

America's Involvement in **World War II**

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SS5H6a

German & Japanese Aggression

Adolf Hitler

- After WWI, Germany's economic hard times helped the National Socialist (Nazi) Party come to power.
- The Nazi party's leader, Adolf Hitler, gained control of Germany in 1932 because he promised to restore Germany's position in the world.
- Hitler soon became Germany's dictator, taking complete control of the country.

Hitler Waves to the Crowd in Germany – 1938.



Ignores Treaty

- Hitler completely ignored the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.
- He rebuilt Germany's military.
- He also promised to restore Germany's lost territories.
- Leaders of the winning countries of WWI failed to force Hitler to follow the terms of the treaty...

Aggression

- In 1936, Hitler took back some German territory along the Rhine River.
- In 1938, he united Austria with Germany.
- Hitler also demanded parts of Czechoslovakia, and France and Great Britain gave in.
- In 1939, Hitler's Nazi army invaded Poland – this was the last straw for the Allies.



Hitler Observes
Troops On the
March to
Poland – 1939.

Japan

- Feelings of nationalism and militarism also swept through Japan in the 1920s and 1930s.
- Emperor Hirohito was the ruler of Japan and the military had a lot of power in his government.
- Japan built up its army, navy, and air force and invaded China in 1931.

Emperor Hirohito
During an Army
Inspection in 1938.



Aggression

- Over the next few years, Japan conquered all of eastern China.
- In January 1942, the Japanese captured Manila, the capital of the Philippines.
- A month later, the Japanese captured Singapore.
- Japan eventually conquered the East Indies, the Philippines, and many other Pacific Islands.

Italy

- In 1925, Benito Mussolini became dictator of Italy.
- He had a fascist government, much like Hitler.
 - They both opposed western democracy and were cruel.
- Mussolini increased the size of Italy's military.
- Italy conquered Albania and Ethiopia in Africa.



Italy and its Colonies in 1940.

Axis Powers

- Mussolini signed an alliance with Germany in 1936.
- Japan signed an alliance with Germany and Italy in 1940.
- The aggressive countries soon became known as the Axis Powers.

On October 25th, 1936,
Germany and Italy
Signed an Alliance.



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Major Events

Europe & the Pacific

Neutral U.S.

- When WWII broke out in Europe in 1939, the US followed a policy of neutrality, which meant that they wouldn't help either the Axis or Allied powers.
- Many people in the US believed that the war was Europe's problem, not America's.
- They felt that they were far enough away to be safe from war.

Pearl Harbor

- On December 7, 1941, Japanese airplanes made a surprise attack on the US naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.
- More than 2,400 people were killed, and many US battleships and airplanes were destroyed.



The USS Arizona
After the Japanese
Surprise Attack on
Pearl Harbor.



President Roosevelt called December 7, 1941, “a day that will live in infamy.”

US Enters WWII

- The next day, President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan.
- They agreed and the US officially entered WWII on December 8, 1941.
- On December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the US.
- The US was now deeply involved in WWII on the side of the Allies.



Roosevelt Signing Declaration of
War Against Japan.

Hitler Declares War on the US – 1941.



Two-Front War

- The US fought a two-front war during WWII.
- In North Africa and Europe, it fought against Italy and Germany.
- In the Pacific and Asia, it fought against Japan.

Axis Success

- The Axis powers were successful in the early days of WWII.
- Germany had conquered most of Western Europe and had invaded the Soviet Union.
- Japan had conquered all of eastern China, the East Indies, the Philippines, and many other Pacific Islands.
- But in 1942, the Allies began to strike back.

D-Day

- The turning point in the war came in 1944.
- On June 6, 60,000 Allied forces under the command of US General Dwight D. Eisenhower invaded Normandy in France.
- It was the largest invasion by sea in history.
- They surprised the Germans, but the Allied troops still came under heavy fire and thousands were killed.

American Troops Approaching Normandy, France on D-Day.



D-Day

- The Allies eventually took over all 5 beaches where they landed and headed inland to southern France.
- The Germans were now being attacked from the west, the south, and the east.
- By August, Paris had been liberated and by September, the Germans were completely out of France.

D-Day



Holocaust

- Throughout Hitler's rule, the Nazis persecuted Jews and other minorities in Germany.
- Hitler blamed all of Germany's problems after WWI on the Jewish people.
- First, he hurt the Jews economically by forcing Germans to stop buying things from Jewish shops.
- Then he forced them to move into crowded neighborhoods called ghettos.



Holocaust

- Finally, Jews were rounded up and forced into concentration camps where millions died.
- Hitler was responsible for the murder of more than 6 million Jews between 1933 and 1945.
- As the Allies advanced through Europe, they captured the concentration camps and freed the Jews that were still alive.

Closing In

- In 1945, the Soviets advanced steadily from the east into Germany itself.
- American, British, and French forces closed in on Germany from the west.
- Finally, the American and Soviet armies met in Germany on April 25, 1945.

VE Day

- Germany surrendered to the Allies on May 7, 1945.
- The next day, May 8, 1945, is called VE Day – Victory in Europe Day.
- People were thrilled and celebrated all over Europe and the United States.



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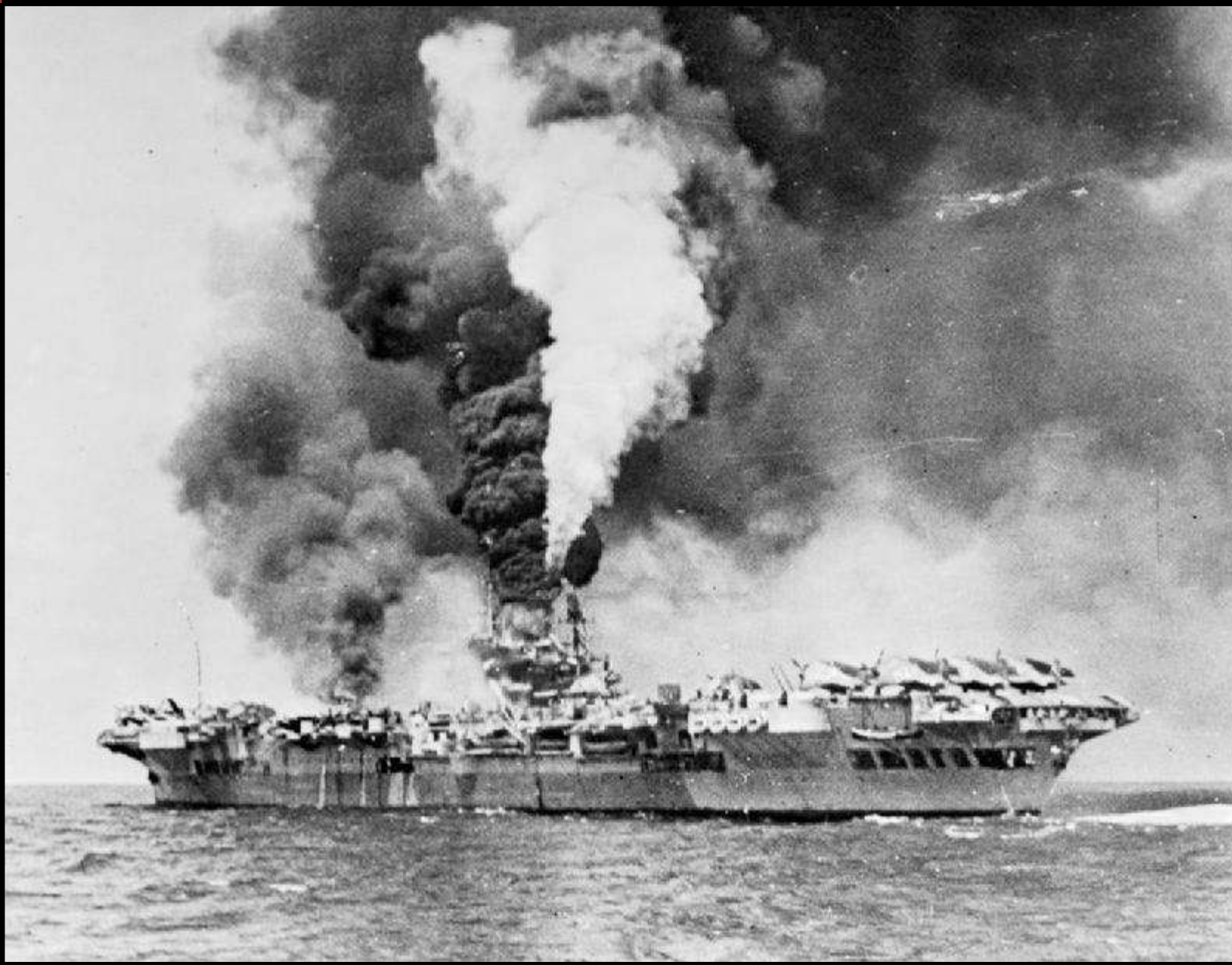
Atomic Bombs

Island-Hopping

- In 1944, the US followed an “island-hopping” campaign in the Pacific.
- US forces attacked island after island held by the Japanese.
- This campaign brought American troops closer and closer to Japan.

Japan's Soldiers

- Fighting Japan was difficult because the Japanese were fierce warriors.
- The Japanese soldiers never gave up and were willing to sacrifice themselves for their country.
- Japanese kamikaze pilots crashed their planes into US ships on purpose, fully expecting to die.



An Aircraft Carrier
Hit By Kamikaze
Planes – 1945.

Iwo Jima

- In February 1945, American forces invaded the island of Iwo Jima.
- The island was important because it was close to Japan and it was a good place for US planes to land.
- The Japanese protected the island with traps and underground tunnels.
- It was a fierce battle, but the US Marines eventually took the island.



US Marines Approach Iwo Jima.



US Marines Fire at
Japanese Cave
Positions in Iwo
Jima.



US Marines finally reached the highest point on the island and raised the American flag in victory.

Atomic Bombs

- The Allies thought about invading Japan, but were worried that too many soldiers would die.
- President Harry Truman made a difficult decision to use nuclear weapons against Japan.
- He warned the Japanese government to surrender, but they refused to give up.

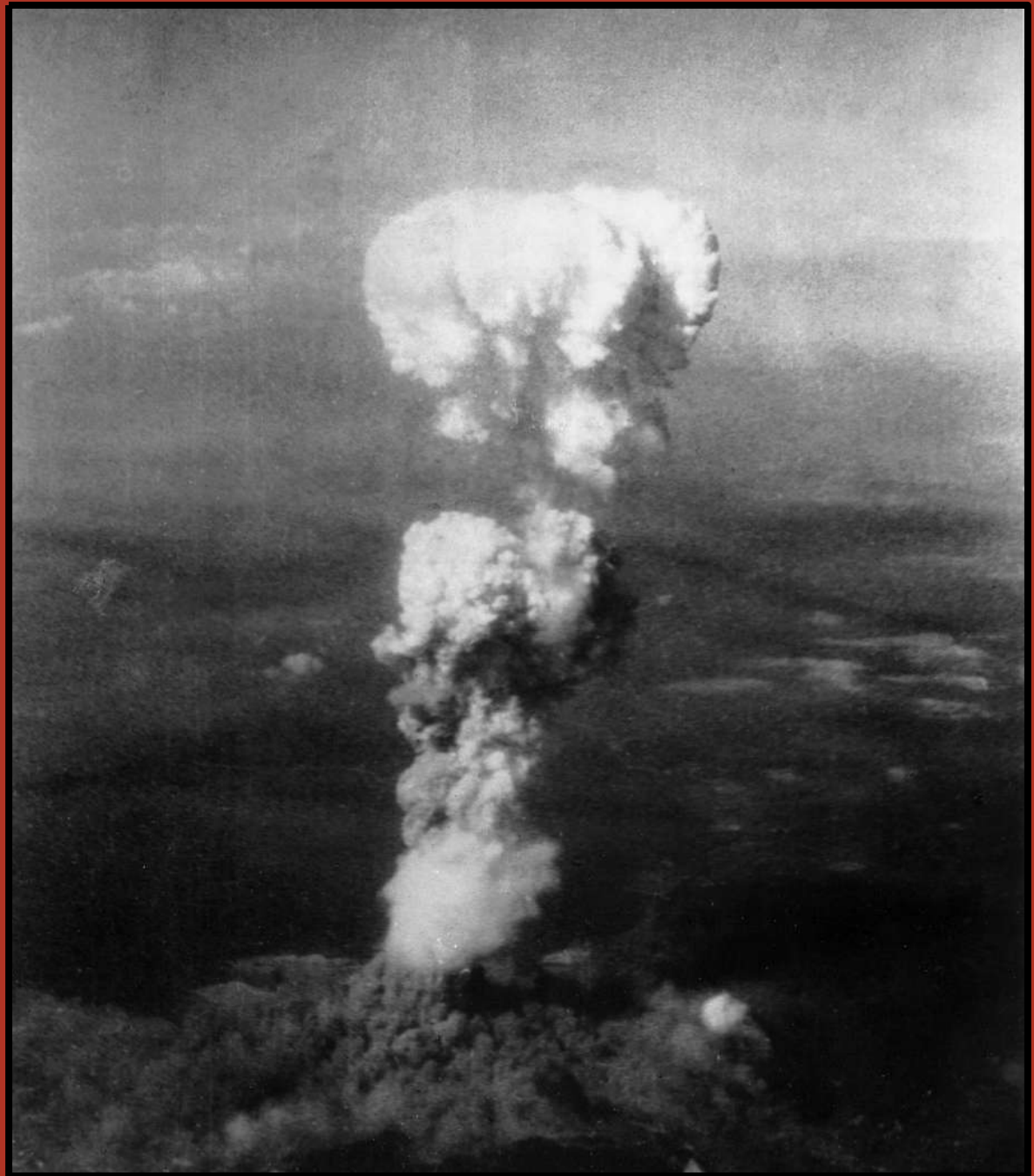
Atomic Bombs

- On August 6, 1945, an American bomber plane dropped the first atomic bomb ever used in war on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.
- A few days later, the US dropped a second bomb on Nagasaki.
- Both cities were completely devastated, and the Japanese finally agreed to surrender.

The Enola Gay
dropped the “Little Boy”
Atomic Bomb on
Hiroshima.



Mushroom Cloud Over Hiroshima.





Hiroshima Aftermath

Mushroom Cloud Over Nagasaki.



VJ Day

- The two sides signed formal surrender papers on the US battleship *Missouri* on September 2, 1945.
- This day is officially known as VJ Day – Victory in Japan Day.
- Americans celebrated once again.

Japan Surrenders
Aboard the USS
Missouri,
September 2, 1945.





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WWII Leaders

WWII Leaders

Allied Powers	Axis Powers
Great Britain – Winston Churchill	Germany – Adolf Hitler
Soviet Union – Joseph Stalin	Italy – Benito Mussolini
United States – Franklin Roosevelt & Harry Truman	Japan – Emperor Hirohito

Roosevelt

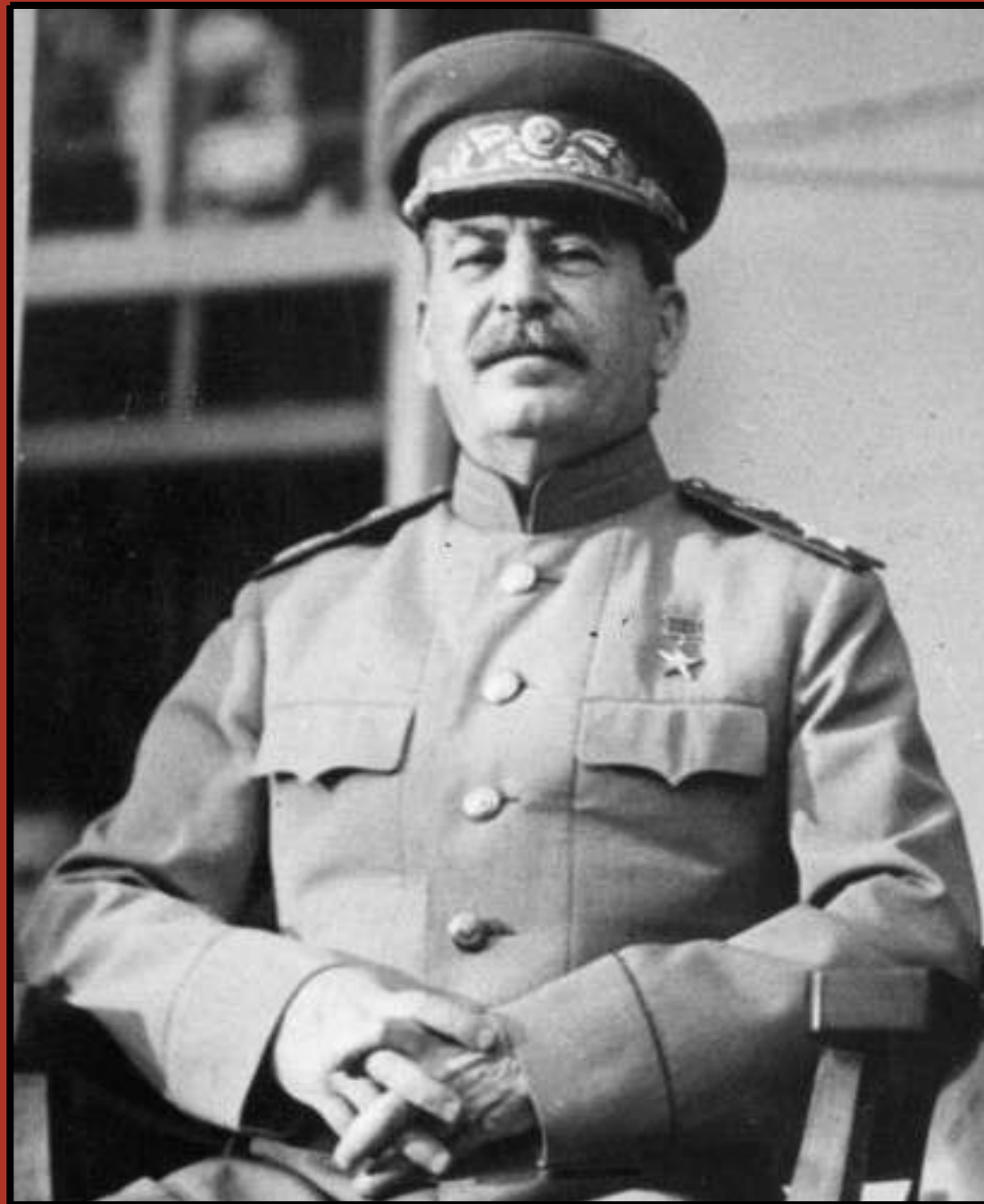
- President Franklin Roosevelt led the US through most of WWII.
- After WWII began in 1939, Roosevelt urged the US to get ready for war.
- He rebuilt America's military and pushed for laws to help the Allies.
- Roosevelt led the country in its fight against the Axis; however, he did not live to see the end of the war.



Roosevelt Signing Declaration of War Against Germany.

Stalin

- Joseph Stalin led the Soviet Union during WWII.
- Even though the Soviet Union was an Allied Power, Stalin was a dictator like Hitler and Mussolini.
 - He had complete control of his country and often had his enemies killed.
- In May 1945, the Soviets under Stalin were able to capture Berlin, Germany's capital, and defeated the German forces.



Churchill

- Winston Churchill was the Prime Minister of Great Britain during WWII.
- He was a writer and politician and served in the British Army in Africa and India.
- He was a symbol for the fighting spirit of the British and he led the country through its darkest hours of the war.



The Big Three:
Churchill, Roosevelt,
& Stalin at the Yalta
Conference – 1945.



Truman

- When President Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945, Vice-President Harry S. Truman became the new president.
- He made the difficult decision for atomic bombs to be used against Japan.
- He was the US president when WWII ended.



Hitler

- Adolf Hitler was the dictator of Germany during WWII.
- He joined the German army during WWI, and afterwards became the leader of a small political party called the National Socialist German Worker's Party (Nazi Party).
- In 1933, he became chancellor of Germany and slowly increased his power until he had total control over the country.

Adolf Hitler as a Soldier
During WWI.



Hitler

- Hitler rebuilt Germany's army and led the country in WWII.
- At first his army was successful, but eventually they lost the war.
- He is responsible for the deaths of over 6 million Jews during the Holocaust.
- Hitler committed suicide in May 1945.



Mussolini

- Benito Mussolini was the dictator who led Italy during WWII.
- He was trained as a schoolteacher and later joined the Italian Army in WWI.
- After WWI, Mussolini became the leader of the Italian Fascist Party and slowly took control of every aspect of Italy's government.



Mussolini

- Mussolini increased the size of Italy's military forces.
- He conquered Ethiopia & Albania in Africa.
- In 1936, he signed a treaty with Hitler and joined WWII.
- Italy surrendered to the Allies in 1943, but Mussolini escaped.
- He was captured and killed by Italians in 1945.

Mussolini & Hitler



Hirohito

- Japan had a strong tradition of nationalism.
- The Japanese believed that their emperor, Hirohito, was descended from a god.
- The military had a lot of power in his government, allowing Japan to exercise aggression throughout Asia.
- Emperor Hirohito planned to build a massive empire in East Asia.



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Changing Roles

Rationing, Women, &
African Americans

Rationing

- Major changes in American life took place during WWII.
- Americans had to make sacrifices in order to conserve materials to help factories make products needed for the war.
- During the war, much of the consumer goods were limited to only what was necessary for survival.

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 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28

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Rations War Book One
 Contained Stamps to Buy
 Sugar.

Rationing

- The government put wartime rationing on everything from sugar, coffee, meat, butter, shoes, to gasoline.
- Many people started their own “victory gardens” in order to have fruit and vegetables to eat.
- Times were tough, but the American people worked together on a common goal – to win WWII and bring US soldiers home.

Americans! **SHARE THE MEAT** as a wartime necessity

To meet the needs of our armed forces and fighting allies, a Government order limits the amount of meat delivered to stores and restaurants.

To share the supply fairly, all civilians are asked to limit their consumption of beef, veal, lamb, mutton and pork to 2½ lbs. per person per week.

YOUR FAIR WEEKLY SHARE

Men, women and children
over 12 yrs. old **2½** Pounds
per week

Children 6 to 12 yrs. old **1½** Pounds
per week

Children under 6 yrs. old **¾** Pound
per week

You can add these foods to your share: liver, sweetbreads, kidneys, brains and other variety meats; also poultry and fish.

HELP WIN THE WAR!

Keep within your share

FOODS REQUIREMENT COMMITTEE
War Production Board

Claude R. Wickard
Chairman

Q141 Paper No. 12 - Additional copies may be obtained upon request from the Director of Public Relations, Office of War Information, Washington, D.C.

Do with less— so they'll have enough!



RATIONING GIVES YOU YOUR FAIR SHARE

Women in WWII

- By 1945, more than 12 million men were in the armed services.
- When most of the young men went off to fight in Europe & the Pacific, women had to take their place in factories.
- Over 2 million women took jobs in America's industries.
- By the time the war ended, 1/3 of people working in US business & industry were women.



Rosie the Riveter

- The government created a poster showing an energetic young woman in overalls, ready to “do the job he left behind.”
- She was called Rosie the Riveter, and she symbolized the many women working in factory jobs.
- Many women helped build airplanes and ships by fastening metal plates together with clamps called rivets.



Women working on a bomber in 1942.

Segregation

- During WWII, the military services were strictly segregated.
- The military separated African-American troops from white American troops.
- In 1948, President Truman issued an executive order to desegregate the armed services.

Tuskegee Airmen

- The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of young black men that made a name for themselves during WWII.
- They were African American pilots who trained at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.
- Because they were black, they were segregated from the white pilots, but they still went through the same difficult training program.

Tuskegee Airmen in Front of a P-40 Fighter Aircraft.



Tuskegee Airmen

- The Tuskegee Airmen were a well-respected special unit.
- They flew beside bombers to protect them while they traveled to Europe.
- They were the only squadron that did not lose a single bomber during WWII.

Tuskegee Airmen in Italy, 1945.



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United Nations

United Nations

- During WWII, Allied leaders wanted to create an international group to help keep the peace in the future.
- President Roosevelt suggested the name “United Nations”, and in 1944, a conference was held in Washington D.C. that outlined the purposes of the UN.

Signing the UN Charter in 1945.



United Nations

- The UN Charter was signed by fifty nations in 1945 in San Francisco, California.
- The purpose of the UN is to solve international disputes peacefully rather than by war and to protect human rights.
- In 1950, the UN headquarters was built in New York City.

UN Headquarters in New York, City.

