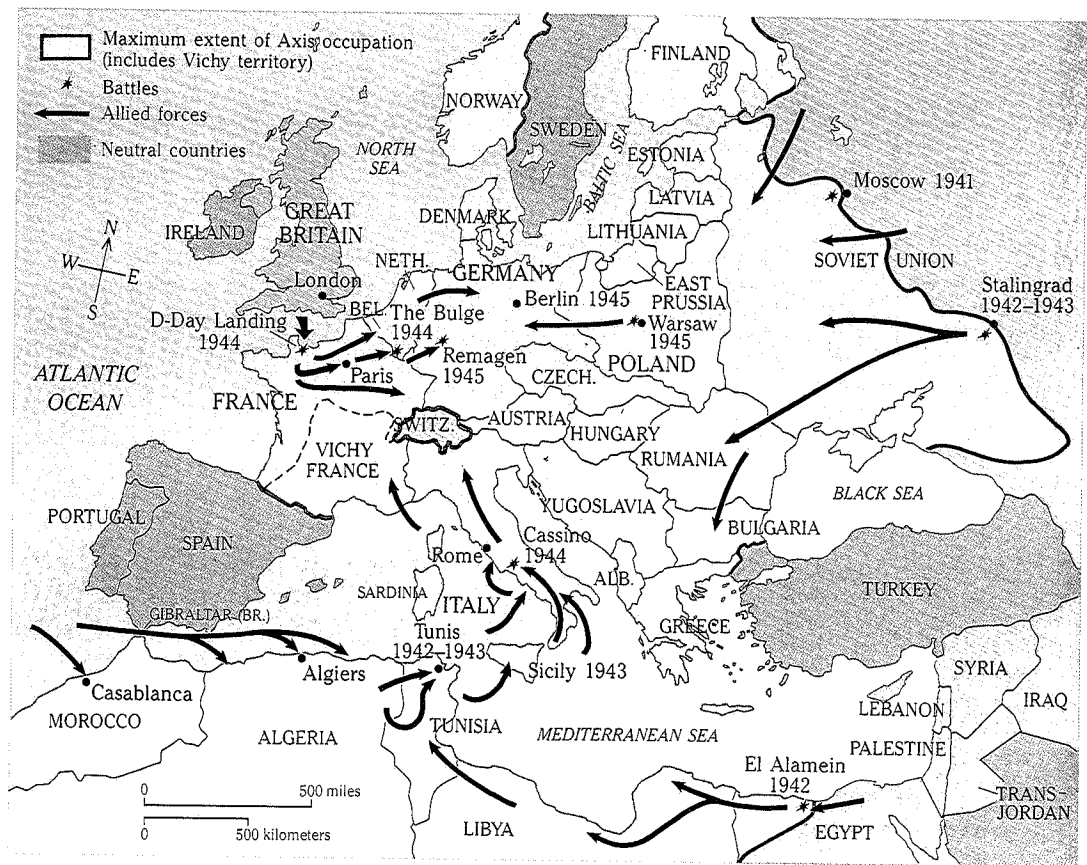
attacked the city of Stalingrad. The Russians held fast, fighting over every bombed-out street. In the end, it was the Germans who gave up. The Battle of Stalingrad was the turning point for the Russians. In the next few months, they began to recover ground from the Germans. Then, the Soviet army went on the offensive, starting the push toward Berlin. While they battled the Germans, the Russians kept pressing Britain and the U.S. to open a second front in Western Europe. A second front would draw some German divisions away from Russia.

**Invasion of Italy.** The Western Allies responded with the invasion of Italy. In July of 1943, U.S. and British armies landed on the Italian island of Sicily. The island was conquered in 38 days. The invasion led to the overthrow of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini.

With Italy out of the war, the Allies planned to move up through Italy and then close in on Germany. But the Germans had fortified the Italian hills, and the fighting continued for months. U.S. and British troops worked their way up the Italian peninsula slowly and painfully. In

*The battle for the Soviet city of Stalingrad began in the fall of 1942. The Soviets suffered tremendous losses, but they kept moving replacements in to fight the Nazis. Nazi troops were forced to surrender in February 1943.*





## Europe in World War II

January 1944, the Allies landed on the beach at Anzio, 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Rome. Then, they pressed on toward Rome. They captured it four months later, on June 4. It had been a hard-won victory. Two days later, the Allies invaded France.

**War in the Pacific.** Allied operations in the Pacific finally met with some success in May of 1942. The Allies stopped the Japanese in the Battle of the Coral Sea. This battle introduced a new kind of warfare conducted entirely from aircraft carriers. During the action, the ships were far apart.

Planes from the carrier ships did all the fighting. The Battle of the Coral Sea saved Port Moresby from Japanese invasion. This important Allied base in southern New Guinea was all that stood between the Japanese and Australia.

A month later, the Japanese attacked the U.S. base on tiny Midway Island in the central Pacific. But the Allies were ready. They had intercepted a Japanese secret message. American ships sped to Midway's defense and sank four Japanese carriers. The Battle of Midway, Japan's first naval defeat of the war, halted



*In 1944, General Douglas MacArthur (left) kept his promise and returned to the Philippines. American forces were right behind him, ready to free the Philippines.*

the Japanese advance. It was the turning point in the Pacific war.

It took the U.S. Navy, Army, and Marines months to defeat the Japanese at Guadalcanal (gwahd-ul-kuh-NAL) in the Solomon Islands. But they managed to do a lot of damage to the Japanese navy. That was in February 1943. After Guadalcanal, the U.S. strategy was to move toward Japan by "island hopping." The Americans did not try to capture all of Japan's important outposts. Instead, they attacked certain islands, leaving other Japanese forces surrounded and cut off from Japan.

The strategy worked. By the end of 1944, American forces were beginning to close in on Japan itself. And when the situation was well in hand, General MacArthur kept his promise.

In October 1944, he returned to the Philippines, leading American forces.

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## Chapter Check

1. What was the situation in the Philippines when MacArthur promised, "I shall return"? Why was his statement important?
2. Why was the American war plan to "get Hitler first"?
3. What was the Russian front? Why was the Russian front important to the Allies? How did the Western Allies start a second front? How did this help the Allied war effort?
4. How was the fighting in the Pacific different from the fighting in Europe and in Africa?



## CHAPTER 49

# End of the Nazis

**I**n the spring of 1944, England was an armed fort. Airfields were packed with fighter planes and bombers. Harbors were filled with warships and freighters to carry supplies. Nearly three million Allied soldiers were waiting to climb onto ships and planes. The ships and planes would take the soldiers to France. Their invasion of France would be called **D-Day** (Debarcation Day). *Debarcation* means "to put ashore."

The Nazis knew an invasion was coming. Their best general, Marshal Erwin Rommel, had been chosen to throw it back. He had turned the beaches of France into death traps. The waters along the shore were filled with mines and iron fences. Barbed wire was strung along the beaches. Machine-gun nests were built on the cliffs above. Hitler boasted that "no power in the world can drive us out."

It was up to General Dwight D. ("Ike") Eisenhower, the Allied Commander, to name the invasion day.

Ike decided that the best days would be June 5, 6, or 7, when the tides would be favorable. For a week before the invasion, Allied planes bombed roads, bridges, and airfields in France. They also smashed at German guns on the coast.

On the night of June 5, 1944, the Allied invasion fleet sailed for Normandy, France. In it were 4,000 ships of all sizes. They carried 175,000 men and thousands of tanks, trucks, and jeeps. Overhead, thousands of Allied planes covered them.

**Normandy landing.** On the morning of June 6, the invasion fleet reached the beaches of Normandy. The Germans had expected the Allies to land somewhere else. Allied planes bombed and machine-gunned the German defenders. Six big battleships fired on the German forts. Guns from dozens of destroyers smashed at German defenses. Then the landing boats went in.

Many German cannons and machine guns had not been knocked



*Allied troops poured onto the beaches of northern France during the D-Day invasion. Meanwhile, German guns blasted the beaches from nearby cliffs. The invasion was the beginning of the end of the war.*

out. They opened fire with a roar. Many landing boats were hit. Some still kept coming on. Sometimes the Allied soldiers jumped into the water too soon and drowned. But thousands of soldiers made it to the beaches.

On the beaches, Allied soldiers were hit by a storm of fire. At one beach, called Omaha, U.S. soldiers ran into a top German outfit. The Americans were machine-gunned as they jumped into the water. Many were killed. Others were wounded and drowned. Some were hit along the water's edge.

Yet the Allies finally took Omaha Beach and other beaches. By the night of June 6, they occupied about 80 miles (130 kilometers) of the

French coast. Nearly 155,000 Allied soldiers were in France. Slowly they began to move inland. The final push toward Germany was getting underway.

**Rhine crossing.** The Germans did not give ground easily. Every mile inland from the beaches was bought with Allied blood. But by July, Allied tanks had broken through German lines. In August, Paris was freed after four years of Nazi rule. In October, Allied forces crossed the Rhine River into Germany itself.

Germany had been at war on two fronts, east and west, since 1941. In that year, Germany had attacked the Soviet Union by surprise. At first, German armies had driven deep into Soviet territory. Then the Soviets had

begun a counterattack. By the end of 1944, Soviet armies were rolling steadily westward.

The Nazis were being pounded on two sides at once. By February 1945, both the Allies and the Soviets were fighting inside Germany. German armies were on the edge of complete collapse. The Allies were headed toward the German capital, Berlin.

Along the way, soldiers came upon sights too terrible to believe. These were the Nazi death camps. Here millions of people had been tortured and killed by the Nazis. Some had been starved to death. Some had been beaten to death. Many had been killed with poison gas. Who were these people? Some were lame, feeble, or retarded. They were outcasts among Nazis who thought of Germans as being a "master race." Other victims were prisoners of war. Still others were Hitler's political opponents. But nearly half—several million men, women, and children—were Jews.

The Nazis usually burned the bod-

ies of their victims in ovens. But in some camps they did not have time to destroy the "evidence." Allied soldiers found bodies piled up like logs of wood. In other camps, the bodies were buried in giant graves. Some of the prisoners were still alive when Allied soldiers arrived. Many cried when they were finally saved from the Nazis.

**Fall of Berlin.** On April 25, 1945, Soviet armies cut off Berlin from the rest of Germany. Hitler himself took charge of German soldiers in the city. Some were 12 and 13 years old, but Hitler ordered them to fight to the end. There was bitter fighting from street to street and house to house. But by May 2 the Soviets had taken the city.

As the Allies drew closer, Hitler moved to an underground fort. By April 30, he knew Germany was beaten. He did not want to be captured, so he put a pistol to his head and shot himself to death.

One week later, on May 7, 1945, Germany gave up. The next day, May

*Allied bombers leveled many German cities in the final days of the war. This is Munich in 1944.*





*As Allied armies drove deeper into German-held territory, they found death camps such as this one in Evensee, Austria. In these camps, Nazis killed people thought to be of "inferior races"—mainly Jews.*

8, was celebrated as **V-E Day**—for Victory in Europe. All over the free world, people cheered until they lost their voices. Many cried with joy.

What happened to the top Nazi leaders? Some followed Hitler's example and killed themselves. The Allies rounded up others and put them on trial as war criminals. The trials began in November 1945 in Nuremberg, Germany, before a watchful world. The Nazi defendants claimed they were guilty of no crimes. They had merely "followed orders."

But the French, British, Soviet, and U.S. judges did not think this was a good excuse. They found many Nazis guilty of "crimes against humanity." Murder could not be justified by "following orders," the Allies said. Every person was responsible for his or her own actions.

Eleven top Nazis were sentenced to

death. Seven were sent to prison. Three were freed. Later, more than 70,000 Germans were found guilty of war crimes. Very few served long sentences—not even those convicted of murdering many people.

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## Chapter Check

1. What was D-Day? When and where did it take place?
2. What were the Nazi death camps? How were they related to Hitler's plans for Germany?
3. The Nazis who went on trial for "crimes against humanity" claimed they were "not guilty." They said they were just "following orders." Is a person who does something wrong while following orders less wrong than someone who does the same thing on his or her own? Explain.

## CHAPTER 50

# FDR's Last Days

**P**resident Franklin Roosevelt was tired, very tired. He had been President of the United States for 12 years. Now he was beginning his fourth term in office. No other President had ever served that long. Since the U.S. entry into World War II, Roosevelt had managed to rest very little. His doctors had warned him to take it easy. But the President had found this impossible to do.

In January 1945, Roosevelt had traveled half way around the world to Yalta in the Soviet Union. There he had met with Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet dictator Josef Stalin. The three leaders had planned the final victory over Germany and Japan. They had also planned a meeting in San Francisco to set up the United Nations.

The 14,000-mile (22,500-kilometer) trip was hard on FDR. When he got back to the U.S., people were shocked by his appearance. He looked pale and thin. He seemed older than his 63 years. When he spoke to Congress about his trip, he

sat in a chair. It was easier, he said, than standing with a 10-pound (4½-kilogram) brace around his legs. (Roosevelt's legs had been paralyzed by polio when he was a young man.)

The President's doctor ordered him to take a rest. He agreed to go to Warm Springs, Georgia, for a month of spring vacation. Warm Springs was a treatment center for polio. The President had often gone there in the past to relax and exercise his body.

The vacation at Warm Springs seemed to have a good effect. After a few days, a rosy color came back to FDR's cheeks. On Thursday, April 12, the President planned to spend an easy day. He would read some official papers and pose for a painting. Roosevelt felt happy. The war news that day was good. One U.S. Army unit was only 57 miles (92 kilometers) from Berlin.

**Sudden headache.** Near one o'clock, Roosevelt was finishing his work in his cottage. Lunch was set on a tray before him. The artist was busy painting. Suddenly FDR put his



hand to his head. He was in pain. "I have a terrific headache," he said. Then he fainted. He never spoke again.

Doctors rushed to the President's side. But there was nothing they could do. At 3:35 in the afternoon, FDR was dead. The cause of his death was a stroke, or cerebral hemorrhage (bleeding in the brain).

At about 4:50 that afternoon, the news of FDR's death was flashed to the world. At first, people couldn't believe it. "No, it can't be," they said. Then, as the truth sank in, millions of men and women cried. Aboard a ship, a sailor said, "It's like someone dying in your own family."

**Sad telegram.** Mrs. Roosevelt sent a telegram to her four sons in the

*In January 1945, President Franklin Roosevelt (center, front row) met with Winston Churchill (left) and Josef Stalin (right) at Yalta.*



armed forces. It said: "Pa slept away this afternoon. He did his job to the end as he would want you to do."

Then she broke the news to Vice-President Harry Truman. At first he was too overcome to speak. Finally, he turned to Mrs. Roosevelt and asked, "Is there anything I can do for you?"

"Is there anything *we* can do for *you*?" she replied. "For *you* are the one in trouble now."

Within two hours, Truman had been sworn in as the nation's 33rd President.

Republican Senator Robert Taft spoke for millions when he said, "Franklin Delano Roosevelt died a hero of the war, for he worked himself to death in the service of the American people."

A younger member of Congress, Democrat Lyndon B. Johnson, mopped his eyes. FDR, he said, "was the one person I ever knew, anywhere, who was never afraid."

But perhaps the American people said it best. As their President's body was carried by train from Warm Springs to Washington, D.C., thousands of them stood by the railroad tracks and wept.

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## Chapter Check

1. Who took over the Presidency after FDR? What problems did the new President have to face?
2. Some people say, "The times make the man." They mean that events sometimes bring out the best in a person. What events in Roosevelt's time brought out the best in him?

## CHAPTER 51

# A-Bomb

**A**t seven o'clock on the morning of August 6, 1945, the people of Hiroshima (hear-uh-SHE-muh), Japan, were getting up for a new day. Some of them were eating breakfast. Others were on their way to work. Japan was still at war with the United States and its allies. But people were doing the same things they did on any day.

Just then air-raid sirens sounded. The people of Hiroshima were not surprised. The warning sounded every morning when a U.S. weather plane flew over. So far, Hiroshima had been lucky. Almost every other large Japanese city had been hit hard by air raids. Hiroshima, with 245,000 people, had not been bombed at all. The people were beginning to wonder how long their luck would last.

At eight o'clock, the air-clear signal sounded. Japanese radar men had spotted three U.S. planes flying toward Hiroshima. But they did not believe it was a bombing raid. Raids were usually carried out by a large

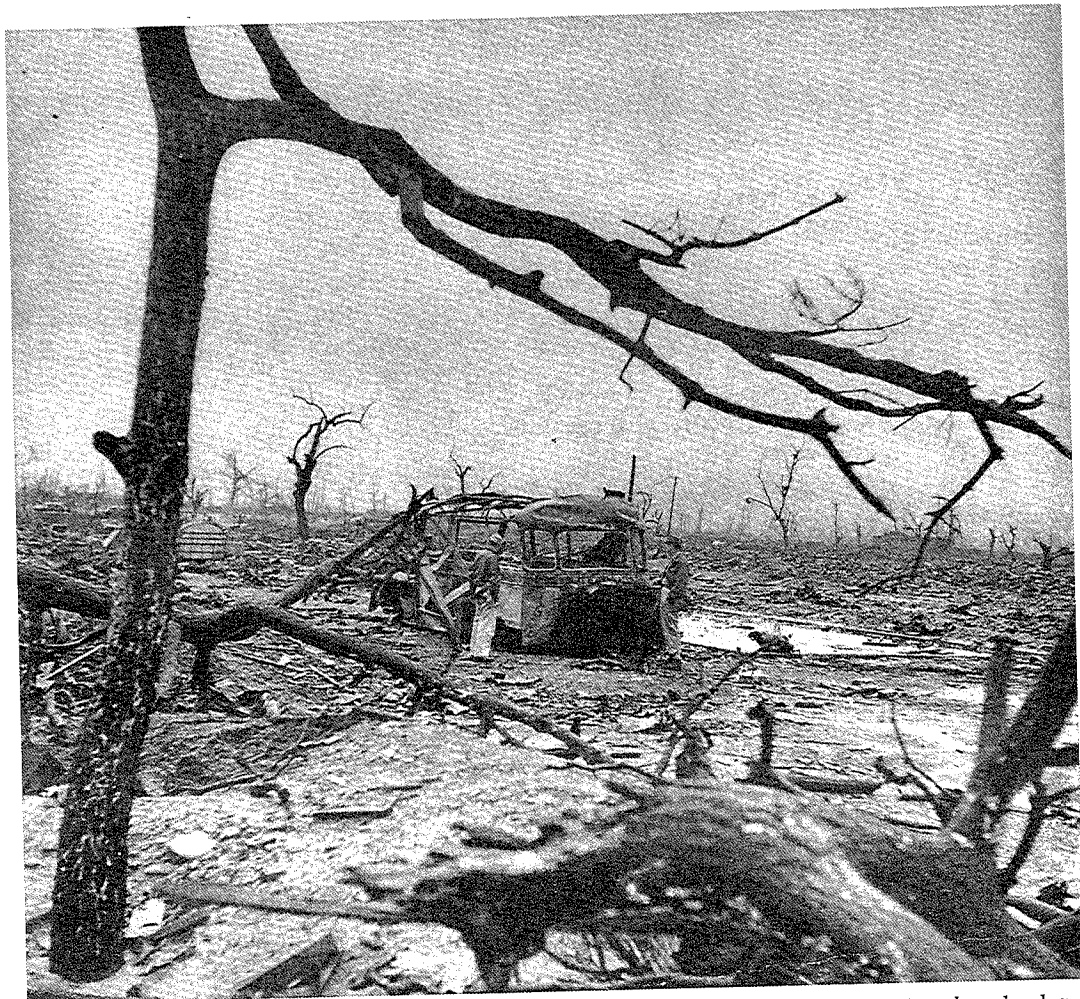
group of planes.

**Darkness after dawn.** Suddenly, at 8:15, a blinding flash of light cut across the sky. It was much brighter than sunlight. The center of this great ball of light was hotter than the surface of the sun. A great column of heat and dust began to climb miles into the sky. Clouds of smoke and dust turned the day into darkness.

What had happened? A U.S. plane, the *Enola Gay*, had dropped an atomic bomb on the city.

Such a bomb had been in the planning stage in the U.S. for four years. Scientists had begun developing it in 1941. From the beginning, their work had been top secret. After 1943 it had been carried out in a unit known by its code name, the *Manhattan Project*.

Harry Truman knew nothing of the Manhattan Project when he became President in April 1945. When he first learned of it, he just sat and stared into space. The bomb would have more power than 20,000 tons (18,000 metric tons) of TNT. It would

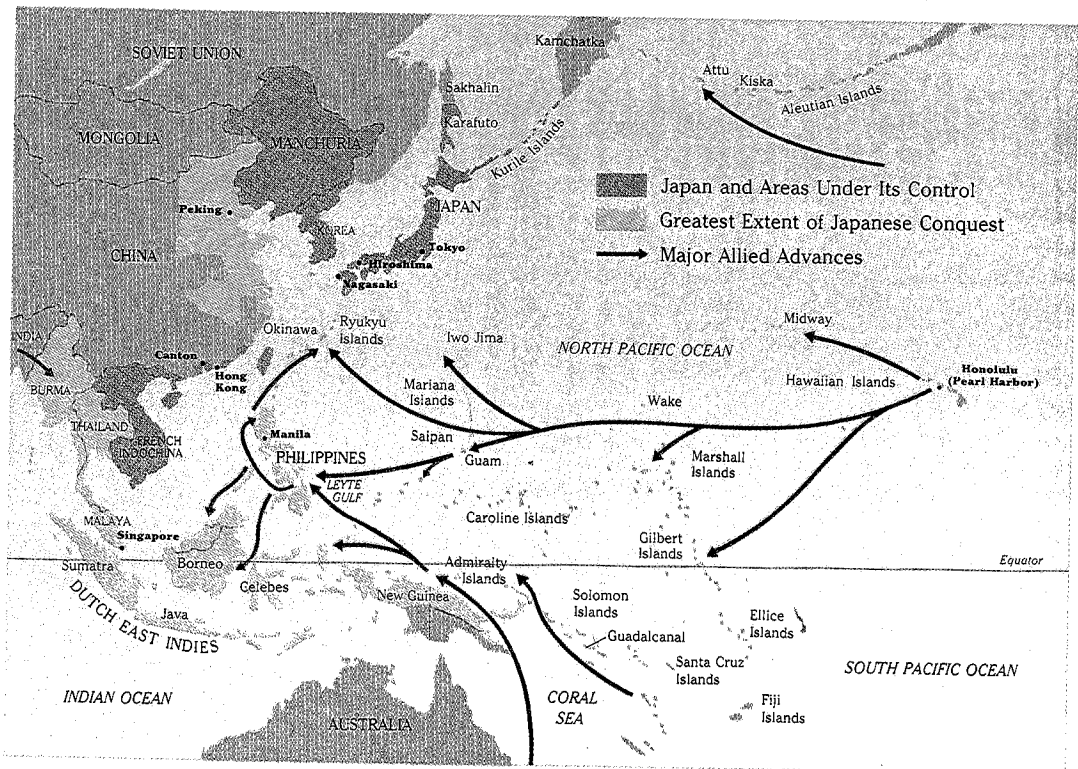


*When the United States dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, it unleashed a power that destroyed most of that city within seconds. It changed the nature of war forever.*

have more than 2,000 times the power of the biggest dynamite bomb used so far in World War II. Yet, like it or not, Truman did not interfere with the project. He and his top advisers hoped that the use of the bomb might shorten the war.

**Split in the skies.** In mid-July, the

bomb was tested in the desert near Alamogordo, New Mexico. One observer described the test. "It was as though the earth had opened and the skies had split," he wrote. The test was a success. A few days later, Truman gave a temporary go-ahead to plans for using the bomb on Japan.



## War in the Pacific, 1941–1945

But before the bombing actually took place, the Allies made one last try to end the war.

Late in July, the U.S., Britain, and China offered Japan new peace terms. Under these terms, Allied troops would occupy Japan. War criminals would be punished. But Japan would not be enslaved or destroyed. Japan was told that its only other choice was “prompt and utter destruction.” Even so, Japan would not surrender.

Japan’s refusal sealed its fate. To top-level U.S. officials, the use of the bomb seemed less costly than trying to invade Japan’s home islands. A

month earlier, the U.S. had driven the Japanese from the island of Okinawa (oh-kee-NAH-wah). In the fighting, 11,260 U.S. soldiers and sailors had lost their lives. The Japanese had lost a staggering 100,000 men. Now fighting in Japan’s home islands promised to be even bloodier. No one could predict how long it would take to win a victory.

And so the U.S. used the bomb on Hiroshima. In the center of the city, almost every building was knocked down. The temperature was so hot that steel bubbled away as if it were boiling water. Farther out, trees were burned black. Burned-out streetcars

and autos filled the streets. Even houses on the far edge of the city were badly damaged.

**Burials from the blast.** Thousands of people were buried alive in the ruins. Some lucky ones were able to dig themselves out. Fire broke out all over. The people who had lived through the blast began to run away from the blazing city. They were shocked and dazed. Many of them bled from their heads, chests, and backs. Some sat or lay down in the streets, vomited, and waited to die.

Soon the wounded began to crowd into hospitals. For many there was no hope. Many doctors had been killed, the hospitals wrecked. In one hospital, patients died by the hundreds.

About two weeks after the blast, thousands of people suddenly became sick. Their hair began to fall out. They became weak with fever. Soon their gums bled, and red spots appeared on their skin. Old wounds opened up or did not heal. These people were suffering from a new disease—radiation sickness. Many died. In all, between 70,000 and 80,000 people died from the blast or its effects. About the same number were wounded.

The Japanese kept on fighting after August 6. But U.S. leaders were more determined than ever to bring the war to an end. On August 9, another atomic bomb was dropped by the U.S. on the city of Nagasaki (nah-guh-SAH-kee). This city was also largely destroyed. On August 10, President Truman warned that more A-bombs would be dropped unless the Japanese surrendered.

On August 14, the Emperor of Ja-

pan said his country would give up. After six years of fighting, World War II was over at last.

Some people said it was wrong to drop atomic bombs on cities where many civilians lived. The U.S. should have found another way of ending the war, these people believed. Others said that it was necessary to drop the bombs. If they had not been used, the war might have lasted at least another year.

Today people in the U.S. and other countries still argue over whether the U.S. should have used the bomb on Japan. And all the world's people hope that the two bombs dropped on Japan are the last ever to be used.

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## Chapter Check

1. What was President Truman's reaction when he learned of the Manhattan Project? Why did he give the go-ahead signal to plans for using the bomb on Japan?
2. What effects did the atomic bombing have on Hiroshima? What effect did the two bombings have on World War II?
3. The debate on the use of atomic bombs on Japan continues. Some people even claim that it was a "war crime" to have dropped the bombs. Others point to the thousands of lives that would have been lost in an invasion of Japan. What do you think? What other choices did the U.S. have? Would any of these choices have been as effective as the bombings in ending the war? Why or why not?



# Looking Back: The U.S. in World War II

## MAIN EVENTS

1. Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. Britain and France declared war on Germany. President Roosevelt persuaded Congress to help the Allied nations.
2. Germany, Italy, and Japan formed a war partnership called the Axis.
3. Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The U.S. declared war on Japan the next day. Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S.
4. The American people helped the war effort by buying war bonds, planting "victory gardens," and working in factories that produced war goods.
5. Japanese Americans were not well treated in the U.S. More than 100,000 were sent to "relocation centers."
6. In the Pacific, the Battle of Midway in June of 1942 was an important victory for the U.S. It stopped the Japanese advance in the region.
7. The Germans had invaded the Soviet Union in 1941. They drove deep into the country before the Russians managed to turn them back at Stalingrad. Then, the Soviet army began its drive to Berlin.
8. In 1943, the Allies defeated the Germans in North Africa, then invaded Italy. Mussolini was overthrown, and the Italians surrendered.
9. On June 6, 1944, the Allies landed on the beaches of Normandy in France. Two months later, they freed Paris from Nazi rule.
10. Early in 1945, the Allies invaded Germany from both east and west. Hitler killed himself. The Soviets took Berlin, and Germany surrendered on May 7.
11. President Roosevelt died a few weeks before Germany's surrender.
12. On August 6, 1945, the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. On August 14, Japan surrendered.

## WORDS TO KNOW

Match the vocabulary terms listed below with the definitions that follow. Number your paper from 1 to 9, and write the correct term beside each number.

blitzkrieg

arsenal

black market

D-Day

Axis

ration

internment

V-E Day

Nuclear Age

1. to limit each person's share of a hard-to-get item
2. illegal trade in goods, usually at very high prices
3. June 6, 1944, the day the Allied forces invaded France
4. warfare using speed and surprise
5. May 7, 1945, the day Germany surrendered
6. the act of confining a person or group, especially during wartime
7. a workshop and storehouse for guns and ammunition
8. the period in human history that began with the first atomic bomb
9. the World War II partnership that included Germany, Italy, and Japan

## THINKING AND WRITING

### A. A Letter to a Soldier

Imagine that you are living in the United States during World War II. Your cousin is fighting in the war in Europe. Write a letter to your cousin about the things that Americans at home are doing to help the war effort. Write about your victory garden, air-raid drills, shopping with ration stamps, and saving for war bonds. Write about the things that have become part of daily life since your cousin left for Europe.

### B. A Letter from a Soldier

Imagine that you took part in the D-Day invasion. Six weeks later, you finally have a chance to write home. You want to tell your family about your part in the invasion and about how you felt at the time. Help your family understand the importance of this invasion in the overall plan to win the war.

### C. Comparing Presidents

President Wilson and President Roosevelt both tried to keep the U.S. out of war. Review Chapter 21, "The U.S. Declares War," in Part 4, on Wilson's policy between 1914 and 1917. Then, reread Chapter 45, "Blitzkrieg," in this Part.

Write down the ways in which the two Presidents were similar in their pre-war policies. Write down the ways in which they were different. Which President do you think had the stronger policy? Give reasons for your answer.

### D. Expressing Your Opinion

Today, people around the world still argue over whether the U.S. should have used the atomic bomb on Japan. What is your opinion? Write a short essay explaining your opinion. Support your opinion with facts from the text.

## SHARPENING YOUR SKILLS

After D-Day, the Allies freed France and Belgium from German control within seven months. The map below shows the routes taken by different Allied armies in their drive toward Germany. Study the map carefully. Then answer the questions below.

1. On what day in 1944 was St. Malo freed? Which forces freed it?
2. On what day was Paris retaken?

About how many weeks went by between the taking of St. Malo and the taking of Paris?

3. Name three rivers crossed by U.S. forces.
4. True or false? The port of Calais was in the area of the D-Day landing.
5. True or false? The French army had a big role in freeing Paris.

## War in Western Europe, 1944

