

## Unit #7 – “Hot & Cold: World War II & Its Aftermath”

### Fifth Grade Social Studies

#### MERIT

The focus of this unit is to use the theme of conflict and change to show how the United States moved from a policy of isolationism to becoming a dominant economic, military, and diplomatic world power. The students will use the theme of **beliefs and ideals** to understand how the aftermath of the second World War resulted in America maintaining a permanent presence in Europe, closer economic and political ties to Europe, and the beginning of social changes in American society. By understanding the theme of **individuals, groups, and institutions**, students will understand the impact a person has on society and the consequences of that person’s actions. Finally, students will understand how **location** and **production, distribution, and consumption** supports businesses and American interests during war time efforts.

#### **SS5H6 The student will explain the reasons for America’s involvement in World War II.**

- a. Describe Germany’s aggression in Europe and Japanese aggression in Asia.
- b. Describe major events in the war in both Europe and the Pacific; include Pearl Harbor, Iwo Jima, D-Day, VE and VJ Days, and the Holocaust.
- c. Discuss President Truman’s decision to drop the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- d. Identify Roosevelt, Stalin, Churchill, Hirohito, Truman, Mussolini, and Hitler.
- e. Describe the effects of rationing and the changing role of women and African-Americans; include “Rosie the Riveter” and the Tuskegee Airmen.
- f. Explain the U.S. role in the formation of the United Nations.

#### **SS5H7 The student will discuss the origins and consequences of the Cold War.**

- a. Explain the origin and meaning of the term “Iron Curtain.”
- b. Explain how the United States sought to stop the spread of communism through the Berlin airlift, the Korean War, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
- c. Identify Joseph McCarthy and Nikita Khrushchev.

#### **Vocabulary**

<b>dictator</b>	<b>Treaty of Versailles</b>	<b>Nazi Party</b>	<b>Fascism</b>
<b>Axis Powers</b>	<b>isolationism</b>	<b>embargo</b>	<b>Pearl Harbor</b>
<b>D-Day</b>	<b>concentration camps</b>	<b>Island hopping</b>	<b>communism</b>
<b>Iwo Jima</b>	<b>VE Day</b>	<b>VJ Day</b>	<b>Holocaust</b>
<b>Franklin Roosevelt</b>	<b>Joseph Stalin</b>	<b>Winston Churchill</b>	<b>Adolph Hitler</b>
<b>Harry S. Truman</b>	<b>Benito Mussolini</b>	<b>Rosie the Riveter</b>	<b>Hirohito</b>
<b>United Nations</b>	<b>Iron Curtain</b>	<b>Berlin Airlift</b>	<b>Tuskegee Airmen</b>
<b>NATO</b>	<b>Joseph McCarthy</b>	<b>Nikita Khrushchev</b>	<b>Korean War</b>

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Essential Question \_\_\_\_\_  
Standards \_\_\_\_\_

## VIEWING GUIDE: World War II

### Summary:

The legacies of World War I and the Great Depression were instability and insecurity around the world, creating the environment for the rise of antidemocratic totalitarian regimes in Europe. Dictators such as Adolf Hitler in Germany and Benito Mussolini in Italy ruthlessly attacked their own people and launched aggressions against other nations. While the United States remained officially “neutral” in Europe where war broke out in the late 1930s, in the Pacific, American economic interests collided with Japanese imperial goals, resulting in major conflict.

The surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor catapulted the United States into World War II on all fronts — against the Japanese domination of the Pacific and the Far East, and against Hitler’s domination of Europe. It also resulted in the U.S. government placing thousands of Japanese-Americans in internment camps for the length of the war.

The U.S. government mobilized the economy for war production and the United States transformed itself into the Arsenal of Democracy, producing vast quantities of weapons for itself and for its allies. The war sparked profound social changes, as women became increasingly involved in the work force and African-Americans made significant economic gains.

Hard-fought battles in North Africa and Europe came to a climax with the invasion of Normandy on D-Day. Nazi Germany was eventually crushed by the Russians in eastern Europe and the Allies in western Europe. Meanwhile, the war against Japan turned into a vicious island hopping campaign, the culmination of which occurred when America dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, leading to Japan’s surrender. World War II transformed the United States into an economic colossus and military superpower, and in the postwar era the nation took on the responsibility as protector of the free world.

### Time Line

- 1919 — The Treaty of Versailles ending World War I is signed.
- 1922 — Joseph Stalin becomes the leader of Russia’s Communist Party.
- 1922 — Fascist Benito Mussolini takes power in Italy.
- 1933 — Adolf Hitler becomes the chancellor of Germany.
- 1938 — Germany invades Austria and Czechoslovakia.
- 1940— Germany invades Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg.
- 1940 — France surrenders to Nazi forces.
- 1940 — The Battle of Britain occurs.
- 1940 — President Franklin Roosevelt is reelected for a fourth term.
- 1941 — German forces pour into the Soviet Union.
- 1941 — Japan attacks Pearl Harbor; the U.S. declares war on Japan.
- 1942 — Japanese Americans begin to be placed in internment camps.
- 1942 — The Battle of Midway Island takes place.
- 1943 — Race riots explode in dozens of American cities.
- 1944 — The invasion of Normandy, or D-Day, begins.

## Vocabulary

**The Treaty of Versailles** — The treaty that ended World War I. Its harsh conditions upon Germany set the stage for World War II.

**Nazi Party** — Adolf Hitler's political party in Germany; also known as the National Socialist German Workers' Party.

**Totalitarian state** — A state whose government, ruled by a dictator, has total and unlimited authority over the people.

**fascism** — A system of government that glorifies the state and is led by a single powerful ruler.

**blitzkrieg** — A German word meaning "lightning war" first used by Hitler in World War II. Hitler's strategy involved the use of fast-moving tanks, or Panzers, to invade other European countries.

**Battle of Britain** — The 1940 Nazi air assault that failed to subdue Great Britain.

wolf packs — Numbers of German submarines working together to hunt and sink Allied ships, primarily in the North Atlantic.

**Axis Powers** — The alliance of Germany, Italy and Japan during World War II formed by the signing of the Tripartite Pact in 1940.

Neutrality Acts — Laws passed by the U.S. Congress before World War II to prevent American involvement.

**isolationists** — People who believed that America should isolate itself and not participate in the affairs of the world outside of the Western Hemisphere.

embargo — The refusal to sell goods to or buy goods from another nation or nations.

**Lend-Lease Program** — President Roosevelt's way of bypassing the Neutrality Acts by lending and leasing financial and material resources to nations attacked by Germany.

Pearl Harbor — An American military base in the Pacific that was attacked by Japan on December 7, 1941; the United States declared war on Japan the next day.

**Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere** — Japan's policy of declaring China and other nations in East Asia to be within its own sphere of economic influence.

**Arsenal of Democracy** — A term coined by President Roosevelt to describe the role of American industry during the war.

**Fair Employment Practices Committee** — A U.S. agency that enforced President Roosevelt's executive order to ban discrimination in the hiring of workers for war production and for government work.

**second front** — The term used to describe an eventual Allied invasion of Western Europe to force Germany to fight in the west as well as on the existing eastern front in Russia.

**D-Day** — June 6, 1944, when the Allies invaded Normandy in France to open a second front in the war against Germany.

**Battle of the Bulge** — A battle in which Hitler launched a large-scale counter-attack against American and British armies on the western front in December 1944.

**concentration camps** — Nazi-run work and death camps in which millions of people were imprisoned and died during World War II.

**Bataan Death March** — A cruel, deadly march Japanese troops forced upon American and Filipino prisoners captured in the Philippines in 1942.

The **Battle of Midway** — A fierce battle in the Pacific between Japan and the United States; the first battle ever fought entirely by planes from aircraft carriers.

**island hopping** — The U.S. military tactic of capturing strategic islands in the Pacific during WW II.

**Manhattan Project** — A secret U.S. project responsible for building the first atomic bombs



## VIEWING GUIDE: The Cold War

### Summary:

At the end of World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as the world's dominant superpowers. Allies during the war, the two sides had conflicting post-war goals. The U.S. wanted to extend its principles of democracy and capitalism throughout war-weary Europe and developing Third World countries, while the Soviet Union was interested in surrounding itself with a buffer zone of Communist nations in Eastern Europe, as well as supporting Communist movements throughout the world.

The resulting ideological clash between the two superpowers led to a tense, bitter competition for the next 50 years, known as the Cold War. While the United States and Soviet Union never went to war directly, they battled indirectly in various locations throughout the world. In an attempt to contain Soviet expansion, his struggle ended in a stalemate, the U.S. and its allies showed that they were willing to fight to prevent Communist expansion.

A particularly dangerous aspect of the Cold War was the nuclear arms race, and the world faced a possible nuclear catastrophe in 1962 during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

After a period of détente during the Nixon and Carter administrations, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 escalated Cold War tensions, and President Ronald Reagan made defeating communism the cornerstone of his foreign policy. Increased military spending during the Reagan years is credited with hastening the collapse of the Soviet Union, as the Soviet economy was unable to match the U.S. military build-up. U.S. military might, combined with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of political openness, stirred the people of Eastern Europe to end Communist regimes, and by the end of 1993, the Cold War was over. The rapid collapse of the Soviet Union and the sudden end of the Cold War left the United States and Western Europe scrambling to reshape a new world in which democracy and capitalism could flourish.

### TIME LINE

- 1945** — World War II ends.
- 1946** — The Soviet Union begins to dominate the countries of Eastern Europe.
- 1948** — The United States implements the Marshall Plan.
- 1948** — The United States begins the Berlin Airlift.
- 1949** — NATO is formed.
- 1950** — The Korean War begins.
- 1955** — The Warsaw Pact is formed.
- 1957** — The Soviet Union launches Sputnik.
- 1958** — NASA is created.
- 1960** — The Soviet Union shoots down an American U2 spy plane.
- 1961** — The Berlin Wall is erected.
- 1961** — The United States sends its first military personnel to Vietnam.
- 1962** — The Cuban Missile Crisis.
- 1963** — President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on November 22nd.
- 1972** — President Nixon makes an unprecedented trip to Communist China.
- 1972** — SALT I treaty with the Soviet Union is completed.
  
- 1987** — INF treaty is signed.
- 1989** — The Berlin Wall is opened.
- 1989** — Thousands are killed in a protest in China's Tiananmen Square.
- 1993** — The break-up of the Soviet Union is completed; the Cold War ends.
- 1998** — The war in Bosnia ends.

## Vocabulary

**Third World** — The group of developing countries in the world not linked with the United States or the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

**capitalism** — An economic system characterized by private ownership of property and free enterprise.

**communism** — An economic system in which all goods are owned jointly; in the Soviet Union, this developed into a government in which all social and economic policy decisions were made by a single party.

**Cold War** — An intense hostile rivalry during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century between Communist nations, particularly the Soviet Union, and the democratic nations of the world, led by the United States.

**containment** — The foreign policy of the United States designed to stop the growth of communism.

**Iron Curtain** — An imaginary line that separated the countries in Western Europe from the countries under Soviet domination in Eastern Europe.

**Truman Doctrine** — A 1947 pronouncement by President Truman that offered aid to the governments of Greece and Turkey in their fight against Soviet influence; the first application of the containment policy.

**Marshall Plan** — A program implemented by the United States in 1948 to help bolster the economies of European countries trying to recover after World War II.

**blockade** — A military strategy that attempts to isolate a country by preventing the movement of its people and goods.

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** — A mutual defense alliance established in 1949 between the United States, Canada and several Western European countries designed to safeguard Western Europe against Soviet attack.

**Warsaw Pact** — A mutual defense organization established in 1955 by the Soviet Union and several Eastern European countries.

**nuclear arms race** — The development and warehousing of weapons of mass destruction by the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

**Sputnik** — A Russian space satellite launched in 1957 that caused the United States to reassess its role as a world leader in technology and develop its own space agency.

**Berlin Wall** — A barrier surrounding the German city of West Berlin, constructed by the Soviet Union in 1961 to stop people from fleeing Communist East Berlin.

**Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)** — An organization in the United States responsible for gathering information and facilitating overseas communications.

**Bay of Pigs** — An unsuccessful attempt by U.S.-backed Cuban exiles to overthrow Communist Cuban leader Fidel Castro in April 1961.

**domino theory** — The fear that the spread of communism would run rampant among neighboring countries if one were to fall under Communist influence.

**détente** — The relaxation of tensions between nations.

**Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I)** — Agreement between the United States and Soviet Union intended to limit the proliferation of long-range nuclear weapons.

**Contra** — A member of a military group that fought the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

**Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)** — A program proposed by President Reagan in 1983 that was intended to provide the United States with a space-based defense system to guard against possible nuclear attacks.

**Intermediate Nuclear Force Treaty (INF)** — An agreement signed by President Reagan and Soviet President Gorbachev in 1987 that called for the elimination of medium-range nuclear weapons.

**glasnost** — A policy of political openness in Soviet society instituted by leader Mikhail



economies to recover after the war. The Fordney - McCumber Tariff increased the duties on foreign manufactured goods by 25%. Intending to protect American businesses, it ended up causing the Europeans to respond by imposing tariffs of their own. To facilitate European war debt repayment the U.S. created the Dawes Plan which established a cycle of payments from the U.S. to Germany and from Germany to the Allies. It allowed Germany to pay war reparations to Britain and France while attempting to help Germany rebuild its economy. After the U.S. stock market crash in 1929, the U.S. halted loans to foreign nations; the Dawes Plan collapsed and so too did the economies of Europe. This caused dissatisfaction and blame within Germany and Italy, giving rise to totalitarian dictators.

In response to the economic disaster, some nations fell prey to totalitarian dictators. A combination of postwar nationalist resentment and economic hardship allowed military dictatorships to rise in Italy, Germany, and Japan. Though dictatorships arose in other nations as well, such as Spain, the Soviet Union, and Latin America, this reading will focus on the three main nations that went to war with America.

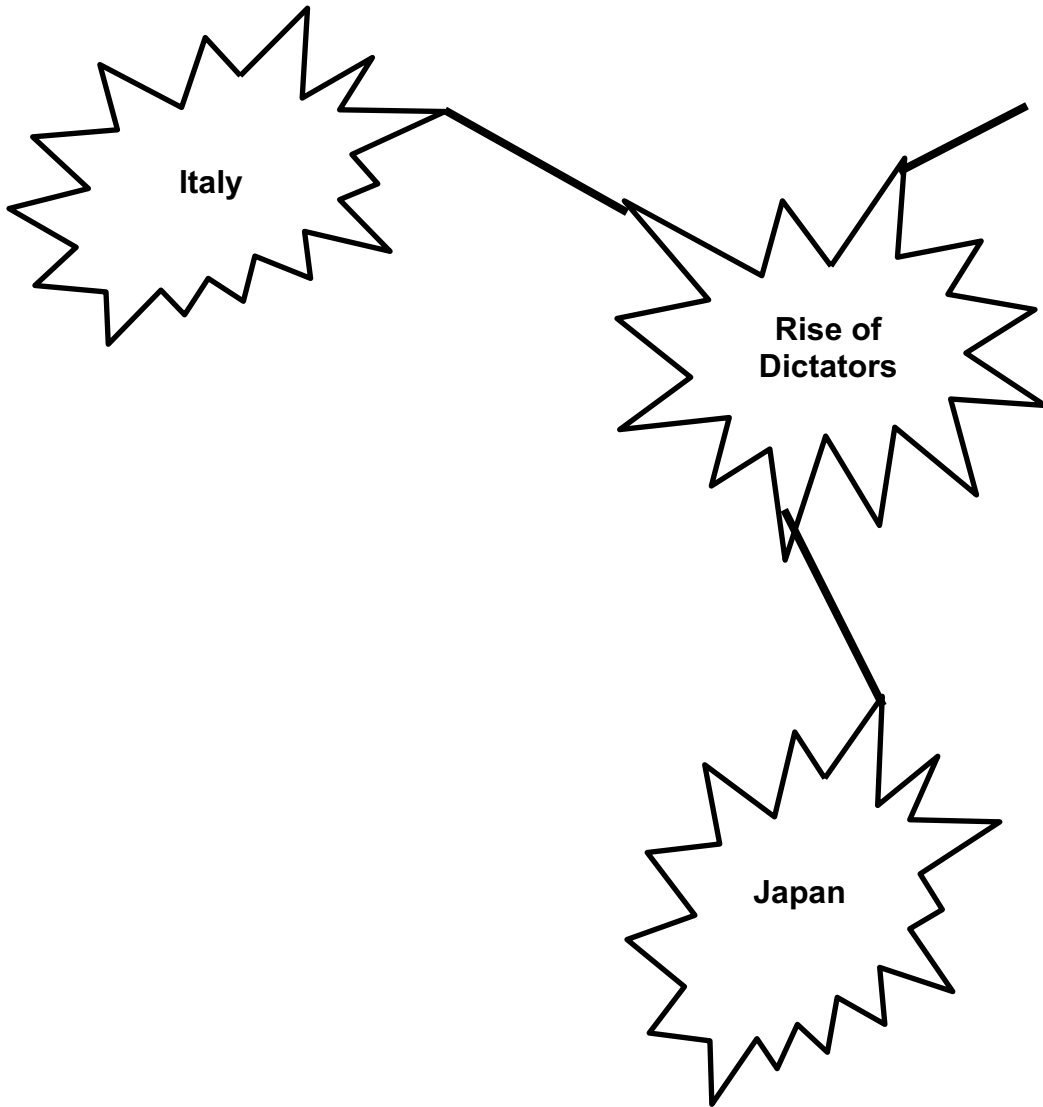
In Italy, **Benito Mussolini** led Italy's Fascist party. This party was composed of dissatisfied war veterans, nationalist and also people fearing the rise of communism and Stalin's consolidation of power. Italy's economy was weak after World War I and faced with unemployment and labor strikes which were often led by communists. Mussolini, or Il Duce, established a fascist totalitarian regime with his powerful speeches inciting nationalism among his people. Fascism is characterized by dictatorship, centralized control of private enterprise, repression of opposition and extreme nationalism. Mussolini knew how to appeal to Italy's wounded national pride, and played on their fears of economic collapse and communism. Mussolini promised order and stability and was not content to merely rule the nation, but with his "Black Shirts" Mussolini controlled every aspect of Italian life and crushing all opposition.. Mussolini's rise to power attempted to restore Italy's position as a world power and in order to prove Italy's military might, Mussolini ordered the invasion and conquering of Ethiopia.

Italy was not the only nation to lose faith in capitalism and democracy, Germany turned towards an authoritarian leader as well. The Fascist party arose to power in the 1920's as a reaction to terrible economic conditions and resentment over the Treaty of Versailles. **Adolf Hitler**, also a powerful speaker and organizer, rose through the ranks to become the leader of the Nazi party. Similar to Mussolini's fascism, Nazi Fascism was based on extreme nationalism. Hitler used the anger of the German workers to promote his anti-Semitic agenda and enforcement of racial "purification." Hitler also promoted national expansion and claimed that Germany needed more "living space." Hitler planned on securing land and soil for his German people and would do so by force. Though elected democratically, Hitler was similar to Mussolini, in that once established in power he suppressed all opposition and ruled with fear. To flex his power and demand for living space, Hitler invaded the Rhineland and later the Sudetenland.

In the 1920's and 1930's, nationalists and militarists in Japan were trying to take control of the imperialist government. Also plagued by a poor economy, the militarists promoted the idea of needing more living space, and convinced the Japanese **Emperor Hirohito** that Japan needed raw materials and the only way to get them was to invade Manchuria. Hideki Tojo moved his way up the ranks in 1940 becoming the Minister for War, and advocated closer ties with Germany and Italy. Tojo was appointed Prime Minister in 1941 where he pushed his strategy for empire and taking over the colonies of defeated European powers. It was Tojo who promoted the attack on Pearl Harbor. Tojo had direct control over the Japanese military and



was now a virtual dictator and crushing his opposition whether they were more moderate Japanese generals or territories in Indochina and the South Pacific. Japanese militarists continued to expand their empire and flex its militarist muscle. Tojo was similar to the other dictators in his militarism, nationalism, quest for world domination and territorial expansion.



**Topic:**

**Questions**

**Notes**

**Summary**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Essential Question \_\_\_\_\_  
Standards \_\_\_\_\_

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## German Aggression in Europe 1933-1941

**1936**-In violation of the Versailles Treaty, Germany occupies the Rhineland

**1938**-Germany enters Austria and "anschluss" (union) is announced. There were many Germans in

Austria and for the most part, the German army had little or no resistance.

**1938**-England and France agree to allow Hitler to annex the Sudetenland, part of Czechoslovakia. The

Czechs do not agree. Hitler takes it anyway. 3 weeks later Hitler takes the rest of Czechoslovakia.

**Sept 1, 1939**-Hitler invades Poland (as does Russia). They divide it among themselves. Hitler & Stalin

had signed a non-aggression pact. This is the official start of WWII.

**1940**-Katyn Forest- on Stalin's orders, the NKVD shot and buried over 4000 Polish service personnel

that had been taken prisoner when the Soviet Union invaded Poland in September 1939 in WW2 in

support of the Nazis.

**1941**-Hitler ignores the non-aggression pact with Stalin and marches into the USSR.

Countries attacked or occupied by Germany

- Albania
- Austria
- Belgium
- Byelorussia (part of the USSR)
- Channel Islands (part of Britain)
- The Crimea (part of the USSR)
- Denmark
- Estonia
- France
- Greece
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands (Holland)
- Norway
- Poland
- Silesia
- The Sudetenland
- The TransCaucasus region (part of the USSR)
- Ukraine (part of the USSR)
- Yugoslavia

In flat defiance of the Versailles Treaty, Hitler ordered Germany to begin rebuilding its military shortly after he became chancellor. Rearming began in 1933 and escalated in 1936 as part of Hitler's plan to begin a war of aggression in which he would restore Germany to its mythical imperial glory. In concrete terms, his plan in the late 1930s was to create a culturally and ethnically German empire in central Europe, and to annex an undetermined number of the smaller Eastern European states. In flat defiance of the Versailles Treaty, Hitler ordered

Germany to begin rebuilding its military shortly after he became chancellor. Rearming began in 1933 and escalated in 1936 as part of Hitler's plan to begin a war of aggression in which he would restore Germany to its mythical imperial glory. In concrete terms, his plan in the late 1930s was to create a culturally and ethnically German empire in central Europe, and to annex an undetermined number of the smaller Eastern European states.

Hitler takes charge to pursue his goals, First, by bring all German speaking people into the German nation, also referred to as the Third Reich. He also took steps to gain living space for the Germans in the east. Then Hitler begins to take advantage of the Slavs in the east.

Hitler sends Nazis to Austria, then he gets the idea of the union of Austria and Germany, called Anschluss. Hitler obligates the Austrian chancellor to have the Nazis be in charge, when the Austrians refuse to follow the order Hitler sends his army to restore order. The Anschluss violated the Treaty of Versailles creating a thought of war. Any Austrian who went against Hitler was quickly silenced.

Germany begins to expand to its neighboring country, Czechoslovakia. Hitler demanded that Germans living in the Sudetenland were to have a self-ruling government. Czechoslovakia and Finland, being the only countries with a democracy were not backed by the British or French. Britain and France searched for peaceful solutions at the same time Hitler was increasing his demands. He said the Sudetenland must be occupied by the Germans

At the Munich Conference in 1938, the British and French still chose appeasement. The British and French tried persuading the Czechs to give up the Sudetenland peacefully. To stop this idea Hitler says that he will no longer expand his territories.

When rulers go back after the Munich conference, the British tells his crowd that he had finally achieved peace for our time. He then tell the Parliament that it had saved the Czechs from being destroyed and a last battle between good and evil. French leader Edouard Daladier and British politician Winston Churchill had different reactions to the achievement at the conference, they predicted that it would definitely start war.

Hitler breaks his promise and continues to take over Poland who Britain and France were now protecting. However in 1939, Hitler announces that we will not have argument with his former enemy, the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin. The two secretly made agreements. Also, this pact was not a friendship it was for both countries common needs. Hitler feared communism as Stalin feared Fascism. Hitler did not want to fight two wars at the same time. Stalin attempted to find allies in Western Europe, which made the Nazis have a common suspicion of what Stalin was planning.

In 1939, German forces invade Poland. Since Britain and France stuck to their agreement and declared war to Germany. World War II was triggered.



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Essential Question \_\_\_\_\_

Standards \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Japanese Aggression in Asia

Japanese expansion in East Asia began in 1931 with the invasion of Manchuria and continued in 1937 with a brutal attack on China. On September 27, 1940, Japan signed the Tripartite Pact with Germany and Italy, thus entering the military alliance known as the "**Axis**." Seeking to curb Japanese aggression and force a withdrawal of Japanese forces from Manchuria and China, the United States imposed economic sanctions on Japan. Faced with severe shortages of oil and other natural resources and driven by the ambition to displace the United States as the dominant Pacific power, Japan decided to attack the United States and British forces in Asia and seize the resources of Southeast Asia.

- Sept. 8, 1931 : Japan occupies Manchuria Province
  - The Japanese invasion of Manchuria began on September 8, 1931, when Manchuria was invaded by the Kwantung Army of the Empire of Japan immediately following the Mukden Incident. The Japanese established a puppet state, called Manchukuo, and their occupation lasted until the end of World War II. Japan invaded Manchuria for a number of reasons. Japan needed the resources Manchuria had: minerals, coal, iron ore, forests, land for agricultural crops to feed their people and space for the growing Japanese population.
- July 7, 1937 : Invasion of China
- Sept 1940: Japanese invaded French Indochina
- Dec 7, 1941: Japan begins attacks on Pearl Harbor



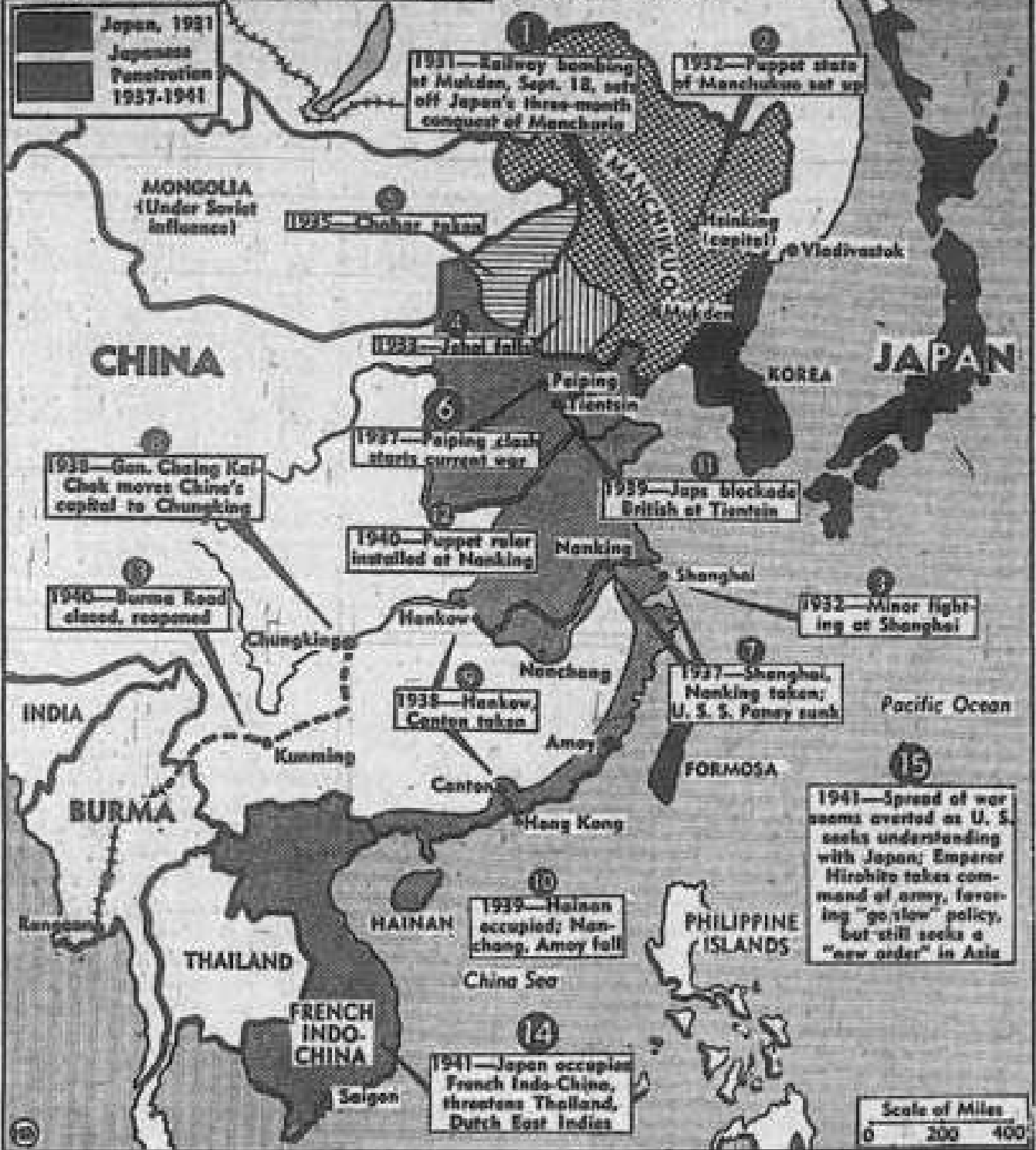
**Topic:**

**Questions**

**Notes**

**Summary**

# TEN YEARS IN CHINA SOVIET RUSSIA



Ten years of war in China, at first intermittent and since 1937 continual, has cost Japan millions of men, more millions of dollars and finds her not a nearer complete conquest of the land than in 1931. Map shows how the drive against the Japanese started after the fighting. The Mukden incident occurred 10 years ago today.

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Essential Question \_\_\_\_\_  
 Standards \_\_\_\_\_

**In 1934 Germany, Italy, and Japan signed a treaty of alliance known as the Axis Powers**

<b>Germany</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>Japan</b>
<p><b>Adolf Hitler grew widely popular in Germany in the 1920s</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The German economy was in shambles after World War I that made many people desperate for basic needs.</li> <li>• The Treaty of Versailles forced Germany to pay \$33 billion in repairs after World War I and losing 10% of her land.</li> <li>• People felt that Hitler could fix the economy, and they ignored his insane ideas.</li> <li>• Hitler blamed the Treaty for Germany's problems. When Germany failed to pay a reparation installment in 1922, French and Belgian troops entered German soil and seized goods. The German government ordered passive resistance but workers needed to be paid. The government printed money and hyperinflation set in.</li> <li>• After 1929, the Great Depression Germany was hit badly as America recalled the loans to Germany negotiated under the Dawes Plan (1924). In 1932, there were six million unemployed in Germany.</li> <li>• Hitler's amazing oratorical, personality and leadership skills also helped him rise into power.</li> <li>• Hitler rose to power and became dictator of Germany with his Nazi Party and espousing a new brand of politics called fascism (a blending of extreme nationalism and racism)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Benito Mussolini appealed to Italian resentment at not gaining enough in the Treaty of Versailles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mussolini also practiced fascism in Italy and his Fascist party in 1922, gained enough support that the King of Italy declared him the head of government.</li> <li>• Within five years he banned all political parties and Il Duce (the leader as he became known) became dictator ending civil liberties and the free press and enrolling boys and girls in military organizations that taught loyalty to his government and vowed to restore Italy to the glory days of The Roman Empire.</li> <li>• In 1935, Italy took over Ethiopia, and the League of Nations did nothing</li> <li>• In 1939, Italy annexed and took over Albania.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Japan also suffered during the Great Depression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Japanese unrest led to the rise in power of military leaders who thought Japan could solve its problems by gaining power in Asia especially China</li> <li>• In 1931, Japan attacked Manchuria and the League of Nations took no action</li> <li>• Japan set up a government in China and in 1937 invaded northern China and eventually occupied much of the country.</li> </ul>

**The Allied Powers were the countries that opposed the Axis powers during World War II**

<b>United States</b>	<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>Soviet Union</b>
<p>The United States had indirectly supported Britain's war effort against Germany up to 1941 and declared its opposition to territorial aggrandizement. Material support to Britain was provided prior to American intervention in the war, via the Lend Lease Act in 1941 and authorization was given for American warships to fire upon German submarines attacking American merchant shipping headed for Britain. American President Franklin D. Roosevelt in August 1941 signed the Atlantic Charter that pledged commitment to achieving "the final destruction of Nazi tyranny".</p> <p>The US opposed the Japanese war efforts in China and embargoed petroleum trade with Japan. The US indirectly supported Nationalist Government in China in its war with Japan, and provided military equipment, supplies, and volunteers to the Nationalist Government of China to assist in its war effort. Japan retaliated to the American trade embargo with the attack on Pearl Harbor, the US declared war on Japan, and Japan's allies Germany and Italy declared war on the US, bringing the US into World War II.</p>	<p>British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and the British government justified their intervention against Germany in September 1939, following its intervention against Poland, by stating that Germany had initiated an illegal act of aggression against Poland, Britain and France jointly declared war on Germany, resulting in World War II.</p> <p>Britain claimed that it had attempted to avert war with Germany, such as by accepting German claims to the German-populated Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia through the Munich Agreement in 1938 that gave the Sudetenland to Germany; but claimed that the German invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1939 was a direct violation of the Munich Agreement, and Britain guaranteed to defend Poland's independence from German aggression. When Germany waged war on Poland in 1939, Britain and France recognized the war as an act of aggression against Poland and declared war on Germany, resulting in World War II.</p>	<p>General Secretary Joseph Stalin and the government of the Soviet Union justified the Soviet war effort that resulted from the German invasion of the Soviet Union with Operation Barbarossa in 1941, as a defensive war being fought by patriotic Soviet people for their survival. Stalin had supported popular front movements of anti-fascists including communists and non-communists from 1935 to 1939. The popular front strategy was terminated from 1939 to 1941 when the Soviet Union cooperated with Germany in 1939 in the occupation and partitioning of Poland while the Soviet Union refused to endorse either the Allies or the Axis from 1939 to 1941, as it called the Allied-Axis conflict an "imperialist war". After the invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, Stalin endorsed the Western Allies as part of a renewed popular front strategy against Germany and called for the international communist movement to make a coalition with all those who opposed the Nazis.</p> <p>The Soviet Union intervened against Japan and its client state in Manchuria in 1945, cooperating with the Nationalist Government of China and Nationalist Party led by Chiang Kai Shek; though also cooperating, preferring, and encouraging the Communist Party led by Mao Zedong to take effective control of Manchuria</p>

		after expelling Japanese forces.
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## **Attack on Pearl Harbor**

The road to war between Japan and the United States began in the 1930s when differences over China drove the two nations apart. In 1931 Japan conquered Manchuria, which until then had been part of China. In 1937 Japan began a long and ultimately unsuccessful campaign to conquer the rest of China. In 1940, the Japanese government allied their country with Nazi Germany in the Axis Alliance, and, in the following year, occupied all of Indochina.

The United States, which had important political and economic interests in East Asia, was alarmed by these Japanese moves. The U.S. increased military and financial aid to China, embarked on a program of strengthening its military power in the Pacific, and cut off the shipment of oil and other raw materials to Japan.

Because Japan was poor in natural resources, its government viewed these steps, especially the embargo on oil as a threat to the nation's survival. Japan's leaders responded by resolving to seize the resource-rich territories of Southeast Asia, even though that move would certainly result in war with the United States.

The problem with the plan was the danger posed by the U.S. Pacific Fleet based at Pearl Harbor. Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander of the Japanese fleet, devised a plan to immobilize the U.S. fleet at the outset of the war with a surprise attack.

At 6:00 a.m. on 7 December, the six Japanese carriers launched a first wave of 181 planes composed of torpedo bombers, dive bombers, horizontal bombers and fighters. Even as they winged south, some elements of U.S. forces on Oahu realized there was something different about this Sunday morning.

In the hours before dawn, U.S. Navy vessels spotted an unidentified submarine periscope near the entrance to Pearl Harbor. It was attacked and reported sunk by the destroyer USS Ward (DD-139) and a patrol plane. At 7:00 a.m., an alert operator of an Army radar station at Opana spotted the approaching first wave of the attack force. The officers to whom those reports were relayed did not consider them significant enough to take action. The report of the submarine sinking was handled routinely, and the radar sighting was passed off as an approaching group of American planes due to arrive that morning.

The Japanese aircrews achieved complete surprise when they hit American ships and military installations on Oahu shortly before 8:00 a.m. They attacked military airfields at the same time they hit the fleet anchored in Pearl Harbor. The Navy air bases at Ford Island and Kaneohe Bay, the Marine airfield at Ewa and the Army Air Corps fields at Bellows, Wheeler and Hickam were all bombed and strafed as other elements of the attacking force began their assaults on the ships moored in Pearl Harbor. The purpose of the simultaneous attacks was to destroy the American planes before they could rise to intercept the Japanese.

Of the more than 90 ships at anchor in Pearl Harbor, the primary targets were the eight battleships anchored there. Seven were moored on Battleship Row along the southeast shore of Ford Island while the USS Pennsylvania (BB-38) lay in dry-dock across the channel. Within the first minutes of the attack all the battleships adjacent to Ford Island had taken bomb and or torpedo hits. The USS West Virginia (BB-48) sank quickly. The USS Oklahoma (BB-37) turned turtle and sank. At about 8:10 a.m., the USS Arizona (BB-39) was mortally wounded by an

armor piercing bomb which ignited the ship's forward ammunition magazine. The resulting explosion and fire killed 1,177 crewmen, the greatest loss of life on any ship that day and about half the total number of Americans killed. The USS California (BB-44), USS Maryland (BB-46), USS Tennessee (BB-43) and USS Nevada (BB-36) also suffered varying degrees of damage in the first half hour of the raid.

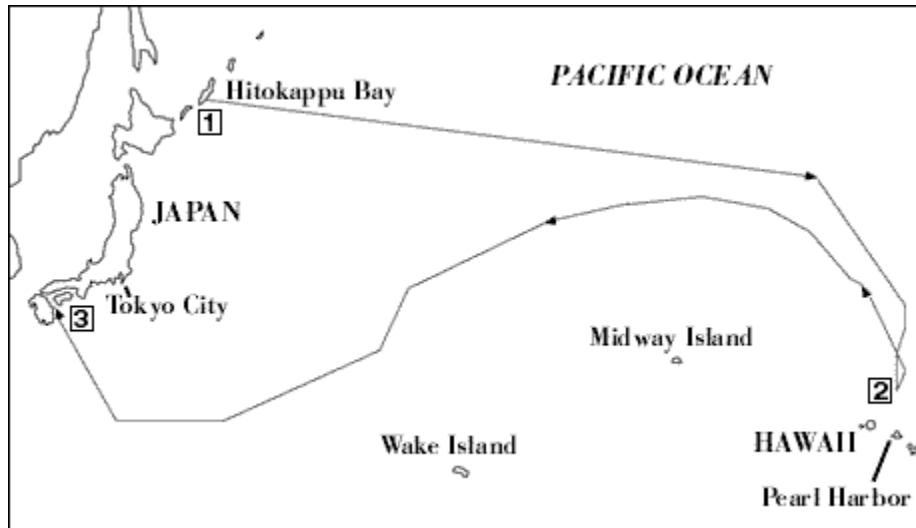
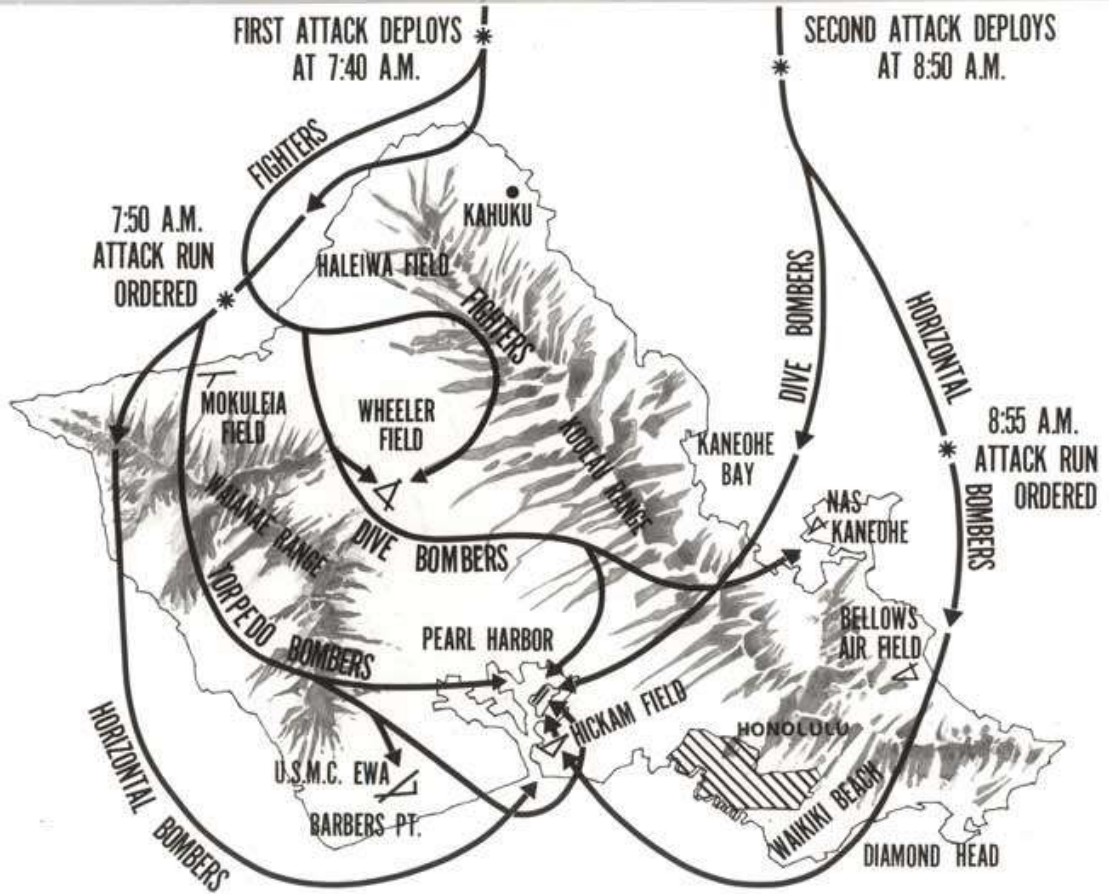
There was a short lull in the fury of the attack at about 8:30 a.m. At that time the USS Nevada (BB-36), despite her wounds, managed to get underway and move down the channel toward the open sea. Before she could clear the harbor, a second wave of 170 Japanese planes, launched 30 minutes after the first, appeared over the harbor. They concentrated their attacks on the moving battleship, hoping to sink her in the channel and block the narrow entrance to Pearl Harbor. On orders from the harbor control tower, the USS Nevada (BB-36) beached herself at Hospital Point and the channel remained clear.

When the attack ended shortly before 10:00 a.m., less than two hours after it began, the American forces has paid a fearful price. Twenty-one ships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet were sunk or damaged: the battleships USS Arizona (BB-39), USS California (BB-44), USS Maryland (BB-46), USS Nevada (BB-36), USS Oklahoma (BB-37), USS Pennsylvania (BB-38), USS Tennessee (BB-43) and USS West Virginia (BB-48); cruisers USS Helena (CL-50), USS Honolulu (CL-48) and USS Raleigh (CL-7); the destroyers USS Cassin (DD-372), USS Downes (DD-375), USS Helm (DD-388) and USS Shaw (DD-373); seaplane tender USS Curtiss (AV-4); target ship (ex-battleship) USS Utah (AG-16); repair ship USS Vestal (AR-4); minelayer USS Oglala (CM-4); tug USS Sotoyomo (YT-9); and Floating Drydock Number 2. Aircraft losses were 188 destroyed and 159 damaged, the majority hit before they had a chance to take off. American dead numbered 2,403. That figure included 68 civilians, most of them killed by improperly fused anti-aircraft shells landing in Honolulu. There were 1,178 military and civilian wounded.

Japanese losses were comparatively light. Twenty-nine planes, less than 10 percent of the attacking force, failed to return to their carriers.

The Japanese success was overwhelming, but it was not complete. They failed to damage any American aircraft carriers, which by a stroke of luck, had been absent from the harbor. They neglected to damage the shore side facilities at the Pearl Harbor Naval Base, which played an important role in the Allied victory in World War II. American technological skill raised and repaired all but three of the ships sunk or damaged at Pearl Harbor (the USS Arizona (BB-39) considered too badly damaged to be salvaged, the USS Oklahoma (BB-37) raised and considered too old to be worth repairing, and the obsolete USS Utah (AG-16) considered not worth the effort). Most importantly, the shock and anger caused by the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor united a divided nation and was translated into a wholehearted commitment to victory in World War II.

Visit the site: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/pearlharbor/ax/frameset.html> and learn more about this attack.







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## D Day

During World War II (1939-1945), the Battle of Normandy, which lasted from June 1944 to August 1944, resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany's control. Codenamed Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France's Normandy region. The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history and required extensive planning. Prior to D-Day, the Allies conducted a large-scale deception campaign designed to mislead the Germans about the intended invasion target. By late August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated, and by the following spring the Allies had defeated the Germans. The Normandy landings have been called the beginning of the end of war in Europe.

After World War I began, Germany invaded and occupied northwestern France beginning in May 1940. The Americans entered the war in December 1941, and by 1942 they and the British (who had been evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk in May 1940 after being cut off by the Germans in the Battle of France) were considering the possibility of a major Allied invasion across the English Channel. The following year, Allied plans for a cross-Channel invasion began to ramp up. In November 1943, Adolf Hitler (1889-1945), who was aware of the threat of an invasion along France's northern coast, put Erwin Rommel (1891-1944) in charge of spearheading defense operations in the region, even though the Germans did not know exactly where the Allies would strike. Hitler charged Rommel with finishing the Atlantic Wall, a 2,400-mile fortification of bunkers, landmines and beach and water obstacles.

In January 1944, General Dwight Eisenhower (1890-1969) was appointed commander of Operation Overlord. In the months and weeks before D-Day, the Allies carried out a massive deception operation intended to make the Germans think the main invasion target was Pas-de-Calais (the narrowest point between Britain and France) rather than Normandy. In addition, they led the Germans to believe that Norway and other locations were also potential invasion targets. Many tactics were used to carry out the deception, including fake equipment; a phantom army commanded by George Patton and supposedly based in England, across from Pas-de-Calais; double agents; and fraudulent radio transmissions.

Eisenhower selected June 5, 1944, as the date for the invasion; however, bad weather on the days leading up to the operation caused it to be delayed for 24 hours. On the morning of June 5, after his meteorologist predicted improved conditions for the following day, Eisenhower gave the go-ahead for Operation Overlord. He told the troops: "You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you."

Later that day, more than 5,000 ships and landing craft carrying troops and supplies left England for the trip across the Channel to France, while more than 11,000 aircraft were mobilized to provide air cover and support for the invasion.

## **D-Day Landings: June 6, 1944**

By dawn on June 6, thousands of paratroopers and glider troops were already on the ground behind enemy lines, securing bridges and exit roads. The amphibious invasions began at 6:30 a.m. The British and Canadians overcame light opposition to capture beaches codenamed Gold, Juno and Sword, as did the Americans at Utah Beach. U.S. forces faced heavy resistance at Omaha Beach, where there were over 2,000 American casualties. However, by day's end, approximately 156,000 Allied troops had successfully stormed Normandy's beaches. According to some estimates, more than 4,000 Allied troops lost their lives in the D-Day invasion, with thousands more wounded or missing.

Less than a week later, on June 11, the beaches were fully secured and over 326,000 troops, more than 50,000 vehicles and some 100,000 tons of equipment had landed at Normandy.

For their part, the Germans suffered from confusion in the ranks and the absence of celebrated commander Rommel, who was away on leave. At first, Hitler, believing the invasion was a feint designed to distract the Germans from a coming attack north of the Seine River, refused to release nearby divisions to join the counterattack. Reinforcements had to be called from further afield, causing delays. He also hesitated in calling for armored divisions to help in the defense. Moreover, the Germans were hampered by effective Allied air support, which took out many key bridges and forced the Germans to take long detours, as well as efficient Allied naval support, which helped protect advancing Allied troops.

In the ensuing weeks, the Allies fought their way across the Normandy countryside in the face of determined German resistance, as well as a dense landscape of marshes and hedgerows. By the end of June, the Allies had seized the vital port of Cherbourg, landed approximately 850,000 men and 150,000 vehicles in Normandy, and were poised to continue their march across France.

By the end of August 1944, the Allies had reached the Seine River, Paris was liberated and the Germans had been removed from northwestern France, effectively concluding the Battle of Normandy. The Allied forces then prepared to enter Germany, where they would meet up with Soviet troops moving in from the east.

The Normandy invasion began to turn the tide against the Nazis. A significant psychological blow, it also prevented Hitler from sending troops from France to build up his Eastern Front against the advancing Soviets. The following spring, on May 8, 1945, the Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany. Hitler had committed suicide a week earlier, on April 30.



## **VE Day**

Victory in Europe Day—known as V-E Day or VE Day—was the public holiday celebrated on 8 May 1945 (in Commonwealth countries, 7 May 1945) to mark the date when the World War II Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Nazi Germany and the end of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich, thus ending the war in Europe. The formal surrender of the occupying German forces in the Channel Islands was not until 9 May 1945. On 30 April Hitler committed suicide during the Battle of Berlin, and so the surrender of Germany was authorized by his successor, President of Germany Karl Dönitz. The administration headed by Dönitz was known as the Flensburg government. The act of military surrender was signed on 7 May in Reims, France, and on 8 May in Berlin, Germany.

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## Iwo Jima

The Battle of Iwo Jima (19 February – 26 March 1945), or Operation Detachment, was a major battle in which the United States Armed Forces fought for and captured the island of Iwo Jima from the Japanese Empire. The American invasion had the goal of capturing the entire island, including its three airfields, to provide a staging area for attacks on the Japanese main islands. This month-long battle included some of the fiercest and bloodiest fighting of the War in the Pacific of World War II.

The Imperial Japanese Army positions on the island were heavily fortified, with a dense network of bunkers, hidden artillery positions, and 18 km (11 mi) of underground tunnels. The Americans on the ground were aided by extensive naval artillery and the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviators had complete air supremacy over Iwo Jima from the beginning of the battle. American sea power and airpower were capable of delivering vast amounts of fire onto the Japanese troops. This invasion was the first American attack on Japanese home territory, and the Japanese soldiers and marines defended their positions tenaciously with no thought of surrender. The Japanese general in charge never considered surrendering to the Americans to save his men, and he and his officers had vowed to fight to the death, no matter how hopeless their battle was.

Iwo Jima was also the only battle by the U.S. Marine Corps in which the overall American casualties (killed and wounded) exceeded those of the Japanese,[6] although Japanese combat deaths were thrice those of the Americans. Of the 22,000 Japanese soldiers on Iwo Jima at the beginning of the battle, only 216 were taken prisoner. Some of them were captured because they had been knocked unconscious or otherwise disabled. The rest were killed or missing and presumed dead.

Despite the bloody fighting and severe casualties on both sides, the Japanese defeat was assured from the start. The Americans possessed an overwhelming superiority in arms and numbers. These factors, coupled with the impossibility of Japanese retreat or reinforcement, ensured that there were no plausible circumstances in which the Americans could have lost the battle.

The battle was immortalized by Joe Rosenthal's photograph of the raising of the U.S. flag on top of the 166 m (545 ft) Mount Suribachi by five U.S. Marines and one U.S. Navy battlefield Hospital Corpsman. The photograph records the second flag-raising on the mountain, both of which took place on the fifth day of the 35-day battle. The picture became the iconic image of the battle and it has been widely reproduced.



Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima is a historic photograph taken on February 23, 1945, by Joe Rosenthal. It depicts five United States Marines and a U.S. Navy corpsman raising the flag of the United States atop Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II.

The photograph was extremely popular, being reprinted in thousands of publications. Later, it became the only photograph to win the Pulitzer Prize for Photography in the same year as its publication, and came to be regarded in the United States as one of the most significant and recognizable images of the war, and possibly the most reproduced photograph of all time.

Of the six men depicted in the picture, three (Franklin Sousley, Harlon Block, and Michael Strank) were killed during the battle; the three survivors (John Bradley, Rene Gagnon, and Ira Hayes) became celebrities upon their identification in the photo. The picture was later used by Felix de Weldon to sculpt the Marine Corps War Memorial, located adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery just outside Washington, D.C.



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## The Manhattan Project

Early in 1939, the world's scientific community discovered that German physicists had learned the secrets of splitting a uranium atom. Fears soon spread over the possibility of Nazi scientists utilizing that energy to produce a bomb capable of unspeakable destruction.

Scientists Albert Einstein, who fled Nazi persecution, and Enrico Fermi, who escaped Fascist Italy, were now living in the United States. They agreed that the President must be informed of the dangers of atomic technology in the hands of the Axis powers. Fermi traveled to Washington in March to express his concerns on government officials. But few shared his uneasiness.

Einstein penned a letter to President Roosevelt urging the development of an atomic research program later that year. Roosevelt saw neither the necessity nor the utility for such a project, but agreed to proceed slowly. In late 1941, the American effort to design and build an atomic bomb received its code name — the Manhattan Project.

At first the research was based at only a few universities — Columbia University, the University of Chicago and the University of California at Berkeley. A breakthrough occurred in December 1942 when Fermi led a group of physicists to produce the first controlled nuclear chain reaction under the grandstands of Stagg Field at the University of Chicago.

After this milestone, funds were allocated more freely, and the project advanced at breakneck speed. Nuclear facilities were built at Oak Ridge, Tennessee and Hanford, Washington. The main assembly plant was built at Los Alamos, New Mexico. Robert Oppenheimer was put in charge of putting the pieces together at Los Alamos. After the final bill was tallied, nearly \$2 billion had been spent on research and development of the atomic bomb. The Manhattan Project employed over 120,000 Americans.

Secrecy was paramount. Neither the Germans nor the Japanese could learn of the project. Roosevelt and Churchill also agreed that the Stalin would be kept in the dark. Consequently, there was no public awareness or debate. Keeping 120,000 people quiet would be impossible; therefore only a small privileged cadre of inner scientists and officials knew about the atomic bomb's development. In fact, Vice-President Truman had never heard of the Manhattan Project until he became President Truman.

Although the Axis powers remained unaware of the efforts at Los Alamos, American leaders later learned that a Soviet spy named Klaus Fuchs had penetrated the inner circle of scientists.

By the summer of 1945, Oppenheimer was ready to test the first bomb. On July 16, 1945, at Trinity Site near Alamogordo, New Mexico, scientists of the Manhattan Project readied themselves to watch the detonation of the world's first atomic bomb. The device was affixed to a 100-foot tower and discharged just before dawn. No one was properly prepared for the result.

A blinding flash visible for 200 miles lit up the morning sky. A mushroom cloud reached 40,000 feet, blowing out windows of civilian homes up to 100 miles away. When the cloud returned to earth it created a half-mile wide crater metamorphosing sand into glass. A bogus cover-up

story was quickly released, explaining that a huge ammunition dump had just exploded in the desert. Soon word reached President Truman in Potsdam, Germany that the project was successful.

The world had entered the nuclear age.

## **Truman's Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb**

America had the bomb. Now what?

When Harry Truman learned of the success of the Manhattan Project, he knew he was faced with a decision of unprecedented gravity. The capacity to end the war with Japan was in his hands, but it would involve unleashing the most terrible weapon ever known.

American soldiers and civilians were weary from four years of war, yet the Japanese military was refusing to give up their fight. American forces occupied Okinawa and Iwo Jima and were intensely fire-bombing Japanese cities. But Japan had an army of 2 million strong stationed in the home islands guarding against invasion.

For Truman, the choice whether or not to use the atomic bomb was the most difficult decision of his life.

First, an Allied demand for an immediate unconditional surrender was made to the leadership in Japan. Although the demand stated that refusal would result in total destruction, no mention of any new weapons of mass destruction was made. The Japanese military command rejected the request for unconditional surrender, but there were indications that a conditional surrender was possible.

Regardless, on August 6, 1945, a plane called the *Enola Gay* dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima. Instantly, 70,000 Japanese citizens were vaporized. In the months and years that followed, an additional 100,000 perished from burns and radiation sickness.

Two days later, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan. On August 9, a second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, where 80,000 Japanese people perished.

On August 14, 1945, the Japanese surrendered.

Critics have charged that Truman's decision was a barbaric act that brought negative long-term consequences to the United States. A new age of nuclear terror led to a dangerous arms race.

Some military analysts insist that Japan was on its knees and the bombings were simply unnecessary. The American government was accused of racism on the grounds that such a device would never have been used against white

Other critics argued that American diplomats had ulterior motives. The Soviet Union had entered the war against Japan, and the atomic bomb could be read as a strong message for the Soviets to tread lightly. In this respect, Hiroshima and Nagasaki may have been the first shots of the Cold War as well as the final shots of World War II. Regardless, the United States remains the only nation in the world to have used a nuclear weapon on another nation.

Truman stated that his decision to drop the bomb was purely military. A Normandy-type amphibious landing would have cost an estimated million casualties. Truman believed that the bombs saved Japanese lives as well. Prolonging the war was not an option for the President. Over 3,500 Japanese kamikaze raids had already wrought great destruction and loss of American lives.

The President rejected a demonstration of the atomic bomb to the Japanese leadership. He knew there was no guarantee the Japanese would surrender if the test succeeded, and he felt that a failed demonstration would be worse than none at all. Even the scientific community failed to foresee the awful effects of radiation sickness. Truman saw little difference between atomic bombing Hiroshima and fire-bombing Dresden or Tokyo.

The ethical debate over the decision to drop the atomic bomb will never be resolved. The bombs did, however, bring an end to the most destructive war in history. The Manhattan Project that produced it demonstrated the possibility of how a nation's resources could be mobilized.

### **V-J Day**

Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day) is a name chosen for the day on which Japan surrendered, effectively ending World War II, and subsequent anniversaries of that event. The term has been applied to both of the days on which the initial announcement of Japan's surrender was made – to the afternoon of August 15, 1945, in Japan, and, because of time zone differences, to August 14, 1945 (when it was announced in the United States and the rest of the Americas and Eastern Pacific Islands) – as well as to September 2, 1945, when the signing of the surrender document occurred, officially ending World War II.



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## **The Holocaust**

The Holocaust was a unique event in 20th century history. It evolved slowly between 1933 and 1945. It began with discrimination; then the Jews were separated from their communities and persecuted; and finally they were treated as less than human beings and murdered.

During the Second World War the Nazis sought to murder the entire Jewish population of Europe and to destroy its culture. In 1941 there were about 11 million Jews living in Europe; by May 1945 the Nazis had murdered six million of them. One-and-a-half million of these were children.

We now call these events the Holocaust.

Whilst the Jews of Europe were the Nazis' primary target, many millions of other people were also imprisoned, enslaved and murdered. These people included Roma, those with mental or physical disabilities, Jehovah's Witnesses, trade unionists, political opponents, Poles and Soviet prisoners of war.

The Nazis did not act alone. They were supported and assisted by people from within the countries they occupied across Europe. Most countries stood by while the Nazis and their accomplices carried out the mass murder of the Jewish people.

### **What is prejudice?**

The word prejudice means to pre-judge, to make up your mind about someone before you know anything about them. When you first meet someone, what is the first thing you notice? Their hair, the color of their skin, their clothes and the way they speak? We often make instant judgments about each other, which later prove to be untrue.

Most people feel more comfortable in their own group, gang or tribe. People are often frightened of difference because it feels unfamiliar and can seem threatening. It is easy for us to blame someone else when things go wrong.

Sometimes the anger of the majority group is taken out on another group. Practically every society throughout history has blamed one group or another for what goes wrong in that society. This is known as **scapegoating**.

## **What is antisemitism?**

Antisemitism is the term used when people are prejudiced against Jews just because they are Jewish. Antisemitism is a modern racial term that was invented in 1879 by a German journalist called Wilhelm Marr. However, anti-Jewish feelings are much older than that.

About 2,000 years ago, Jesus, according to the story in the Gospels, was executed for treason. He was crucified, which was the Roman method of execution. Christian teaching did not blame the Romans; it blamed the Jews. As his followers later regarded Jesus as God, so killing him became known as the crime of 'deicide' (killing of God). This was the basis of Jew hatred.

## **Hitler develops his anti-Semitic ideas**

Although Hitler wanted to become a military dictator, he saw that he would be unable to take the country by force. He now knew that he would have to use legal and democratic methods. While in prison, he wrote his book *Mein Kampf*, in which he set out his political ideas and developed his anti-Semitic ideas.

Following Germany's defeat in the First World War, Hitler became convinced that people in Germany - particularly Jews - had worked against the country to achieve their own ends. Hitler felt that, as Germany continued to suffer throughout the 1920s, drastic action was required to save the country. From his experiences both with the army and later with the NSDAP, Hitler learned to persuade others with his speeches.

*Mein Kampf* did not contain any new ideas. Many people in the 19th and 20th centuries had believed that races were not equal, and that some people were stronger or better than others.

Hitler took on these ideas, and stated that Germans were part of a race called 'Aryans' who were superior to all others and would one day rule the world. In Hitler's view, Jews were a separate race and could not be German. He believed the Jews conspired against Aryans to rule the world for themselves.

As some of the most prominent German communists had been Jewish, Hitler believed Jews had created communism to destroy the Aryans. His aim became to destroy communism and the Jews.

On 30 January 1933 Adolf Hitler was made Chancellor of Germany. Franz von Papen had persuaded President Hindenburg that Hitler could be kept under control. He had boasted that: "in two months, we will have pushed Hitler into a corner so that he squeaks".

However, just 24 hours after taking office, Hitler called for new elections to be held on 5 March 1933. Very soon after Hitler persuaded President Hindenburg to give him emergency powers that took away people's rights. On 24 March 1933, the Reichstag passed an 'Enabling law', giving the Nazi party the power to make laws without parliamentary approval.

The Nazis very quickly began a campaign of violence and terror against Communists and other opponents. Their campaign also involved banning opposition newspapers, leaflets and

meetings. The Nazis' campaign also involved anti-communist and antisemitic propaganda, using the radio, newspapers, leaflets, rallies and all other methods at their disposal.

These events were only a hint of things to come. Once the Nazis had developed a series of policies and measures that enabled them to consolidate power over Germany, they would seek to develop control over much of mainland Europe.

On coming to power the Nazis quickly began to assert their dominance on and control of the people of Germany. In dealing with all forms of opposition they developed many concentration camps. The first of these established in the town of Dachau on 1 April 1933. The network of camps would be employed to brutally support the Nazis' control of Germany and later many peoples and lands across Europe.

Hitler and the Nazis sought to control every part of public life, including employment, education and the economy. The Nazis' racial policies were at the centre of their ideals. The development of Germany as the master race was the focal point of their social, economic and political policies. Women had a key role in this area of Nazi policy.

The Nazi Party used all the propaganda at their disposal to reinforce their views on the German public.

In defiance of the Treaty of Versailles, the Nazis also began a re-armament program aimed at supplying tanks, airplanes, guns and ships for the military. These armaments would support the policy of expansionism towards the end of the 1930s.

Central to the belief system of Nazism was the idea that race determined a person's place in the world. Germans, along with the British and Scandinavians, were considered to be Aryan. By bloodline, the Nazis were the 'Master race' and only they could rule.

The Nazis believed that several groups including Jews, Roma, black Germans, Jehovah's Witnesses and the mentally and physically disabled were undesirable and did not fit into German society. The Nazi Party used all the propaganda at their disposal to reinforce these views to the German public.

In order to increase the master race and to fit in with Nazi philosophy, women had a specific role. Discouraged from the workplace, seen as subservient to men, their job was to be mothers, organize the home and produce children for the master race. Their role was referred to as the 'Three Ks': Kinder, Kirche, Kuche (children, church, cooking).

Furthermore, men and women were encouraged to marry, by being given loans, equivalent to half a year's pay. If they produced more than four children, the loan did not have to be repaid. In addition, they were awarded a bronze medal. Couples who had six children were awarded a silver medal and those with eight got a gold.

The Nazis again used widespread propaganda and peer pressure to encourage women to be subservient, choose a husband of the same blood, keep in good health and be physically fit in order to have many children. In keeping with Nazi ideas, they were also encouraged to wear traditional dress.



The Nazi Party established control even over leisure time. Physical fitness was at the core of Nazi philosophy. Compulsory deductions were made from workers' wages to pay for the 'Strength through joy' program. Two cruise liners were built to take workers on holidays. In addition the Nazi government financed sports facilities and provided theatre visits for its good, hardworking workers. These programs appealed to many people.

Workers could pay five marks a month towards the ownership of a people's car (Volkswagen), which they were told they would receive 'at some point' in the future. In fact no one ever received his or her people's car.

In 1922, whilst still in its infancy, the Nazi Party established the Hitler Youth. By 1933, 30 per cent of young Germans were members. Once the Nazis came to power, great pressure was brought to bear on families to encourage young people to be members. By 1939 over 80 per cent of Germany's young people had joined the Hitler Youth.

Boys in the Young German Folk (10-14 yrs) and Hitler Youth (14-18 yrs) participated in physical activities to develop both fitness and fearlessness. Following Nazi ideas, girls would join the Young Madel (10-14 yrs) or League of German Girls (14-18 yrs). They attended both home-building classes and exercises to develop their physical fitness.

Girls' membership of the German Girls League included a year of farm work or domestic service, while boys in the Hitler Youth would take part in the National Labor Service. Both boys and girls were indoctrinated in Nazi ideology and swore an oath of love and loyalty to Hitler.

During the summer of 1941, in breach of Hitler's agreement with Joseph Stalin, Germany invaded the Soviet Union. Following the German army into battle were the Einsatzgruppen. Local people supported these killing squads, one of the main tasks of which was to kill all Jewish men, women and children in the areas that were being conquered. By December 1941, over 500,000 Soviet Jews had been murdered.

However, for the Nazis leadership, conventional killing methods were insufficient and inefficient.

On 20 January 1942, 15 leading officials of the Nazi state met at a villa in Wannsee, a suburb of Berlin, to discuss the 'Final solution of the Jewish Question'.

The 'Final solution' was a code name for the murder of all the Jews of Europe. The people present at the conference were to discuss how to make mass murder happen in an organized and methodical way.

During the summer of 1941, the Nazis broke their agreement and invaded the Soviet Union. Hitler believed that Jews had created communism. The war in the East was aimed not merely at conquest but at the destruction of millions of Jews and Slavs.

Auschwitz-Birkenau, is the most infamous of the Nazi death camps. It was a massive concentration, forced labour and extermination camp at the centre of a network of more than 40 satellite camps.

The first Auschwitz camp (Auschwitz I) was established by the Germans in 1940, in the suburbs of the town of Oswiecim (pronounced Osvienchim) less than 40 miles south of Krakow in the south of Poland. It was initially a camp to house political prisoners.

As part of the Final Solution the Nazis began building Auschwitz-Birkenau in the Autumn of 1941 on the site of the village of Brzezinka, less than two miles from Auschwitz I. The local population were evicted and their homes demolished and used for building materials.

Auschwitz-Birkenau began operating as a death camp between March 1942 and January 1945.

Upwards of 80 per cent of those Jews transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau were selected for immediate death. The remainder was selected for work. The majority of those selected for work died within a few weeks or months of their arrival at the camp as a result of overwork, ill treatment, disease or lack of food.

The first trains carrying Jews arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau in March 1942. Often several trains arrived daily carrying Jews from almost every country in Europe.

Each of the trains carried in excess of a thousand victims. Prisoners had been packed into cattle wagons with no room to sit, no food, a bucket for water and another as a toilet. The journey could last days on end, with the 'passengers' not knowing where they were passing through or where they were going. Many victims died during the journey as a result of suffocation, illness or hunger.

Initially, arrivals at Auschwitz-Birkenau would be unloaded on a 'ramp' alongside the main railway lines at Oswiecim. The prisoners would then walk the short distance to the camp. However, in preparation for the arrival of 440,000 Hungarian Jews during the spring of 1944, railway tracks were laid right into the camp, through the now infamous gatehouse building.

On arrival at Auschwitz-Birkenau the trains would pull up on the unloading ramp in front of the awaiting SS officers and guards, kapos and the Sonderkommando.

The Jews were thrown out of the railway wagons and made to leave their belongings behind them. They were then ordered to form lines ready for the selection process. This was when the Nazis selected which Jews would be sent straight to their deaths in the gas chambers and which Jews would remain alive temporarily.

Once the Jews were unloaded and separated into male and female lines, they were then subjected to a selection process. SS doctors carried out this selection.

Usually, those aged over 14 years of age and deemed 'fit' for work were sent to one side of the unloading ramp; the rest were sent to the other side.

The elderly and women with children were sent directly to the line of prisoners who were condemned to death in the gas chambers.

Those Jews selected for work were sent to a separate building for registration. Prisoners would be registered, before undressing, placing their clothes on a hook, together with their shoes.

They would then be tattooed with a registration number, shaved of all body hair, disinfected and forced through showers that were either extremely cold or painfully hot.



Once showered, prisoners were given the infamous striped pajamas, hat and a pair of wooden clogs. They were marched to the blocks to begin their life within the camp.

The prisoners selected for work were housed in wooden or brick built barracks.

The brick barracks were constructed in the autumn of 1941. The Germans originally intended the barracks to house 40 prisoners, but very often more than 700 would be placed in each of them. The total number of prisoners to each barrack depended on the number of transports arriving. The prisoners slept in 60 spaces, with three bunks in each space. Prisoners slept on straw spread over the wooden bunks. The barracks had earth floors and few sanitary facilities.

The wooden barracks had once been stables. The walls were thin and had gaps at the bottom and top, which let in the bitterly cold wind. Near the entrance door were two rooms to house the 'functionaries' or kapos (heads of the block). The barracks had no windows, but instead had a row of skylights at the top of the roof. Each block had wooden three-tiered bunks. Prisoners slept under thin blankets or rags on mattresses.

Each barrack had two stoves with a brick heating flue running between them. However, fuel was not provided. As a result many prisoners died during the extreme cold of the Polish winters.

Sanitary facilities for prisoners at Auschwitz-Birkenau were extremely poor. It was impossible for inmates to keep clean or have a change of clothes. For the first two years of the camp's existence the prisoners had no access to water for washing. When, later, there was water, it

was not clean. Prisoners, therefore, spent their existence in the camp dirty and in filthy clothes, which increased the likelihood of them contracting infections and diseases.

Nevertheless, despite the lack of access to clean water, soap and a change of clothes, prisoners continued to go through the motions of washing each morning. This was because, even though it was not possible to carry out the activities of a normal life, it was extremely important to preserve the 'spirit' of life, not to give up.

Meal times were the most important event of each day. After morning roll call the prisoners would be given their morning 'meal' – imitation coffee or herbal 'tea'. For lunch prisoners would be given a litre of watery soup. If they were lucky, they might find a piece of turnip or potato peel.

In the evening prisoners would be given a piece of black bread weighing 300 grams, together with a tiny piece of sausage, or margarine, marmalade or cheese. The bread was supposed to last the prisoners for the morning also, so prisoners would try to hide it on their person whilst they slept.

The lack of food, poor diet and hard labour caused the prisoners to suffer from starvation sickness. They lost weight and muscle tissue and many thousands died. Others became too weak to work and were then murdered in the gas chambers.

The appalling conditions in the camp were made worse by the fact that Auschwitz-Birkenau had been built on a swamp. The barracks were often damp. Lice and rats were everywhere. As a result, epidemics of contagious diseases were frequent.

As in the concentration camps, those prisoners selected for work faced appalling conditions and severe treatment. After being woken at dawn, they would have to stand in line for the roll call and endure many hours of hard labor. At the end of the working day, exhausted, they returned to the camp, when they would once again have to stand in line for evening roll call.

During roll call prisoners would have to stand still, wearing very thin clothing, in all weathers and for hours on end. The block kapo would count the number of prisoners before reporting to the SS officer.

If the number of prisoners appeared not to be correct, it would take hours until the SS officer finally made the numbers tally. Anyone unable to stand was taken away to his or her death.

Roll calls were often used as a punishment to prisoners. This was especially the case with evening roll call, which often took much longer than the morning one. If a prisoner had not worked hard enough he or she would be punished; if a prisoner had attempted some form of resistance, he or she would be punished; if a prisoner tried to escape, he or she would be punished. Punishment usually meant death.

This treatment was used to teach the other prisoners that it was pointless to resist.

Prisoners were assigned to a whole range of different work duties. Some of these were within the camp, but most prisoners worked outside in one of the many factories, construction projects, farms or coal mines, owned by German companies and for whom they now provided free slave labour.

The Sonderkommando (Special Works Unit) were Jewish prisoners who were selected to work in the crematoria at Auschwitz-Birkenau. They were selected for their strength and fitness. The Sonderkommando worked for periods lasting up to four months, but often for just a few weeks. They worked in terrible conditions, processing and disposing of the bodies of those sent to the gas chambers.

They were then murdered.

The possessions and precious belongings of the Jews transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau were left in the train carriages and on the ramp as their owners were quickly put through the selection process.

When the selection process was complete, a work group of prisoners called the 'Kanada Kommando' collected the belongings of victims and took them to the 'Kanada' warehouse facility for sorting and transporting back to Germany.

To prisoners Canada was a country that symbolized wealth. They, therefore, gave the ironic name Kanada (the German spelling of Canada) to the warehouse area as it was full of possessions, clothing and jewelry.

The prisoners working in the Kanada Kommando lived in barracks. The barracks were inside the warehouse, away from the rest of the prisoners in the camp. They were in a better position than the other inmates.

They could take extra food on which to survive, a pair of shoes or extra clothing to protect themselves from the severe winter weather. Some smuggled valuables to bribe the kapos or guards. If they were caught, they were killed.

On 6 June 1944, American, British, Canadian and Free French forces invaded German-occupied Normandy in northern France. We now know this as D-Day. In less than a month more than 850,000 troops had landed in Normandy. The objective was to defeat Hitler's German forces, and liberate the conquered people of Europe from the Nazi occupation.

Just a few days later, on 22 June 1944 Soviet forces began a major offensive in the East. By August 1944, they had succeeded in gaining control of Central Poland.

As the Soviet army fought their way westwards they uncovered many hundreds of Nazi concentration camps. On 23 July 1944, the Soviet army liberated the death camp of Majdanek, near Lublin in Poland.

The SS had already evacuated the majority of the prisoners to the west. However, they had not destroyed all evidence of mass murder.

Knowing that the Soviet army was advancing, those prisoners who were fit enough to walk were evacuated West. Starting on foot, they were then placed on railway wagons and sent back to Germany. Thousands of people died in what became known as the 'death marches'.

On 27 January 1945 the Soviet army liberated the largest camp of all, Auschwitz-Birkenau. When the Soviets finally arrived they found only 7,650 people alive in Auschwitz. Many of these were young children.

In the West, as the Allies fought their way towards Berlin, they uncovered many hundreds of Nazi camps. The main ones included Buchenwald, Dachau, Mauthausen and Bergen-Belsen. Allied broadcasters filmed the situation of the surviving inmates. When these films were shown in cinemas across Europe and the Americas the world was shocked. This was the first time that mass media was used to show the horror of genocide.

On 30 April 1945 Adolf Hitler committed suicide. On 8 May 1945 the Nazis surrendered.

**Topic:**

**Questions**

**Notes**

**Summary:**

**Topic:**

**Questions**

**Notes**





## Leading up to the War

**1933 January 30** - Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany. His Nazi Party, or the Third Reich,

takes power and Hitler is essentially the dictator of Germany.

**1936 October 25** - Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy form the Rome-Berlin Axis treaty.

**1936 November 25** - Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan sign the Anti-Comintern Pact. This was a pact

against communism and Russia.

**1937 July 7** - Japan invades China.

**1938 March 12** - Hitler annexes the country of Austria into Germany. This is also called the Anschluss.

## World War II

**1939 September 1** - Germany invades Poland. World War II begins.

**1939 September 3** - France and Great Britain declare war on Germany.

**1940 April 9 to June 9** - Germany invades and takes control of Denmark and Norway.

**1940 May 10 to June 22** - Germany uses quick strikes called blitzkrieg, meaning lightning war, to take

over much of western Europe including the Netherlands, Belgium, and

northern France.

**1940 May 30** - Winston Churchill becomes leader of the British government.

**1940 June 10** - Italy enters the war as a member of the Axis powers.

**1940 July 10** - Germany launches an air attack on Great Britain. These attacks last until the end of

October and are known as the Battle of Britain.

**1940 September 22** - Germany, Italy, and Japan sign the Tripartite Pact creating the Axis Alliance.

**1941 June 22** - Germany and the Axis Powers attack Russia with a huge force of over four million

troops.

**1941 December 7** - The Japanese attack the US Navy in Pearl Harbor. The next day the US enters World

War II on the side of the Allies.

**1942 June 4** - The US Navy defeats the Japanese navy at the Battle of Midway.

**1942 July 10** - The Allies invade and take the island of Sicily.

**1943 September 3** - Italy surrenders to the Allies, however Germany helps Mussolini to escape and set

up a government in Northern Italy.

**1944 June 6** - D-day and the Normandy invasion. Allied forces invade France and push back the

Germans.

**1944 August 25** - Paris is liberated from German control.

**1944 December 16** - The Germans launch a large attack in the Battle of the Bulge. They lose to the

Allies sealing the fate of the German army.

**1945 February 19** - US Marines invade the island of Iwo Jima. After a fierce battle they capture the

island.

**1945 April 12** - US President Franklin Roosevelt dies. He is succeeded by President Harry Truman.

**1945 March 22** - The US Third Army under General Patton crosses the Rhine River.

**1945 April 30** - Adolf Hitler commits suicide as he knows Germany has lost the war.

**1945 May 7** - Germany surrenders to the Allies.


**1945 August 6** - The United States drops the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. The city is devastated.

**1945 August 9** - Another atomic bomb is dropped on Nagasaki, Japan.

**1945 September 2** - Japan surrenders to US General Douglas MacArthur and the Allies.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Essential Question \_\_\_\_\_  
 Standards \_\_\_\_\_

### Personality of the AXIS Powers

<b>Adolf Hitler</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Occupation:</b> Dictator of Germany</li> <li>• <b>Born:</b> April 20, 1889 in Braunau am Inn, Austria–Hungary</li> <li>• <b>Died:</b> April 30 1945 in Berlin, Germany</li> <li>• <b>Best known for:</b> Starting World War II and the Holocaust</li> </ul>
<p>Adolf Hitler was the leader of Germany from 1933 to 1945. He was leader of the Nazi party and became a powerful dictator. Hitler started World War II by invading Poland and then invading many other European countries. He is also known for wanting to exterminate the Jewish people in the Holocaust.</p> <p>Adolf was born on April 20, 1899 in a city named Braunau am Inn in the country of Austria. His family moved around some, living a short while in Germany and then back to Austria. Hitler did not have a happy childhood. Both his parents died fairly young and many of his brothers and sisters died as well.</p> <p>Adolf did not do well in school. He was expelled from a couple of schools before he moved to Venice, Italy to pursue his dream of becoming an artist. While living in Venice, Hitler found that he did not have much artistic talent and he soon became very poor. He would later move to Munich, Germany in hopes of becoming an architect.</p> <p>When World War I began, Hitler joined the German army. Adolf was awarded twice with the Iron Cross for bravery. It was during World War I that Hitler became a strong German patriot and also came to love war.</p> <p>After the war, Hitler entered politics. Many Germans were upset that they had lost the war. They were also not happy with the Treaty of Versailles, which not only blamed the war on Germany, but took land from Germany. At the same time, Germany was in an economic depression. Many people were poor. Between the depression and the Treaty of Versailles, the time was ripe for Hitler to rise to power.</p> <p>Once entering politics, Hitler discovered that he was gifted in giving speeches. His speeches were powerful and people believed what he said. Hitler joined the Nazi party and soon became its leader. He promised Germany that if he became leader he would restore Germany to greatness in Europe. In 1933 he was elected Chancellor of Germany.</p> <p>After becoming Chancellor, there was no stopping Hitler. He had studied his idol, Benito Mussolini of Italy, about how to install a fascist government and become a dictator. Soon Hitler was dictator of Germany.</p>	

In order for Germany to grow, Hitler thought the country needed more land or "living space". He first annexed Austria as part of Germany and then took over part of Czechoslovakia. This wasn't enough, however. On September 1, 1939 Germany invaded Poland and World War II began. Hitler formed an alliance with the Axis Powers of Japan and Italy. They were fighting the Allied Powers of Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

Hitler's army began to take over much of Europe. They attacked quickly in what was called Blitzkrieg or "lightning war". Soon Germany had captured much of Europe including France, Denmark, and Belgium.

However, the Allies fought back. On June 6, 1944 they invaded the beaches of Normandy and soon liberated France. By March of 1945 the Allies had defeated much of the German army. On April 30, 1945 Hitler committed suicide.

Hitler was responsible for some of the most horrible crimes committed in human history. He hated Jewish people and wanted to exterminate them from Germany. He forced Jewish people to go to concentration camps where 6 million Jews were killed during World War II. He also had other people and races he didn't like killed including handicapped people.

### Facts about Hitler

- Hitler loved the circus, especially the acrobats.
- He never took his coat off, no matter how hot it got.
- He didn't exercise and didn't like sports.
- Only one of Hitler's 5 siblings survived childhood, his sister Paula.
- Hitler was temporarily blind from a mustard gas attack during World War I.

### Benito Mussolini



- NAME: Benito Mussolini
- OCCUPATION: [Dictator](#)
- BIRTH DATE: [July 29, 1883](#)
- DEATH DATE: [April 28, 1945](#)
- PLACE OF BIRTH: Dovia di Predappio, Forlì, Italy
- PLACE OF DEATH: Mezzegra, Italy

Born in 1883 in Dovia di Predappio, Forlì, Italy, Benito Mussolini was an ardent socialist as a youth, following in his father's political footsteps, but was expelled by the party for his support of World War I. In 1919, he created the Fascist Party, eventually making himself dictator and holding all the power in Italy. He overextended his forces during World War II and was eventually killed by his own people, on April 28, 1945, in Mezzegra, Italy.

Mussolini initially condemned Italy's entry into World War I, but soon saw the war as an opportunity for his country to become a great power. His change in attitude broke ties with fellow socialists, however, and he was expelled from the organization. He joined the Italian army in 1915 and fought on the front lines, reaching the rank of corporal before being wounded and discharged from the military.

After the war, Mussolini resumed his political activities, criticizing the Italian government for weakness at the Treaty of Versailles. He organized several right-wing groups into a single force and, in March 1919, formed the Fascist Party—the movement proclaimed opposition to social class discrimination and supported nationalist sentiments, hoping to raise Italy to levels of its great Roman past.

Capitalizing on public discontent, Mussolini organized a para-military unit known as the "Black Shirts," who terrorized political opponents and helped increase Fascist influence. By 1922, as Italy slipped into

political chaos, Mussolini declared that only he could restore order and was given the authority. He gradually dismantled all democratic institutions, and by 1929, had made himself dictator, taking the title "Il Duce" ("the Leader"). To his credit, Mussolini carried out an extensive public works program and reduced unemployment, making him very popular with the people.

In 1935, determined to show the strength of his regime, Benito Mussolini invaded Ethiopia. The ill-equipped Ethiopians were no match for Italy's modern tanks and airplanes, and the capital, Addis Ababa, was quickly captured. Mussolini incorporated Ethiopia into the new Italian Empire. In 1939, he sent support to Fascists in Spain during the Spanish Civil War, hoping to expand his influence.

Impressed with Italy's early military successes, German dictator Adolf Hitler sought to establish a relationship with Benito Mussolini; he was flattered by Hitler's overtures and interpreted the recent diplomatic and military victories as proof of his genius. By 1939, the two countries had signed a military alliance known as the "Pact of Steel." Influenced by Hitler, Mussolini instituted discrimination policies against the Jews in Italy. In 1940, Italy invaded Greece with some initial success.

With Italy's resources stretched to capacity, many Italians believed the alliance with Germany would provide time to regroup. But Hitler's invasion of Poland and declaration of war with Britain and France forced Italy into war, and exposed weaknesses in its military. Greece and North Africa soon fell, and only German military intervention in early 1941 saved Mussolini from a military coup.

In 1942, at the Casablanca Conference, Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt devised a plan to take Italy out of the war and force Germany to move its troops to the Eastern Front against the Soviet Union. Allied forces secured a beachhead in Sicily and began marching up the Italian peninsula. With pressure mounting, Mussolini was forced to resign and arrested; German commandos later rescued him. Mussolini then moved his government to northern Italy, hoping to regain his influence. On June 4, 1944, Rome was liberated by Allied forces, who marched on to take control of Italy.

Mussolini and his mistress, Claretta Petacci, attempted to escape to Switzerland, but were captured by the Italian underground on April 27, 1945. They were executed the following day, on April 28, 1945, in Mezzegra (near Dongo), Italy, and their bodies were hung on display in a Milan plaza. The Italian masses greeted Mussolini's death without regret. Mussolini had promised his people Roman glory, but his megalomania had overcome his common sense, bringing them only war and misery.

## Hirohito



- **NAME:** Hirohito
- **OCCUPATION:** Emperor
- **BIRTH DATE:** April 29, 1901
- **DEATH DATE:** January 07, 1989
- **PLACE OF BIRTH:** Tokyo, Japan
- **PLACE OF DEATH:** Tokyo, Japan

Hirohito was best known as the Emperor of Japan from 1926-1989. During World War II he led Japan's military and the country's surrender to the Allied Forces.

Hirohito was a Japanese Emperor born on April 29, 1901 in Tokyo, Japan. Installed as the Crown Prince at age 15, he reigned as Japan's longest monarch from 1926-1989. During World War II, he led Japan's military and the country's surrender to the Allied Forces in 1945. After the war, the new constitution drafted by the U.S. changed Japan to a constitutional monarchy so that sovereignty lay with the people instead of the Emperor. Hirohito died on January 7, 1989 and his son Akihito succeeded him.

## Personalities of the Allied Powers

### Franklin D. Roosevelt



- **NAME:** Franklin D. [Roosevelt](#)
- **OCCUPATION:** [U.S. President](#)
- **BIRTH DATE:** [January 30, 1882](#)
- **DEATH DATE:** [April 12, 1945](#)
- **EDUCATION:** Groton Preparatory School, [Harvard University](#), Columbia University Law School
- **PLACE OF BIRTH:** Hyde Park, [New York](#)
- **PLACE OF DEATH:** Warm Springs, Georgia
- **Full Name:** Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Franklin D. Roosevelt was the only U.S. president to be elected four times. He led the United States through the Great Depression and World War II.

Born on January 30, 1882, in Hyde Park, New York, Franklin D. Roosevelt was stricken with polio in 1921. He became the 32nd U.S. president in 1933, and was the only president to be elected four times. Roosevelt led the United States through the Great Depression and World War II, and greatly expanded the powers of the federal government through a series of programs and reforms known as the New Deal. Roosevelt died in Georgia in 1945.

Al Smith urged Franklin Roosevelt to run for governor of New York, in 1928. Roosevelt was narrowly elected, and the victory gave him confidence that his political star was rising. As governor, he believed in progressive government and instituted a number of new social programs. By 1930, Republicans were being blamed for the Great Depression and Franklin Roosevelt sensed opportunity. He began his run for the presidency, calling for government intervention in the economy to provide relief, recovery and reform. His upbeat, positive approach and personal charm helped him defeat Republican incumbent Herbert Hoover in November 1932. By the time Roosevelt took office in March of 1933, there were 13 million unemployed Americans, and hundreds of banks were closed. Roosevelt faced the greatest crisis in American history since the Civil War.

In his first 100 days, President Franklin Roosevelt proposed sweeping economic reform, calling it the "New Deal." He ordered the temporary closure on all banks to halt the run on deposits. He formed a "Brain Trust" of economic advisors who designed the alphabet agencies such as the AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Administration) to support farm prices, the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) to employ young men, and the NRA (National Recovery Administration), which regulated wages and prices. Other agencies insured bank deposits, regulated the stock market, subsidized mortgages, and provided relief to the unemployed.

By 1936, the economy showed signs of improvement. Gross national product was up 34 percent, and unemployment had dropped from 25 percent to 14 percent. But Franklin Roosevelt faced criticism for increased government spending, unbalanced budgets, and what some perceived as moving the country toward socialism. Several New Deal acts were declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. Roosevelt retaliated by proposing to "pack" the court with justices more favorable to his reforms. Many in Congress, including some Democrats, rejected the idea. By 1938, negative publicity, a continuing sluggish economy, and Republican victories in mid-term elections virtually ended Roosevelt's ability to pass more reform legislation.

Since the end of World War I, America had adopted an isolationist policy in foreign affairs. In the early 1930s, Congress passed the Neutrality Acts to prevent the United States from becoming entangled in foreign conflicts. In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt stepped away from the unilateral principle of the Monroe Doctrine and established the Good Neighbor Policy with Latin America

However, as military conflicts emerged in Asia and Europe, Roosevelt sought ways to assist China in its war with Japan and declared France and Great Britain were America's "first line of defense" against Nazi Germany.

Early in 1940, Roosevelt had not publically announced that he would run for an unprecedented third term as president. But privately, with Germany's victories in Europe and Japan's growing dominance in Asia, he felt that only he had the experience and skills to lead America in such trying times. At the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Roosevelt swept aside all challengers and received the nomination. In November 1940, he won the presidential election against Republican Wendell Willkie.

During 1941, Franklin Roosevelt pushed to have the United States' factories become an "arsenal of democracy" for the Allies—France, Britain, and Russia. As Americans learned more about the war's atrocities, isolationist sentiment diminished. Roosevelt took advantage, standing firm against the Axis Powers of Germany, Italy, and Japan. Bipartisan support in Congress expanded the Army and Navy and increased the flow of supplies to the Allies. Hopes of keeping the United States out of war ended with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

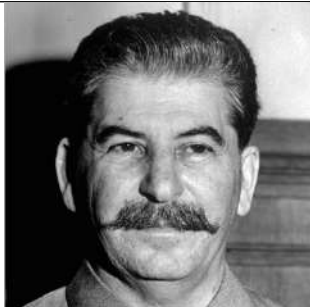
During World War II, Franklin Roosevelt was a commander in chief who worked with and sometimes around his military advisors. He helped develop a strategy for defeating Germany in Europe through a series of invasions, first in North Africa in November 1942, then Sicily and Italy in 1943, followed by the D-Day invasion of Europe in 1944. At the same time, Allied forces rolled back Japan in Asia and the eastern Pacific. During this time, Roosevelt also promoted the formation of the United Nations.

The stress of war, however, began to take its toll on Franklin Roosevelt. In March 1944, hospital tests indicated he had atherosclerosis, coronary artery disease and congestive heart failure. In spite of this, and because the country was deeply involved in war, there was no question that Roosevelt would run for another term as president. He selected Missouri Senator Harry S. Truman as his running mate, and together they defeated Republican candidate Thomas E. Dewey, carrying 36 of the 48 states.

In February 1945, Franklin Roosevelt attended the Yalta Conference with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet General Secretary Joseph Stalin to discuss post-war reorganization. He then returned to the United States and the sanctuary of Warm Springs, Georgia. On the afternoon of April 12, 1945, Roosevelt suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage and died. At his side were two cousins, Laura Delano and Margaret Suckley, and his former mistress Lucy Mercer Rutherford (by then a widow), with whom he had maintained his relationship.

Franklin Roosevelt's sudden death shook the American public to its roots. Though many had noticed that he looked exhausted in photographs and newsreels, no one seemed prepared for his passing. He had led the United States through an economic depression and the greatest war in human history. A whole generation of Americans had grown up knowing no other president. His social programs during the Great Depression redefined the role of government in Americans' lives. His role during World War II established the United States' leadership on the world stage. His 12 years in the White House set a precedent for the expansion of presidential power and redefined liberalism for generations to come.

### Joseph Stalin



- **NAME:** [Joseph](#) Stalin
- **OCCUPATION:** [Dictator](#)
- **BIRTH DATE:** [December 18, 1878](#)
- **DEATH DATE:** [March 05](#), 1953
- **EDUCATION:** Church school (Gori, Georgia, Russian Empire), Tiflis Theological Seminary
- **PLACE OF BIRTH:** Gori, Georgia, Russia
- **PLACE OF DEATH:** Moscow, Russia
- **Originally:** Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili

Joseph Stalin ruled the Soviet Union for more than two decades, instituting a reign of terror while modernizing Russia and helping to defeat Nazism.

Born on December 18, 1879, in Gori, Georgia, Joseph Stalin rose to power as General Secretary of the Communist Party, becoming a Soviet dictator upon Vladimir Lenin's death. Stalin forced rapid

industrialization and the collectivization of agricultural land, resulting in millions dying from famine while others were sent to camps. His Red Army helped defeat Nazi Germany during WWII

The fledgling Soviet government went through a violent period after the revolution as various individuals vied for position and control. In 1922, Stalin was appointed to the newly created office of general secretary of the Communist Party. Though not a significant post at the time, it gave Stalin control over all party member appointments, which allowed him to build his base. He made shrewd appointments and consolidated his power so that eventually nearly all members of the central command owed their position to him. By the time anyone realized what he had done, it was too late. Even Lenin, who was gravely ill, was helpless to regain control from Stalin.

After Lenin's death, in 1924, Stalin set out to destroy the old party leadership and take total control. At first, he had people removed from power through bureaucratic shuffling and denunciations. Many were exiled abroad to Europe and the Americas, including presumed Lenin successor Leon Trotsky. However, further paranoia set in and Stalin soon conducted a vast reign of terror, having people arrested in the night and put before spectacular show trials. Potential rivals were accused of aligning with capitalist nations, convicted of being "enemies of the people" and summarily executed. The purges eventually extended beyond the party elite to local officials suspected of counterrevolutionary activities.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, Stalin reversed the Bolshevik agrarian policy by seizing land given earlier to the peasants and organizing collective farms. This essentially reduced the peasants back to serfs, as they had been during the monarchy. Stalin believed that collectivism would accelerate food production, but the peasants resented losing their land and working for the state. Millions were killed in forced labor or starved during the ensuing famine. Stalin also set in motion rapid industrialization that initially achieved huge successes, but over time cost millions of lives and vast damage to the environment. Any resistance was met with swift and lethal response; millions of people were exiled to the labor camps of the Gulag or were executed.

As war clouds rose over Europe in 1939, Stalin made a seemingly brilliant move, signing a nonaggression pact with Adolph Hitler and Nazi Germany. Stalin was convinced of Hitler's integrity and ignored warnings from his military commanders that Germany was mobilizing armies on its eastern front. When the Nazi blitzkrieg struck in June 1941, the Soviet Army was completely unprepared and immediately suffered massive losses. Stalin was so distraught at Hitler's treachery that he hid in his office for several days.

By the time Stalin regained his resolve, German armies occupied all of the Ukraine and Belarus, and its artillery surrounded Leningrad.

To make matters worse, the purges of the 1930s had depleted the Soviet Army and government leadership to the point where both were nearly dysfunctional. After heroic efforts on the part of the Soviet Army and the Russian people, the Germans were turned back at Stalingrad in 1943. By the next year, the Soviet Army was liberating countries in Eastern Europe, even before the Allies had mounted a serious challenge against Hitler at D-Day.

Stalin had been suspicious of the West since the inception of the Soviet Union. Ever since the Soviet Union had entered the war, Stalin had demanded the Allies open up a second front against Germany. Both British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and American President Franklin D. Roosevelt argued that such an action would result in heavy casualties. This only deepened Stalin's suspicion of the West, as millions of Russians died.

As the tide of war slowly turned in the Allies' favor, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill met with Joseph Stalin to discuss postwar arrangements. At the first of these meetings, in Teheran, Iran, in late 1943, the recent victory in Stalingrad put Stalin in a solid bargaining position. He demanded the Allies open a second front against Germany, which they agreed to in the spring of 1944. In



February 1945, the three leaders met again at Yalta in the Crimea. With Soviet troops liberating countries in Eastern Europe, Stalin was again in a strong position and negotiated virtually a free hand in reorganizing their governments. He also agreed to enter the war against Japan once Germany was defeated.

The situation changed at the Potsdam Conference in July 1945. Roosevelt died that April and was replaced by President Harry S. Truman. British parliamentary elections had replaced Prime Minister Churchill with Clement Attlee as Britain's chief negotiator. By now, the British and Americans were suspicious of Stalin's intentions and wanted to avoid Soviet involvement in a postwar Japan. The dropping of two atomic bombs in August 1945 forced Japan's surrender before the Soviets could mobilize.

Convinced of the Allies' hostility toward the Soviet Union, Stalin became obsessed with the threat of an invasion from the West. Between 1945 and 1948, he established Communist regimes in many Eastern European countries, creating a vast "buffer zone" between Western Europe and "Mother Russia." Western powers interpreted these actions as proof of Stalin's desire to place Europe under Communist control, thus formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to counter Soviet influence. In 1948, Stalin ordered an economic blockade on the German city of Berlin, in hopes of gaining full control of the city. The Allies mounted a massive airlift, supplying the city and eventually forcing Stalin to back down.

Stalin suffered another foreign policy defeat after he encouraged North Korean Communist leader Kim Il Sung to invade South Korea, believing the United States would not interfere. Earlier, he had ordered the Soviet representative to the United Nations to boycott the Security Council because it refused to accept the newly formed Communist People's Republic of China into the United Nations. When the resolution to support South Korea came to a vote in the Security Council, the Soviet Union was unable to use its veto.

Though his popularity from his successes during World War II was strong, Stalin's health began to deteriorate in the early 1950s. After an assassination plot was uncovered, he ordered the head of the secret police to instigate a new purge of the Communist Party. Before it could be executed, however, Stalin died on March 5, 1953. He left a legacy of death and terror as he turned a backward Russia into a world superpower.

Stalin was eventually denounced by his successor, Nikita Khrushchev, in 1956. However, he has found a rekindled popularity among many of Russia's young people.

### Sir Winston Churchill



- NAME: Winston Churchill
- OCCUPATION: [Prime Minister](#), [Journalist](#)
- BIRTH DATE: [November 30, 1874](#)
- DEATH DATE: [January 24, 1965](#)
- EDUCATION: St. George's School, Brunswick School, Harrow School, Royal Military College (Academy) at Sandhurst
- PLACE OF BIRTH: Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, England
- PLACE OF DEATH: Hyde Park Gate, London, England

As prime minister of Great Britain, Sir Winston Churchill rallied the British people during WWII, and led his country from the brink of defeat to victory.

Winston Churchill's life was a trajectory of events leading to his stand against Adolph Hitler's threat to control Europe. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Churchill helped lead a successful Allied

strategy with President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) and General Secretary [Joseph Stalin](#) during WWII to defeat the Axis powers and craft post-war peace. After the breakdown of the alliance, he alerted the West to the expansionist threat of Soviet Communism.

Though not at first seeing the threat that Adolph Hitler posed when he rose to power in 1933, Churchill gradually became a leading advocate for British rearmament. By 1938, as Germany began controlling its neighbors, Churchill had become a staunch critic of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's policy of appeasement toward the Nazis. On September 3, 1939, the day that Britain declared war on Germany, Churchill was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty and a member of the War Cabinet, and by April, 1940, he became chairman of the Military Coordinating Committee. Later that month, Germany invaded and occupied Norway, which was a setback for Neville Chamberlain, who had resisted Churchill's proposal that Britain pre-empt German aggression by unilaterally occupying vital Norwegian iron mines and sea ports. In May, debate in Parliament on the Norwegian crisis led to a vote of no confidence toward Prime Minister Chamberlain. On May 10, King George VI appointed Churchill as prime minister and Minister of Defense. Within hours, the German Army began its Western Offensive, invading the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. Two days later, German forces entered France. Britain stood alone against the onslaught.

Quickly, Churchill formed a coalition cabinet of leaders from the Labor, Liberal and Conservative parties. He placed intelligent and talented men in key positions. On June 18, 1940, Churchill made one of his iconic speeches to the House of Commons, warning that "the Battle of Britain" was about to begin. Churchill kept resistance to Nazi dominance alive, and created the foundation for an alliance with the United States and the Soviet Union. Churchill had previously cultivated a relationship with U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1930s, and by March 1941, was able to secure vital U.S. aid through the Lend Lease Act, which allowed Britain to order war goods from the United States on credit.

After the United States entered World War II, in December 1941, Churchill was confident that the Allies would eventually win the war. In the months that followed, Churchill worked closely with U.S. President Roosevelt and Soviet Union leader Joseph Stalin to forge an Allied war strategy and post-war world.

In meetings in Teheran (1943), Yalta (February 1945) and Potsdam (July 1945), Churchill collaborated with the two leaders to develop a united strategy against the Axis Powers, and helped craft the post-war world with the United Nations as its centerpiece. As the war wound down, Churchill proposed plans for social reforms in Britain, but was unable to convince the public. Perhaps seeing him only as a "war-time prime minister, he was defeated in the general election in July 1945.

### Harry S. Truman



Harry S. Truman was the **33rd President** of the United States.

**Served as President:** 1945-1953

**Vice President:** Alben William Barkley

**Party:** Democrat

**Age at inauguration:** 60

**Born:** May 8, 1884 in Lamar, Missouri

**Died:** December 26, 1972 in Independence, Missouri

Harry S. Truman became president when Franklin D. Roosevelt died. He is most known for putting an end to World War II in the Pacific by dropping the atomic bomb on Japan. He is also known for the Marshall Plan, the Truman Doctrine, and the Korean War.

President Roosevelt died shortly after being elected for his fourth term and Truman became president. World War II was still raging at the time, but things were looking up for the Allies. Just a few months later the Germans surrendered, but President Truman still had to deal with the Japanese.

The Japanese had all but been defeated in World War II, except they were refusing to surrender. An invasion of Japan would likely cost hundreds of thousands of American lives. At the same time

the United States had just developed a horrible new weapon, the atomic bomb. Truman had to decide whether to invade or use the bomb. In an effort to save the lives of U.S. soldiers he decided to use the bomb.

The United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. A few days later they dropped another on Nagasaki. The devastation of these cities was unlike anything ever seen. The Japanese surrendered shortly after.

After World War II there were still many issues that Truman had to deal with. First was the reconstruction of Europe, which was ravaged by the war. He used the Marshall Plan to help European nations rebuild.

Another major post-war issue was the Soviet Union and communism. The Soviet Union had become a major power and wanted to spread communism throughout the world. Truman helped to form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) with Canada and Western Europe. These countries would help to protect each other from the Soviet Union. This also started the [Cold War](#) between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

With the spread of communism, wars began to break out in other areas of the world. Truman sent U.S. troops to Korea to fight in the [Korean War](#). He also sent aid to Vietnam.

**Topic:**

**Questions**

**Notes**

**Summary:**

**Topic:**

**Questions**

**Notes**





### **Rationing**

Because of the war, many products were in short supply. Metal had to be used to make tanks and battle ships. Medicine was needed for the battlefields. Also, some products were hard to get as they came from countries that were at war. Rubber for tires was especially difficult to get because much of it was imported from Southeast Asia.

By the end of the war, many products were rationed. Each family would get ration stamps allowing them to buy a certain amount of a type of product. Products rationed included tires, automobiles, sugar, gasoline, meat, butter, and coal.



### **Women go to work**

When World War II began in 1939 there were around 190,000 men in the US Army. By the time the war ended in 1945, there were over 10 million. On top of this, factories in the US were at full capacity making arms, tanks, ships, and vehicles for the war. There was a shortage of workers.



To fill the gap and help build supplies for the war, many women went to work. They took on tough physical labor jobs that previously had been done mostly by men. Women who went to work in factories were nicknamed Rosie the Riveter. They played a major role in keeping the factories running smoothly and producing much needed planes, tanks, and other arms for the war.

### **Japanese Americans**

At the time of the war there were many citizens of the United States of Japanese descent. After Pearl Harbor, many people didn't trust them and were worried that they would help Japan to invade America. In 1942 President Roosevelt signed a bill that ordered Japanese Americans to go to internment camps. These camps were almost like prisons. They were guarded by soldiers and surrounded by barbed wire.

Around 110,000 Japanese Americans were forced into the internment camps. They had to leave their homes, shops, and jobs. Many lost their homes and most of their possessions. In 1988 President Ronald Reagan signed a bill that gave reparations of \$20,000 to the survivors. In 1989 President George H.W. Bush gave a formal apology.

### **Entertainment and Propaganda**

The US government knew that Americans must stay united in the war effort in order to win the war. They created all sorts of posters that showed patriotism and ways that people could help with the war effort from home. There were also lots of wartime movies showing how brave the soldiers were and how evil Hitler and the enemy was. All movie scripts had to be approved by the government.

Many celebrities fought in the war. Baseball players such as Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams enlisted and fought. Also movie stars such as Jimmy Stewart and Clark Gable joined the army. At one point the commissioner of Major League Baseball wrote a letter to President Roosevelt asking if professional baseball should continue during the war. Roosevelt responded that they should keep playing baseball because it was good for the country's moral.

### **Interesting Facts**

- Factories in the United States built over 80,000 tanks, 300,000 military planes, 2 million trucks, and millions of rifles and machine guns.

- The Allied countries produced significantly more military weapons, vehicles, and aircraft than the Axis countries.
- The United States supplied its Allies with as much as half of their military weapons and arms. This was a boon to the US economy and helped bring an end to the Great Depression.

### **The Tuskegee Airmen**

African Americans have played a significant role in U.S. military history over the past 300 years. They were denied military leadership roles and skilled training because many believed they lacked qualifications for combat duty. Before 1940, African Americans were barred from flying for the U.S. military. Civil rights organizations and the black press exerted pressure that resulted in the formation of an all African-American pursuit squadron based in Tuskegee, Alabama, in 1941. They became known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

"Tuskegee Airmen" refers to all who were involved in the so-called "Tuskegee Experiment," the Army Air Corps program to train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air.

The military selected Tuskegee Institute to train pilots because of its commitment to aeronautical training. Tuskegee had the facilities, and engineering and technical instructors, as well as a climate for year round flying. The first Civilian Pilot Training Program students completed their instruction in May 1940. The Tuskegee program was then expanded and became the center for African-American aviation during World War II.

The Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II. They proved conclusively that African Americans could fly and maintain sophisticated combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen's achievements, together with the men and women who supported them, paved the way for full integration of the U.S. military.

### **US Women of World War II**

Women played an important role for the United States in World War II. Although they did not enter combat as soldiers, many women helped by serving in the armed forces. They also helped to keep the country together at the home front. Women worked in factories producing ships, tanks, munitions and other much needed products for the war effort

#### **Women in the Armed Forces**

Many women served in the armed forces during the war. Some served as nurses in the Army Nurse corps. This could be a dangerous job as some nurses worked in hospitals that were close to the war front. They served in a variety of areas including field hospitals, ship hospitals, medical transport planes, and evacuation hospitals. Many soldier's lives were saved by these brave nurses.

Women also served in the Women's Army Corps or WAC. This was a branch of the armed forces started up in 1942. Women served in non-combat areas such as mechanics repairing vehicles, army post offices sorting mail, and working in communications and warning systems. There were 150,000 women in the WAC by the end of the war. They served throughout the military, even landing in Normandy only a few weeks after D-Day.



At first many men did not want women in the armed forces. It was Eleanor Roosevelt and General George Marshall who eventually got the WAC approved. Later, women troops were such good soldiers that some leaders suggested that women should be drafted.

Women also served as pilots as Women's Air Force Service Pilots or WASPs. These were women who already had pilot's licenses. They flew military planes between army bases and flew cargo planes carrying supplies. This freed up men pilots for combat missions.

### **Rosie the Riveter**

Perhaps one of the largest contributions of women during World War II was keeping our factories running. With 10 million men in the army, many women were needed to run the country's factories. They produced much needed planes, tanks, warships, guns, and other munitions for the war.

In order to inspire women to work in the factories, the US government came up with the "Rosie the Riveter" campaign. Displayed on posters and magazines, Rosie the Riveter was a character that portrayed a strong patriotic woman who worked in the factories to help the country. There was even a popular song called "Rosie the Riveter". The campaign was successful as hundreds of thousands of women entered the work force taking on jobs that had been previously done by men.



**Topic:**

**Questions**

**Notes**

**Summary:**

**Topic:**

**The Atomic Bomb**

At the start of World War II in 1939 the atomic bomb had not yet been invented. However, scientists discovered about that time that a powerful explosion might be possible by splitting

an atom. This type of bomb could destroy large cities in a single blast and would change warfare forever.

The Manhattan Project was the name for the research and development program for the atomic bomb. It started small, but as the bomb became more real, the United States added scientists and funding to be sure they were the first to have the bomb. Ironically, many of the scientists involved in making the bomb had defected from Germany. By the end of the project, funding had reached \$2 billion and there were around 200,000 people working on the project.

On July 16, 1945 the first atomic bomb was exploded in the New Mexico desert. The explosion was massive and the equivalent to 18,000 tons of TNT. Scientists figured that the temperature at the center of the explosion was three times hotter than at the center of the sun.

Although the scientists were happy they had successfully made the bomb, they also were sad and fearful. This bomb would change the world and could cause mass destruction and death. When President Harry Truman heard of the bomb's success he wrote "We have discovered the most terrible bomb in the history of the world".

By the time the first atomic bomb had been made, Germany had already surrendered and World War II in Europe was over. Japan was defeated as well, but would not surrender. The US was contemplating an invasion of Japan. Army leaders figured that anywhere from 500,000 to 1 million US and Allied soldiers would die in an invasion. President Truman decided to drop the atomic bomb instead.

### **Hiroshima**

On August 6, 1945 an atomic bomb named Little Boy was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. The explosion was huge, the city was destroyed, and tens of thousands of people were killed. The bomb was dropped by a plane named the Enola Gay which was piloted by Colonel Paul Tibbetts. The bomb itself was over 10 feet long and weighed around 10,000 pounds. A small parachute was on the bomb in order to slow its drop and allow the plane time to fly away from the blast zone.

### **Nagasaki**

Despite witnessing the terrible destruction of the bomb on Hiroshima, Emperor Hirohito and Japan still refused to surrender. Three days later, on August 9, 1945, another atomic bomb, nicknamed Fat Man, was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. Again the devastation was horrible.

### **Surrender**

Six days after the bombing of Nagasaki, Emperor Hirohito and Japan surrendered to US forces. The Emperor announced this on the radio. It was the first time most Japanese had heard his voice.

## After the War

Many things changed once World War II was over. Much of Europe and Eastern Asia had been destroyed by the fighting and bombings that had taken place over many years. Also, many country's borders needed to be set and governments re-established where Germany or Japan had taken over.

### Europe

Germany had occupied much of Europe during World War II. Many of the countries in the west returned to the same governments and borders they had prior to the war. However, Germany was divided up into Eastern and Western Germany. The Eastern part was controlled by the USSR (Russia) and the Western part by the Allies.

The USSR also took control of many of the countries in Eastern Europe where they had fought the Germans. These included Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia.

Europe was in much need of financial aid due to all the roads, bridges, buildings and more that had been destroyed in the fighting. The United States offered Aid in the form of the Marshall Plan to help Europe recover.

### Japan and Eastern Asia

The US and the Allies occupied Japan. They maintained control as Japan recovered from the war. Japan would become an independent nation again in 1952.

In Korea, the Allies and the USSR (Russia) divided up the country into North and South Korea. The plan was for Russia to control the North and the Allies the South until a free election could be held for the entire country. This never happened as Russia later refused and the country is still split to this day with North Korea controlled by [communists](#).

[In China, a civil war](#) continued that had started prior to World War II. It was between the communists and the nationalists. The communists won and the nationalists fled to Taiwan.

### United Nations

The Allies formed the United Nations in order to try and prevent World War III from happening. The United Nations was formed on October 24, 1945. There were 51 original member nations including 5 permanent Security Council members: China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The name "United Nations", coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt was first used in the Declaration by United Nations of 1 January 1942, during the Second World War, when representatives of 26 nations pledged their Governments to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers.

States first established international organizations to cooperate on specific matters. The International Telecommunication Union was founded in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, and the Universal Postal Union was established in 1874. Both are now United Nations specialized agencies.

In 1899, the International Peace Conference was held in The Hague to elaborate instruments for settling crises peacefully, preventing wars and codifying rules of warfare. It adopted the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes and established

the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which began work in 1902.

The forerunner of the United Nations was the League of Nations, an organization conceived in similar circumstances during the first World War, and established in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles "to promote international cooperation and to achieve peace and security." The International Labor Organization was also created under the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League. The League of Nations ceased its activities after failing to prevent the Second World War.

In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter. Those delegates deliberated on the basis of proposals worked out by the representatives of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States at Dumbarton Oaks, United States in August-October 1944. The Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 by the representatives of the 50 countries. Poland, which was not represented at the Conference, signed it later and became one of the original 51 Member States.

The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and by a majority of other signatories. United Nations Day is celebrated on 24 October each year

### **The Cold War Begins**

Europe became divided into the Eastern Bloc of nations and the West. The Eastern Bloc was led and controlled by the Soviet Union (Russia). These countries were run by communist governments and had their own alliance called the Warsaw Pact. The Western countries, including the United States, formed an alliance against communism called NATO.

These two alliances, NATO and the Warsaw Pact, would take part in an arms race war called the Cold War. The Cold War never escalated into full war due to the fear of what would happen to the world if many countries started dropping atomic bombs. The Cold War would last for the next 45 years.

Topic	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Summary</b>	

**Writing Activities for Unit 7**

**Paragraph Format for Unit 7 Writing Activities**

- Introduction sentence



















Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Learning Standards \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Essential Question \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE TAKING ACTIVITY from PowerPoint**  
**COLD WAR: ORIGINS AND ELEMENTS**

**Essential Understandings:**

1) The Cold War set the framework for \_\_\_\_\_ for 45 years after the end of \_\_\_\_\_. It also influenced American \_\_\_\_\_, the conduct of \_\_\_\_\_, and the role of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ after 1945

2) The Cold War was essentially a \_\_\_\_\_ between two very different ways of organizing \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_:

A) The _____-led western nations' belief in _____, _____ freedom, and a _____ economy	B) The _____ belief in a _____ state and _____
---	--

**Origins of the Cold War**

- Definition: "The \_\_\_\_\_ that developed after WWII between the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ for power and influence in the world
- The Cold War lasted from 1945 to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Soviet Union in 1991."

**1945 – A Critical Year**

- Cooperation during WWII between United States and Soviet Union was \_\_\_\_\_ arrangement

- \_\_\_\_\_ of 1917 – American troops supported anti-Communist resistance
- USSR \_\_\_\_\_ to peace conferences after WWI
- U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ recognize Soviet government until 1933
- Soviets signed a pact with \_\_\_\_\_ before WWII
- Soviets \_\_\_\_\_ with Americans/British over battle \_\_\_\_\_, postwar \_\_\_\_\_ during WWII
- Americans \_\_\_\_\_ communism
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conference of 1945 – Roosevelt, Stalin, Churchill met to work out future of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
  - Germany divided into American, British, French, and Soviet \_\_\_\_\_
  - American, British, French zones → \_\_\_\_\_
  - Soviet zone → \_\_\_\_\_
  - Conflict over future of \_\_\_\_\_
- Leaders agreed to form \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ becomes president



## Conflicting postwar goals

<p>United States</p> <p>1) Fought to bring _____, economic _____ to conquered nations of Europe/Asia.</p> <p>2) Economically strong and politically open world = _____ for American products</p>	<p>Soviet Union</p> <p>1) Wanted to _____ and protect its own interests = " _____ "</p> <p>2) Spread of _____ throughout the world = supported totalitarian Communist governments in _____</p>
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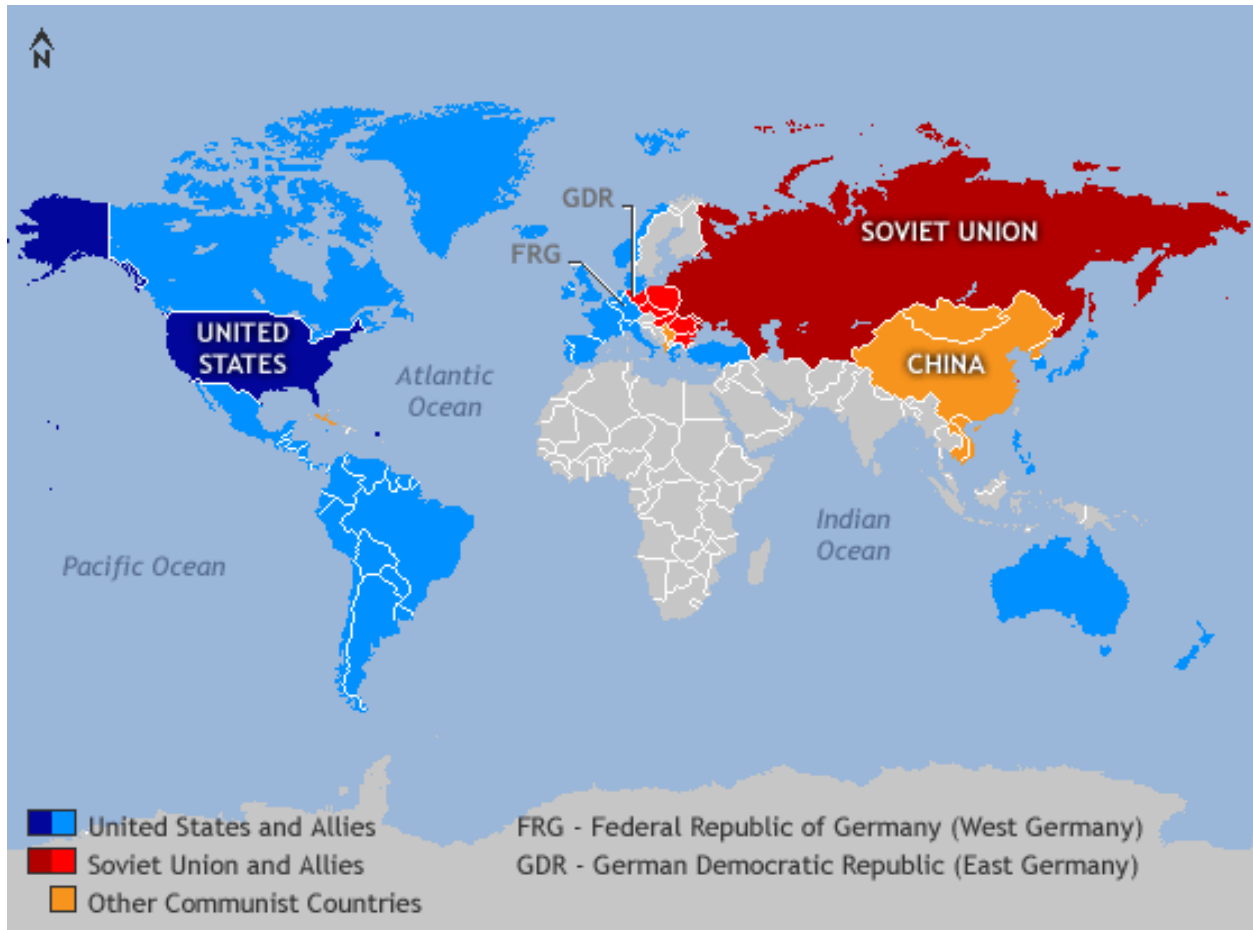
## Clash of Ideologies

	United States	Soviet Union
Political system	<p>_____ government</p> <p>Democracy: government by the _____, either directly or through elected representatives</p>	<p>_____ government</p> <p>Totalitarianism: _____ controls all aspects of citizens' lives, one ultimate leader</p>
Economic system	<p>_____ (free market)</p> <p>Capitalism: economic system in which the factors of production are owned _____; DIFFERENT SOCIAL CLASSES EXIST</p>	<p>_____ (socialism)</p> <p>Socialism: economic system in which property/means of production are owned _____; NO SOCIAL CLASSES</p>

- **Communism:** "economic system in which there is \_\_\_\_\_ state or private property, all goods are owned in \_\_\_\_\_, and there is \_\_\_\_\_ of citizens"

## The "Iron Curtain"

- February 1946 – \_\_\_\_\_ predicted ultimate triumph of communism over capitalism.
- March 5, 1946 – \_\_\_\_\_ responded while speaking in Fulton, Missouri
  - “From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ has descended across the Continent...”



### Marshall Plan

- Unveiled by Secretary of State George C. Marshall in 1947
- United States supported European \_\_\_\_\_  
from World War II
- U.S. allocated approx. \$13 \_\_\_\_\_ to Western Europe

### Berlin Airlift of 1948-1949

- Soviets \_\_\_\_\_ Allied access to West Berlin

- Blockade caused severe \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for 2.5 million people in \_\_\_\_\_
- British and American \_\_\_\_\_ made more than 200,000 flights to deliver food, fuel, other supplies until May 1949



### Communist Takeover of China

- The Communist takeover in China led by \_\_\_\_\_ shortly after WWII increased American fears of communist \_\_\_\_\_
- Rather than being strong allies, however, \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ eventually became \_\_\_\_\_ for territory and diplomatic influence

### Elements of the Cold War

<b>Containment</b>	American policy that called for the United States to _____ Soviet attempts to form Communist governments _____
<b>Truman Doctrine</b>	Pres. Harry Truman's 1947 _____ before a joint session of Congress, calling United States to take _____ role in the world, and declaring that the _____ would _____ nations threatened by communism

<b>Development of Competing Alliances</b>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>NATO (1949)</b>  <b>North Atlantic Treaty Organization</b>              _____ &amp; _____            _____ promise            common defense         </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>The Warsaw Pact (1955)</b>              _____ &amp; _____            _____ promised            common defense         </td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● For nearly 50 years, both sides maintained large _____ forces facing each other in Europe</li> </ul>	<b>NATO (1949)</b> <b>North Atlantic Treaty Organization</b>  _____ & _____ _____ promise common defense	<b>The Warsaw Pact (1955)</b>  _____ & _____ _____ promised common defense
<b>NATO (1949)</b> <b>North Atlantic Treaty Organization</b>  _____ & _____ _____ promise common defense	<b>The Warsaw Pact (1955)</b>  _____ & _____ _____ promised common defense		
<b>Arms Race</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Struggle between U.S. and Soviet Union to gain weapons _____</li> <li>● _____ – policy of making military power of U.S. and allies so strong that no enemy would dare attack out of fear</li> <li>● 1949 – U.S.S.R. exploded a nuclear bomb = new threat of nuclear war</li> <li>● United States _____ the only ones with the _____ anymore</li> <li>● Soviets focused on long-range rockets called ICBMs (Inter Continental Ballistic Missiles)</li> </ul>		
<b>Massive Retaliation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● _____ instituted by Pres. Dwight D. EISENHOWER</li> <li>● If the Soviets attacked at all, the United States would respond with _____ destructive nuclear force</li> <li>● Established “ _____ ”</li> </ul>		

### Differences between WWII and Cold War

#### World War II

\_\_\_\_\_ countries involved (US, Britain, Germany, France, Soviet Union, etc.)

#### Cold War

\_\_\_\_\_ main superpowers (United States and Soviet Union)

\_\_\_\_\_ sides, \_\_\_\_\_/economic lines drawn alliances, and geographic areas (Allies vs. Axis between two powers (capitalism vs. communism, in European, Pacific, and North African theaters) democracy vs. totalitarianism)

Actual \_\_\_\_\_, but never direct military engagement between two powers

\_\_\_\_\_ used by \_\_\_\_\_ nuclear weapons actually used United States

War ended with \_\_\_\_\_ for U.S. in Korean/Vietnam Wars, war ended b/c of Soviet Union collapse



**Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Learning Standards** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Essential Question** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Korean War**

On June 25, 1950, the Korean War began when some 75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People’s Army poured across the 38th parallel, the boundary between the Soviet-backed Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to the north and the pro-Western Republic of Korea to the south. This invasion was the first military action of the Cold War. By July, American troops had entered the war on South Korea’s behalf. As far as American officials were concerned, it was a war against the forces of international communism itself. After some early back-and-forth across the 38th parallel, the fighting stalled and casualties mounted with nothing to show for them. Meanwhile, American officials worked anxiously to fashion some sort of armistice with the North Koreans. The alternative, they feared, would be a wider war with Russia and China—or even, as some warned, World War III. Finally, in July 1953, the Korean War came to an end. In all, some 5 million soldiers and civilians lost their lives during the war. The Korean peninsula is still divided today.

### **The Two Koreas**

"If the best minds in the world had set out to find us the worst possible location in the world to fight this war," U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson (1893-1971) once said, "the unanimous choice would have been Korea." The peninsula had landed in America's lap almost by accident. Since the beginning of the 20th century, Korea had been a part of the Japanese empire, and after World War II it fell to the Americans and the Soviets to decide what should be done with their enemy's imperial possessions. In August 1945, two young aides at the State Department divided the Korean peninsula in half along the 38th parallel. The Russians occupied the area north of the line and the United States occupied the area to its south.

By the end of the decade, two new states had formed on the peninsula. In the south, the anti-communist dictator Syngman Rhee (1875-1965) enjoyed the reluctant support of the American government; in the north, the communist dictator Kim Il Sung (1912-1994) enjoyed the slightly more enthusiastic support of the Soviets. Neither dictator was content to remain on his side of the 38th parallel, however, and border skirmishes were common. Nearly 10,000 North and South Korean soldiers were killed in battle before the war even began.

Even so, the North Korean invasion came as an alarming surprise to American officials. As far as they were concerned, this was not simply a border dispute between two unstable dictatorships on the other side of the globe. Instead, many feared it was the first step in a communist campaign to take over the world. For this reason, nonintervention was not considered an option by many top decision makers. (In fact, in April 1950, a National Security Council report known as NSC-68 had recommended that the United States use military force

to “contain” communist expansionism anywhere it seemed to be occurring, “regardless of the intrinsic strategic or economic value of the lands in question.”)

“If we let Korea down,” President Harry Truman said, “the Soviet[s] will keep right on going and swallow up one [place] after another.” The fight on the Korean peninsula was a symbol of the global struggle between east and west, good and evil. As the North Korean army pushed into Seoul, the South Korean capital, the United States readied its troops for a war against communism itself.

At first, the war was a defensive one—a war to get the communists out of South Korea—and it went badly for the Allies. The North Korean army was well-disciplined, well-trained and well-equipped; Rhee’s forces, by contrast, were frightened, confused, and seemed inclined to flee the battlefield at any provocation. Also, it was one of the hottest and driest summers on record, and desperately thirsty American soldiers were often forced to drink water from rice paddies that had been fertilized with human waste. As a result, dangerous intestinal diseases and other illnesses were a constant threat.

By the end of the summer, President Truman and General Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964), the commander in charge of the Asian theater, had decided on a new set of war aims. Now, for the Allies, the Korean War was an offensive one: It was a war to “liberate” the North from the communists.

Initially, this new strategy was a success. An amphibious assault at Inchon pushed the North Koreans out of Seoul and back to their side of the 38th parallel. But as American troops crossed the boundary and headed north toward the Yalu River, the border between North Korea and Communist China, the Chinese started to worry about protecting themselves from what they called “armed aggression against Chinese territory.” Chinese leader Mao Zedong (1893-1976) sent troops to North Korea and warned the United States to keep away from the Yalu boundary unless it wanted full-scale war

This was something that President Truman and his advisers decidedly did not want: They were sure that such a war would lead to Soviet aggression in Europe, the deployment of atomic weapons and millions of senseless deaths. To General MacArthur, however, anything short of this wider war represented “appeasement,” an unacceptable knuckling under to the communists.

As President Truman looked for a way to prevent war with the Chinese, MacArthur did all he could to provoke it. Finally, in March 1951, he sent a letter to Joseph Martin, a House Republican leader who shared MacArthur’s support for declaring all-out war on China—and who could be counted upon to leak the letter to the press. “There is,” MacArthur wrote, “no substitute for victory” against international communism.

For Truman, this letter was the last straw. On April 11, the president fired the general for insubordination.

In July 1951, President Truman and his new military commanders started peace talks at Panmunjom. Still, the fighting continued along the 38th parallel as negotiations stalled. Both sides were willing to accept a ceasefire that maintained the 38th parallel boundary, but they could not agree on whether prisoners of war should be forcibly “repatriated.” (The Chinese and the North Koreans said yes; the United States said no.) Finally, after more than two years of negotiations, the adversaries signed an armistice on July 27, 1953. The agreement allowed the POWs to stay where they liked; drew a new boundary near the 38th parallel that gave South Korea an extra 1,500 square miles of territory; and created a 2-mile-wide “demilitarized zone” that still exists today.

The Korean War was relatively short but exceptionally bloody. Nearly 5 million people died. More than half of these—about 10 percent of Korea’s prewar population—were civilians. (This rate of civilian casualties was higher than World War II’s and Vietnam’s.) Almost 40,000 Americans died in action in Korea, and more than 100,000 were wounded.

### **NATO is formed**

After World War II, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. occupied much of Europe. Most of the continent's governments had fallen to the Nazis during the war, so the two superpowers were left with the responsibility of setting up new governments. Each promised to allow free elections, but in the end, did not. This left eastern and western Europe divided by style of government (eastern was communist, western was not) and left Germany divided between the two superpowers.

Eventually, as tensions rose between the superpowers, the Soviets cut off their area of Germany, and closed access to West Berlin, which was located deep within the Soviet zone of occupation. The allies aided the citizens of Berlin with supplies during the Berlin Airlift of 1948. This was a combined effort between the USA, Britain and France to keep the city alive. In the end over two million tons of food and supplies were dropped.

Soon after, when the Soviets began withdrawing from other countries around the world, it became evident that they were not going to go quietly. The USSR demanded oil concessions from Iran in exchange for withdrawal, but did not get them. In a similar manner, the Soviet leaders demanded that Turkey allow them to utilize its resources to spy on the western world. The Soviets also supported a communist revolution in Greece that led to a bloody civil war. Soon after that, there was a communist coup in Czechoslovakia, which was not a Soviet initiated venture, but quickly received full Soviet support. Western European nations countered this chain of events and the apparent growing Soviet threat with the Brussels Treaty, which defensively linked Britain, France, and Benelux.



The expansion of Soviet influence in Eastern Europe and the threats against Greece and Turkey aroused growing alarm throughout Western Europe. As a consequence, in April 1949, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, 12 nations established the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to coordinate the military defenses of member nations against possible Soviet aggression. Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the United States (with Greece, Turkey and the Federal Republic of Germany joining afterward in 1952) agreed to consider an armed attack against any one of them as an attack against all. The territory covered included French Algeria, and there were also provisions in the treaty to protect the "occupation forces in any party of Europe." In December 1950, General Dwight D. Eisenhower was appointed the Supreme Commander of NATO military forces with a unified command of 50 combat divisions.





- **NAME:** Nikita Khrushchev
- **OCCUPATION:** World Leader
- **BIRTH DATE:** [April 17, 1894](#)
- **DEATH DATE:** [September 11](#), 1971
- **PLACE OF BIRTH:** Kalinovka, Russia
- **PLACE OF DEATH:** Moscow, Russia

Nikita Khrushchev became Premier of the Soviet Union after Joseph Stalin's death in 1953. In a 1956 "secret speech," he discussed Stalin's crimes for the first time, starting a process called "de-Stalinization." He also visited the West, putting a smiling face on his brand of "Reform Communism." Khrushchev provoked the Cuban Missile Crisis and oversaw the building of the Berlin Wall.

First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union 1953-1964. Certainly the most colorful Soviet leader, Khrushchev is best remembered for his dramatic, oftentimes boorish gestures and "harebrained schemes" designed to attain maximum propaganda effect, his enthusiastic belief that Communism would triumph over capitalism, and the fact that he was the only Soviet leader ever to be removed peacefully from office--a direct result of the post-Stalin thaw he had instigated in 1956.

A miner who had joined the Bolsheviks in 1918, Khrushchev was able to receive a technical education thanks to the October Revolution and became a true believer in the benefits of the workers' state. Rising through the Party's ranks, he became a member of the Central Committee in 1934 and of the Politburo in 1939. After Stalin's death in 1953, Khrushchev became the Party's First Secretary in the collective leadership that emerged after it had eliminated Lavrenti Beria and his faction. Subsequently, he used Stalin's established technique to divide and conquer his rivals, replace them with his own people, and emerge as the undisputed leader of the Soviet Union, with the difference that he did not kill these people, but had them assigned to such faraway and harmless posts as Ambassador to Mongolia.

In 1956, at the 20th Congress of the Communist Party, Khrushchev stunned the delegates with his so-called "secret speech", during which he denounced the excesses of the Stalin era and Stalin's personality cult for six hours. Until the speech, it was still considered taboo to say anything negative about Stalin. Khrushchev's speech seems somewhat mild in hindsight, now that the scale of the horrors of the Great Purges and the Gulag are well known. At the time, however, his revelations (limited only to Stalin's crimes against the Party, not the country at large) were earth shattering.

Khrushchev honestly believed in the superiority of Communism, and felt that it was only a matter of time before it would destroy the Capitalist system once and for all. He set bold (and ultimately unattainable) goals of "overtaking the West" in food production, initiating massive programs to put vast tracts of virgin lands in Kazakhstan and Siberia under the plow with the help of thousands of urban Komsomol volunteers who brought little but their enthusiasm with them to the open steppes. Despite being hailed as an expert on agriculture, Khrushchev miscalculated when, after a trip to Iowa in 1959, he became a huge enthusiast of corn and decided to introduce it to his country, most of which has an unsuitable climate. On the industrial front, Khrushchev relaxed Stalin's emphasis on military production somewhat, resulting in a wider array of consumer goods and an improved standard of living for ordinary Soviet citizens.

Another one of the achievements of Khrushchev's post-Stalin "thaw" was a relaxation of the political climate, in particular censorship. "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich", Solzhenitsyn's tale of life in the Gulag camps, was published in 1961 at Khrushchev's personal behest, and an entire dissident movement of writers and intellectuals appeared. While they were persecuted and had to function underground, this was still a major change, since any dissidents whatsoever simply would not have remained alive under Stalin

In foreign affairs, Khrushchev also enthusiastically set lofty but often-unattainable goals, and enjoyed dramatically snubbing the West. He flew to a summit in London in a half-completed prototype of a passenger jet to demonstrate the advanced state of Soviet aviation (duly impressing his hosts, who did not have a comparable plane yet at the time). Communism's appeal spread rapidly throughout the decolonizing countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America as the Soviet Union lavished aid for splashy projects such as dams and stadiums. The stunning propaganda coup scored by the Soviet Union in launching the first satellite, Sputnik, was followed by greater and greater achievements, such as the first dog, the first man, and the first woman in space. Many in the West began to fear that the Soviets really were catching up and soon would overtake them.

Khrushchev's enthusiasm for flashy gestures had not been liked by more conservative elements from the very start; many Soviets were greatly embarrassed by his antics, such as banging a shoe on the podium during a speech to the UN General Assembly. There were elements in the Party who were actively looking for an opportunity to oust him. Their opportunity came with the Cuban Missile Crisis. In yet another case of showmanship that he was unable to back up with deeds, in 1962 Khrushchev deployed nuclear missiles in newly Communist Cuba, within easy striking distance of most major American population centers. Thanks to intelligence received from Oleg Penkovsky, a Soviet double agent, the United States was aware that the missiles were still only partially developed and did not pose an immediate threat. President John Kennedy called Khrushchev's bluff, and the latter was forced to remove the missiles from Cuba, with great loss of face both at home and abroad. Khrushchev never regained his prestige after the incident, and was quietly ousted two years later by opponents in the Politburo--significantly, with no bloodshed. He spent the rest of his life in peaceful retirement, and was the only Soviet leader not to be buried in the Kremlin wall after his death.



### Joseph McCarthy---McCarthyism

Joseph McCarthy was born on a farm in Appleton, Wisconsin, on 14th November, 1908. His parents were devout Roman Catholics and Joseph was the fifth of nine children. He left school at 14 and worked as a chicken farmer before managing a grocery store in the nearby town of Manawa.



McCarthy returned to high school in 1928 and after achieving the necessary qualifications, won a place at Marquette University. After graduating McCarthy worked as a lawyer but was fairly unsuccessful and had to supplement his income by playing poker.

McCarthy was originally a supporter of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal. However, after failing to become the Democratic Party candidate for district attorney, he switched parties and became the Republican Party candidate in an election to become a circuit court judge. McCarthy shocked local officials by fighting a dirty campaign. This included publishing campaign literature that falsely claimed that his opponent, Edgar Werner, was 73 (he was actually 66). As well as suggesting that Werner was senile, McCarthy implied that he was guilty of financial corruption.

When the United States entered the Second World War McCarthy resigned as a circuit judge and joined the U.S. Marines. After the war McCarthy ran against Robert La Follette to become Republican candidate for the senate. As one of his biographers has pointed out, his campaign posters pictured him in "full fighting gear, with an aviator's cap, and belt upon belt of machine gun ammunition wrapped around his bulky torso." He claimed he had completed thirty-two missions when in fact he had a desk job and only flew in training exercises.

In his campaign, McCarthy attacked La Follette for not enlisting during the war. He had been forty-six when Pearl Harbor had been bombed, and was in fact too old to join the armed services. McCarthy also claimed that La Follette had made huge profits from his investments while he had been away fighting for his country. The suggestion that La Follette had been guilty of war profiteering (his investments had in fact been in a radio station), was deeply damaging and McCarthy won by 207,935 to 202,557. La Follette, deeply hurt by the false claims made against him, retired from politics, and later committed suicide.

On his first day in the Senate, McCarthy called a press conference where he proposed a solution to a coal-strike that was taking place at the time. McCarthy called for John L. Lewis and the striking miners to be drafted into the Army. If the men still refused to mine the coal, McCarthy suggested they should be court-martialed for insubordination and shot.

McCarthy's first years in the Senate were unimpressive. People also started coming forward claiming that he had lied about his war record. Another problem for McCarthy was that he was being investigated for tax offences and for taking bribes from the Pepsi-Cola Company. In May, 1950, afraid that he would be defeated in the next election, McCarthy held a meeting with

some of his closest advisers and asked for suggestions on how he could retain his seat. Edmund Walsh, a Roman Catholic priest, came up with the idea that he should begin a campaign against communist subversives working in the Democratic administration.

McCarthy also contacted his friend, the journalist, Jack Anderson. In his autobiography, *Confessions of a Muckraker*, Anderson pointed out: "At my prompting he (McCarthy) would phone fellow senators to ask what had transpired this morning behind closed doors or what strategy was planned for the morrow. While I listened in on an extension he would pump even a Robert Taft or a William Knowland with the handwritten questions I passed him."

In return, Anderson provided McCarthy with information about politicians and state officials he suspected of being "communists". Anderson later recalled that his decision to work with McCarthy "was almost automatic.. for one thing, I owed him; for another, he might be able to flesh out some of our inconclusive material, and if so, I would no doubt get the scoop." As a result Anderson passed on his file on the presidential aide, David Demarest Lloyd.

McCarthy also began receiving information from his friend, J. Edgar Hoover, the head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). William C. Sullivan, one of Hoover's agents, later admitted that: "We were the ones who made the McCarthy hearings possible. We fed McCarthy all the material he was using." McCarthy made a speech in Salt Lake City where he attacked Dean Acheson, the Secretary of State, as "a pompous diplomat in striped pants".

On 9th February, 1950, at a meeting of the Republican Women's Club in Wheeling, West Virginia, McCarthy claimed that he had a list of 205 people in the State Department that were known to be members of the American Communist Party (later he reduced this figure to 57). McCarthy went on to argue that some of these people were passing secret information to the Soviet Union. He added: "The reason why we find ourselves in a position of impotency is not because the enemy has sent men to invade our shores, but rather because of the traitorous actions of those who have had all the benefits that the wealthiest nation on earth has had to offer - the finest homes, the finest college educations, and the finest jobs in Government we can give."

